



Newsletter Editor: Shannon Suo

President's Message

Roberto Lewis-Fernández

The holiday season is upon us with all its hustle and bustle. Among the things that it signals for me this year is the approach of the transition in the leadership team of SSPC come next April. Kenneth Fung will take over as president and we will inaugurate a new president-elect, secretary, and treasurer. This transition affords us an opportunity for new approaches and exciting changes. I will write more about that in the next issue.

This special issue of the newsletter is primarily about the 2018 annual meeting which will be held from April 19-21 in San Diego. You will find more information about this in Liz's column. This year we received more abstracts than ever before and the program promises to be an outstanding one. One change in 2018 is that we are scheduling longer lunches and breaks to encourage networking, in response to your feedback. I want to encourage you not only to come to the meeting but to take advantage of early-bird registration and member discounts. If you're already a member, thank you for joining or renewing; if you're not, why not join now?

By now all current SSPC members have received ballots for the 2018-2019 election of officers and Board Members. All members in good standing are entitled to vote and to help shape the way SSPC will continue to evolve. I encourage you to vote now if you haven't already.

In closing I send my best wishes to each of you for happy holidays and a healthy and happy New Year!

Executive Director's Message

Liz Kramer

This is a special issue of our newsletter primarily intended to get the word out about our upcoming annual meeting, April being not far away. In it you will find information about the theme and format of the meeting, the overall learning objectives, and the plenary sessions. You also will find the program and information about CME accreditation as well our hotel special for this year.

There also are a few other things: about membership and voting in the current election. You will find that the usual things you ordinarily find in the newsletter are missing, partly because the issues covered here have kept us very busy lately. Also we're sure you have other things to think about at this time of year, too. We will catch up early in February, we promise.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Program Committee for their prodigious efforts and continued hard work, and all the other volunteers who are helping SSPC grow and serve as a leader in Cultural Psychiatry. If you're not yet a volunteer we hope you will become one.

Very best wishes to each and every one of you and your loved ones for healthy, happy and safe holidays and for all good things in 2018!

December, 2017

2018 Annual Meeting

What does culture mean? Evolving definitions in mental health service, training, and research

- **San Diego, CA**
- **April 19-21, 2018**
- **Prices go up February 1, no foolin'!**
- **Register now!**

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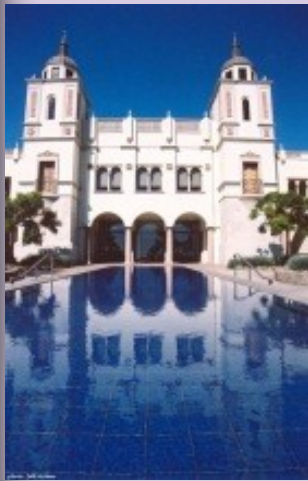
Annual Meeting Notes

Liz Kramer, Bonnie Kaiser, Roberto Lewis-Fernández and Steven Wolin

Yes, Professor Toynbee, history repeats itself in cycles, and it is again almost time for the SSPC meeting. The 39th annual meeting of SSPC will take place at the beautiful Joan Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, in San Diego. The title of the meeting is **What does "Culture" mean? Evolving Definitions in Mental Health Service, Training and Research.**

The concept of culture has continued to evolve in mental health research and practice, in parallel with critiques of group-based definitions of culture in anthropology and other social sciences. Culture is often reduced to a principal group identity, usually an aspect of the person's national or racial/ethnic background. In contrast, current definitions of culture in mental health – such as the one presented in the DSM-5 – conceptualize culture as processual, constituting a process of meaning-making that is under the influence of multiple collective influences that combine to constitute a person's identity. These influences arise from diverse origins, including gender identity, sexual orientation, language, religion and spirituality, occupation, avocation, age, class, national and regional origin, and racialized and/or ethnic identity. Necessarily, every person's "culture" is a kaleidoscopic mix of these influences, as they become more or less prominent at any given moment, in the presence of some interviewers and not others, and in relation to what is at stake for the person at the time.

This annual meeting critically explores 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? 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 make sense any longer to speak of a person's "culture" in the singular?



