Preliminary Program

Mini-Conference
Immigration and Mental Health: Structural Factors Driving Mental Health Inequities

Leonard and Gretchan Broom Center for Demography
University of California Santa Barbara

Chicano Studies Institute, UCSB

UCGHI Center for Gender and Health Justice

Organizers:
Erika Arenas, Sociology, UCSB
San Juanita García, Chicana and Chicano Studies, UCSB

Date: Thursday May 30th & Friday May 31st
Time: Thursday 3:00 – 5:00pm; Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm
Mosher Alumni Hall, UCSB campus

Register here: https://forms.gle/WPuRnM2KJq9wvCqt8

Invited Speakers

Meet & Greet /Collaborative Workshop:
Jennifer Kam, UCSB
Lisa Park, UCSB
Emiko Saldívar, UCSB
Bruce Link, UCR
Lawrence Yang, NYU
Walid Afifi, UCSB
Tod Hamilton, Princeton
Nichole Thompson, UCSB
Robert Hummer, UNC
India Ornelas, UW
Debanuj DasGupta, UCSB
Mónica Cornejo, Cornell
Jenjira Yahirun, BGSU
Heide Castañeda,USF
Elizabeth Ackert, UCSB

About the Mini-Conference
The mini-conference has two important objectives. Substantively, we aim to amass experts from various disciplines to discuss the current state of the field, by reviewing relevant theoretical perspectives, data and methods commonly used to study migration and mental health, and to showcase research presentations highlighting the structural factors driving mental health inequities. Yet, another important goal of the mini-conference is to expose students and faculty to the importance of mentorship/sponsorship, collaborations, and the critical role that research can play in building community in the process of generating new knowledge. In this regard, we are asking panelists to reflect on their own academic journeys and to think critically into how their mentors, peer mentors, as well as, their mentees have contributed in their academic journeys, especially in shaping their research and academic careers.

Preliminary Program

Thursday May 30th

- 3:00 - 3:20: Welcome and Opening Remarks

- 3:20 - 3:25: Transition to Interactive Workshop
  Introduction of Workshop and Speakers - Vision for what we are aiming and hoping to accomplish and setting intentions for the workshop and overall mini-conference.

- 3:30 - 5:00: *Workshop: Meet & Greet: "Importance of Mentorship & Sponsorship throughout One's Academic Journey in Academia"*

  - **Jennifer Kam**, Professor, Department of Communication, UCSB
  - **Lisa Sun-Hee Park**, Professor, Asian American Studies Department, UCSB
  - **Emiko Saldívar**, Associate Project Scientist, Department of Anthropology, UCSB (Facilitator)

Friday May 31st

- 8:00 - 9:00: Continental Breakfast

- 9:00 – 10:10 Panel – Interfacing Migration and Mental Health: Critical Theoretical Contributions to Expose Structural Factors Driving Inequities (part 1)

  - **Bruce Link,** Distinguished Professor of Public Policy and Sociology, Sociology Department, UC Riverside, "A Fundamental Cause Theory Perspective on the Mental Health of Immigrant Populations"

  - **Lawrence H. Yang,** Professor and Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, New York University, "Migration Stigma: A New Concept to Link Migration-Related Stigma and Health"

  - **Walid Afifi**, Professor, Department of Communication, UCSB, "Teaching Palestine: A liberatory approach to mental health"

- 10:10 - 10:30 – Coffee Break

- 10:30 – 11:20 Panel – Interfacing Migration and Mental Health: Critical Theoretical Contributions to Expose Structural Factors Driving Inequities (part 2)

  - **Tod Hamilton,** Professor, Department of Sociology, Princeton University, "Immigration and the Changing Landscape of U.S. Racial Disparities"

  - **Nichole Thompson**, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, UCSB, "The costs of leaving home run deep in our evolutionary history"

- 11:20 – 12:10 Panel – Data and Methods Commonly Used to Study Migration and Mental Health (part 1)

  - **Robert Hummer**, Distinguished Professor and Director of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, Department of Sociology, "Add Health as a Resource for Studying the Health and Social Life of Immigrants and Second-Generation Adults in the United States: Data Availability, A Research Example, and the Future"

  - **India J. Ornelas**, Professor, Health Systems and Population Health, University of Washington, "Participatory Research Approaches to Engaging Latino Immigrant Communities"

- 12:10 – 2:00 Lunch

- 2:00 – 2:50 Panel – Data and Methods Commonly Used to Study Migration and Mental Health (part 2)

  - **Debanuj DasGupta,** Assistant Professor, Department of Feminist Studies, UCSB, Theory in Flesh: Trauma Informed Story Telling As Rewriting Refugee Victim Narratives.

