



IN MY MIND

2019 CONFERENCE

**OVERCOMING BARRIERS;
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES**

CELEBRATING 5 YEARS
OF RESILIENCY!

UNLOCK THE POWER OF SOCIAL THEORY—AND ACTION

LEARN
SOME
THING
NEW



Our world is rapidly changing, and the social sciences and humanities are evolving along with it. Today's scholars must remain relevant, conducting research that drives quantifiable positive change. At The New School for Social Research, graduate students integrate multiple disciplines as they investigate some of today's most pressing issues—capitalism, migration, democracy, global mental health—and shape the future of social thought and the world.

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DEPARTMENTS

- Anthropology
- Creative Publishing and Critical Journalism
- Economics
- Gender and Sexuality Studies
- Historical Studies
- Liberal Studies
- Philosophy
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology

**THE NEW SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH**

Do you identify as an LGBTQ/TGNC person of color? Check out some of our programs and find support at The Center.

IN LIVING COLOR

Mondays, 5-6 p.m.

Join this closed group where we will explore and share the experiences of being people of color in recovery.




TGNC IN RECOVERY

Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m.

Discuss topics related to gender identity while navigating recovery. This group is open to TGNC clients of any age in Center Recovery programs.

For more information, contact recovery@gaycenter.org.

**THE
CENTER**
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER

 gaycenter.org
 212.620.7310
 208 W 13 St, New York, NY 10011



WELCOME

PRESENTED BY THE IN MY MIND MIND CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM

Conference Participants,

In October 2014, we held the first-ever one-day LGBTQ+ peoples of color (POC) mental health summit at Rutgers University, Newark Campus. It was a phenomenal experience. Participants made it clear to us that members of our communities needed safe and affirming places and opportunities to simply talk about their mental health.

The next year, the conference was held at Mt. Sinai Union Square, where participants let us know that there are too many issues affecting LGBTQ+ peoples of color to address in just one day.

This year, we are celebrating with the theme, "Overcoming Barriers; Creating Opportunities", which represents our collective resilience – as communities of color and as a gathering of those communities. With this conference, we're on the path to ensuring that talking about our mental health, especially as people who are LGBTQ+ and POC, is essential for the wellbeing of our communities.

Throughout the years, we have established traditions that recognize our diversity and are essential to our expression. Honoring that we're on Indigenous land, we bookend the conference with homage to our Native American hosts, and invite their ancestors to join us. Acknowledging the place this

conference has in the LGBTQ+ peoples of color fabric, we invite the Anti-Violence Project to ensure we never forget those who were killed, who took their own lives or who die a thousand deaths each day, as they are confronted with shame, discrimination, and stigma for who they are and the color of their skin.

We recognize and value those who were speakers, and those who took the time to submit abstracts, which were reviewed by our team of volunteer reviewers, and came to present their work, to allow cross-pollination of ideas and concepts influencing our communities, from within and without. We are grateful to our sponsors, those in our communities who recognized this conference's importance and contributed money and resources. And, we incorporate silence and guided meditation into our program, encouraging us to be still and be aware of ourselves. This year, we introduce drumming, calling on the ancients, the ancestors, with the rhythms and beats to reverberate through our bodies, help us reconnect with one form of natural healing.

Another practice we enshrined is asking our planning team members to share with us their thoughts on their involvement:

"The IMM conference gives voice to so many who have felt invisible, unheard, unloved, unwanted, shamed, abandoned, isolated and

alone. It provides a space for professionals and community to caucus under one roof to address mental health and other social and health concerns of LGBTQ+ people of color as well as honor and celebrate history, success, resiliency and strength. Participation in the planning process continues to be an honor and the impact it has on all who attend reaffirms for me why this conference is so imperative to the LGBTQ+ community of color. This year's theme "Overcoming Barriers; Creating Opportunities" not only aligns with how far the LGBTQ+ community has come especially after 50 years since Stonewall, but how far the IMM conference has come as we celebrate its 5th year and on-going commitment to addressing mental health, homophobia/transphobia, HIV stigma, racism, and hate crimes." – **Lissette Marrero, MSW.**

"This year's conference includes workshops from community members, who are sharing their experiences and we recognize the value of hearing from those in our communities, who provide us with examples of best practices." – **Wilhelmina Perry, Ph.D.**

"The In my Mind conference means having a safe space to learn, heal and feel empowered to address issues impacting LGBTQ+ peoples of color mental health. Planning the conference means being a part of the healing process for a community that has historically been under served to creating a better and brighter tomorrow. "Overcoming Barriers; Creating Opportunities" is looking uphill at a mountain, climbing to the top, and

standing tall, being ready to take on everything on the other side that mountain. I see this conference as the focal point or think tank where white papers are born and public policies are shaped." – **Perri Litton**

"The conference shines a spotlight on a forgotten community. To me the conference means I'm here! And, I matter! Being a part of the planning committee allows me to be a change agent for my community. This year's theme reflects the space I'm in at the moment; I overcame many barriers, and I am now focused on developing new opportunities for individuals in my community. With more and more LGBTQ communities of color around the world fighting for their right to exist, I see the In My Mind Conference growing into an international conference that influences policies and laws around the world." – **Alex Joinville, LMHC.**

We welcome you today and trust that during this momentous conference, each of us is able to identify our respective strengths and the power we wield as a significant demographic.

This conference is for us and by us.

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Conference Planning Team
2019 In My Mind

The New School, Conference Space

The College has provided us with access to:

Day 1: Thursday, Oct 11

63 Fifth Ave Building (predominantly):

- The Tishman Auditorium (ground floor) – for general sessions
- Star Foundation Hall
- Hoerle Hall
- Event Café – breakfast, lunch and tabling
- Bathrooms are gender neutral

55 West 13th St Lang Student Building

- Main Hall
- Hirshon Suite
- Glassbox Theater
- Lobby – tabling
- Bathrooms are gender neutral

Day 2: Friday, Oct `12

Lang Student Center (55 West 13th St):

- Main Hall (2nd flr) – general sessions
- Hirshon Suite (2nd flr) - breakouts
- Glassbox Theater (ground floor) – breakouts
- Area outside Hirshon Suite – breakfast and lunch (2nd flr)
- Lobby and inside Main Hall – tabling
- Bathrooms are gender neutral

63 Fifth Ave Building

- Starr Foundation Hall - breakouts
- Hoerle Hall - breakouts
- Event Café – tabling
- Bathrooms are gender neutral

AGREEMENTS:

Tabling:

Tabling will be set up (on a reserved basis), exhibitors are not allowed to paste, stick, tack, attach in any form or manner any poster, banner, picture or any item on any walls, doorways, lintels, borders, and are not allowed to plug any electrical appliances, such as phones, into wall outlets/sockets. SALES ARE NOT ALLOWED On The New School's property.

Identification:

All conference attendees are required to download the Conference App and be familiar with accessing their Conference badge, and if available, wear their conference badge, which will contain the name, preferred pronoun, and conference statuses, such as Attendee, Exhibitor, Presenter, Speaker, Volunteer, or Planning Team Member, and be prominently displayed at all times.

Photography:

We are working to ensure that the major sections of the conference are photographed and video recorded; photographers are Official Conference Photographers, and will have access to all areas of the conference, taking pictures. Photographers also know their limitations.

Knowing we're in the digital age of the instant photo, there are two items to consider:

1. While the conference organizers and the conference space encourage attendees to take photographs, everyone at the conference may not be comfortable or want their photos taken. If a person wishes to take a photograph, and there are others in the picture, please ask those other people for permission to take their photograph or ask them to step out of the way. In the event a person wants to take a photograph of a workshop in a breakout room or a general session in the Community Room – all crowd/group photographs must be taken from the back/behind, where no one's face is visible, except for the presenter(s) at the front of the room.
2. Presenters and Speakers are aware that by accepting to present and or speak at the conference, that they consent to photographs being taken, and which can or will be used for publicity/marketing/promotional purposes.

Security:

•As a conference attendee, YOU ARE NOT A SECURITY OFFICER. DO NOT ASSUME you know what to do. You are encouraged to be aware of your surroundings at all times. In the event of a security issue or threat, quietly and without fuss, alert a member of the College's SECURITY IMMEDIATELY

- If someone is being aggressive, behaving in a threatening manner, using offensive language,
 - DO NOT ENGAGE. STEP BACK and notify a volunteer or one of the conference organizers.
 - DO NOT touch the aggressor
 - DO NOT shout, raise your voice, or in any way antagonize the person

If you see anything that is unsafe or hazardous, inform a volunteer or conference organizer IMMEDIATELY.