**Joan B. Kroc Institute
for Peace and
Justice, San Diego**
sandiego.edu website



Mission Bay Christmas Parade of Lights
blog.sandiego.org

continued, page 3

Annual Meeting Notes, continued

Examples of topics and domains that will be discussed include the following:

- How does the definition of culture that we use vary with context and objectives?
- Culture as both cause and cure of mental illness
- Tensions of group-based vs. individual definitions of culture
- How does the concept of culture relate to disparity-reduction activities?
- How does the DSM define culture and how does this influence practice?
- Research applications of processual definitions of culture
- How do definitions of culture shape possibilities for policy-making and advocacy?
- How do we design curricula and training activities to meet these new requirements?



**The Happiest Christmas Tree,
Sea World**
seaworld.com/san-diego

This year we will have two plenary sessions, the first a lecture: What Does Culture Mean? Insights from Anthropology, given by Byron Good and Mary-Jo Delvecchio-Good, with Laurence Kirmayer as discussant, and secondly a panel offering clinical, training, research, and policy perspectives on culture, moderated by Roberto Lewis-Fernandez. Speakers for that session include Cecile Rousseau, Elizabeth Carpenter-Song, and Marjorie Kagawa Singer. We also will have a mixture of symposia, paper sessions, skills enhancing workshops and a poster session followed by our opening reception.

CME credit is available so don't wait, [sign up](#) now. The table below shows registration fees and deadlines. Early bird registration ends January 31 which also happens to be the day by which all presenters must register. <https://psychiatryandculture.org/#!event/register/2018/4/19/society-for-the-study-of-psychiatry-and-culture39th-annual-meeting>

	SSPC Member			Non-member	Single-Day
	Early bird (ends 1/31/18)	Regular (2/1/18–4/1/18)	Late (4/1/18–onsite)		
MD	\$550	\$600	\$750	\$800	\$300
Non-MD Professional	\$350	\$400	\$550	\$600	\$225
Trainee	\$250	\$325	\$400	\$450	\$150
Accompanying Person	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500	\$200

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for the
2018
Annual
Meeting
now!**

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Hotel information

Hilton Garden Inn, 4200 Taylor Street, San Diego, California



All attendees are responsible for the cost of their rooms and all incidental expenses. A block of rooms has been reserved for **April 16, 2018 - April 21, 2018**. at the [Hilton Garden Inn](http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/S/SANSWGI-SP2-20180416/index.html?WT.mc_id=POG) at the rate of \$159.00 plus tax per night. The hotel is a 10 to 15 minute uphill walk to the Kroc Institute. We currently are looking into having a shuttle. This year the terms are just a little bit different. The special room rate will be available only until **February 16th** or until the group block is sold-out, whichever occurs first. The hotel has told us that they will not extend the rates after the deadline, so it's better to book early. Reservations can be cancelled up to 3 days prior to the date of arrival.

The reservation link for the hotel is:

http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/S/SANSWGI-SP2-20180416/index.html?WT.mc_id=POG. Their telephone number is (619) 260-0607.

More information will be provided in the next issue which will come out by early February. Stay tuned to our website for updates in the interim.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

SSPC Annual elections

By now, all members in good standing have received ballots to vote for 3 officers and 3 Board members. Completed ballots must be returned electronically or postmarked by December 15, so if you haven't yet voted, we urge you to do so now. If you're not yet a member but you still want to join do it now and we can still send you a ballot.



Membership renewals*Renew now*

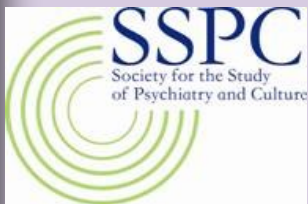
If you're already a member of SSPC you know the benefits of belonging. In addition to collegial and mentoring relationships that develop, you get seriously reduced rates for registration for the annual meeting, free access to our webinar series, and a free on-line subscription to *Transcultural Psychiatry*. If you're not a member, 'tis the season to join and if you are a member and have received a renewal notice please pay attention to it. Only those who joined in the last quarter of this year - and of course those who join or renew now are considered members in good standing and are eligible to vote. Renew now at <https://psychiatryandculture.org/join/#account/join>.

