



# DIVERSITY SCIENCE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 • AUGUST 2023



## OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION

### DIVERSITY & INCLUSION COMMITTEE

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Psychology is committed to fostering and supporting a climate of inclusion, celebrating human diversity in all its forms, and engaging in cutting edge diversity science. Our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion is only as meaningful as our action. The Diversity Science Newsletter offers transparency of our efforts to foster the environment we are committed to, and opportunities to celebrate the work our department community!

DIVERSITY SCIENCE  
NEWSLETTER

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEI Action Updates • P. 2

Racial Equity Series • P. 3

Anti-Racism Efforts • P. 4

Diversity Science News • P. 7

Diversity Science  
Scholarship • P. 9

# DIVERSITY EQUITY & INCLUSION ACTION UPDATES

As part of the Psychology Department's commitment to supporting an anti-racist agenda, we have pledged to implement several specific actions to acknowledge, address, and dismantle racism within the academic structures in which we work.

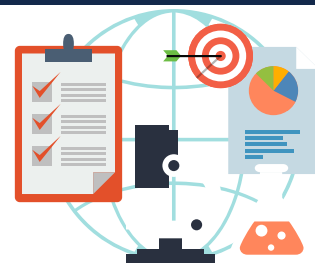
The Diversity & Inclusion Committee has worked with department leadership over the 2022-23 academic year to continue working towards the goals identified in the 2020-21 Anti-Racism Plan, as well as areas for improvement identified in the 2021-22 Climate Survey. Below you will find some of the highlights of the work the committee has completed this year!

We have also created an online resource to provide department members with updates on the various ongoing efforts. We encourage readers to check back as this document evolves to meet the current needs of our community!

## 2022- 2023 ACADEMIC YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Three Prospective Racial Equity Cluster Hires have accepted offers to join the department during the 2023-24 academic year
- ✓ Expanded the Dismantling Racism in Psychological Science Series
- ✓ Debuted the Advanced Research Opportunity Honors Fellowship and Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Psychological Science
- ✓ Developed a list of mentorship programs for faculty mentoring diverse students
- ✓ Held three community building events in the 2022- 2023 academic year (check them out on pages 4-5!)
- ✓ Collaborated with the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to refine our Annual Climate Survey, which will be administered in late 2023
- ✓ Updated the "Diversity News" page on our department's website with the assistance of Jaime Derringer

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES ON RACIAL EQUITY



## GERALD HIGGINBOTHAM, PHD

Dr. Gerald Higginbotham, a professor and social psychologist from the University of Virginia, provided a talk entitled, "American Histories of Racism: A Critical Social Context and Perceptual Object." Dr. Higginbotham discussed the importance of taking a historical approach to the study of self and social perception and the role of race and racial attitudes in shaping how past anti-Black racism (e.g., the Tulsa Race Massacre of 1921) is cognitively represented in relation to the present and the implications for our current sociopolitical context.



## ELEANOR SEATON, PHD

Dr. Eleanor Seaton, a Professor and developmental psychologist from Arizona State University, hosted our third talk in the Distinguished speaker series!

Dr. Seaton's talk entitled "The Impact of Racism on Black Youth Development" explored her work using psychophysiological, quantitative, and qualitative methods to examine the impact of racism on physiological processes and salient moderators, as well as how pubertal development is impacted by racial discrimination for Black children and adolescents.



THE DEPARTMENT IS ALSO EXCITED TO WELCOME DR. SEATON AS AN INCOMING FACULTY MEMBER STARTING JANUARY 2024



# UPENDING RACISM IN PSYCHOLOGY SERIES

As part of the Psychology Department's commitment to supporting an anti-racist agenda, the department hosted department wide virtual and in-person reading and reflections events in both the fall and the spring open to students, faculty, and staff.

In the fall, we held an article discussion on "Upending Racism in Psychological Sciences" by Buchanan et al. (2020). Participants deeply enjoyed the intimacy of the small groups reflecting a mix of students, faculty, and staff, and appreciated this kind of pressure-free event open to all.

Events were aimed to support members of our department community in the life-long and ongoing process of engaging in anti-racist work.



Event rated 4.5 stars by attendees



Event rated 4.4 stars by attendees

## ANTI-BLACK RACISM SOLIDARITY CIRCLES

In the wake of anti-Black racism on the University of Illinois campus and the United States broadly, the Psychology Department Diversity Committee hosted a solidarity circle attended by undergraduate and graduate students as well as faculty and staff within the department and across the university.

Black community members and allies processed changes that they would like to see within the classroom, department, and the university at large. Participants enjoyed the opportunity to converse with one another and meet people from across the university.







## ANTI-RACISM GRANTS: A YEAR IN REVIEW

The Psychology Department Diversity and Inclusion Committee is pleased to announce the continued success of our Anti-Racism Grant Fund, designed to support members of the psychology department in seeking financial support for anti-racism events and initiatives. The department was able to support the work of seven members of our community during the 2022-2023 Academic Year.