If you see or experience any inappropriate behavior, inform a volunteer or one of the conference organizers, IMMEDIATELY.

Your Surroundings:

We ask you to assist us with keeping conference spaces clean. If there is a liquid spill, please bring it to the attention of a volunteer or conference organizer IMMEDIATELY, who will notify the College's janitorial services; if you see anything on the floor pick it up; if there is a problem in any of the bathrooms, inform a volunteer or a conference organizer, who will notify the College's janitorial services.

Interaction with other Conference Attendees:

If you should encounter, witness or be involved in a disagreement with another conference attendee, to keep the spirit of the conference, you are asked to take the "higher road" and work to de-escalate the situation. In the event your efforts don't seem to be working, please contact a volunteer or a conference organizer.

Remember that many in our community may have experienced verbal, emotional or physical assault because of their sexual orientation or gender expression at various times in their lives, and this may have caused many to be extremely angry, defensive or combative. Trauma for many may have occurred in schools, from family, at work, on city streets, from their governments, and from the LGBTQ+ community. This conference should be viewed as a SAFE place where a person does not need to worry about discrimination (or even verbal or physical assault) from anyone: conference organizers, speakers, presenters, volunteers or participants.

LET'S ENJOY THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND COLLABORATE, TO SHARE IDEAS AND PRACTICAL WAYS TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLES OF COLOR LIVING WITH MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The In My Mind Conference congratulates its Fifth Anniversary Awardees, who supported the Conference over the last five years.

Awards were presented at "Together We Are @ the Table" Reception hosted and Sponsored by #TwitterOpen on Wednesday, Oct 9 at their offices, to:

**Johanne Morne, MSc
NYS DOH AIDS
Institute
For support over the
years**



Johanne Morne serves as Director of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute. She has been with the Institute for 12 years. The AIDS Institute was created in 1983 to coordinate the State's overall response to the HIV epidemic, and expanded its mission to include hepatitis and sexually transmitted disease services, surveillance, drug user health, and LGBT health. Johanne has served as a board member of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) and is the 2019 to 2020 Board Chair. She was an honored in the "2017 POZ 100: Celebrating Women", the recipient of the 2018 Latino Commission on AIDS Compañera Award and in August received the NYC Black Pride Heritage Awards' Community Ally Award.

**Terri Squires
For volunteering**

For most of her life Terri was called many names. She was told that she would never be anything or anyone in life, and she knew that every



negative thing she heard growing up about herself was untrue. She grew up Brooklyn, attended Flushing High school, and was the 2018 Trans Justice intern at the Audre Lorde Project; she was part of the Arrive Cycle 147 program at Exponents. Terri is a member of and volunteers with CK Life, the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, the Audre Lorde Project, and with the In My Mind Conference, since its first one-day conference in October 2015. She participates in the Translatina group and on her day off, volunteers with the GMHC food pantry.

**Donald Gagnon,
Ph.D.
Western Connecticut
State University
For support reviewing
abstracts since October
2015**



Donald P. Gagnon is a Professor of Theatre Arts and a Professor of English at Western Connecticut State University (WCSU). He received his Ph.D. in English at the University of South Florida, his M.A. in English at the University of Central Florida, and his B.S. in Public Relations from the University of Florida, despite the fact that he is originally from the Boston area. He teaches in the Kathwari Honors College at WCSU and has served as Co-Coordinator of the American Studies program there. In 2017, Prof. Gagnon was the recipient of the University's inaugural Provost's Award for Teaching. At WCSU, he teaches a broad range of courses, from African American literature to queer theatre, and he and a colleague have developed and implemented honors courses that have taken them and students to Paris and London to study the broad range of intersecting political, historical, social, and cultural forces between those two cities and the United States. In addition, he has served as advisor to the English and English Honors Societies,

the Latin American Student Association, and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Off campus, he works as an administrator for ETS and their Advanced Placement program, and he has been a guest lecturer at St. Michael's, College, The University of New Hampshire, Colby-Sawyer College, and Founders Hall, among other institutions. He has presented his work at major national and international conferences and has published in academic journals across disciplines. He has just finished a work on contemporary tragedy and women in the works of August Wilson for the CLA Journal and is working on a book on the politics of Oscar Hammerstein II. One of his favorite places to be is in the classroom.

**Robert Schaffer, Esq.
Troutman Sanders,
LLP**
**For legal support over
the years**



Bob Schaffer is a partner in the law firm of Troutman Sanders LLP and chairs the New York Pro Bono Committee of the firm. He has provided pro bono legal help to DBGM since the organization was founded in 2010. His law practice includes complex intellectual property deals and disputes, primarily involving biotech, pharmaceutical, and high tech patents. Bob graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with degrees in biochemistry and literature, plus hands-on work in the performing arts, including work at the Williamstown Theatre Festival. He studied law at New York Law School, where he has taught legal writing to students. He also has an MFA in theatre directing from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, where he has taught expository writing to undergraduates. Bob's interest in the arts has included work with the Roundabout Theatre Company, The Barrow Group, MIT Council for the Arts, Dancers Responding to AIDS, the Alvin Ailey Foundation, and Complexions Contemporary Ballet. He produced a record album for an emerging artist. He directed a web series called How To Make It Big, written by and starring his partner,

Clifford Berry. Currently, Bob is writing a play about Prometheus, which he hopes will someday get produced.

**Barbara Warren,
Psy.D., CPXP**
Mt. Sinai
**For support since the
first one-day confer-
ence in October 2015**



Barbara E. Warren Psy.D., CPXP, is Director for LGBT Programs and Policies in the Office for Diversity and Inclusion, Mount Sinai Health System, where she leads Mount Sinai's implementation of LGBT culturally and clinically competent health care. She holds an appointment as Assistant Professor of Medical Education at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Warren previously served as Distinguished Lecturer and Director for the Center for LGBT Social Science and Public Policy at Hunter College, City University of New York. For 21 years, she was senior management at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center of New York City, led the Center's behavioral health programs and co-founded the Center's then ground breaking Gender Identity Project. Dr. Warren has served as an advisor to local, state and national government and policy organizations including chairing the Multi-Cultural Advisory Council to the NYS Commissioner of Mental Health, on the LGBT Task Force at Health Care for All New Yorkers and a Board Member of the National Coalition for LGBT Health. She holds a doctorate in counseling psychology, is a Certified Patient Experience Professional and has 40 years of experience in the development of substance use, mental health and public health programs in healthcare and community settings.

SPEAKERS

Melanie F. Hart, JD

Director

Social Justice Initiatives at The New School

Melanie F. Hart is the Director of Social Justice Initiatives at The New School. Prior to joining The New School, she served as the Deputy Commissioner of Workforce Development for the New York City Department of Small Business Services, and before that she served as the Executive Vice President of Community Programs and Development at the New York City Housing Authority. Melanie worked as the Chief Program Officer and Interim Executive Director of Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT), which partnered with the New York City Family Court system to establish the New York City Family Court Help Centers, where pro se litigants could receive free support and legal information to effectively self-advocate in Family Court. She served as the Executive Director for the Community Legal Research Network (CLRN) at the City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law, and helped to develop the framework for the Court Square Legal Project, a partnership between CUNY School of Law and the New York City Bar Association. She has also practiced law as a corporate and securities attorney and served as an adjunct professor in New Jersey, including in the Africana department at Rutgers University. Her volunteer activities included serving with a Brooklyn-based grassroots organization, the New York Women's Foundation, and the Board of the Greater Phoenix Urban League. Melanie was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Cornell University, a Master's degree from The New School, Milano, and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Virginia School of Law. Melanie returned to The New School to pursue a doctorate in Public and Urban Policy.



