



**IN MY MIND**  
**My Identity Matters**  
**A PEOPLE OF COLOR**  
**MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

**October 4 & 5, 2018**  
Metropolitan College of New York  
68 West Street, NYC

# BE YOURSELF

The health plan **for individuals**



Amida Care is proud to support DBGM and its work to address behavioral health for LGBTQ people of color.



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# GMHC Carl Jacobs Mental Health Clinic

*Guiding you toward healthier well-being*



Stress, depression, anxiety, and other challenges can be difficult to deal with, especially in New York City. That's why our dedicated, licensed, and certified clinical staff are here for you, no matter how they are feeling about where they are in their life.

We understand the distinct needs of people from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and identities. The GMHC Carl Jacobs Mental Health Clinic provides safe and nonjudgmental services including individual, family, couples, and group psychotherapy to help guide clients to healthier well-being.

GMHC accepts Medicare, Medicaid, and other insurances, and will continue to utilize Ryan White funding for eligible clients as a payer of last resort to provide mental health, harm reduction, and substance use treatment to individuals.

**For more information, please contact us at (212) 367-1225 or [mhs@gmhc.org](mailto:mhs@gmhc.org). No one is turned away—services are available regardless of whether they have insurance.**

**GMHC**

END AIDS. LIVE LIFE.

   [gmhc.org](https://gmhc.org)

Individuals pictured are models and are used for illustrative purposes only.

## Conference Focus

The collective efforts of the planning team for this two-day conference will focus on how LGBTQ+ peoples of color see themselves and how these perceptions influence and affect their mental health. The collective strengths and wisdom of clinicians, consumers, academics and advocates confront the issues affecting identity constructs in these communities, especially in light of the policies and rhetoric from the current Administration and against the backdrop of conservative religious belief systems. Both days will begin with presentations to establish common starting points, which will be followed by concurrent single/stand-alone, small group workshops, and panel discussions – some geared for clinicians and others for community members. At the end of the second day, we will have a “Community Speak Out”, where conference participants will have a chance to express their thoughts on the necessary next steps for improving this conference and addressing the mental health of LGBTQ+ people of color. The Conference theme, “My Identity Matters” invites attendees to examine the many ways in which a person’s identity or sense of self is influenced and the effect on that person’s mental health. The conference will consider these aspects of identity: personal identity – how individuals define themselves based on what is important and what matters to them; social identity – given to individuals in their social group such as age, gender, race, and ethnicity or an identity an individual adopts based on a group to which they belong, and are social constructs; collective identity – an identity shared by a social group, where individuals have a choice in who they choose to identify with in that group; gender identity – one’s personal innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or none; and sexual identity – how one identifies based on their emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to others.

## Together We Are In My Mind Conference Welcome Reception

**Wednesday, Oct 3, 2018, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
Auditorium, Metropolitan College of New York, 60 West St., NYC**

**Welcome & Introductions – Conference Planning Team Member  
Acknowledgments – College, Conference Sponsors & Partners –  
Conference Planning Team Member**

### Remarks:

- ❖ One of our Conference Planning Team Members
- ❖ One of our Featured Speakers
- ❖ One of our Workshop Presenters

**Performances:** A Wind Quintet by students from The Juilliard School  
Gluck Program:

**James Blanchard, flute; Lauren Williams, oboe; Alex Manasse, clarinet;  
Eric Huckins, horn; and Steven Palacio, bassoon (Group Leader)  
Independent Vocalist Jesse O**

**Reception/Mingling**



# October 4, 2018

## Welcome Letter

New York, NY

Conferees,

The Conference Planning Team for this year's In My Mind, where "My Identity Matters", a mental health conference for, about and by LGBTQ+ peoples of color, in partnership with the Metropolitan College of New York, extend to you consumers, advocates, activists, agency representatives, clinicians and academicians a hearty and warm WELCOME.

Members of the Conference Planning Team share their thoughts on what planning this conference means:

"We are living in a time where everyone's identity matters. It goes beyond one's sexual orientation and gender identity; it is all the intersectionalities that make us who we are. This year's theme allows us to shine a light on how society can either embrace or demonize humans for their differences, and tells us how with our commonalities, we can build and strengthen relationships and communities, instead of what separates us. I am honored to be part of a conference providing a platform to unpack the notion that one's identity is truly theirs and move away from societal constructs and biases, and to address racism, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, HIV stigma, and discrimination based on religion, mental health status, and substance use disorders, among many other identities. As both a member of the planning committee and a presenter, I am committed to participating in future conferences and to encouraging others – service providers, allies, and members of LGBTQ+ communities to become involved and help plan, promote, and present at the In My Mind Conference, to ensure the growth, improvement, and sustainability of this important forum." – **Lissette Marrero, MSW**

"Mental illness directly touches my family. I'm critically aware of how our broken mental health system neglects people living with mental illness, particularly LGBTQ+ people. The 2018 In My Mind: "My Identity Matters" is a call to recognize the mental health needs of LGBTQ+ and all people." – **Charles Tarver**

"I got involved in this conference through my role at MCNY and immediately got sucked in to stay! The organizers and presenters are a committed and thoughtful group, and it has been my pleasure to be involved. I am very excited for the discussions, dialogue and discourse that will happen over the next couple of days. Identity is a multifaceted thing, we don't always define it ourselves, sometimes others try to define us – that balance is what I find so compelling about the theme for this year's conference. I look forward to exploring this dynamic topic with all of you." – **Beth Dunphe, MPA**, Deputy Executive Director for Resource Development & Engagement, Goddard Riverside Community Center, and former Chief Development Officer, Metropolitan College of New York.

"For each of us, whoever we are as a part of any LGBTQ+ community, we were beginning to come to acceptance of who we are. But, even as our identity is in constant flux and we're trying to get a better understanding of who we are, we are faced with renewed attacks against our fundamental sense of self by religious entities and government administrations hell bent on denying us our right to be – that is, our identities, who we are and all that has come together throughout our lives to make us who we are. It is through recognizing, acknowledging and embracing every single aspect of ourselves, that we are strengthened to face the many challenges and revel in our sense of self." – **Antoine Craigwell**, President & CEO, DBGGM, Inc.

