

# Transforming Counseling Psychology Curriculum and Praxis Showcase

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Chair: Chiachih DC Wang

Workgroup members: Kimberly Burdine, Lenore Blum, Sarah Cronin, Ayse Ikizler, Paul Pohto & Yahaira Segarra



**SOCIETY OF  
COUNSELING  
PSYCHOLOGY**  
APA DIVISION 17

# Workgroup members background

Queer

Asian-American

White

Puerto Rican

MENA American

Black

Inmigration background

LGBTQ2S+



Male

Female

Cis-gender

Oklahoman

Early career

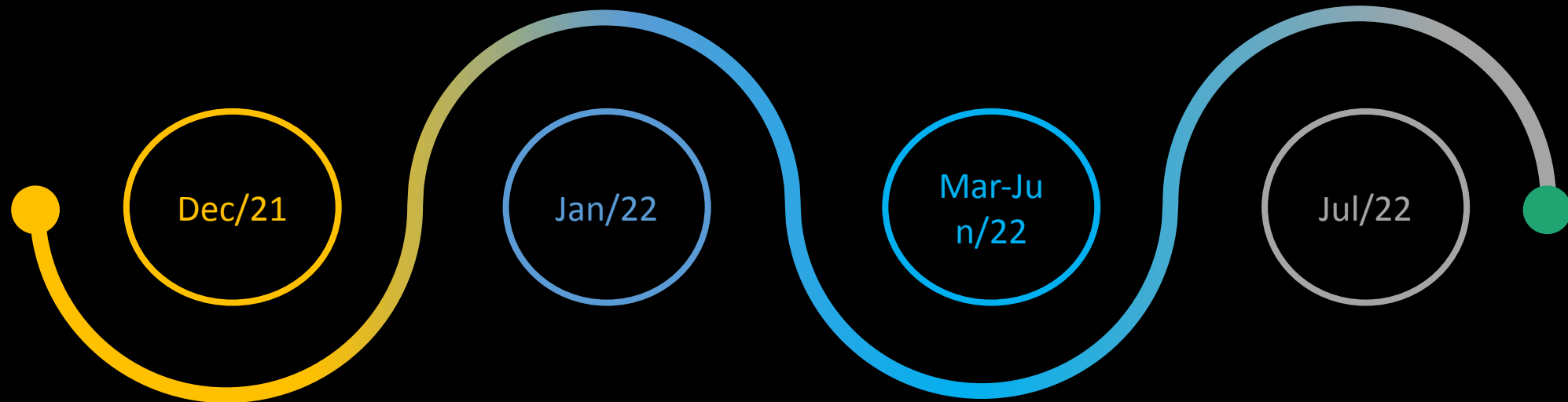
Mid-career

Retired

Practitioners

Scholars

# Timeline



## Virtual introduction

Kick-off, virtually meeting everyone through email. Arranging synchronous meeting.

## 1st zoom meeting

Brief member introductions, sharing ideas about what a decolonized CP curriculum should look like.

## Work meetings

Resource sharing, defining learning objectives, creating assignments

## Syllabus development

Structuring the syllabus: Organizing the main objectives with assignments and references.

# Decolonial Perspectives in Workgroup Process

- From the very first meeting, workgroup members expressed commitment to social justice and decolonizing counseling psychology
- This value system was foundational to the development of objectives and possible assignments
- We were explicit in how our own marginalized identities and backgrounds informed our ideas



# Core themes identified

Care practice

Professional Identity  
development

Specialty  
history/non-western  
contributions

Social justice/Ethical  
Practice

Epistemic diversity

# Learning Objectives

1

Acquire knowledge of the key features and historical evolution of the Counseling Psychology profession through the study of contributors from diverse backgrounds.

2

Understand how social context and systemic oppression impact marginalized groups.

3

Cultivate the development of professional identity as a culturally responsive counseling psychologist.

4

Explore theories of counseling psychology, including those that are aspirational, multicultural, indigenous, and interdisciplinary (social work, anthropology, sociology, etc.).

5

Understand biases and limitations embedded in current epistemology/methodology and diversify the process of knowledge production to increase methodological diversity and epistemic justice.

6

Recognize strength-based and culturally informed considerations and social justice as a critical aspect of ethical practice.

# Sample Assignments

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1

Students will choose two counseling psychologist contributors from diverse backgrounds. Then, they must review their bios, and do a literature review about their publications. After they will discuss in what ways those professionals have shaped or contributed to the advancement of the specialty and psychology overall.

2

Students will complete a genogram on their own to bring to class. Students then may reflect on different privileges / marginalization associated with their genogram and how that may have impacted their own identity and aspects of privilege / marginalization.

3

Students will review the Div 17 webpage and select a section or group of interest. Students will then come up with a novel idea to share with the section or group. Perhaps even inquire about joining the section or group that they have interest in.

# Sample Assignments

4

Critique colonial perspective; analyze the disruptive effects of the conventional counseling process and therapist-client relationships on clients of POC's wellbeing

- Review case examples for conceptualizations
- Introduce and analyze tasks of professional practice and clinical process

5

Students will design a hypothetical research study using traditionally CPSY methodology (e.g., community focused, phenomenological, etc.) to address a gap in the literature or a question that maybe has only been viewed via a quantitative lens. This can be bolstered by considerations of who would be sampled, examining inflicted insight or potential harm or benefit to participants, how the information would be used, etc.

6

Students will be exposed to vignettes of cases in which a course of action must be determined.

- The importance of non-discriminatory diagnostic evaluation methods.
- The repercussions of the decisions made, and how those can cause service inequities.



# Closing: What do we want our students to know about CPSY?

- “It is an honor to walk with our clients on their healing journeys; knowing ourselves and the values of counseling psychology help us see our clients in their contexts and serve them well.” **Sarah Cronin, Ph.D.**
- “This specialty is human-driven. We care and serve diverse human beings. We believe that everyone has strengths, and we acknowledge that some challenges that people face are often systemic. Thus, we want to support them, from all of our roles including advocacy and activism.” **Yahaira Segarra, Ph.D.**

# Closing: What do we want our students to know about CPSY?

“Counseling Psychology can be a beautiful profession that provides the opportunity for individuals to integrate their personal and professional selves in order to bring their whole selves to the table in an effort to help others.” **Ayşe S. İkizler, Ph.D.**

“I would want students to know the importance of leaving our world better than we found it and knowing that counseling psychology can play a large and vital role in that mission.” **Paul Pohto, Ph.D.**

# Closing: What do we want our students to know about CPSY?

"You are Counseling Psychology. Your people are Counseling Psychology. Your story is important. Your talents, your interests, and all of you is needed for the Counseling Psychology of tomorrow. You are your top priority, and the goal is to leave your program

1. having demonstrated competency and commitment to holding yourself accountable to lifelong learning,
2. with a clear(er) sense of your intentions for contribution as a future psychologist, and
3. affirmed in your own practice of care, healing, and liberation. It is quite the journey, and you have done it well if you maintain and grow the parts of you that are life-giving in the process." ~Kimberly Burdine, Ph.D.

# Closing: What do we want our students to know about CPSY?

- “Counselors must be continually aware of the personal needs, values, beliefs, biases and vulnerabilities they are bringing to their counseling sessions and how they might affect the counseling because they always have the potential to have a powerful effect.”  
**Lenore Blum, Ph.D.**
- “Counseling Psychology is committed to training culturally responsive professionals who continue to engage in self-reflection to examine the influences of social contexts and positionality on their own identity development as well as using our expertise and develop competencies to advocate and promote inclusion and social justice through research, training/teaching, practice, and service.”  
**Chiachih DC Wang, Ph.D.**