Angela Fernandez

Commissioner

New York State Division of Human Rights

Angela Fernandez is the Commissioner of the NYS Division of Human Rights. Most recently, she served as the Executive Director and Supervising Attorney of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights. She is a graduate of the Columbia University School of Law and has more than 20 years of experience advocating for human and civil rights in the United States and internationally. Early in her career, Commissioner Fernandez worked as an off-air reporter for ABC News, World News Tonight with Peter Jennings, Good Morning America, and Nightline. Her public interest law experience began in the Middle East, investigating labor law violations of workers, with the Centre for Human Rights Legal Aid in Cairo and continued with her providing pro bono legal representation to immigrants through the American Immigrant Lawyers Association. Her advocacy in education includes successfully founding and managing two academically rigorous elementary schools in the South Bronx and Washington D.C., and spearheading and implementing the first-of-its-kind Women's Studies Program at Riker's Island Correctional Facility for female detainees. Her work in government includes being a staffer for U.S. Senator Bill Bradley and District Chief of Staff for Congressman Jose Serrano. Commissioner Fernandez



Johanne Morne, MS

Executive Director

NYS Department of Health, AIDS Institute

Johanne Morne, MS currently serves as Director of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute. Ms. Morne has been with the AIDS Institute for more than ten years. The AIDS Institute was created in 1983 to coordinate the State's overall response to the HIV epidemic. The AIDS Institute has a broad mission including hepatitis and sexually transmitted disease (STD) services, surveillance, opioid overdose prevention, and non-HIV Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) services into its structure. The AIDS Institute formulates policy related to HIV, hepatitis, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), drug user health, and LGBT health and human services; initiates, develops, and evaluates programs for the delivery of HIV, hepatitis, and STD prevention, health care and supportive services as well as drug user health and LGBT health and human services; establishes clinical standards and oversees quality management; educates health care providers and the public; and guides regional and statewide planning. In its more than 30-year history, the AIDS Institute has provided leadership in New York State, at the national level, and internationally. Ms. Morne currently serves as a board member of the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD). Ms. Morne is also an honoree in the 2017 POZ 100: Celebrating Women.



Hon. Mark Barbee

Mayor

Mark Barbee was born in Rapid City, South Dakota and relocated to Bridgeport, Pennsylvania. He served four years on the Borough Council before being elected to the Office of Mayor of Bridgeport in 2017. He is the first African-American LGBTQ elected official in the state of Pennsylvania, he was the first Democrat to serve as Mayor in more than three decades and the youngest, and first African-American LGBTQ Mayor in the Borough's history. While on the Council, Mark pushed for Bridgeport to adopt a curbside recycling program. As Mayor, he proposed an anti-discrimination ordinance, a clean energy ordinance, and the removal of an "anti-immigration" ordinance. Despite the racially charged opposition, recognized by the US New and World Report, he continues his work in public service.



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Website: www.inmymindconference.com

Serena Chang, MD

Associate Director of Psychiatry
Callen-Lorde Community Health Center

Serena Chang, M.D. is the Associate Director of Psychiatry at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center and an Assistant Clinical Professor at New York University (NYU), where she lectures on human sexuality. She completed her Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship with a focus on working with trans youth at NYU's Child Study Center/Bellevue Hospital and her psychiatry residency at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, Florida. Dr. Chang is a graduate of the University of Vermont College of Medicine, where she co-founded the school's Gay-Straight Alliance and worked to expand LGBT topics in the school's curriculum. She decided to pursue a career in medicine because she wanted to advocate for sexual and mental health among underserved communities. Prior to applying to medical school, she worked at Asian & Pacific Islander Coalition on HIV/AIDS in Manhattan's Chinatown.



Letsweletse Motshidiemang

Director

Letsweletse Motshidiemang is a Motswana gay man from Mathangwane Village in the Northern Part of Botswana. He was the lead plaintiff who filed suit against the Botswana Government to decriminalize the British colonial-era law criminalizing homosexual acts. The High Court's ruling in June 2019 overturned the law, and he is considered a hero for fighting for gay rights in Botswana. Letsweletse is an activist and is the director of Miss Women Empowerment Botswana, organizing the pageant since 2016. He graduated from the University of Botswana and is a creative Setswana writer; he is working on a book titled "KGOLE YA PULA" to be published by Diphilana Publishing Company.



Daniel José Gaztambide, PsyD.

Assistant Professor

Department of Psychology, New School for

Prof. Daniel José Gaztambide is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at the New School for Social Research, where he is the interim Director of the Culture and Mental Health Lab. He served in various roles within the American Psychological Association, including as liaison of the Division of Psychoanalytic Psychology to the Committee of Ethnic Minority Affairs, and chair of the Professional Practice Committee of the Division for the Advancement of Psychotherapy. Dr. Gaztambide's scholarship focuses on cultural competency, social justice and psychodynamic practice, race and class in the treatment of borderline personality disorder, and the impact of internalized oppression on mental health. He is a clinical psychologist in private practice and an analytic candidate at the NYU Post-Doctoral Program in Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis. Aside from his work as a psychologist, Dr. Gaztambide is also an artist and performer in New York City. He is a member of the Puerto Rican poetry troupe "The Titeres Poets," and a co-host of the podcast "Pan con Titeres", which addresses the intersection of poetry, trauma, mental health, and Puerto Rican identity.



Jumaane Williams
Public Advocate

Jumaane D. Williams is the Public Advocate of the City of New York. Previously, he served on the NYC Council representing the 45th District. He is a first-generation Brooklynite of Genadian heritage. Public Advocate Williams graduated from the public school system, overcoming the difficulties associated with Tourette's Syndrome and ADHD to earn a Master's Degree from Brooklyn College. He began his career as a community organizer at the Greater Flatbush Beacon School and later served as the Executive Director of NYS Tenants and Neighbors, where he fought for truly affordable, income-targeted housing across New York City and State. As a City Councilor, Public Advocate Williams championed landmark legislation that fundamentally transformed policing in NYC. He sponsored the Community Safety Act, which reformed the City's Police Department and ended the abuse of Stop, Question and Frisk in communities of color, and created the NYPD's Office of Inspector General to investigate unlawful and unethical behavior. Public Advocate Williams led the fight for better policing and safer streets, affordable housing, and transparency and accountability in City government. He continues to be an activist-elected official who brings the voices of everyday New Yorkers to City government, fighting to make New York a truly progressive beacon for all.



Billy E. Jones, MD, MS
Owner and Chief Executive Officer
B. Jones Consulting Services

Dr. Billy Jones is a retired psychiatrist, and the Owner and Chief Executive Officer of B. Jones Consulting Services, a health, behavioral health, and human services consulting firm. He served as President and CEO of the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation, the nation's largest municipal health care system. Prior to that position, he served as Commissioner, New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services, the largest local mental hygiene system in the world. He was Medical Director of the 500-bed Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center, Bronx, NY and was Senior Associate Dean, New York Medical College, and Professor of Psychiatry. Dr. Jones is the author of numerous articles and chapters on African Americans in urban centers, homelessness, treating the poor and uninsured, manic depression and psychotherapy. He is the editor and co-editor of several books, including the just published, "BLACK MENTAL HEALTH, Patients, Providers, and Systems". He is a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, the American College of Psychiatrists, the New York Academy of Medicine and is a Past President of the Black Psychiatrists of America, and is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, New York University School of Medicine.



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Website: www.inmymindconference.com

Rev. Louis Mitchell

Co-founder and Executive Director

Rev. Louis Mitchell is a pioneering “intentional man”. He serves as the Co-founder and Executive Director of Transfaith and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ in Massachusetts. He has been in recovery for over three decades and been involved in the fight for health, respect and self-determination since the early 1980s, with deep engagement in political, mental health, recovery, and church contexts. His accomplishments include, being profiled in several documentaries, received the 2017 International Jose Julio Sarria Civil Rights Award from the Imperial Court of Western Massachusetts, the 2015 Claire Skiffington Vanguard Award from the Transgender Law Center for his long time advocacy for the disenfranchised, and the 2011 Haystack Award from the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC for his work in Social Justice and Social Ministry. He received the President’s Award from the Wells College students for his 2015 Residency on Intentional Inclusion and Building Diversity, and was recognized as a part of the 2014 edition of the Trans 100. Rev. Mitchell was named as one of the 10 leading Black Religious leaders Advancing LGBTQ Justice by BelieveOutLoud. He was honored by Black Trans Advocacy with a Foundation Award in 2013, and established in his name, the “Louis Mitchell Foundation Award for Empowerment” to acknowledges those who increase spiritual, political, or social strength through service, personal encouragement, and availability to the Black Trans Community.