"This year the In My Mind Conference dares to confront the issue of "Identity" as it relates to the mental health of LGBTQ+ of color. Many at the conference will speak on issues from their lived experience[s], where we hope you will be reaffirmed as who you are, and more importantly respect, value and aid in your self-validation. Mental health does not discriminate; many in society discriminate against those struggling with their mental health, their race, gender identity and sexual orientation. The conference acknowledges and defends the fact that mental health is infused in our lives, to different degrees, and aims to help the community to come together to embrace mental health as a matter in need of destigmatization, because regardless of your story, your "Identity Matters". We aim to provide a unique atmosphere that is nurturing and informative for participants." – **Leiba Frans**

"Identity matters in mental illness too! Mental illness is not a "heterosexual white person problem.", it is a problem for all of us in our many colors, creeds, and orientations, which mainstream mental health contexts often overshadows and diminishes. As we work against mental health stigma and seek to improve awareness and treatment, cultural distinctions must be recognized and included. Our communities face starkly different rates and experiences in mental health, which are all too often compounded by discrimination and hardships. Culturally appropriate care can help. This conference is a call for recognition, empowerment and action, that identity matters. As a planning member, I endeavored to incorporate my culturally diverse experiences to informing this gathering, and I hope attendees will learn, share, give and receive hope, inspire, and be inspired by the power of our collective voices. We are reminded that none of us is alone in our commitment to the mental health of LGBTQ+ peoples of color, where respecting individual and cultural identities are essential to improving mental health treatment." – **Katherine Ponte, BA, JD, MBA, NYCPS-P, CPRP**, and founder, ForLikeMinds.com.

We trust you're able to enter into and take advantage of the information you'll receive from the speakers, breakout presentations, the film forum, and the connections you'll make, that will strengthen your confidence and reaffirm your sense of who you are, and belonging in and to whichever community you choose.

*Sincerely,*

*2018 In My Mind Conference Planning Team*

## Dear Conference Participants,

I applaud you all for your participation in and overall commitment to advance health equity. Thank you for recognizing and elevating injustices in health, and for your collaborative and intersectoral efforts to address the mental well-being of communities of color, particularly lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, and people of other sexual orientation and gender identities (LGBTQ+).

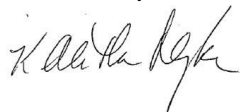
The intention of public health practice is to promote and protect the health of our neighborhoods and communities. The integrity of that practice depends upon the extent to which we recognize the many different communities we are here to serve, the health challenges they face, the inequities among them, and how we respond. As advocates for healthier communities, we know that the liberation of all oppressed people is interconnected, and it is through this shared struggle that we forge common cause. This intersectionality must be at the heart of how we approach mental health issues.

We must move forward with intention and urgency. LGBTQ+ people of color are inequitably impacted by poverty, homelessness, and poor mental and physical health. The US Transgender Survey of 2015 showed that transgender and gender nonconforming people of color had three times the rate of poverty and four times the rate of unemployment than the general U.S. population. According to our 2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 10.8% of LGBTQ youth in NYC lived away from parents or guardians because they had been kicked out, had run away, or had been abandoned. In addition, 20.4% of LGBTQ+ youth have attempted suicide and 24.5% were bullied on school property.

This is an unacceptable reality. As institutions, organizations and providers, we have to continuously question our intentionality and approaches, and in many instances, create new ones. Within my own professional community, the medical and public health communities have to first acknowledge their own history of pathologizing and discriminating against LGBTQ+ people. Our efforts must start with learning from their experiences and history, being inclusive of the voices, ideas, and expertise of members of the community in every step of building policy and practice, and promoting LGBTQ+ leadership, particularly African American/Black people and other people of color. Only then can we start to reshape the narrative and dismantle the intersectoral systems of oppression that impact the mental health of LGBTQ+ people.

At the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, we have started a process to transform our institution into a racially and socially just, equitably responsible, multicultural organization. This effort takes place in many forms and is inclusive of gender equity and equity for LGBTQ+ people. We have an initiative dedicated to transforming our agency's internal policies, structures, and practices to dismantle institutional and structural racism and intersecting oppressions called Race to Justice. We have changed our Health Code to allow gender marker changes, begun to train staff on race and gender equity, published several health promotion materials specific to transgender health for health providers and New Yorkers, and enhanced our clinical service delivery to be more culturally responsive to the LGBTQ+ community. We know we have so much more work to do. Institutions can and should be allies.

The Health Department stands with you in solidarity to advance racial equity and social justice in health amidst increasing hostility from various places across the country. Continue to speak up and speak out. I hope you have a fruitful In My Mind Peoples of Color Mental Health Conference.



Deputy Commissioner, NYC Department for Health and Mental Hygiene  
Founding Director, Center for Health Equity

**Callen-Lorde is proud to support**

**'My Identity Matters'**

**In My Mind: A People of Color  
Mental Health Conference**



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# DAY 1 – Thursday, Oct 4, 2018

Time	Sponsored and Presented by Amida Care	Presentation Titles	Presenters	Location
7:30am to 8:45am		Check- In/Registration	Everyone	Lobby
		Light Breakfast	Everyone	Lobby
9:00am		Call to Order, “Pronouns”, Welcome, Introduction, Acknowledgements & Housekeeping	Planning Team Member	Auditorium
to 9:30am		“We Remember Our Own”	Vanessa Crespo (Anti-Violence Project)	Auditorium
9:30am to 10:45am		A MCNY Welcome	Joanne Passaro, Ph.D. (President, MCNY)	Auditorium
		On Being a Queer Person of Color: Navigating Internalized Oppression, Microaggressions, and Mental Health	Kevin Nadal, Ph.D. (CUNY)	Auditorium
		Shame and Sexuality: The Imprint and Residue of Psychological Pain	Rahim Thawer. MSW, RSW	Auditorium
10:45 to 11:00am		<b>BREAK</b>		<b>Lobby</b>
<b>SESSION I</b>				
11:00am to 12:15pm		Hidden in Plain Sight: A Literature Review of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in LGBTQ Patients	Amilcar Tirado, MD and Amy Hoffman, MD	Rm 606
		Boihood is the Ultimate Liberation: Transcendence of Colonial Constructs of Gender and Sexuality, and Liberatory Potentialities of Self-Identification	Spencer Garcia, BA	Rm 702AB
		Pleasure n’Play: Crystal Meth, Identity, and Chemsex	Christopher Collazo, MHS	Rm 703
		Presented by Apicha Community Health Center - Growing up Black, Latino, Queer and HIV-Positive: A journey to self-acceptance and living in one’s truth!	Lisette Marrero, MSW; Johnny Guaylupo; Jade Thompson; Jahlove Serrano; Lailani Muniz	Rm 602AB
		Meditation	Neil Toyota (Kadampa Meditation Center NYC)	Quiet Room #607
12:15 to 12:30pm		<b>BREAK</b>		<b>Lobby</b>
12:30pm to 1:30pm		LUNCHTIME - Unique Identities in Body, Mind and Spirit: An Overview of Aging, Mental Health, and Palliative Care Considerations Affecting the LGBTQ Community	Dr. Noelle Marie Javier (Mt. Sinai)	Auditorium
1:30pm to 1:35pm		Call to Order, “Pronouns” & Introduction	Planning Team Member	Auditorium
1:35 to 2:05pm		Label Me: Valuing My Own Identity	James Felton Keith (Data Union)	Auditorium
<b>BREAK</b>				
<b>SESSION II</b>				
2:15 pm to 3:30 pm		Presented by Housing Works: Addressing stigma and discrimination in integrated community mental health care.	Alcia Peterkin, LCSW	Rm 703
		Transgender Caucus	Coordinated by Elizabeth Rivera	Rm 606
		a-DICK-ted To Me - A Gay Man’s Journey to Self-Discovery	Jeffery Feliz-Ybes (Leo Donato)	Rm 702AB
		Reiki & Qi Gong	Joyce Duncan, Ph.D	Quiet Room #607
		A Double-Edged Sword: Work Life Balance for Black Women	Alisha Powell, Ph.D., LCSW	Rm 704
3:30pm to 3:45pm		<b>BREAK</b>		<b>Lobby</b>
3:45pm to 4:15pm		Day 1 - Evaluation	Planning Team Member	Auditorium
4:15pm to 4:30pm		<b>BREAK</b>		<b>Lobby</b>
4:30pm to 6:30pm		“Our View”	LGBTQ Film Forum	Auditorium



