

Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ) Collaborative Programming
Proudly offered at the 2022 APA Convention
Minneapolis, MN
August 6 – 8, 2022

The Divisions for Social Justice (DSJ) are a group of twenty-three (23) Divisions of the American Psychological Association that have come together to address shared social justice concerns. This year, the DSJ are proud to announce the following three collaborative panels tackling the topic of immigration advocacy:

Social Justice and Immigration: Integrating Community-Based Activism, Practice, and Policy Advocacy

Critical Conversation, 50 min

German A. Cadenas, PhD (Chair)

Melanie Domenech Rodriguez, PhD

Alfonso Mercado, PhD

Roberto Abreu, PhD

Date and Time: Thu, August 4, 2:00pm-2:50pm

Location: Minneapolis Convention Center

Room: Room 205D

This panel is sponsored by APA Divisions of Social Justice (i.e, Division 17), with the goal of demonstrating how psychologists and allied professionals may promote social justice for immigrant communities in a myriad of ways. The panelists exemplify the following three themes related to immigration issues: 1) involvement in community-based activism, 2) psychological practice addressing the growing mental health and legal needs of immigrants, and 3) policy advocacy at the federal level to affirm the humanity and dignity of all immigrants.

The panel will include brief presentations, as well as breakout groups focused on practical application, empowerment, and skill-building. The following panelists will lend us their perspective and experience: Dr. Germán Cadenas (Lehigh University), Dr. Melanie Domenech Rodriguez (Utah State University), Jennifer Garcia Mendoza (United We Dream), Dr. Alfonso Meracdo (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Dr. Roberto Abreu (University of Florida). These panelists will describe the following community-based projects addressing social justice for immigrants:

- An emerging framework for collaborative advocacy at the regional and national levels based on 3 years of the Interdivisional Immigration Project. The advocacy framework was developed as a collaboration between leaders of 8 APA Divisions and 23 community organizations across the country.
- A partnership between the research group Latinx Immigrant Health Alliance and the largest immigrant-led activist organization, United We Dream for (a) ongoing evaluation of mental health, coping strategies, and wellness needs, and (b) development and access to resources to support wellness in undocumented immigrants.

- The work of psychologists and psychologists-in-training at the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas, collaborating with local community groups and providing psychological services to recent immigrants. This work also includes expert testimony on legal cases and in federal advocacy.
- Community-based research at the intersection of community organizing, Latinx immigrant trans issues, and families of Latinx LGBTQ individuals.

Groundwork with immigrant and refugee populations: Best clinical practices, advocacy, and pedagogy

Symposium, 1 hr. 50 min.

Cassandra A Bailey, PhD (Chair)

Lavita Nadkarni, PhD

Aimee Hilado, PhD, LCSW

Monica Indart, PsyD

Ahmad Adi, MD, MPH

Date and Time: Fri, August 5, 9:00am-10:50am

Location: Minneapolis Convention Center

Room: Room 101H

This symposium by the APA Divisions for Social Justice (the second in a two part series with its companion panel Social Justice and Immigration: Integrating Community-Based Activism, Psychological Practice, and Policy Advocacy) serves to equip attendees with the tools needed to provide culturally- and linguistically-sensitive mental health services to immigrant and refugee populations. Presenters with familiarity providing services in four different states (i.e., Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey, and Texas) will share their experiences to give audience members a broad view of what professional practice with immigrant and refugee populations looks like across the United States. Presenters also offer knowledge stemming from a variety of educational backgrounds (i.e., Clinical Psychology, Forensic Psychology/Psychiatry, Social Work) and qualifications (i.e., Ph.D., Psy.D., M.D., LCSW) enhancing the applicability of this symposium to a wide range of audience members. Through an examination of the historical and present-day contexts surrounding immigration and refugee resettlement, panelists will present integrated models for restoring and maintaining dignity when working clinically with this population, best practices for managing retraumatization, therapeutic assessment techniques, effective methods for advocacy, and ways to involve students and the community in such work. Panelists will incorporate relevant legal knowledge, where applicable, given the large number of immigrants and refugees involved in immigration court proceedings. This panel will begin with each presenter introducing and discussing their topic, followed by a synergistic summary of information by the chair in a way that foments conversation surrounding issues presented. An interactive discussion will fill the second half of the symposium, allowing audience members ample time to ask questions and cover case specific inquiries. With this panel, presenters hope to accomplish the goal of getting more practitioners, researchers, educators, allies, and advocates involved in the area of immigration and refugee resettlement.

Promoting Healing for Immigrant Children Through Interdisciplinary Advocacy

Critical Conversation, 50 min.

Martha Hernández, PhD (Chair)
Stephanie Miodus, MA, MEd (Chair)

Mary B Quaranta Morrissey, PhD, JD
Falu Rami, PhD

Date and Time: Sat, August 6, 2:00pm-2:50pm

Location: Minneapolis Convention Center

Room: Room 102D

This panel is sponsored by APA Divisions of Social Justice (i.e.: Division 56) with the goals to bring awareness to the impact of the migration journey and inhumane treatment immigrant children face and promote the need for collaboration amongst interdisciplinary advocacy professionals. There is a growing body of literature that demonstrates the psychological impact of the migration journey (i.e., mental health concerns, externalizing behaviors, etc.) on immigrant children. Inhumane conditions and lack of basic needs at detention centers are documented to further traumatize immigrant children. Due to the heightened trauma that these children may experience, it is imperative that the advocacy efforts undertaken by activists focus on policies that aim to prevent and reduce risks of enacting further harm and trauma to children in detention, while also promoting healing and empowerment. However, activism that aims to protect and support immigrant children in detention may also have the unintended consequences of triggering the reenactment of traumatic or and fostering exclusionary practices the voices of children themselves in detention are marginalized or decentered. Building advocacy efforts that promote liberation and healing will help to counter such unintended consequences. Interdisciplinary advocacy groups, in particular, are crucial in promoting collective healing and advocating for policy change. The following panelists will share their own perspective and experiences: Dr. Martha Hernández (Palo Alto University), Stephanie Miodus (Temple University), Dr. Mary Beth Quaranta Morrissey (Yeshiva University), and Dr. Falu Rami (Dr. Falu Global Psychology).

Panelists will discuss:

- The psychological and physical impact of the immigration journey, as well as detention center conditions that impact immigrant children and youth and their families.
- An examination of interdisciplinary advocacy work that has been successful in mitigating re-traumatization.
- The use of a liberatory framework to promote community healing and avoid further harm.
- Recommendations for future interdisciplinary advocacy collaboration.

We look forward to your attendance and participation at the 2022 APA Convention, as well as through our shared passion for social justice!