Gary Bailey

Assistant Dean for Community Engagement and Social Justice at Simmons University College of Social Science, Public Policy and Practice

Gary Bailey, DHL, MSW, ACSW is the Assistant Dean for Community Engagement and Social Justice at Simmons University College of Social Science, Public Policy and Practice (CSSPP). He is a Professor of Practice at Simmons School of Social Work where he directs the Urban Leadership Certificate Program. He has a secondary appointment at the Simmons College School of Nursing and Health Sciences where his area of focus is Inter-Professional Education. Prof. Bailey has a Faculty Affiliate appointment at Harvard Medical Schools Center for Primary Care; he is a Scholarly Stakeholder, LGBTQ Patient and Family Advisory Council. Brigham and Women’s Hospital; and is a consultant to Fenway Health’s Department of Behavioral Health. At MEFA he chairs the Audit Committee and is a member of the Executive Committee. He is a past President of the board of the AIDS Action Committees (AAC), Inc.; was a member of the AAC Advisory Council; and the AIDS Action Committees Program Committee; and was a member of the Gay and Lesbian Advocate and Defenders (GLAD) board of Ambassadors. Prof. Bailey is Vice Chair of the Board of Women of the Dream, Inc. (WOD), based in Camden N.J. He is a past member of the Commissioner’s Professional Advisory Committee at the Massachusetts Department of Social Services; and he was a member of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Professional Advisory Committee for Child and Adolescent Services.



Mohan Vinjamuri, Ph.D., LMSW

Assistant Professor

Department of Social Work, Lehman College,

Mohan Vinjamuri, Ph.D., LMSW is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work at Lehman College, in the City University of New York. His research interests include social work with LGBTQ communities, critical pedagogy, and evidence-based practices.

Prof. Vinjamuri teaches courses in Social Work practice, research methods, social welfare policy, and Social Work with LGBTQ populations. Most recently, he was a co-author for "A Guide for Sustaining Conversations on Racism, Identity and Our Mutual Humanity" and was a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant recipient for research on intergenerational social work with LGBTQ communities. He has been an educator for more than 28 years, and sees teaching and social work as opportunities to promote social justice by challenging norms on what constitutes valued knowledge, creating spaces where those who have felt silenced can speak and be heard, and by discovering mutual humanity as many take risks to learn more about themselves.



Tavi C. Hawn, LCSW-C

Social Worker and Therapist

Tavi C. Hawn is a non-Citizen member of the Eastern Band Cherokee (Tsaligi), a social worker whose life journey took them from the mountains of North Carolina, to California, to Oregon, back to North Carolina, and to Baltimore, MD. They have a group therapy and training practice that is dedicated to LGBTQ+ people of color and also work with Native American Lifelines. They have great love for their Urban Indian community and especially Two-Spirits everywhere.



**NYAPRS
Congratulates
DBGM and
Antoine Craigwell
For Your Essential Contributions to
Making it Clear that Addressing
Health Inequities is
Everyone's Responsibility**

New York Association of Psychiatric
Rehabilitation Services





IN MY MIND CONFERENCE COCKTAIL RECEPTION & FILM FORUM



FEATURING FILMS AND PERFORMANCES BY LGBTQ+ PEOPLES OF COLOR

HOSTED BY **THE LGBT CENTER**

DATE

THURSDAY
OCT. 9TH

TIME

COCKTAILS: 6 PM
FILM FORUM: 7 PM

LOCATION

THE CENTER
208 W 13TH ST, NEW
YORK, NY 10011

RSVP

EMAIL
RMORALES@GAYCENTER.ORG

PLENARY PANEL

"Quo Vadis?" LGBTQ+ Peoples of Color Now and the Future" - a look at the current landscape and future for LGBTQ+ Peoples of Color

Moderator: Kraig Pannell, Director, LGBT Health Services Unit, NYS AIDS Institute

Kraig Pannell is a native New Yorker originally from Rochester. He graduated from Bucknell University with a degree in Political Science, and a minor in Black Studies. He has an extensive public health, and health and human services background, including designing and implementing the first HIV prevention and education program targeting gay Men / MSM in Northeastern Pennsylvania; led HIV prevention demonstration projects across the state of Pennsylvania to inform and assist in the development of the State of Pennsylvania's HIV prevention plan; worked with suicidal and homicidal children and adolescents in an effort to avert hospitalization; and coordinated a therapeutic after school program for dually diagnosed young people. Kraig was a Medical Case Manager for Trillium Health, specializing in HIV and LGBT healthcare. He then became the Program Director at the MOCHA Project, an LGBT POC culturally specific HIV Prevention agency with offices in Rochester and Buffalo New York. At MOCHA, he was instrumental in securing the agency's first two Federal contracts from HRSA and OMH for HIV prevention demonstration projects. Kraig is a Fellow of The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention / Association of Schools of Public Health Institute for HIV Prevention Leadership and successfully completed a mentorship with the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He recently assumed the position of Director of the LGBT Health Services Unit of the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute, where he is responsible for the development of implementation plans for LGBT Health and the development of initiatives to address emerging needs within the LGBT communities in New York.

Panelists:

Angela Fernandez, Commissioner, NY State Division of Human Rights (for bio, see speaker section)

Kiara St. James, Founder and Director, NYTAG

Kiara St. James is a community organizer. She was instrumental in changing discriminatory shelter policies towards the Trans community. She traveled to Vienna, Austria and joined thousands of advocates at the International AIDS Conference, to protest against pharmaceutical industries. She was a panelist in a discussion hosted by the United Nations on marginalized communities, and for more than 17 years has been meeting with legislators on passing the Gender Expression Non Discrimination Act, a bill to enrich New Yorkers' lives through creating culturally affirming spaces. Kiara is the founder of the New York Transgender Advocacy Group, a Trans-led organization intent on creating new Trans-centered and focused opportunities. She is the head of NYTAG Downstate.

Shane Tull, LCSW-R, GMAD

Shane Tull, LCSW-R is a clinical psychotherapist, consultant, and life coach in private practice for more than 10 years, and for the past eight years, a clinical psychotherapeutic consultant with Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD). He also provides psychological support and documentation for GMAD's clients in need of asylum services. Shane serves as a clinical supervisor, which includes case conceptualization, diagnoses, documentation and program development to doctoral and Masters in Social Work students at many Social Work schools in the NYC area. He consults with the US CDC and USAID on mental health projects, especially regarding suicidality. As a mental health expert, he demonstrated his clinical expertise at the CDC's Mental Health initiative to provide positive outcomes in Guyana's PUSH Program. And, as an international consultant, he has presented discussions including on motivational interviewing, disclosure, health protective



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SCHEDULE

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SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

View the full schedule at inmymindconference.com

DAY ONE THURSDAY OCTOBER 10TH, 2019		
7:30 AM	Check- In & Registration	Lobby, 63 Fifth Ave
8:45 AM	Light Breakfast	Lobby, 63 Fifth Ave
9:00 AM	Call To Order and Invocation by Tavi C. Hawn, LCSW-C, Cherokee (Tsaligi) and Memorial, "We Remember Our Own" by Vanessa Crespo of the NYC Anti-Violence Project, with music accompaniment by Devon Webster (violin) and Jorge Lockward (piano)	Tishman Auditorium
9:30 AM	Welcome by Melanie Hart of The New School, followed by Speakers Angela Fernandez of NYS HR Com., Johanne Morne, NYS AIDS Institute, and Hon. Mike Barbee, Mayor, Bridgeport, PA	Tishman Auditorium
11:10 AM	Break	
SESSION ONE		
11:30 AM - 12:45 PM	RESEARCH A - (CE) Oswald R. Thomas, BPS., MS., Ph.D. Ch.t. Ph.D: How Do Female-To-Male-Transgender Individuals Perceive Their Self-Esteem And Social Acceptance After Sexual Reassignment Into Their Chosen Sex And Gender?	Tishman Auditorium
	ADVOCACY Tarik Daniels: Social Depression and Being Black and Queer in America	Hoerle Lecture Hall
	COMMUNITY A - (CE) Jeffrey Feliz-Ybes aka Leo Donato: I Overcome it all because of one STRONG DOMINICAN WOMAN	Hirshon Suite, 55 W13th St
	EDUCATION A - (CE) Norman H. Kim, PhD: Impact of Shame and Microaggressions on Eating Disorders in Marginalized Communities	Starr Foundation Hall
	Quiet Room	Glassbox Theater, 55 W 13th St