# DAY 2 – Friday, Oct 5, 2018

Time	Sponsored and Presented by	Presentation Titles	Presenter	Location
7:30am to 8:45am	Sponsored and Presented by Amida Care	Check In/Registration	Everyone	Lobby
		Light Breakfast	Everyone	Lobby
9:00am to 9:20am		Call to Order, “Pronouns”, Welcome, Introductions, Acknowledgements & Housekeeping	Planning Team Member	Auditorium
9:20am to 10:40am	The Non-Existent Identity: Exploring the Complexity of African Sexuality		Adjoa Osei, Psy. D	Auditorium
	Growing Together: Gay & Bisexual Jamaican Men and relationships with their families.		Johann White, MBBS, Ph.D.	Auditorium
	Speaker		Yohann White, MBBS, Ph.D.	Auditorium
10:40am to 10:55am	BREAK			Lobby
<b>SESSION III</b>				
11:00am to 12:15pm	Embracing Intimacy in Significant Relationships		Anthony Patterson, LMHC and Charles Munn, LCSW	Rm 606
	Pose: Life is a Ball		Elizabeth Ninja & Members of the House of Ninja	Rm 702AB
	Trauma Informed Care: Needed Now More Than Ever		Gary Bailey, DHL, MSW, ACSW	Rm 602AB
	Sharing Hope: An African-American Guide to Mental Health		Larry Bryant (NAMI-NYC)	Rm 703
	Meditation		Neil Toyota (Kadampa Meditation Center NYC)	Quiet Room #607
12:15 to 12:30pm	BREAK			Lobby
12:30m to 1:30pm	<b>LUNCHTIME</b> Panel Sponsored and Presented by GMHC “Looking After Your Mental Health When Living with HIV”		<b>Moderator:</b> Lissette Marrero, MSW; <b>Panelists:</b> Robert Vassilarakis, GMHC; Aalia Cox, GMHC; Warren Poole, Peter Ho Memorial CAB; Dawn Carney, St. John’s Hospital	Auditorium
1:30pm to 1:45pm	Call to Order, Welcome, “Pronouns”, & Introductions		Planning Team Member	Auditorium
1:45pm to 2:15pm	50 Shades of a Black Man		Elias Fishburne, IV	Auditorium
2:15pm to 2:30pm	BREAK			Lobby
<b>SESSION IV</b>				
2:30 pm to 3:45pm	Effectiveness Of A Pilot Low-Cost Mental Health Therapy Model In Reducing Depression And Suicidality In Sexual and Gender Minorities In A Large Urban City		Nirmala Prakash, Ph.D., Rachael Silverberg, MPH, Giovana Jaen, MHS, Alex Small, Marjorie Kragel, and Jacob Musinsky	Rm 602AB
	Presented by Housing Works, Inc. Re-Charge: A New Treatment Paradigm for MSM who use crystal methamphetamine		Maximo Sepulveda, Alexandra Valentine	Rm 704
	Iatrogenia: When Caregivers Judge LGBTQ Patients		Nathan James, MFA	Rm 703
	Understanding Non-Financial Barriers to Black Queer Youth Transitions from High School to College		Lance McCready, Ph.D.	Rm 702AB
	Reiki & Qi Gong		Joyce Duncan, Ph.D	Quiet Room #607
3:45pm to 4:00pm	BREAK			Lobby
<b>SESSION V</b>				
4:00pm to 5:15pm	Peer Support at Rainbow Heights Club: Preventing Relapse, Recidivism, and Reinstitution in LGBTQ+ Affirming Environment		Randy Killings, CASAC-T, NYCPS	Rm 602AB
	The Marginalization of LGBT People of Color and Resilience		Irma Perez, APCC	Rm 602C
	Breaking the Silence: Psychotherapy as a form of resistance, reflectivity, and liberation		O’Shan D. Gadsden, MA, Ph.D.	Rm 702AB
	LGBTQ Youth in NYC and Mental and Healthcare Concerns: How do Providers Address the Mental and Overall Health Concerns of the LGBTQ Youth?		Francisco Lazala and Gloria Escano	Rm 703
5:15 pm to 5:30pm	BREAK			Lobby
5:30pm to 6:00pm	Community Speak Out – “Having Your Say”		Cecilia Gentili	Auditorium
6:00pm to 6:00 pm	Wrap up - Day 2		Planning Team Member	Auditorium
	END			

## Thursday, Oct 4

### BREAKFAST SESSION Sponsored by Amida Care

“We Remember Our Own”

(9:00am)

Presented by Vanessa Crespo (Anti-Violence Project)

This Memorial brings into the Conference the many LGBTQ+ people of color who have died by their own hands or by someone else's hands between October 2017 and October 2018; whose lives, full of potential, were cut short, forever silenced, and who knows, if they were alive, they might've attended this conference.

A MCNY Welcome: Joanne Passaro, Ph.D., President, Metropolitan College of New York (9:30am to 10:45am)

**Keynote: On Being a Queer Person of Color: Navigating Internalized Oppression, Microaggressions, and Mental Health**  
Kevin Nadal, Ph.D., Professor John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center, City University of New York.

In this presentation, Prof. Nadal will describe some of the many obstacles faced by LGBTQ people of color, particularly in academia, including covering topics such as internalized oppression, intersectional identities, microaggressions, and mental health, and will draw on examples from his journal and research.

**Shame and Sexuality: the imprint and residue of psychological pain**

**Keynote: Rahim Thawer, MSW, RSW**

Many gay men feel bad about who they are and what they desire. Even after we “come out”, past negative experiences have already left their imprint. There is a residue from internalized messages about what it means to be a gay man in a straight world. As a gay racialized Muslim man and a clinical social worker, I feel compelled to consider how systems of homophobia and racism have manifested themselves as chronic shame in my life — and by extension, my clients' lives. I am regularly thinking about what identity-driven shame looks like when it shows up, where it originated, and reflecting on how to manage or unlearn it. This engaging talk will take an exploratory approach to examine how shame interferes with gay men's execution of desire, shapes the motivation for partner-seeking, and reinforces HIV stigma in our communities.

