



39th ANNUAL MEETING
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF PSYCHIATRY AND CULTURE
19-21 APRIL 2018



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What Does Culture Mean? Evolving Definitions in Mental Health Service, Training, and Research

JOAN B. KROC INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

psychiatryandculture.org

Description

The 2018 SSPC annual meeting will be held April 19-21 at the beautiful Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, San Diego, CA. We will critically explore the implicit (or explicit) definitions of culture that are being used in current mental health research and practice. To what extent are process-based definitions of culture replacing or coexisting alongside more static group background-based definitions? Process-based definitions conceptualize culture as a dynamic process of meaning-making that is based on multiple influences from a person's background, including gender identity, occupation, class, and sexual orientation, to name a few. The impact of these influences become more or less prominent at any given moment, in some settings and not others, and depending on what is "at stake" for the person at the time. This process-based conceptualization coexists with more traditional notions of culture that are rooted in a principal group identity, typically the person's national or racial/ethnic background.

This meeting will explore various definitions of culture active in mental health work. For example, is culture conceptualized uniformly in key components of DSM-5, such as in the Cultural Formulation Interview and the Culture-Related Diagnostic Issues sections of each disorder? How does serious engagement with process-based definitions affect our established practices, such as the usual medical identification of the patient on the basis of age, gender, and race/ethnicity (e.g. "23 year-old black female")? How does the global spread of mental health interventions potentially perpetuate simplistic notions of culture, to the potential detriment of programs? What role does the family play in creating/recreating these cultural influences? Does it still make sense to speak of a person's "culture" in the singular?

We will have two plenary sessions, one a lecture and the other a panel that explore the theme in depth. Speakers will include Byron and Mary Jo Good, Laurence Kirmayer, Cécile Rousseau, Elizabeth Carpenter-Song, Marjorie Kagawa-Singer and Paul Brodwin. Breakout discussion groups will be led by Shannon Suo, Hendry Ton, Bonnie Kaiser, and Neil Aggarwal.

We also will have our usual array of workshops, symposia, individual papers, works in progress, trainee fellowship presentations, and a poster session.

Conference Learning Objectives

After attending this meeting, participants will be able to:

1. Identify multiple definitions of culture from clinical, social science, and humanities fields and their implications for mental health research and practice.
2. Discuss theories and concepts relevant to culture, including identity, power, explanatory models, equity, diversity, and meaning-making and their implications in the practice of cultural psychiatry and global mental health.
3. Describe how various definitions of culture are used in diverse aspects of mental health work, including clinical care, training, advocacy, and research.
4. Integrate the multiple conceptualizations of culture into the practice of cultural psychiatry and global mental health.

CME Accreditation:

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture. The Warren Alpert Medical School is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit Designation:

Physicians: The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University designates this live activity for a maximum of *19 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. (Day 1 – 7; Day 2 – 6; Day 3 – 6.0)

For further information and to register for the meeting please visit <https://psychiatryandculture.org>