12:45 PM	Lunch and "Queering the Pipeline: The Young Queer Urban Teens for Health in MEDicine Program at Mt. Sinai.": Barbara Warren, Psy.D., CPXP, & Edgar Vargas, MPH, LMSW	Event Cafe and Tishman Auditorium
1:45 PM	Call to Order	Tishman Auditorium
2:15 PM	Research Speaker: Serena Chang, MD Callen-Lorde	Tishman Auditorium
3:00 PM	Community Speaker: Letsweletse Motshidiemang, Botswana	Tishman Auditorium
3:30 PM	Education Speaker: Daniel Jose Gaztambide, PsyD The New School	Tishman Auditorium
3:45 PM	Break	
SESSION TWO		
4:00 PM - 5:30 PM	RESEARCH B Sidra Hasan: Suburban Queers: Temporality, Speed and Slowness in Mississauga	Hoerle Lecture Hall
	COMMUNITY B Olive Daddi, Charlotte Shum: Peer Driven Work-force Development	Hirshon Suite, 55 W13th St
	COMMUNITY B Robert Thompson, Jamilla Edwards, Imani Evans: St. Croix Pride Parade: A Reformation of Cultural Identity	Tishman Auditorium
	EDUCATION B Florie St.Aime, LMSW: We Are All Lonely: Decolonizing Loneliness	Starr Foundation Hall
	The Healing Power of Drum and Percussion Music (African and Indian Tabla Drums) Heritage OP and Naren Budhkar	Glassbox Theater, 55 W 13th St
END DAY ONE		
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	"Together We Are" Reception: RSVP Only. Performance by RAGGA, Curated by Chris Udeme-zue; Music by DJ Jenn	LGBT Center, 208 West 13th St. Rm 301
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	"Our View" LGBTQ+ Film Forum	LGBT Center, 208 West 13th St. Rm 301

DAY TWO FRIDAY OCTOBER 10TH, 2019		
7:30 AM	Check- In & Registration	Lobby, 55 W 13th Ave
8:45 AM	Light Breakfast	Outside Hirshon Suite, 2nd flr, 55 W 13th Ave
9:00 AM	Call To Order and Invocations by Pandita Karen Sonilal and Pastor Jorge Lockward, Church of the Village	Main Hall Lang Student Center
9:30 AM	Welcome Statements; Reading an excerpt from "A journey to the center of an "unstraight" mind" by Lina Azaiez of Tunisia, North Africa, and Speakers NYC Public Advocate Hon. Jumaane Williams, Billy Jones, MD, and Rev. Louis Mitchell.	Main Hall Lang Student Center
11:05 AM	Break	
SESSION THREE		
11:20 AM - 12:35 PM	RESEARCH - (CE) Lissette Marrero, MSW: The effects of mental health on those who survived Hurricane Maria, A look into the LGBTQIA community and PLWHA in Puerto Rico	Lang Student Center, Main Hall, 55 West 13th St
	ADVOCACY A Aundaray Guess: Telling Your HIV Story to Overcome Stigma	Starr Foundation Hall 63 Fifth Ave
	EDUCATION B - (CE) Jared Trujillo, Esq., and Jaclyn Quiles, Esq.: The LGBTQ+ Community and the Criminal Justice System	Glassbox Theater, 55 West 13th St
	EDUCATION A Leonard Arvisu Cruz, Ph.D: Storytelling through Creativity, the Arts, and the Contemplative Practices; An Interactive Workshop for Embodiment, Transformation, and Empowerment	Starr Foundation Hall 63 Fifth Ave
	COMMUNITY A - (CE) Anthony Patterson, LMHC, CGP: Overcoming Barriers and Creating Opportunities in LGBTQ Relationships	Hoerle Hall 63 Fifth Ave
12:35 PM	Lunch, with performance by Julian Walker, MOBI	Lunch: Outside Hirshon Suite (2nd flr), and Performance: Main Hall Lang Student Center

1:45 PM	Call to Order; Reading excerpt of “Remixed Relations:” by Quanita Hailey; Speakers Gary Bailey, DHL, Mohan Vinjamuri, Ph.D., LMSW; Tavi C. Hawn, LCSW-C	Main Hall Lang Student Center
3:15 PM	BREAK	
SESSION FOUR		
3:30 PM - 4:45 PM	ADVOCACY B - (CE) Nala S. Toussaint, BSA; Phyllis Pickens, RN, BSN; Marie Deplet, BS; Abigail Skinner, MPA, MSW Candidate; Malaya Mañacop, LMSW; Gretchen George Ty, LMSW; Rev. Julie Novas, JD, LCSW: Soul Sistah Magik!	Lang Student Center- Main Hall
	EDUCATION C Rhone Fraser, Ph.D.: “Overcoming Self Hate: How Protagonists Promote Queer Identity in the Plays ‘Boys On The Hill’ by Karl O’Brian Williams and ‘Sugar in our Wounds’ by Donja R. Love” (Education C) Ave.	Hoerle Hall, 63 Fifth Ave
	COMMUNITY B Kim Watson.: Healing Ourselves – A Transgender People of Color Caucus	Hirshon Suite – 55 W 13th St
	COMMUNITY C Moderator: Colleen Vincent Panelists: Chefs Sicily Johnson, Asia B, Elle Simone, David Stample, and Troy Levy: Brain Food	Glassbox Theater, 55 W 13th St
4:45 PM	“LGBTQ+ Peoples of Color Now and the Future” – Quo Vadis? (Lang Student Center, Main Hall, 55 W13th St.): Plenary Panel Discussion: Kraig Pannell (Moderator), Kiara St. James, Angela Fernandez, Shane Tull, LCSW-R.	Lang Student Center – Main Hall
5:45 PM - 6:00 PM	Closing	Lang Student Center – Main Hall

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

DAY ONE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 2019

MORNING SPEAKERS: 9:30 AM, TISHMAN AUDITORIUM

New York Leads the Way in Breaking Down Barriers and Creating Opportunities

Presented by: Angela Fernandez, Commissioner, NY State Division of Human Rights
Commissioner Fernandez discusses NYS Human Rights Law - how discrimination based on sexual orientation may intersect with other protected classes such as race, national origin, or disability; and how anti-discrimination laws both break down barriers and help open doors.

Working Together to Overcome Barriers and Create Opportunities

Presented by: Johanne Morne, MS, NY State AIDS Institute
Addressing this year's theme "Overcoming Barriers; Creating Opportunities" and its relationship to her work at the AIDS Institute and as the NASTAD Board Chair during the 2019-2020 term, Ms. Morne highlights areas impacting LGBTQ+ peoples of color communities and how these communities can continue to work together to overcome issues such as stigma and trauma informed care to make impactful change.

SESSION ONE: 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM

Research A (CE) - Tishman Auditorium

How Do Female-To-Male-Transgender Individuals Perceive Their Self-Esteem And Social Acceptance After Sexual Reassignment Into Their Chosen Sex And Gender?

Presented by: Oswald R. Thomas, BPS, MS, PhD, Ch.t

Between 2006 and 2016, a growing population of persons who have identified themselves as FTM (Female to Male Transgender) has emerged. Transgender is a generic term for individuals who describe their preferred choice of gender identity, gender expression and behaviors, which are different from their assigned sex at birth. Gender identities are connected to a person's sense of who they know themselves to be. However, gender expression is concerned with how individuals communicate their gender identity to others, such as through hairstyles, dress code, behavior, and voice or body characteristics. A 2015 U.S. Census Bureau Study showed that there are about 58,000 individuals who are categorized as FTM transgender in the United States.

Advocacy - Hoerle Lecture Hall

Social Depression and Being Black and Queer in America

Presented by: Tarik Daniels

The presentation will outline the mental impact of society in navigating this world as a queer person of color. It will highlight the struggles and concerns that stem from homophobia and racism, and highlight statistical data of suicide rates and mental health of gay persons of color.

Education A (CE) - Starr Foundation Hall

Impact of Shame and Microaggressions on Eating Disorders in Marginalized Communities

Presented by: Norman H. Kim, Ph.D.

A person being prone to shame has been shown to be a central element in the development of eating disorders. This is particularly salient for people of color and those in LGBTQ+ communities, who often grapple with stigma and discrimination. Among other factors, a history of microaggressions and the well-documented effects of stressors associated with minority status put people from these communities at high risk for the development of disordered eating behaviors and their attendant consequences.

Community A (CE) - Hirshon Suite, 55 W13th St

I Overcame It All Because of One STRONG DOMINICAN WOMAN

Presented by: Jeffrey Feliz-Ybes, aka, Leo Donato

It takes more than courage to move to America, without knowing the language and raise a family. When I speak about my story overcoming an AIDS diagnosis, drug and sex addiction while managing my bipolar disorder I don't often talk of the person who has given me the strength to

do it all. My grandmother who had a child killed in an oppressive Dominican regime and despite fear, not knowing the language, she fled to ensure the survival of her family. Because of her, I am here and when I feel weak, I think of her and what she did and all the barriers she overcame so I could go to college. There are so many barriers for a person of color in America today and I fight to overcome those barriers because of the one woman who took a leap of faith despite all the fear in her so that I could be here.