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### SESSION I

(11:00am to 12:15pm)

**Hidden in Plain Sight: A Literature Review of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Same Sex Couples**

Amilcar A. Tirado, M.D., M.B.A.

A literature review that examined traditional constructs of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), described the behavior often as heterosexual experiences, where victims were usually female. From the 25 articles reviewed 12 were selected for review and demonstrated unique aspects related to IPV in LGBTQ populations. The implications of studies included in this literature review could inform interventions for victims of same-sex IPV and lead to more comprehensive services to address the needs of LGBTQ victims of this type of violence.

**Bois of Color and Liberatory Potentialities of Self-identification**

Spencer Garcia, BA

This presentation focuses on the anti-colonial and liberatory potentialities of self-identification for queer and trans people of color. Through these “namings” of sexual and romantic desires, and gendered expressions, queer and trans people of color challenge the dehumanization they experience on the basis of their racialization.

**Pleasure ‘n’ Play: crystal meth, identity, and chemsex**

Christopher Collazo, MHS

When compared to their heterosexual cohorts, LGBT people use substances at higher rates (Ranes, 2016). Add to that the racialized war on drugs, which disproportionately impacts marginalized communities and unpacking the intersexual realities of having an LGBT identity, people of color status, and engaging in chemsex presents unique challenges for developing harm reduction strategies. This workshop will explore how people of color identities and LGBT inform chemsex in the community. The discussion will focus on crystal meth use among MSM and how identity plays into this narrative.

Presented by Apicha Community Health Center

**Growing up Black, Latinx, Queer and HIV-Positive: A journey to self-acceptance and living in one's truth!**

Presented by Apicha Community Health Center, Lissette Marrero, MSW; Johnny Guaylupo, Housing Works; Jade Thompson, Housing Works; Jahlove Serrano, Love Heals; Lailani Muniz, HIV Stops With Me Campaign.

How does one develop self-acceptance and a true sense of self when multiple identities intersect? We search for a sense of self and personal identity through intense exploration of personal values and beliefs. When that is disrupted by family and societal rejection it can cause shame, internalized homophobia/transphobia and HIV stigma. Directly from their own personal accounts, panelists will share their emotional journey to happiness, becoming their authentic selves, and achieving self-acceptance through multiple identities.

**LUNCHTIME PRESENTATION:**

**(12:30pm to 1:30pm)**

**“Unique Identities in Body, Mind and Spirit: An Overview of Aging, Mental Health, and Palliative Care Considerations Affecting the LGBTQ Community”**

**Noelle Marie Javier, MD (Mt. Sinai)**

The session aims to provide an overview of the unique identities and mental health considerations of the LGBTQ population as they age and experience quality of life issues in the realm of palliative, hospice, and end-of-life medical care. A multi-dimensional and holistic approach in the context of body, mind, and spirit will be reviewed and shared with the participants.

**“Label Me: Valuing My Own Identity”**

**(1:35pm to 2:05pm)**

*Keynote: James Felton Keith*

Personal data is worth much more to the communities in which LGBTQ people of color participate, but often overlooked, is our influence as nominal or insignificant. Presenter will discuss how real time data shows the influence Queer People of Color are contributing to their economy, and how members of these communities can all capture their piece of the American pie, while also finding dignity in their individuality.

**SESSION II**

**(2:15pm to 3:30pm)**

**Addressing stigma and discrimination in integrated community mental health care.**

**Alcia Peterkin, LCSW, Housing Works, Inc.**

The “IMPACT” model of mental health care delivery employs co-located licensed social workers in primary care settings to provide access to low-threshold and integrated behavioral health services designed to minimize and overcome the stigma often associated with mental health and substance use services. Building upon lessons learned from the AIDS response, the model recognizes that effective management of chronic illness requires a patient-centered approach designed to address social and individual barriers to care.

**aDICKted to Me - One Man’s Journey to Self-Discovery**

**Jeffrey Feliz-Ybes / Leo Donato, Mental Health News Radio Network**

In this workshop, the presenter will share about his journey through sex, drug addiction, and recovery to discover himself and the choices related to his self-identity.

**A Double-Edged Sword: Work Life Balance for Black Women**

**Alisha Powell, Ph.D., LCSW, Housing Works, Inc.**

This workshop presents an interactive discussion on research conducted with African-American women on their career decisions, and to examine ways of becoming more culturally competent.



**The White Shirt Project** created by Jose Ramon

**A healing journey in the crossroads of PTSD and Depression**

The project was created by Jose Ramon, who was diagnosed with PTSD and Depression. It is a series of photographs and first-person narratives mainly of people of color from the LGBT community. Some models have struggled with mental health issues while other models in the photos have been supportive and sympathetic of such struggle. TWSP attaches a face to the stigma of Mental Illness and allows the viewer to get closer to the human beings behind the portraits and stories. A white shirt is used as a catalyst provoking dialogue and stirring up emotions leading to catharsis while transforming our own experience with mental health from the individual to the community.

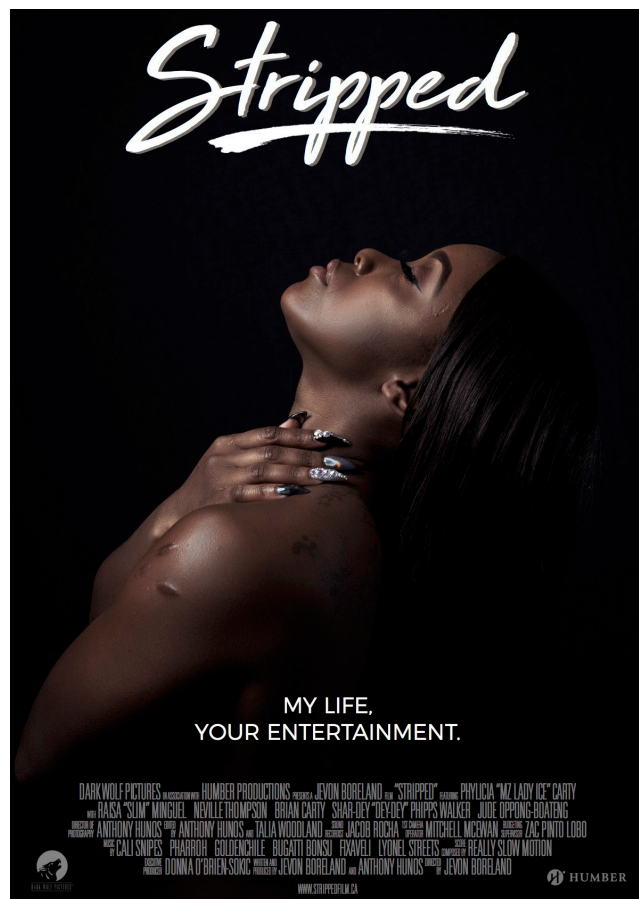
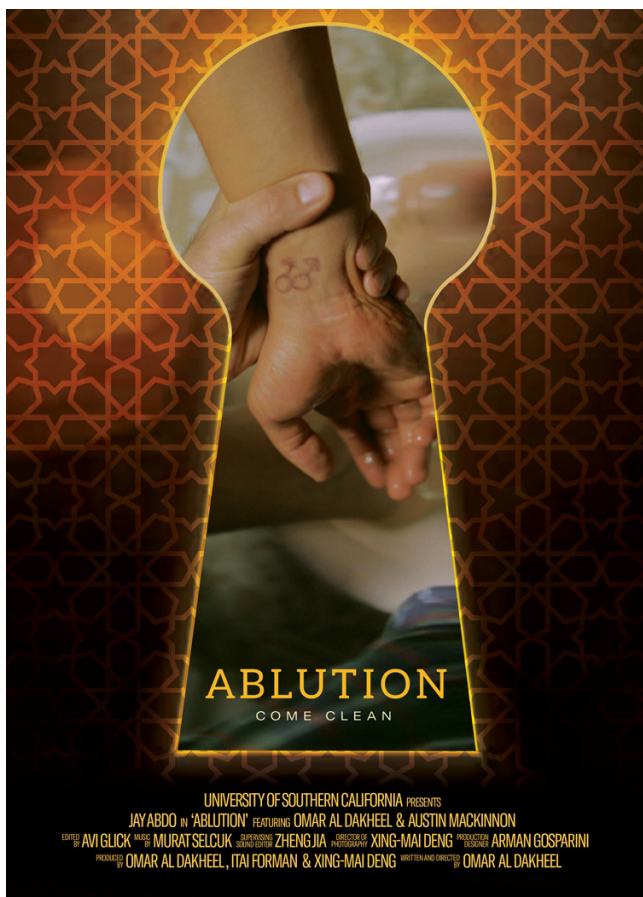
**[www.gnoteentertainment.com/the-white-shirt-project](http://www.gnoteentertainment.com/the-white-shirt-project)**