Keep in touch and if you have any questions please contact Liz Kramer at ekramer931@gmail.com or by calling her at (484) 416-3915. If you elect to use the phone please remember that I live in the eastern time zone of the US. If your questions relate to program scheduling please contact Bonnie Kaiser at bonnienicolekaiser@gmail.com.



The SSPC office will be closed for the holidays from December 21, 2017 until January 2, 2018. We will respond to emails and phone calls when we return from vacation.

Happy holidays to all!



psychiatryandculture.org

Be sure to renew your membership for 2018! Click [here](#) to pay your dues online.

Leave a legacy—consider donating to SSPC or recognizing SSPC in your will.

While dues are not tax-deductible as charitable, donations are!

SSPC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization
Tax ID #931133972

Dues are not deductible as a charitable expense, but may be deductible as a business expense. Consult with your tax advisor for details.

Contact SSPC

sspcculture@gmail.com is for limited administrative functions and is not checked often. Instead, please send your emails directly to the people for whom they are intended. If you're not sure to whom they should go, send them to Liz and she will forward them appropriately. Thanks!

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Program Schedule
Day 1, Thursday, April 19, 2018

Time	Title	Speaker/Facilitator
7:30 – 8:30	Registration and Breakfast	
8:30 – 8:45	Welcome Remarks & Housekeeping Details	
8:45 – 10:15	Plenary lecture: What does culture mean? Insights from Anthropology	Byron Good Mary-Jo Delvecchio Good Discussant: Laurence Kirmayer
10:15 – 10:45	Break	
10:45 – 11:30	Hughes award lecture	TBA
11:30 – 12:15	Spiegel award lecture	TBA
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch	
1:15 – 2:45	Symposium: Culture and Ecological Context in Global Mental Health: Comparative Studies from Mexico, Haiti, Italy, and the U.S.	Olga Olivas Hernandez, Janis Jenkins, David Grelotti, Thomas J. Csordas,
	Workshop: An ACT approach to discovering the meaning of culture	Kenneth Fung
	Works in Progress: A grant-writing workshop Towards an implementation model for mental health prevention and treatment interventions in low-resource settings: Combining evidence-based approaches Exploring intersectionality as an analytic tool for transforming the 'culture' of mental health practice Barriers to mental health services for Hmong Elders	Eve Puffer Nancy Clark Xiong Yee
	Paper session: War, conflict, and mental health The Impact of War, Displacement and Migration on Children and Families: A Family Systems Approach to Practice Mental health and psychosocial problems among conflict-affected adults in northern Bougainville: A rapid qualitative assessment Culture, violence and resistance in the Middle East: Experiences of women through an internet platform "Uprising of Women in the Arab World"	Marjorie Rabiau Shoshanna Fine Nathalie Baba
2:45 – 3:15	Break	

Time	Title	Speaker/Facilitator
3:15 – 4:45	Symposium: Cultural Affordances: An eco-psycho-social framework for rethinking culture in psychiatry	Samuel Veissière, Laurence Kirmayer, Ana Gómez-Carrillo
	Workshop: Hope Modules: Brief Psychotherapeutic Interventions to Counter Demoralization Among Refugees and Forcibly Displaced People	James Griffith
	Paper session: Cultural adaptation and global mental health Revised Outline for Cultural Formulation based on experience with the Cultural Formulation Interview for DSM-5 Using cultural and contextual insights to inform implementation strategies: An example of family therapy in Kenya Lessons from a Cross-Cultural China-Canada Suicide Prevention Research Project	Mitchell Weiss Bonnie Kaiser June Lam
	Paper session: Safety and cultural consultation Are we talking as professionals or as mothers? Cultural consultation in context: A comparison of intake and triage in Montreal, London and Paris Cultural Safety in Working with Refugees and Immigrants: The Case of Farsi-speaking Newcomers in Quebec	Monica Ruiz-Casares George Eric Jarvis Fahimeh Mianji