### FALL 2022 RECIPIENTS

**YUEYANG CHEN**, GRADUATE STUDENT

**AGGIE RIEGER**, GRADUATE STUDENT

**JULIA SPIELMAN**, GRADUATE STUDENT



INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL STUDENTS  
BUILDING COMMUNITY

### SPRING 2023 RECIPIENTS

**CHADLY STERN**, PROFESSOR

**BRENDA STRAKA**, POST-DOC RESEARCHER

**LINGYUE LI**, GRADUATE STUDENT

**CHELSEA BIRCHMIER**, GRADUATE STUDENT

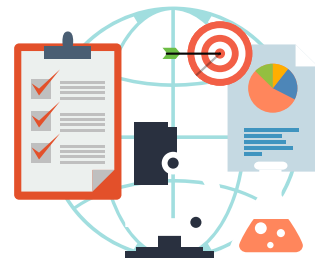


CHELSEA BIRCHMIER & COMMUNITY  
COLLABORATOR AT SOCIETY FOR COMMUNITY  
RESEARCH & ACTION CONFERENCE





# DIVERSITY SCIENCE NEWS



The department is thrilled to welcome several new faculty hires whose work focuses on equity, diversity, and inclusion. **Dr. Mike Rizzo** joined the Developmental program area in Spring 2023. **Drs. Lynda Gibson and Violeta Rodriguez** will be joining the Clinical-Community Psychology program areas in Fall 2023 and **Dr. Steffan Uddenberg** and **Dr. Brenda Straka** will join the Attention and Perception and Social-Personality program areas in Fall 2024. Our department is excited to work with you all.



The Illinois News Bureau published a press-release on the The Public Psychology for Liberation Training Model, which was co-authored by Dr. Helen Neville, **B. Andi Lee** (Clinical-Community Psychology), and Nimot Ogunfemi. Within this model, psychologists and community members would co-create and share tools to promote healing and well-being for the Global Majority and other historically marginalized groups. Another component of their model is ensuring that psychological knowledge is communicated with the community. We look forward to seeing how this model can be applied within our department and university.



**Drs. Jaki Yi** (incoming Assistant Professor at the University of Washington, Bothell), **Helen Neville** (Counseling Psychology and African American Studies Professor at Illinois), **Nathan Todd** (Clinical-Community Professor at Illinois), and **Yara Mekawi** (Assistant Professor at the University of Louisville) published a meta-analysis in 2022 titled "Ignoring Race and Denying Racism: A Meta-Analysis of the Associations Between Colorblind Racial Ideology, Anti-Blackness, and Other Variables Antithetical to Racial Justice." Since publication, press-releases for their article have been published in Forbes Magazine and by the American Psychological Association. We are proud of the work our alumni are doing!



# DIVERSITY SCIENCE NEWS & AWARDS



**Jas Jacobson**, a rising senior, is our inaugural recipient of the **Advanced Research Opportunity Honors Fellowship**. This fellowship provides support over three semesters of undergraduate research conducted toward the completion of an honors thesis in psychology. Jas has shown continued dedication to diversity and equity in her research and work as a Resident Advisor.



**Raymond La**, a graduate student in the Clinical-Community Psychology division, minoring in Quantitative and Qualitative Methods, received the **Rappaport-Lo award**. Raymond researches racial and ethnic mental health disparities and understanding how cultural factors and experiences (e.g., acculturation/enculturation, ethnic identity, loss of face, racial discrimination) impacts mental health and seeking mental health services. Raymond also mentors BIPOC undergraduates in research and career development in his lab and courses to foster a diverse pipeline in psychology.



**Mahogany Monette** a graduate student in the Clinical-Community Psychology, minoring in Mixed Methods Inquiry, received the department **Diversity Science Award**. Mahogany's work focuses on risk and resilience factors for Black people in the United States experiencing psychosis, specifically the role of built environment and community in promoting Black people's wellbeing.



Psychology majors, **Nia Aldridge and Emma Darbro** are among the 2023 awardees for the **Community-Academic Scholars Initiative**. The program supports the work of undergraduate students "to address critical issues related to health, poverty, and/or social inequality." The research produced by community-academic scholars is designed to directly benefit the communities they work in.



## END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

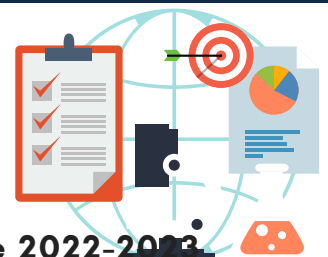
As our final community building event of the academic year, the Diversity Committee hosted a celebration for graduate students, faculty, staff, and their loved one in June 2023.

Attendees enjoyed Chipotle, Insomnia cookies, games, and a psychology-themed trivia game (pictured to the right).

Thank you to everyone who attended and for a wonderful year!