## Our View

Film Forum at the In My Mind Conference  
Common Room, Metropolitan College of New York, 60 West St., NYC.  
Thursday, Oct 4, 2018; 4:30pm to 6:30pm

- **Ablution** (2017), USA, directed by Omar Al Dakheel, English, 15 minutes  
The bond between a disabled Muslim father and his son is tested when love is pitted against religion. (Drama, Gay)
- **Lady Eva** (2017), Tonga, American Samoa, directed by Dean Hamer, English, 11 minutes.  
In the Kingdom of Tonga, traditional culture clashes with modern religious zealotry. A young transgender beauty contestant is given an ultimatum by her Mormon family. (Biopic, Performing Arts, Trans)
- **Only Fools Rush In** (2018), USA, directed by David Moragas, English, 12 minutes.  
Before his student visa expires, Carlos spends one last night in New York with Mark. Will they do whatever it takes to stay together? (Drama, Gay, Romance)
- **Silverlake Afternoon** (2018), USA, directed by Michael Osborne and Rebecca Holopter, English, 10 minutes.  
Michael's first encounter with another man promises to be pretty great but also pretty awkward. Comedy, Gay
- **Sisak** (2017), India, directed by Faraz Ansari, English, 15 minutes. (Drama, Gay)  
A romance emerges between two men riding the Mumbai local trains, over a period of many nights. Biopic, Drama, Gay, Romance
- **Stripped** (2018), Canada, directed by Jevon Boreland, English, 10 minutes.  
Go behind the scenes with Mz. Lady Ice as she reveals the struggles and triumphs that come with being a female exotic dancer. Biopic, Canadian, (Dance, Lesbian)
- **Swimming Pool** (2017), Spain (English subtitles), directed by Carlos Ruano, 9 minutes.  
Two friends decide to go swimming at the Scientology Center pool, but first they must pass a lie detector test. Comedy, Gay
- **The Things You Think I'm Thinking** (2017), Canada, directed by Sherren Lee, English, 14 minutes.  
A burn survivor and amputee go on a date with a non-disabled man for the first time since his accident. Canadian, Disability, (Drama, Gay)

The In My Mind Conference acknowledges and thanks the **2018 Toronto InsideOut Film Festival** and the filmmakers of the films screened at the festival, for their generosity.



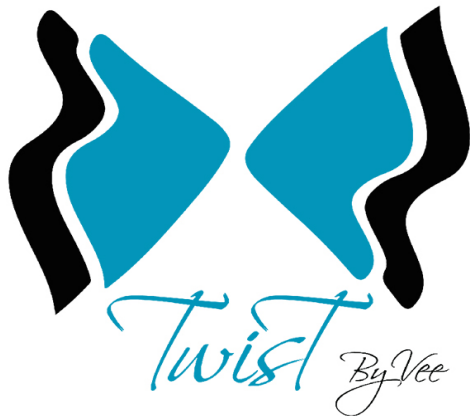
THE THINGS YOU THINK I'M THINKING.



**WINNER**

- GRAND JURY PRIZE FOR BEST INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE SHORT FILM, OUTFEST 2018
- AWJ EDA AWARD FOR BEST FEMALE DIRECTED SHORT, WHISTLER FILM FESTIVAL 2017
- GOLDEN SHEAF AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR FICTION, YORKTON FILM FESTIVAL 2018
- GOLDEN SHEAF AWARD FOR BEST MULTICULTURAL SHORT, YORKTON FILM FESTIVAL 2018
- BEST CANADIAN SHORT AWARD, INSIDE OUT TORONTO 2018
- BEST CANADIAN SHORT PRIZE, OUTFEST QUEER FILM FESTIVAL 2018
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## Friday, Oct 5

### **BREAKFAST SESSION – Sponsored by Amida Care**

**(9:20am to 10:40am)**

#### **“The Nonexistent Identity: Exploring the Complexity of African Sexuality”**

**Keynote: Adjoa Osei, Psy.D.**

Homosexuality, viewed as “unAfrican”, is a prevailing myth that has caused significant discrimination and harm toward the African LGBTQI communities. Colonialism, Christian missionaries, and anthropological and psychological research invested in this myth-making, in the service of White supremacy. To further their ends, European expansionists reduced the complexity of African sexual identities into a flawed, convenient heterosexual narrative. In reflecting on sexual orientation and mental health, it is important to examine African sexuality within a sociohistorical context in order to offer a de-colonized perspective on sexuality and to promote social justice. This presentation will explore historical factors that portrayed African LGBTQI communities as nonexistent and theorize on how this might affect identity formation and mental wellbeing for this community.

#### **“Growing Together”**

**Keynote: Aruna Rao (NAMI-NJ, SHAMHJ, API)**

Immigrants raising children find themselves in a new world - our childhood memories of respectful obedience to our own parents are often challenged. Raising a child who comes out as LGBTQ can be a cataclysmic upheaval. My story is one of confronting these challenges to grow with my child. I explore how personal and cultural history, and the legacy of colonialism impacts the immigrant experience of family acceptance.