LUNCHTIME SPEAKER: 12:45 PM, TISHMAN AUDITORIUM

“Queering the Pipeline: The Young Queer Urban Teens for Health in MEDicine Program at Mount Sinai”

Presented by: Barbara Warren, Psy. D., CPXP, and Edgar Vargas, MPH, LMSW, Mt. Sinai
LGBTQ youth face unique challenges when compared to their heterosexual counterparts, including: increased separation from their community, increased stigma and social isolation; increased minority stress which may lead to high rates of violence, homelessness, poverty, limited attendance in schools, and low representation in the health sciences; and in their undergraduate careers, LGBTQ students switch to non-science degrees at higher rates. As a result, LGBTQ healthcare professionals, especially of color, are underrepresented in medicine and science due to decreased professional opportunities. To address this need, the Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) with Mount Sinai Health System (MSHS), in collaboration with medical students from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, created the LGBT YOUTH MED (Young Queer Urban Teens for Health in MEDicine) pipeline program. This pipeline program is designed to expose LGBTQ youth of color in New York City to LGBTQ professionals in STEM and other healthcare professions via outreach presentations, activities, and with an engaging daylong program at Mount Sinai.

AFTERNOON SPEAKERS: 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM, TISHMAN AUDITORIUM

“Entre nos y bajo la piel”: How inequality gets under our skin and ruptures our relationships

Presented by: Prof. Daniel José Gaztambide, PsyD., Department of Psychology, The New School for Social Research

Interlocking systems of oppression texture and inform how identity is experienced and expressed across intersecting axes of discrimination. Inequalities operating at the intersection of race, class, gender, gender-identity and sexual orientation not only impair the psychosocial functioning of historically marginalized groups—such as LGBTQ+ People of Color, but affects their mental health and relational, educational and vocational well-being. Guided by the insights of the Black Lesbian Feminist tradition of the Combahee River Collective, the call to action of Latin American and Black Liberation Theologies, and contemporary research on internalized oppression and mental health, a Latinx clinical psychologist will explore how interlocking “isms” get “under our skin” to affect our well-being, as well as get “between us” and rupture our most intimate relationships. Implications for clinical, communal and political solidarity and intervention will be discussed.

SESSION TWO: 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Community B - Tishman Auditorium

St. Croix Pride Parade: A Reformation of Cultural Identity

Presented by: Robert Thompson, amilla Edwards, and Imani Evans

What does it mean to be Crucian? In 2018, St. Croix's first Pride Parade challenged Crucian identity and elicited severe performances of hate fueled by very real emotions. The parade was also a fight to validate our local identities as queer Crucians. Navigating through this intense cultural conversation caused great distress to its participants. We will talk about how we navigated these obstacles to forge a path forward towards the acceptance of LGBTQ Crucians.

Research B - Hoerle Lecture Hall

Suburban Queers: Temporality, Speed and Slowness in Mississauga

Presented by: Sidra Hasan

This workshop explores the politics of speed by looking to the infrastructures that shape contemporary queer life within suburbia. Through discussion-based activities, we will explore how varying infrastructural elements affect how we are in relation to others, to places, and consequently, how this shapes our sense of community and access to mental health resources and support.

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Education B - Starr Foundation Hall

We Are All Lonely: Decolonizing Loneliness

Presented by Florie St.Aime, LCSW

We will examine and address isolation as a societal fail rather than individual default. Using intimate experiential activities and vulnerable discussions, the workshop will generate tools to reconnect with humanity on the path to liberation. Together we will take power away from the shame and guilt of loneliness while simultaneously providing clarity and freedom. All activities will be done with comfort, consent and expansion in mind.

Community B - Hirshon Suite

Peer Driven Workforce Development

Presented by Olive Daddi and Charlotte Shum

We will examine and address isolation as a societal fail rather than individual default. Using intimate experiential activities and vulnerable discussions, the workshop will generate tools to reconnect with humanity on the path to liberation. Together we will take power away from the shame and guilt of loneliness while simultaneously providing clarity and freedom. All activities will be done with comfort, consent and expansion in mind.

The Healing Power of Drum and Percussion Music - Glassbox Theater

Presented by Heritage OP and Naren Budhakar

Healing drum traditions of Africa ("Africa" here includes the Diaspora) in the African traditions have always been a form of alternative medicine, perhaps the oldest form of alternative medicine, long predating the concept of "doctors as separate from the fabric of everyday life and activity". Drumming in the African tradition has within it rhythmic concepts that sync directly with the body's electrical system, nervous system, and psyche and help to balance and rejuvenate these systems while speaking directly to the organs and energy centers of the body. Drumming at its most basic analysis is heartbeat and pulse strengthening music, but a closer look, much more is revealed, and it may be the most advanced medicinal system known to humankind. Countless rhythms in the African traditions have been used for centuries for their known healing affect.

TOGETHER WE ARE COCKTAIL RECEPTION, 6 PM - 7 PM, RSVP ONLY

Hosted at The Center, 308 West 13th Street

- The RAGGA: Performances Curated by Chris Udemeze
- Poetry: Kenneth Reveiz
- Jordan Danielle Hamilton
- Singing: Roxana Santana
- Dance: Tlaloc Collective (THALIA SABLON AND QUETZAL ARIAS)

"OUR VIEW" LGBTQ+ FILM FORUM, 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Hosted at The Center, 308 West 13th Street

- La Serenata
- Guarding Santos
- Ode to Pablo
- A Bronx Tale
- Baby

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DAY TWO: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH, 2019

SESSION THREE: 11:20 AM - 12:35 PM

Research (CE) - Main Hall, Lang Student Center

The effects of mental health on those who survived Hurricane Maria – A look into the LGBTQIA community and PLWHA in Puerto Rico

Presented by Lissette Marero, MSW

After three years, Puerto Rico continues to suffer long-lasting effects from the devastation from Hurricane Maria. For those who identify as LGBTQIA+ and/or living with HIV the added trauma of a natural disaster exacerbates existing life stressors (homophobia, transphobia, HIV stigma, homelessness, discrimination, etc.). This presentation will examine the effects of mental health on those who survived, their resiliency and the ongoing efforts to help them thrive on an island with a very uncertain future.

Advocacy A - Hirshon Suite, Lang Student Center

Telling Your HIV Story to Overcome Stigma

Presented by Aundaray Guess, The Griot

Living with HIV can create an overwhelming feeling of stigma along with the introduction of mental illness such as depression. This presentation looks at how using one's story can create empowerment to rise from feelings of hopelessness based on one's status.

Community A (CE) - Hoerle Hall, 63 Fifth Ave

Overcoming Barriers and Creating Opportunities in LGBTQ Relationships

Presented by Anthony Patterson, LMHC, CGP

In times where humanity is being tragically divided along the lines of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class and age, we often struggle with differences and only to later realize our similarities and connections. This may mean we further fail to achieve authenticity and genuine connections. This workshop will show how the use of psycho-education bridging, mirroring and validation creates a safe space for group members to address barriers and create opportunities in their relationships.

Education A - Starr Foundation Hall, 63 Fifth Ave.

Storytelling through Creativity, the Arts, and the Contemplative Practices; An Interactive Workshop for Embodiment, Transformation, and Empowerment

Presented by Leonard Arvisu Cruz, Ph.D.

Creativity, the Arts, and the Contemplative practices have existed for thousands of years and by incorporating them to storytelling (which has also existed since the dawn of time) allows storytellers to express themselves in multidisciplinary ways while at the same time engaging the mind, body, and spirit with presence, authenticity, and embodiment.

Education B (CE) - Glassbox Theater, 55 West 13th St

The LGBTQ+ Community and the Criminal Justice System

Presented by Jared Trujillo, Esq., and Jaclyn Quiles, Esq.

This training will discuss the issues facing the LGBTQ+ Community in the criminal legal system, from both the prosecutor and defense counsel's perspective. It will highlight particular considerations for when the accused or

AFTERNOON SPEAKERS: 1:35 PM - 3:15 PM, LANG STUDENT CENTER

Supporting and Affirming LGBTQ Futures through Practice and Research

Presented by Prof. Mohan Vinjamuri, Ph.D., LMSW

One way to oppress and marginalize individuals and communities is by convincing them that they do not deserve a future. An act of strength and resilience is to envision one's future and take actions to live it authentically through friendships, intimacy, parenting, work, families of choice, and spirituality, to name just a few. In this presentation Prof. Vinjamuri will discuss how practitioners and researchers can bring a future-affirming perspective to their work with LGBTQ communities. Doing so is needed to challenge the pathology and deficit focused approach (which is often framed as strengths-based) that further marginalizes LGBTQ peoples and to challenge heteronormative assumptions about what a healthy future can look like.

