

In addition to MSP alumns, current MSP students and faculty are well-represented among presenters at this year's Division 32 Conference. **Congrats to the scholars who will be sharing their work!**

The 15th Society for Humanistic Psychology will be held virtually on March 25-27, 2022 at the live program schedule is available [here](#).

Fri., March 25, 3pm

We Shall Rise: Critical Praxis for Socioecological Justice of American Descendants of Slavery. Derrick Sebree, Jr.

Sat., March 26, 12pm

The Philosopher's Stone: Existential Humanistic Psychology in the Here-and-Now of Managed Care. Betz King, Adam Duberstein, (Andrea Brent, Dylan Oseas, B. Peterson, Cynthia Ransley, S. Sugarman)

Pre-recorded / Asynchronous Presentations

Imagination and it's Healing Powers- the Mythopoetic Function

Jamal Ghazi. The mental capacity to imagine is often neglected as a healing source for mental health distress. The research on the benefits and pathological structures of imagination is gradually growing. The perception of imagination, as a tool, is shifting from an invalid position to a system grounded in biology, called the mythopoetic function. Mental imagery produces re-experiences of the past and provides new possibilities via simulation (Pearson et al., 2015). The neural circuitry underlying simulated images that represent an actual experience is akin to the neural circuitry underlying the actual perception (Kosslyn et al., 2001). This system facilitates the mental representation of emotionally salient images leading to increased motivation and encouragement (i.e., 'motivational amplifier') for planned behaviors (Renner et al., 2019). Furthermore, for example, according to Gaesser et al (2017), simulating future events of assisting people in need resulted in an increased chance of actual assistance. These observations are consistent with Jung (1921) who understood fantasies as causally expressed as a symptom or as a symbol for the purpose of facilitating goal-directed behavior. The utility of exploring imagination in research is pertinent for understanding a mental faculty that could yield clinically

positive behavioral change. In this presentation, the examination of clinical and research applications on imagination as a psychotherapy tool and its impact on mental health will be discussed.

Climate Change and Racial Ideologies among White Americans: An Exploratory Study

Derrick Sebree Jr., Rebecca Jarvis, Carly Percy, and Morgan Van Leer. Climate change is quickly becoming a well-known home name; however we continue to see stratification in the ideologies and perceptions of the climate crisis. This study explores the relationships between social dominance, white racial affect, and symbolic racism on climate change denial. We hypothesized that both symbolic racism and white racial affect have a significant relationship to climate change denial. In addition, the researchers hypothesized that social dominance has a significant relationship with climate change denial. Survey methods were used for data collection and included the Short Social Dominance Orientation Scale, the Climate Change Denial Scale, Symbolic Racism Scale, and the White Racial Affect Scale. Preliminary results of a cluster analysis show evidence of two clusters, suggesting that there are two separate groups that demonstrated differences in cluster membership based on ideologies. These differences were evident in symbolic racism and climate change skepticism ideology. An introduction of the scales and terminology will be presented, while contextualizing the importance of the research through a multicultural praxis. Presenters will present this from an anti-racist framework focused on climate psychology/ecopsychology. Results will be interpreted through a Humanistic-Existential lens, with particular focus on deconstruction of White Supremacist frames in psychological research. Discussion on the impacts of this research and the implications for mental health will take place. Participants will be able to ask specific questions during the discussion and Q&A session

Police Brutality and Killings of Black Americans: Exploring Vicarious Trauma

Courtney Cabell. “Morally wounded” is a term that has been used by Blacks to describe their feelings associated with thinking of the torture and murder of George Floyd at the knee of a White police officer. “The wreckage haunts us,” has been echoed from their pain. The African Americans’ reflections on the traumatic brutality and murders of other Blacks by police, has significant implications on vicarious trauma. In a review of the current literature, it was found that the traumatic experience of police violence could be conceptualized through the history of violence against racial minorities. From 1980-2019, non-Hispanic, Blacks have been killed by police in the USA at higher rates than any other race or ethnicity. This history has created a ripple effect of insurmountable consequences to the Black community. These aggressive acts by law enforcement have been cited to cause interpersonal trauma which stems from the trauma of racism and intergenerational trauma. Also noteworthy, is the higher likelihood of a Black person being killed by police when having darker skin. Black survivors of police brutality and the family members of Black individuals who have been killed at the hands of the police become exposed to multiple traumas. Although the current literature discusses the trauma of survivors and victims’ families, it does not directly address the vicarious trauma experienced by Black Americans when they view graphic news reports, see video footage, or hear the suffering voices on audio of the countless Black men and women who were beaten or whose lives were taken by the police. This is especially important to understand when working with Blacks who are experiencing vicarious trauma. To address this gap in the literature, further study and exploration is needed.