Speaker Keynote:

#### **“Gay and bisexual Jamaican men and relationships with their families”**

**Keynote: Johann White, MBBS, Ph.D., Para Caribe Consulting, Kingston, Jamaica, WI.**

Same-sex intimacy remains a crime in Jamaica and the revelation of one’s sexual identity may receive negative responses. An online survey of 110 gay and bisexual Jamaican men, ages 18 to 56, revealed negative family responses to sexual identity, which significantly predicted the incidence of depression and suggested that there were important differences based on the level of economic independence, it includes social, family and individual interventions that are necessary to strengthen positive family relationships and to promote the well-being of gay and bisexual Jamaican men.

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### **SESSION III**

**(11:00am to 12:15pm)**

#### **Embracing Intimacy in Significant Relationships**

**Anthony J. Patterson, LMHC; CRC and Charles Munn, LCSW** - Eastern Group Psychotherapy Society; American Group Psychotherapy Association; and Callen- Lorde Community Health Center

In a society that tragically is divided along race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, and age, we become distracted and consequently sometimes fail to see the intersections of ourselves, and to embrace and present our multiplicities, which may result in our inability to achieve authenticity and genuine connections. This workshop will show how the using psycho-education bridging, mirroring and validation creates a safe space for group members to overcome difficulties in embracing authenticity and intimacy in their relationships.

**Pose: Life is a Ball**

#### **Elizabeth Ninja and Members of the House of Ninja**

This is a discussion workshop where participants will be introduced to the House and Ballroom community and explore it within the context of identity and all of the intersections of identities that are part of the ball community. It will also examine how the use of language, categories, hierarchal status and made families play a role in the community and its impact on a member’s identity and life decisions, including sexual health; it will touch on the origin of the House and Ballroom scene and its evolution over the years to the influences it has achieved.

#### **Trauma Informed Care: Needed Now More Than Ever**

**Gary Bailey, DHL, MSW, ACSW**, Simmons College School of Social Work; Simmons College School of Nursing and Health Science; Harvard Medical School Center for Primary Care

This session will explore Trauma Informed Care and its value when working with LGBTQ individuals with a history of trauma.

#### **Sharing Hope: An African-American Guide to Mental Health**

**Larry Bryant, NAMI-NYC**

This presentation will help participants learn how to recognize mental health conditions, types of treatment and available support, and where to go for help. The stories presented will illustrate what it is like to live with a mental health condition and although these examples are only meant to illustrate common issues, for a diagnosis NAMI-NYC recommends obtaining an evaluation from a mental health professional.

**“Looking After Your Mental When Living with HIV”**

**A Panel Discussion: Moderator – Lissette Marrero, MSW; Panelists: Robert Vassilarakis, GMHC; Aalia Cox, GMHC; Warren Poole, Peter Ho Memorial CAB; Dawn Carney, St. John’s Hospital**

Research studies have shown that there is considerable overlap between HIV infection and mental disorders. It has been estimated that the prevalence of HIV among individuals with a serious mental illness ranges from 1% to 24%, rates much higher than their uninfected counterparts. In addition, people living with HIV are also diagnosed with substance use disorders making treatment and management of HIV and mental health co-morbidities even more challenging. This panel discussion will explore the experiences of long-term survivors of HIV and their struggles with mental health and substance use disorders.

**“50 shades of a Black man”**

(1:45pm to 2:15pm)

**Keynote: Elias Fishburn, IV/Eli Onyx**

As a Caribbean island-raised church boy navigates through life as a gay ex-US Navy service member, he discovers the Kink and Fetish communities as he strives against illusions of life in the USA; fighting against limits on pursuing happiness.

**SESSION IV**

(2:30pm to 3:45pm)

**Effectiveness of a Pilot Low-Cost Mental Health Therapy Model in Reducing Depression and Suicidality in Sexual and Gender Minorities in a Large Urban City**

**Nirmala Prakash, PhD; Rachael Silverberg, MPH; Giovana Jaen, MHS; Marjorie Kragel; Alex Small; and Jacob Musinsky**

Few studies analyze the effectiveness of therapy models employed to address depression and suicidality among LGBT+ individuals (Lytle et al., 2014). A local LGBT+ resource center seeks to analyze effectiveness of a low-cost therapeutic model. This study will: 1. gather demographic data on patients accessing mental health therapy at the resource center; 2. assess levels of well-being, depression and suicidality using standardized assessments; and 3. analyze effectiveness and standardization of the model’s use of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy.

**Presented by Housing Works, Inc.**

**Re-charge: A new treatment paradigm for MSM who use crystal methamphetamine.**

**Maximo Sepulveda and Alexandra Valentine, Housing Works and GMHC**

The Re-charge program offers low-threshold, wrap-around services to reduce harms associated with methamphetamine use for MSM and trans individuals by increasing their access to a combination of services that includes: effective means of preventing or treating HIV; harm reduction services and education; effective substance use counseling; mutual support; and, psychological treatment of depression, anxiety, psychosis and other factors that may result from or drive methamphetamine use. This session examines Re-charge development, outcomes and lessons learned.

**Iatrogenic Therapy: When Homo/Transphobia Impacts Care**

**Nathan James, MFA**

This workshop explores the role homophobia plays among medical and mental health professionals, focusing on how this interferes with patient care delivery to LGBT people.

**Understanding Non-Financial Barriers to Black Queer Youth Transitions from High School to College**

**Lance T. McCready, Ph.D., University of Toronto, Canada.**

The aim of Understanding Non-Financial Barriers to Black Queer Youth Transitions from High School to College is to build an evidence base to guide the work of the Postsecondary Education Connectors (PSEC) initiative working with organizations that serve Black queer youth. The PSEC initiative involves mentors and coaches building one-on-one relationships with Black children, youth, and their families, in order to support Black youth in developing an interest in, and plan for, their education and a meaningful long-term career.

**SESSION V**

(4:00pm to 5:15pm)

**Peer Support at Rainbow Heights Club: Supporting LGBTQ Identities to Promote Recovery and Prevent Relapse and Recidivism**

**Randy Killings, CASAC-T and Bernis Young, NYCPS - Rainbow Heights Club**

In this workshop, staff from the Rainbow Heights Club, a psychosocial support and advocacy agency in Brooklyn for LGBTQ+ people living with mental illness, will discuss identities – how their sense of self was impacted by their lived experience with mental illness, incarceration, and finding and receiving the support they needed to recover. They will discuss the work they do now, which includes trauma-informed care allowing them to provide that service to others at Rainbow Heights Club.



## The Marginalization of LGBT People of Color and Resilience

Irma Perez, APCC Webster University

Mental health is the quality of cognitive, emotional, behavioral functioning. As a concept, its study should benefit all people. However, psychological theories, approaches, and practice are typically written by White, straight cis-men. In a world that is filled with a variety of cultures, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, academic study of mental health is failing to represent this diversity. I am a bisexual Latina, I am one of four people of color (out of 20 students), and the only LGBT person in that group. Reading about Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung, and Ivan Pavlov, I wonder, how do these men understand my experience? How would they approach my unique intersection of issues without denying my ethnic background and sexual orientation?