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Returning to Our Sacred Place in the Circle: Two-Spirit and LGBTQ+ Indigenous Healing

Presented by Tavi C. Hawn, LCSW-C; non-Citizen Eastern Band Cherokee (Tsaligi)

Tavi Hawn will tell stories of issues faced by present day Two-Spirit communities and the challenges created by colonization and ancestral trauma. We'll learn ways in which Two Spirits and LGBTQ+ indigenous people heal, resist, protect, and embody sacred roles.

SESSION FOUR: 3:30 PM - 4:45 PM

Advocacy B (CE) - Main Hall, Lang Student Center

Soul Sistah Magik!

Presented by Nala S. Toussaint, BSA; Phyllis Pickens, RN, BSN; Marie Deplet, BS; Abigail Skinner, MPA, MSW Candidate; Malaya Mañacop, LMSW; Gretchen George Ty, LMSW; Rev. Julie Novas, JD, LCSW

Seven female identified LGBT people of color of various cultural, religious and interdisciplinary educational backgrounds discuss the intersectionality of oppression, resistance and resiliency. They met at Callen-Lorde Community Health Center and are champions of change within and without the organization. They will share their lived experiences of resisting systemic racism in order to be at the forefront of their lives and their work with their beloved LGBT communities of color.

Education C - Hoerle Hall, 63 Fifth Ave

"Overcoming Self Hate: How Protagonists Promote Queer Identity in the Plays 'Boys On The Hill' by Karl O'Brian Williams and 'Sugar in our Wounds' by Donja R. Love"

Presented by Rhone Fraser, Ph.D.

In my new book "Pauline Hopkins and Advocacy Journalism," Hopkins' 1905 letter to fellow journalist William Monroe Trotter said she was "bribed out of" her "race principles." These two new plays deal with queer identity and suggest how "race principles" include the avoidance of being "bribed out of" openly admitting queer identity. Donja Love's 2019 play "Sugar in Our Wounds" set in the antebellum U.S. South and Karl O'Brian Williams's 2014 play "The Boys on the Hill" set in post-independence Kingston, Jamaica assist with exploring these issues.

Community B - Hirshon Suite, Lang Student Center

Healing Ourselves – A Transgender People of Color Caucus

Presented by Kim Watson, CK Life

Healing ourselves will be presented from a personal trauma experience.

Community C - Glassbox Theater, Lang Student Center

Brain Food - A James Beard Foundation Panel Discussion

Moderated by: Colleen Vincent

Panelists: Chefs Sicily Johnson, Asia B, Elle Simone, David Stample, and Troy Levy

Food industry professionals discuss their experience of health practiced through culinary arts ; Chefs share their journeys through food and its connection to wellness

PLENARY PANEL: 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM, Lang Student Center, 55 West 13th St

“Quo Vadis? LGBTQ+ Peoples of Color Now and the Future”

Moderator: Kraig Pannell, Director, LGBTQ Health Services Unit, NYS AIDS Institute

•Angela Fernandez, Commissioner, NY State Division of Human Rights
GENDA and Beyond

As the federal government seemingly abandons its role to protect all Americans, Commissioner Fernandez will discuss NY State’s Human Rights Law protections for LGBTQ communities of color and real-world examples of what those protections look like.

•Kiara St. James, Executive Director, New York Trans Advocacy Group
Ensuring Sustainable and Equitable Outcomes for Black Transwomen.
When it comes to the best ways to create sustainable and equitable outcomes for Black Transwomen we must prioritize and be intentional in how we are collecting data. We must make sure that we are creating spaces of healing and affirmation, and not replicating traumatic systems, that never uplifted or valued the lived experiences of Black Transwomen. We must trust in the visions of the Black Trans Collective and give space for errors as well as successes. Most importantly we must fight for the liberation and wholeness of Black Transwomen everywhere and understand that we all have intrinsic values that cannot be diminished by anyone.

•Shane Tull, LCSW-R, GMAD
Pathways Forward

A discussion on LGBT people of color strengths and accomplishments, with an emphasis on communities’ psychological and political mandate to address their needs as they look toward the future, their continued challenges to remain visible, and their urgent need to stay focused, as they negotiate new pathways.



ESSAYS

Celebrating its 5th anniversary and recognizing the importance of telling one's story to their healing, especially with the Conference's theme, "Overcoming Barriers; Creating Opportunities", that the Conference invited those who wanted to share their experience to submit essays. Two essays, by Lina Azaiez from Tunisia, North Africa and Quanita Hailey were selected.

A Journey to the Center of an "Unstraight" Mind

By Lina Azaiez, Tunisia, North Africa

It all started when I was born. This sounds like a funny meme, believe me, it is not. I am the daughter of a heterosexual, brown, conservative couple, who feel they are progressive. For them and all society, modernism is limited to saying no polygamy and advocating for "some women". I guess they never heard of the term "intersectional feminism". Anyways, this is not supposed to be a lecture about feminism (to be honest, I wish it is).

When I was a child, I was taught to hate my curly hair, "We will go to the hairdresser to straighten your hair, so that you look beautiful", that's what my mother used to tell me before going to a wedding. As I grew older, thanks to my aunt and cousin, I embraced my curly hair and learned to admire it. It was the shell that protected me from society's gloominess and narrowness. Then, it became the way I walked and sat, which did not satisfy my parents and other family members. At every family reunion, there was always someone to tell me, "Hey, straighten up while you walk, it is not very "girly" and it shows that you have no self-confidence". I guessed, to them, not being fan of my "unstraight" attitudes and nature was a sign from the Almighty God.

In fact, I never opened up to my mom and dad about my gayness, which was probably the reason I never had an issue or an internal conflict when it came to my queerness. I never deemed it as unnatural, I kept telling myself that "people are afraid of what they don't know", hence, their confusion and fear escalated to being aggressive and violent. Now, I am convinced that I was just making excuses for people who are close to me, and it is not just random behavior. Their homophobia is a PERSONALITY TRAIT, as is the latter, one which would decide if they will remain afraid or just change their unacceptable attitude.

The 20th-century French novelist, playwright, poet, essayist, and political activist, the late Jean Genet once said, "To write is your last resort when you've betrayed someone," which was interpreted by the another French writer, Annie Ernaux, as writing as result of working class betrayal. For me, it is a mere societal betrayal. In other words, I have betrayed my family traditions and societal conventions, when "glorifying and adhering to Queerness" and considering it as an inevitable component of my identity. Yes, I am aware of the bitter doomsdays of accepting who I am, but I am not ashamed at all. In fact, I often think about what my life would have become if I destroyed the gay me. I may have betrayed my family and my shallow community, but I have not betrayed myself.

Though everything about me was scrutinized; the way that I walked, my "unstraight" hair, and "deviant beliefs", I somehow survived and managed to remain authentic to myself – at least when I am alone. Unfortunately, I was caught in society's grip, where one can enjoy a glass of racism with some sexist dip served on a plate of homophobia.

I am the kind of person who is often the first to apologize whenever I do something wrong knowingly or unknowingly, small or big. Now, on the 17th of May, 2019, I want to apologize to myself for being surrounded by my beloved, yet toxic people, who are pressuring me and I am afraid of unveiling my Queerness. I take pride in saying that this duality, of hiding and fighting, made deep emotional scars, which led to a deeper version of me. These scars always remind me that I am vulnerable and need me, to be hopeful.

To all the Queers in the world, happiness is different for everyone. I STILL did not manage to find the path to my happiness; I hope you eventually will. Until that day comes, as the late actor and comedian, Robin Williams, as John Keating in Dead Poets Society, said, "Carpe Diem! Seize the day...make your lives extraordinary."

Remixed Relations

By by Quanita Hailey

Connection, solidarity, and community are the foundational principles of FreeXone4us, a queer, transgender and person of color collective I started a little over a year ago. It is a sacred place where chosen family and active kinships can be formed. Looking back, my life was an expedition seeking those things.

In early 2000, after having being kicked out of my home for being “a sinner and a nasty little bitch”, I heard the words, “you have been diagnosed with manic depression, acute anxiety disorder, and bipolar disorder”. I heard these words on replay in my brain, and the remix featured the word “crazy” brought on by my own thoughts. My ambitions vaporized, as did my will to live.