Time	Title	Speaker/Facilitator
4:45 – 5:45	Poster session	
	“Who am I after all this and where should I say that I am from?” Defining a culture of displacement and its impact on refugee self-framing and well being.	Grace Kyoon-Achan
	How to Identify the Cultural Idioms of Distress in Immigrant and Native American Patients	Clara Aisenstein
	Indigenous Research Methods: A Systematic Review	Alexandra Drawson
	“In Argentina, I was too Jewish and in Israel I am too Argentinian”: The compounded cultural distress experienced by adult Jewish Argentinian immigrants to Israel who experienced childhood trauma during the Military dictatorship in Argentina (1976-1983).	Sigalit Gal
	Loss and Opportunity in Acculturation: Recovery as clarification of cultural identity, a case study	Varsha Narasimhan
	The ‘global’ engulfs the ‘local’: Voices from community mental health organisations in Kerala, India.	Sudarshan R Kottai
	Cross Institutional Collaboration between Cambodia and University of Colorado	Isabelle Guillemet
	Islamic faith and tradition shape Ethical Perspectives on Refugee Patients in Jordan– A Phenomenological Approach	Eric Rafla-Yuan
	Mental Health Services in Northern Uganda	Lauren Weittenhiller
	Psychological problems of children migrated from other cultures	Tsezar Korolenko
	Catatonia in a Yemeni refugee	Jyotsna Ranga
	Implementing a New Training Program in Social and Cultural Psychiatry in Regional Australia	Bipin Ravindran
	Assessment for Experience of Microaggressions and Coping Strategies in Young Adults of color in the Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury Neighborhoods of Boston	Kuan-I Wu
	Medical Students learning the processual character of culture: Celebrating a decade of teaching experience in Uganda	Grace Akello
	The relationship of the Concept of Cultural Competence and strategies of Care for Culturally diverse populations in the Brazilian Public Health System	Luciana Carvalho
	Self-Definition, Diaspora, and Myth Formation	Samuel Okpaku
	Collective Trauma and Cultural Bereavement	Ezat Mossallanejad
6:00 – 8:00	Reception	

Program Schedule
Day 2, Friday, April 20, 2018

Time	Title	Speaker/Facilitator
8:30 – 10:00	Plenary panel: What does “culture” mean? Clinical, research, training, and policy perspectives	Cecile Rousseau Elizabeth Carpenter-Song Marjorie Kagawa Singer Helena Hansen Moderator: Roberto Lewis-Fernández
10:00 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 11:15	Plenary panel: Breakout discussion sessions	Shannon Suo (Clinical) Hendry Ton (Training) Emily Mendenhall (Research) Neil Aggarwal (Policy)
11:15 – 12:00	Plenary panel: Reporting back and discussion	
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch and Business Meeting	
1:30 – 3:00	Symposium: Cultures and the Opioid Epidemic in Central Appalachia	Larry Merkel, Claire Snell-Rood, Diana Robinson Discussant: Joseph Westermeyer
	Workshop: Publishing in Cultural Psychiatry	Laurence Kirmayer, Roberto Lewis-Fernández, Woody Gaines, Neil Aggarwal
	Workshop: All Psychotherapy is Cross-Cultural	Steven Wolin, Vincenzo Di Nicola
	Paper session: Cultural Competence The Aesthetic Imperative in Cross-Cultural Clinical Encounters The Evolving Definition of Culture and the Cultural Humility Approach in Mental Health Service Provision, Training, and Research Can Oregon Legislation successfully mandate Cultural Competence in Health Care?	Helgi Eyford Mayio Konidaris-Kozirakis Amela Blekic
3:00 – 3:30	Break	
3:30 – 5:00	Symposium: Culture and Curriculum: A comparison of Transcultural Psychiatry Training in Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal	George Eric Jarvis, Lisa Andermann, Azaad Kassam Discussant: Kenneth Fung
	Workshop: Teaching Adults in the Changing Culture of Medicine and Society	Shannon Suo, Hendry Ton, Andres Sciolla, Ruth Shim

Time	Title	Speaker/Facilitator
	Workshop: Intersectional Identities at Play in the “Culture” of American Psychiatry - How Do Mental Health Professionals Understand Their Obligations to Intervene When Discrimination Occurs in Clinical Settings?	Ian Hsu, Nikhil Patel, Nina Sreshta
	Paper session: Youth mental health Cultural safety in youth mental health services: clinicians’ and families’ use of culture as a mediator for dialogue	Janique Johnson-Lafleur
	Parent-child emotion discussion is linked to children’s socio-emotional competence in Chinese American immigrant families College Drinking Culture: Nature and Extent	Kaley Curtis Joseph Westermeyer