## Breaking the Silence: Psychotherapy Form of Resistance, Reflexivity & Liberation

O'Shan D. Gadsden, Ph.D., Norfolk State University; CEO, Gadsden Consulting & Evaluation Services

This paper intends to provide an Africana philosophical-psychological theoretical rationale to frame this discussion of utilizing psychotherapy as a form of resistance, reflexivity, and liberation. These constructs – resistance, reflexivity, and liberation will be operationalized in the context of their utility, and applicability in assisting non-privileged patient populations to deconstruct the connections between their personal experience and the larger intersectional and complex sociopolitical and cultural structures; as well as how these structures impact their psychological-identity development.

## LGBTQ Youth in NYC, and Mental and Healthcare Concerns

Francisco J. Lazala and Gloria Escano, Metropolitan College of New York

This presentation will include statistics of behaviors that contribute to violence, unintentional injuries, tobacco, alcohol, drug use, risky sexual behaviors, depression and suicide or suicide attempts that directly correlate to stigma experienced by LGBT Youth. Attendees will be provided with resources and strategies for adapting prevention interventions for LGBTQ youth of color.

## Community SpeakOut, "Having Your Say"

Facilitated by Cecilia Gentili, GMHC

This is an opportunity when conference attendees/participants – including presenters, speakers, and volunteers, can share their thoughts about the conference, its theme "My Identity Matters", presentations, speakers, format, food, film forum – an open evaluation supplementing the written evaluations.



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music director Dhawal Tandon costumes & styling Inderjit Nagi production design Syed Arif Ali  
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## Speaker Bios

Thursday, Oct 4



**Joanne Passaro, Ph.D.**, is Metropolitan College of New York's sixth president. She is a cultural anthropologist who earned Bachelor's and doctoral degrees from Duke University. Her work focused on the impact of systems of race, class and gender in the lived experiences of men and women in a variety of contexts, such as Latin America, Africa, Europe and the United States. Dr. Passaro published "The Unequal Homeless: Men on the Streets, Women in their Place" in 1996, as well as articles related to culture, gender, ethnicity, and higher education. She served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Carroll University in Wisconsin from 2007-2018, where she worked with colleagues on significant improvements in financial strength, academic outcomes, and investments in new academic programs and facilities. At the university, among her achievements were the internationalization of the campus and the development and cultural integration into a new core curriculum. Her accreditation experience includes being a member of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications. Prior to serving at Carroll University, Dr. Passaro was the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, and held a number of administrative positions at Mercy College in New York, including as Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Vice President for Planning and Institutional Assessment.

**Kevin Leo Yabut Nadal, Ph.D.** is a Professor of Psychology at both John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center at the City University of New York (CUNY). He was the first openly gay president of the Asian American Psychological Association (AAPA) and the first Executive Director of color of the Center for LGBTQ Studies (CLAGS) at CUNY. Within the AAPA, he co-founded the Division on Filipino Americans and the Division on LGBTQ Issues. He is a National Trustee of the Filipino American National Historical Society and a cofounder of the LGBTQ Scholars of Color Network. Prof. Nadal received Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Political Science from the University of California at Irvine, a Master's in Counseling from Michigan State University, and a Doctorate in Counseling Psychology from Teachers College – Columbia University. He is the author of over 100 publications and eight books, including "Filipino American Psychology: A Handbook of Theory, Research, and Clinical Practice" (*John Wiley and Sons*, 2011), "That's So Gay: Microaggressions and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community" (*APA Books*, 2013), "Sage Encyclopedia of Psychology and Gender" (Sage, 2017), and "Microaggressions and Traumatic Stress" (American Psychological Association, 2018). A scholar-activist, he has written for *Huffington Post*, *Buzzfeed*, and *the New York Times*, and he appeared on numerous media outlets including *NBC*, *CBS*, *PBS*, *The History Channel*, *Fox News*, *The Weather Channel*, and in *People* magazine. In 2017, he received the American Psychological Association's Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Psychology in the Public Interest.

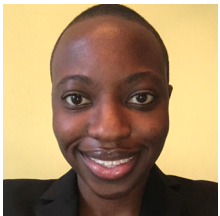


**Rahim Thawer** is a registered social worker and a therapist as part of a family health team at Sherbourne Health Centre in Toronto, Canada, and as a consultant in private practice. He operates from a harm reduction, sex positive, anti-oppressive and trauma-informed approach, providing psychotherapy to newcomer, racialized, queer, transgender and HIV-affected communities around issues of anxiety, depression, trauma, body image and problem substance use. Rahim is a post-secondary instructor at Ryerson University in a Bachelor's in Social Work program and has developed curriculum in the area of addiction and mental health at Centennial College. He is co-editor of a local history anthology, "Any Other Way: How Toronto Got Queer", which was shortlisted for the 2017 Toronto Book Awards. Rahim is also an active community organizer with the national LGBTQ Muslim organization, Salaam Canada.

**James Felton Keith** is President at the Data Union. Often referred to as JFK, he was born in Detroit, Michigan, attended Tuskegee, Harvard and Lawrence Technological universities, and earned degrees and awards in engineering and economics. In 2017, he wrote, "Personal Data: The People's Asset Class", a book compiling 12 essays defining data as a natural resource, and for more than 20 years, through his global portfolio of software companies in cyber, finance, insurance, and the media, was involved in the data industry. He co-founded *Slay TV* and is a researcher at the Keith Institute, where his expertise is in the ethnography of technology – the study of the culture of tech. James crisscrossed the four continents focusing on two key factors, economic inclusion of people of color, and working to restore equity in the hands of those with increasingly less while a few in the world become more wealthy from their efforts. James was the first Black gay man to launch a bid for the US House of Representatives.



Friday, Oct 5



**Adjoa Osei, Psy.D.**, is a licensed clinical psychologist with a private practice in Brooklyn, NY. She received her Doctorate from Long Island University, Post campus in 2014. She has experience working in inpatient and outpatient settings with children, adolescents, and adults diagnosed with a range of mental illnesses. Dr. Osei's research interests include experiences of minority doctoral students, racial identity development, the LGBT community in Africa, and therapeutic uses of Hip Hop.

**Aruna Rao** is a community mental health advocate, grassroots organizer, speaker and writer. She is an Associate Director at the National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Jersey (NAMI NJ), and is the founder of SAMHAJ. She developed programs for immigrants affected by mental illness in New Jersey, which resulted in NAMI NJ receiving the 2014 Advancing Minority Mental Health Award from the American Psychiatric Foundation. Aruna received many awards and recognitions for her work in mental health awareness, including the 2014 Agraj Seva Kendra Notable Indian Americans of New Jersey Award, and the 2002 NAMI National Multicultural Outreach Award. She is the proud mother of a queer and transgender child, and is passionate about advancing LGBTQ+ rights. She recognizes the urgent need for family acceptance of LGBTQ+ people in API and South Asian communities and is dedicated to creating a loving, inclusive world where LGBTQ+ people are welcomed into community spaces. Aruna serves on the steering committee of API Rainbow Parents of PFLAG NYC, and is the founder of Desi Rainbow Parents & Allies, a group developed to support South Asian parents of LGBTQ+ children.