  - **Mónica Cornejo**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Cornell CALS, "Centering Legally Vulnerable Migrants' (LVM) Humanity in Scientific Inquiry: Multimodal Data & Methods Employed to Study LVM's Health"

- 2:50–4:00 Exposing Structural Factors Driving Mental Health Inequities

  - **Jenjira Yahirun**, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Bowling Green, "Linking Immigrant Children's Separation from Parents During the Migration Process and Children's Mental Health"

  - **Heide Castañeda,** Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida, "Legal Precarity and Mental Health Inequities"

  - **Elizabeth Ackert,** Associate Professor, Department of Geography, UCSB, "Mental Health Resources in Latinx Communities"

- 4:00–4:20 Closing Remarks

Invited Speakers

Bruce Link

Dr. Bruce Link is a research scientist at New York State Psychiatric Institute, in addition to his responsibilities at the Mailman School. Dr. Link's interests are centered on topics in psychiatric and social epidemiology. He has written on the connection between socioeconomic status and health, homelessness, violence, stigma, and discrimination. Currently he is conducting research aimed at understanding health disparities by race/ethnicity and socioeconomic status, the consequences of social stigma for people with mental illnesses, and the connection between mental illnesses and violent behaviors. He is the director of the Psychiatric Epidemiology Training Program, the director of the Center for Violence Research and Prevention and a director of the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program at Columbia University.

Lawrence Yang

Dr. Lawrence Yang is Professor and Chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences at NYU-School of Global Public Health. Dr. Yang also is Founding Director of the Global Mental Health and Stigma Program where he administers a generous donor gift from the Li Ka Shing Foundation, and is Associate Director for the Global Center for Implementation Science at NYU. Dr. Yang's research focuses on two main areas: 1)Stigma and Global Mental Health; and 2) Cognition of Untreated Psychosis. A major area of Dr. Yang's research focuses on addressing stigma of health conditions; during his NIMH K-award, he formulated theoretical work on how "what matters most" within cultural groups relates to stigma. He has advanced this work in his edited book "Migration Stigma" (with co-editors Dr.'s Link and Eger; MIT Press), which he will present at this conference. Currently, Dr. Yang is PI of three separate R01's. Dr. Yang has over 165 peer-reviewed publications, including in JAMA Psychiatry, British Journal of Psychiatry and The Lancet. Dr. Yang has received eight national awards, most recently the 2021 Maltz Prize for Innovative and Promising Schizophrenia Research from the Brain and Behavioral Research Foundation, for his work.

Walid Afifi

Dr. Afifi (PhD, University of Arizona) is Professor in the Dept of Communication and Associate Dean, and Director of Community Engaged Initiatives, in the Division of Social Sciences at the University of California Santa Barbara. He was elected as a Fellow of the International Communication Association in 2021 and served as President of the National Communication Association in 2023. His program of research revolves around uncertainty, information-management decisions, and health and led to the development and refinement of the Theory of Motivated Information Management. He has also been a critic of the ways in which both uncertainty and mental health have been studied in the Palestinian context. His commitment to students has been recognized at UCSB through the UCSB's Faculty Senate Teaching Award, the Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity's Esteemed Ally Award, and through the Margaret T. Gettman Award for Service to Students.

Tod Hamilton

Dr. Hamilton is a professor in the Department of Sociology and a faculty associate of the Office of Population Research at Princeton University. His primary research interests lie in social stratification, immigration, health, and historical demography. His research has been published in *Demography*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Social Science and Medicine*, and *Demographic Research*. He is the author of *Immigration and the Remaking of Black America*, a book documenting how immigration has helped produce a diverse U.S. Black population since the 1960s. The book also offers a comprehensive methodological and theoretical framework for understanding the

integration of black immigrants into the United States from the early twentieth century to the present. *Immigration and the Remaking of Black America* is the winner of the 2020 Otis Dudley Duncan Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Social Demography and received Honorable Mention for the 2020 Thomas and Znaniecki Award from the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association.

Nichole Thompson

Dr. Nic Thompson González is a behavioral ecologist and evolutionary primatologist in the Department of Anthropology. Her work draws from evolutionary biology, animal behavior, sociology, and public health to examine the links between sociality, health, and biological fitness in human and non-human primates. Her work centers evolutionary life history theory as a framework to evaluate the costs and benefits of social relationships and community dynamics throughout the life course. She currently co-directs the Kakamega Monkey Project in western Kenya and the Biobehavioral Health Laboratory at UCSB.