## DIVERSITY SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP



Below are articles published by department members during the 2022-2023 Academic year that contribute to the study of Diversity Science, Equity, and Inclusion!

**Blackburn, A. M., & Todd, N. R.** (2023). Pride in our community: Reflecting on LGBTQ publications in the American Journal of Community Psychology. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 71(1-2), 158-165. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12618>

Blackburn, A. M., Bystrynski, J. B., Rieger, A., Garthe, R. C., Piasecki, M., & Allen, N. E. (2023). Sexual assault revictimization among sexual minority individuals: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Psychology of Violence*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000477>

**Blevins, E. J., & Todd, N. R.** (2022). Remembering where we're from: Community- and individual-level predictors of college students' White privilege awareness. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 70(1-2), 60-74. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12572>

**Dawson, D.**, Goodman, S.H., Granger, D.A. et al. (2022) Associations Between Direct and Indirect Forms of Racism Exposure and Stress-Induced Inflammatory Response and Health in Pregnancy. *J. Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s40615-022-01442-z>

Garthe, R. C., **Rieger, A.**, Goffnett, J., Kaur, A., Sarol Jr., J. N., **Blackburn, A. M.**, Kim, S., Hereth, J., & Kennedy, A. C. (2023). Grade-level differences of peer and dating victimization among transgender, gender expansive, female, and male adolescents, *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 20(3) ,603-631, <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2022.2132443>

Hoang, T. M. H., Hsieh, W. J., **Lee, B. A.**, Lukacena, K. M., & Tabb-Dina, K. M. (2022). Navigating pregnancy and the healthcare system during COVID-19: A qualitative study with perinatal women of color. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 19(20), 13698. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph192013698>

Hoang, T. M. H., **Lee, B. A.**, Hsieh, W. W., Lukacena, K. M., & Tabb-Dina, K. (2023). Experiences of racial trauma among perinatal women of color in seeking healthcare services. *General Hospital Psychiatry*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.genhosppsy.2023.06.015>

**Lee, B.A.**, Maghsoodi, A. H., Ruedas-Gracia, N., & Williams, C. D. (2023) Measures of racial-ethnic-cultural (REC) belonging: A systematic review of the literature. *Identity*, 23(2), 170-192. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15283488.2022.2127725>

Neville, H. N., **Lee, B. A.**, & Maghsoodi, A. H. (*in press*). Decolonizing psychological sciences for liberation. In L. Comas-Díaz, H.Y. Adames, & N.Y. Chavez-Dueñas (Eds.), *Decolonial Psychology: Theory, Research, and Practice*. American Psychological Association.

Ravi, M., Mekawi, Y., **Blevins, E. J.**, Michopoulos, V., Stevens, J., Carter, S., & Powers, A. (2023). Intersections of oppression: Examining the interactive effect of racial discrimination and neighborhood poverty on PTSD symptoms in Black women. *Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science*. Advance online publication. <https://doi-org.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/10.1037/abn0000818>

**Rizzo, M. T.** (2023). New directions for anti-racism research: White children's understanding of structural racism. In *EmbraceRace: Reflection on Children's Racial Learning*. <https://www.embracerace.org/>

**Rizzo, M. T.**, Britton, T. C., & Rhodes, M (2022). Developmental origins of anti-Black bias in White US children: Exposure to and beliefs about racial inequality. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119, e2209129119. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2209129119>

**Rizzo, M. T.**, Green, E. R, Dunham, Y., Bruneau, E., & Rhodes, M (2022). Beliefs about social norms and racial inequalities predict variation in the early development of racial bias. *Developmental Science*, 25, e13170. <http://doi.org/10.1111/desc.13170>

**Rizzo, M. T.** & Williams, A. D. (2022). Racial biases emerge in childhood: How caregivers can promote anti-racist worldviews. *Early Childhood Matters*. <https://earlychildhoodmatters.online/2022/racial-biases-emerge-in-childhood/>

**Todd, N. R., Blevins, E. J., Yi, J.**, Boeh Bergmann, B. A., & Meno, C. G. (2023). Examining awareness of privilege among midwestern college students: An analysis of race/ethnicity, gender, and religion. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 71(1-2), 224-241. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12625>

**Yi, J., La, R., Lee, B. A.**, & Saw, A. (2023). Internalization of the model minority myth and sociodemographic factors shaping Asians/Asian Americans' experiences of discrimination during COVID-19. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 71, 123-135. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajcp.12635>

**Yi, J.**, Neville, H. A., **Todd, N. R.**, & Mekawi, Y. (2023). Ignoring race and denying racism: A meta-analysis of the associations between colorblind racial ideology, anti-Blackness and other variables antithetical to racial justice. *Journal of Counseling Psychology*. Advance Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cou0000618>

\*Bolded names represent current members of our department



**Did we miss your news? Do you have work you'd like to see featured in our next issue? Reach out to us at [psychdei.uiuc@gmail.com](mailto:psychdei.uiuc@gmail.com)!**