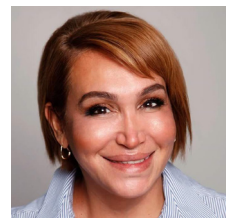
**Yohann White, MD., Ph.D.** was born in St. Ann and raised Ocho Rios, Jamaica. His career, as a researcher, includes laboratory, clinic, and the society-and-medicine interaction, including mental health needs of sexual minorities in Jamaica; and the relationship between gay and bisexual men and their families. Dr. White received his medical training at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica, and his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Disorders of the Immune System from Kagoshima University, Japan. He studied vaccines and related research at Institute Pasteur, Paris, France, and hold the diplomas in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Royal College of Physicians of London. His post-doctoral work focused on laboratory assays for measuring the efficacy of various candidate vaccines against HIV and other emerging and re-emerging viruses at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Maryland. He is the Chief Innovation Officer at Para Caribe Consulting in Kingston, Jamaica, where he leads a team of consultants providing research solutions for government agencies, non-governmental organizations and businesses.

**Noelle Marie C. Javier, MD**, is a faculty member in the clinician-educator track of the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine in New York City. She is a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, Class of 2002. She finished her residency in internal medicine at Long Island College Hospital New York and at Mount Sinai Jersey City Program in New Jersey. In 2009, Dr. Javier completed her two-year post-graduate fellowship training in both geriatric medicine and hospice, and palliative medicine at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. She was a faculty member at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University in Rhode Island, and later at Mount Sinai. She provides inpatient consultative services for both subspecialties and conducted research, published, and made presentations at national, regional, and international conferences, including the American Geriatrics Society, the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and the International Congress in Palliative Care. Dr. Javier's areas of scholarly interest include wound care, pain management, palliative care in nursing homes, palliative rehabilitation, pediatric palliative care, and LGBTQ+ holistic medical care.



**Elias P. Fishburne, IV – Eli Onyx** - is a son of a religious Jamaican mother and an Egyptian father, whose ancestry traces back to Spanish slave owners. He was born in New York City and as a young man, was a hip-hop break dancer and graffiti artist, and fell in love with the Ballroom scene. After completing high school, he pursued his ambition to become a fashion designer in Atlanta, Georgia. He joined the US Navy at 20-years old, during the "Don't ask Don't Tell" era, and more than a decade later, retired. Elias takes pride in pursuing his career as a Maryland state board licensed Cosmetologist, and owner of ELIAS IV HAIR in Silver Springs, MD. He travels nationwide as an educator, an independent Platform artist, and with a team for Revlon. In the Leather and Kink Community, judged as Mr. Maryland Leather 2016, he is widely known as a poly loving pro-dom sadist, whose pronoun is "Sir". Elias judged the 2017 Mid Atlantic Pups & Handlers contest, and earned his most recent title, the 2018 Mid-Atlantic Handler.

**Cecilia Gentili** is the Managing Director of Policy and Public Affairs at GMHC. Her passion for advocacy began when she worked as an intern at the LGBT Center, and from 2012 to 2016 ran the Transgender Health Program at Apicha Community Health Center. She contributed to Trans Bodies Trans Selves and serves as a board member with Transcend Legal and the Translatina Network. Originally from Argentina, Cecilia sometimes acts and enjoys storytelling, especially about her experiences. She is passionate about advocating for her community, and mostly for transgender women from a Latino background, who are involved in sex work, drug use, and with a history of incarceration.





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## **CONVERSION THERAPY IS ILLEGAL IN NEW YORK CITY**

Local Law 22 of 2018 makes it illegal for any person to offer or provide “conversion therapy” for a fee. “Conversion therapy” means any services that seek to change an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Note: This law does not apply to services that provide assistance to a person undergoing gender transition or counseling that provides acceptance, support, and understanding of a person’s sexual orientation or facilitates a person’s coping, social support, and identity exploration and development.

### **How to File a Complaint**

The NYC Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) encourages anyone who is aware of any person offering or providing conversion therapy services to file a complaint. You can file a complaint anonymously.

#### **Call:**

Contact 311 to file a complaint. Say “conversion therapy.”

#### **Go Online:**

- Visit [nyc.gov/dca](http://nyc.gov/dca) and select “File a Consumer Complaint.” You will need to register for an account or log in to your account with the City of New York to submit your complaint online.  
OR
- Visit [nyc.gov/311](http://nyc.gov/311) to “Make a Complaint” (you do not need to create an account).

Note: DCA will consider your complaint a tip if you do not provide your contact information.

#### **Mail/Fax:**

1. Download and complete our complaint form at [nyc.gov/dca](http://nyc.gov/dca).
2. Mail or fax copies of the completed form and any additional information to the mailing address or fax number below.

Mailing Address:

NYC Department of Consumer Affairs  
Consumer Services Division  
42 Broadway, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Fax: (212) 487-4482

### **What Happens to Your Complaint**

DCA will investigate the business and issue a violation if it is found to be offering conversion therapy. A business found guilty of violating this law faces fines up to \$1,000 for the first violation, \$5,000 for the second violation, and \$10,000 for each future violation.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2018 In My Mind Conference acknowledges the generous commitment, time, efforts and resources provided to make this two-day forum a success – to:

- ❖ The President, Board of Trustees, Faculty, Staff, and Students of the Metropolitan College of New York, including, Beth Dunphe, Britany Dixon, and Tina Georgiou
- ❖ The Speakers, Presenters, Panelists, and Volunteers
- ❖ The Abstract Reviewing Team for taking time from their schedules to assist, including, Donald Gagnon, Ph.D., Anwar Uhuru, Ph.D., and William Farquharson, Ph.D.
- ❖ Floyd Ruhmor and staff at Brooklyn Community Pride Center, for hosting the first In My Mind Conference Abstract Training Workshop.
- ❖ Maurice Lauriano, Sale & Pepe for the catering, and Five Star Printing.
- ❖ NY State - David Contreras-Turley, Matthew Bitten, Christopher Tavella, Ph.D. Executive Deputy Commissioner, OMH; and Matthew McMorrow, NYC Mayor's Office of Community Affairs.
- ❖ The Conference Planning Team, including Charles Tarver, Lissette Marrero, Cecilia Gentili, Leiba Frans, Alex Joinville, Oluwaseun Azeez, and Katherine Ponte.

The Conference extends gratitude to the following organizations for their confidence, belief and support for this year's conference, and invites them to join us again next year, a milestone - our fifth anniversary.

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