Program Schedule
Day 3, Saturday, April 21, 2018

Time	Title	Speaker/Facilitator
8:30 – 10:00	Symposium: From Cultural Competency to Structural Competency in Psychiatric Training and Practice	Helena Hansen, Joel Braslow, Selena Suhail-Sindhu, Parth Patel Discussant: Philippe Bourgois
	Workshop: Exploring the Complexity of Cultural Identity and Cultural Stressors/Supports through the film “The Music of Strangers: Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble”	Francis Lu, Ruth Shim, Andres Sciolla, Shannon Suo
	Workshop: Microaggressions	Tatiana Claridad, Ranna Parekh, Jai Gandhi, Rustin Dakota Carter
	Paper session: Task-shifting in mental health care Brief Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention in an Ethnic Minority Population: A Controlled Intervention “Are traditional healers psychotic?” and “I know a healer who cured psychosis”: sub-cultures among generalist clinicians engaged in mental health task-sharing in rural Nepal Evolving Concepts of Culture Brokers in Mental Health Care Settings	Alan Teo Pragya Rimal Eleanor McGroarty
10:00 – 10:30	Break	
10:30 – 12:00	Symposium: Three Ways of Looking at Culture: Social Class, Dialogues & Borders, Camps & Refugees	Vincenzo Di Nicola, Nadia Daly, Neda Faregh Discussant: Steven Wolin
	Workshop: How to use the Participatory Photography Assessment Tool (P-PAT) to engage children in research cross-culturally	Monica Ruiz-Casares
	Workshop: Working with Interpreters in Mental Health: Doing Therapy in Slow Motion	Georgi Kroupin
	Paper session: Indigenous perspectives Cultural Renewal in Indigenous Mental Health “Culture” across partners in a community-based suicide prevention program for Indigenous Youth in Ontario, Canada 'Linguistic Schizophrenia': Colonial Pathology and Cultural Re/Invention	Laurence Kirmayer Gerald McKinley Eden Almasude
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 2:30	Workshop: Teaching cultural psychiatry to address community mental health challenges	Anna Fiskin, Dawn Sung

Time	Title	Speaker/Facilitator
	Works-in Progress The Cultures of Competence in Multicultural Societies Developing a family version of the Cultural Formulation Interview Pursuing Cultural Competence at the Organizational and Clinical Levels: A System-Based Model Applied To a Community Center in NYC	Ana Gomez-Carrillo Vasudeo Paralikar Pamela Montano Arteaga
	Paper session: Cross-cultural concepts A Qualitative Analysis of Women with Depression in Bangalore: A Focus on Women's Experience Missing concept of hazardous and harmful alcohol use in the culture of collective drunkenness among the Peruvian Andean population 'Brain Fog': Metamorphosis of a symptom, syndrome and society	Pooja Lakshmin Sakiko Yamaguchi Oyedeji Ayonrinde
2:30 – 2:45	Break	
2:45 – 4:15	Workshop: Decolonizing mental health: caregivers as accomplices on the frontlines	Rosemary Fister
	Paper session: Culture/s of Medicine The Conflict between the Culture of Medicine (including Psychiatry) and the Heterogeneous Culture of Disability - What Needs to Change? Burnout: Once More, With Feeling Three Culturally-Based Hypotheses Linking Blackness, Madness, and Dangerousness	Bobby Chaudhuri Elizabeth Bromley King Davis
	Paper session: Identity, participation, and discrimination Does the Number of Reasons Matter? A Critical Review of Current Evidence on Multiple Discrimination and Health Strategies to Increase Filipino American Participation in Health Promotion: A Systematic Review The Entanglement of Spirituality, Culture, and Psychosis: Expanding our Perception of Mental Illness, Engaging Traditional Healers, and Nurturing Community	Sylvanna Vargas Gretchenjan Gavero Amanda Satterthwaite

The program is current as December 1st. Watch for updates early in the new year.

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)