I thought I found love in a gay bar. No, not from a woman in the bar, but from the red lined walls, its two doors, the “manhole”, and all the activities that transpired there. It was a sacred space. Reflecting, I realize it was my first experience of chosen family even though that language was still unknown. I found queer family full of my drag queen and transgender Moms and Aunties. I had my gay owner fathers, and a host of queer fam who frequented the bar. I was the sometimes drag king son, but mostly the bartending supplier. As a way of dealing with my unprocessed pain, I turned to anything and everything that would love me, including drugs. I wanted off my meds, so the drugs became the substitute. I sold, because it was easy while bartending and I always had a free supply. This was the closest I ever felt to being me and to having a “family,” but I was still empty.

My anxiety and depression aggregated with my loneliness and cemented. The concrete was busted up by an attempt on my life. Rock bottom did not even begin to describe the destination in which I found myself. For the second time, my family was gone; I was alone, with new thoughts and new remixes. This longing for connection and for family was unshakeable. It was at this time that I met my paternal father and he provided a stable place to detox and reorganize. It would take a second round of detoxification before I understood that drugs could not be my way of life. I felt every single line, pill, smoke and rock as it was expelled from my body. After this second detox, I found myself with family, actual blood, and again trying this thing called

life. My thoughts and their remixes dissipated and became like smooth jazz, and I found myself living, well almost.

Although things were beautiful on the outside, this newfound tranquility came at a cost. Again, being so desperate for love, I allowed myself to live a lie. This time at the hands of biblical doctrine taught by my blood father, a pastor. I reopened the door to my closet and hopped back in. The first few years were composed of methods of prayer, anointing and bible scriptures to keep my thoughts moral and to expel demonic spirits. Yes, I had family, a church community, and stability, but I was lost in prayers of gay deliverance and spiritual warfare from those same resources.

I frolicked about for several more years attempting to date men and rebuking my “lust of the eye” for women until I reached another savior, Mount Holyoke College (MHC). At MHC, an all-women’s college, I towed the line between being what my family wanted me to be and who I knew I was – a Queer Black Christian. I found a peer group, where I learned to think through trauma informed perspectives and began to process the thoughts and remixes that often were repeating since the early 2000s. In 2017, I realized that my sanity was to be found in the full acceptance of myself, which family, church, person or society could take away from me. It has been a painful journey to wholeness. I lost the safety net that rescued me at my lowest, but gained a family that I cultivated without negotiation of any parts of my being. The (re)remix is a sound of wholeness composed by my heart, and I now offer that to others through cultivating sacred spaces with FreeXone4us.

No one deserves to walk this journey alone; each person deserves connection, solidarity, and community.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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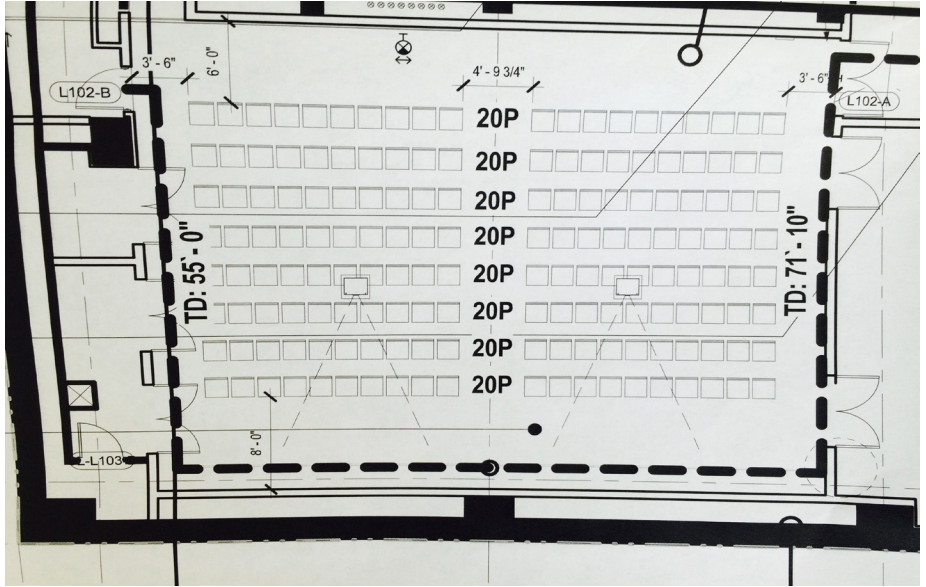


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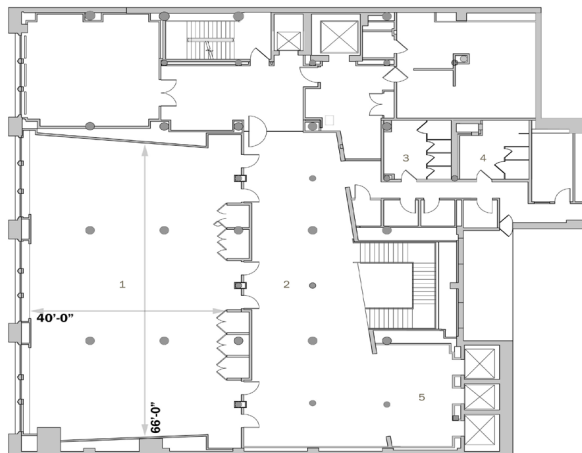
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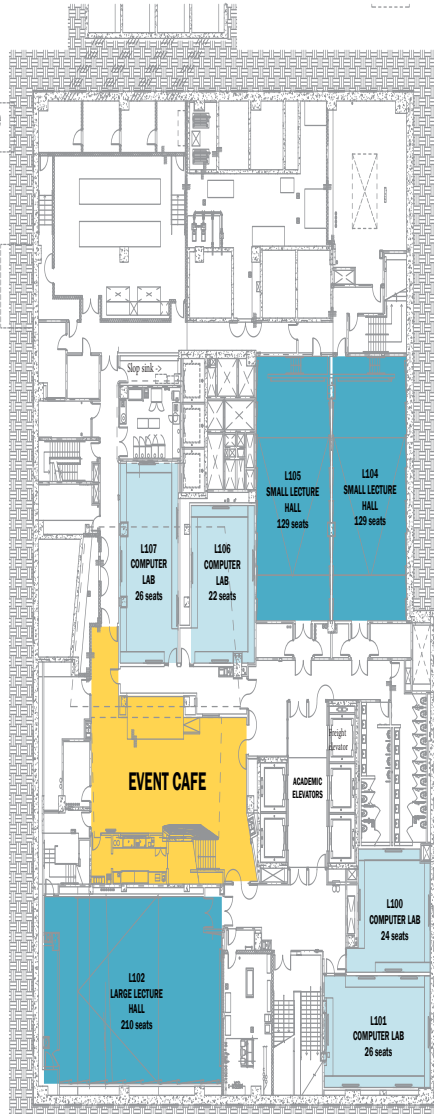
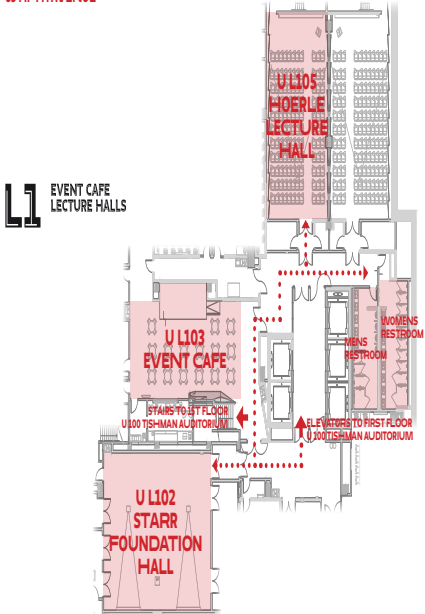
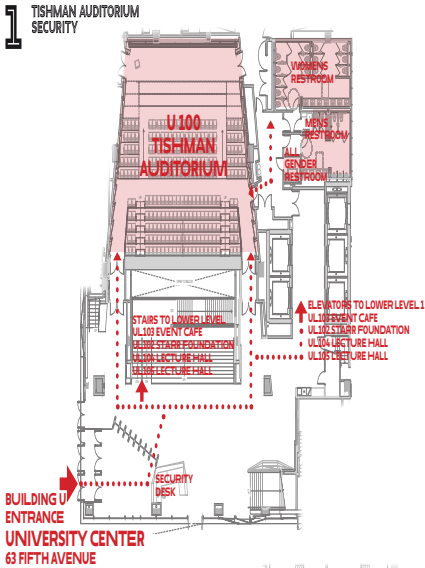
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