

# IN CONVERSATION WITH



## DR. ELIZABETH LOUIS

THE QUINTESSENCE SERIES:  
Interdisciplinary and International Work by SCPs

### INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

Dr. Louis is a psychologist at the department of psychiatry, Boston Medical Center. She is a recipient of the U.S. State Department Boren Fellowship and the Fogarty Global Health Fellowship. Dr. Louis has worked extensively in the area of global mental health through community building partnerships in Haiti and Rwanda.

### IMPACT

Dr. Louis identifies that although the impact of short-term community partnerships is not always measurable, qualitative feedback from the locals about the effectiveness of mental health projects is valuable. She continues to maintain mentorship relationships with the communities she worked with.

### SOURCE OF MOTIVATION

Dr. Louis shares that growing up in Miami, FL and being exposed to diverse settings, through the Upward Bound program in high school, cultivated her interest in global partnerships. As a doctoral student, she was involved in Div 52 and Div 17's international section. She actively sought global opportunities as a graduate student and completed her 4th year in Haiti as a Boren fellow and did her post-doc in Rwanda.

### BARRIERS

Dr. Louis describes that colonial structures and practices are noticeable in NGOs in both Haiti and Rwanda. She reflects on using her knowledge and experiences to collaborate with locals and both offering and seeking support from Black expats.

### ADVICE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

- Be proactive in reaching out to researchers in your area of interest.
- Use your summers to explore opportunities in the field of global mental health.
- Seek out information about global programs through your school's international office.
- Apply for funding through federal grants such as NIH Fogarty and Boren.