Robert Hummer

Robert A. Hummer is the Howard W. Odum Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Fellow of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). He served as the 2021 President of the Population Association of America; is currently a member of the Committee on Population of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; and was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences in 2023. His research focuses on the accurate documentation and more complete understanding of health and mortality disparities in the United States. He is currently Director and Principal Investigator of the long-running National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), funded by the National Institute on Aging and five co-funding institutes/offices. Now in its sixth wave, Add Health is one of the most innovative and well-utilized nationally representative cohort studies of Americans ever undertaken and provides data for thousands of researchers to more fully understand the multi-level (biological, survey, contextual) life course factors that contribute to health, aging, and disparities therein among US adolescents and adults.

India J. Ornelas

Dr. India Ornelas (she/her) is a Professor in the Department of Health Systems and Population Health at the University of Washington. Her research focuses on understanding how social and cultural factors influence health inequities, especially in Latino immigrant populations. She collaborates with communities to develop health promotion interventions in the areas of mental health and substance use. Examples including using community health workers to screen and provide brief intervention for unhealthy alcohol use, and using mindfulness-based approaches to address mental health. She integrates qualitative and quantitative methods to design and evaluate interventions to address health inequities. Dr. Ornelas currently teaches and mentors graduate students in the areas of social determinants of health, health promotion and community engagement. She also serves as the Director of the MPH Core Curriculum in the School of Public Health. She is a queer, Chicana, mother, daughter, sister and native of the Pacific Northwest. She received a bachelor's degree from Brown University, a MPH from the University of Washington and a PhD in Health Behavior from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Debanuj DasGupta

Dr. DasGupta is an Assistant Professor of Feminist Studies at UCSB. His research and teaching focuses on racialized regulation of space, immigration detention, queer migrations and the global governance of migration, sexuality, and HIV. Dr. DasGupta investigates how transgender detainees and asylum seekers are subjected to trauma within detention centers and asylum courts in the US, and how transgender immigrant rights activists are transforming trauma into creative political action that seeks to disrupt the

national security state. He serves on the political geography editorial board of the *Geography Compass* and is Board-Co Chair of the Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies: CLAGS at the City University of New York. He is the recipient of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) funded *Junior Scholar Award in Transregional Studies: Inter Asian Contexts & Connections*; *Global Challenges Research Fund Networking Award,* The British Department for International Development, Ford Foundation funded *New Voices Fellowship,* American Association of Geographers and National Science Foundation funded *T. J. Reynolds National Award in Disability Studies*, and the International AIDS Society's *Emerging Activist Award*.

Mónica Cornejo

Dr. Cornejo (PhD, 2022, UC Santa Barbara) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication at Cornell University. Dr. Cornejo's research uses qualitative (e.g., semi-structured interviews) and quantitative (e.g., cross-sectional surveys) methodologies to examine the structural barriers that lead to health and societal inequities among legally vulnerable migrants (e.g., undocumented youth; formerly detained migrants), how legally vulnerable migrants draw on communication identity management and advocacy strategies to challenge those inequities, and how, in turn, those strategies relate to their health and well-being.

Jenjira Yahirun

Dr. Yahirun is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Bowling Green State University. Her work examines how the family, as an institution, contributes to social inequality. This work investigates three major themes: 1) how migration affects ties to kin, 2) how families shape individual health outcomes, and 3) how increasing family complexity and diversity challenge the kinship safety net. Yahirun is a first-generation college graduate and the daughter of Thai immigrants.

Heide Castañeda

Heide Castañeda is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of South Florida. Her research areas include critical border studies, political and legal anthropology, medical anthropology, migration, migrant health, citizenship, focusing on the U.S./Mexico border, Mexico, Germany, and Morocco. She is the author of Borders of Belonging: Struggle and Solidarity in Mixed-Status Immigrant Families (Stanford University Press, 2019) and co-editor of Unequal Coverage: The Experience of Health Care Reform in the United States (NYU Press, 2018). Her latest book is Migration and Health: Critical Perspectives (Routledge, 2023). Dr. Castañeda's work on migration and health care access for immigrant populations has been funded by the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, the Fulbright Program, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

Elizabeth Ackert

Liz Ackert is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her research interests include racial/ethnic inequality, immigration, education, health disparities, urban geography, and quantitative methods. Her work examines explanations for why racial/ethnic and immigrant-origin groups are unequally distributed across contexts– including schools, neighborhoods, and immigrant destinations– and evaluates the consequences of this contextual inequality for disparities in outcomes in domains such as education, residential mobility, and health. Her work has been funded by NIH and NSF and has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *Health Affairs* and *Demography.*