



Health Psychology Ph.D. Program Newsletter **Summer 2016**



- 2 Program Updates and Events
- 3 Congratulations: Student and Faculty Achievements
- 5 Publications and Presentations
- 11 2015-2016 Student Cohort
- 14 New Health Psychology Faculty
- 15 Upcoming Conferences

Health Psychology Ph. D. Program
<http://healthpsych.uncc.edu/>



10th Anniversary Celebration!

To commemorate our 10-year anniversary, the Health Psychology Ph. D. Program hosted an anniversary celebration on May 5th, in the Harris Alumni Center at UNC Charlotte. At this event, we will celebrate what we have accomplished over the past decade. Various faculty members, current and former students, and university and community partners joined the celebration. I want to thank the planning committee (Alyssa Vela, Cara Blevins, Marie Hayes, Meredith Griffin, and Paisley Lewis) and all of the students, faculty, and staff who contributed to making this a successful event.

Program Meeting for Fall 2016

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: Colvard 3120

September 16, October 21, November 18th, and December 2nd.

HPGSA Update

It's been another exciting year for the Health Psychology Graduate Student Association. This year, with immense help from our Treasurer, Paisley Lewis, we were able to support several outstanding events, including the Southeastern ECO Conference organized by Vice President, Jackie Tynan, the HP interview day and social organized by Social Chair, Kirk Szczepkowski, and the Health Psychology 10-year anniversary celebration on May 5th.

One of our favorite initiatives each year is our involvement with the Greater Enrichment Program at Merry Oaks Elementary School. Organized by our Philanthropy Chair, Nicole Hilaire, our graduate students have volunteered there every month, planning fun, healthy, and educational afterschool projects for the kids. Among the activities this year were kid's yoga, optical illusions, and celebrating Earth Day!

This was also the inaugural year of the Graduate Student Mentoring Program, which was created to welcome incoming students and match them with advanced HP doctoral students for social and academic support. I am very lucky to work with such great students who really care about this program.

We've enjoyed seeing you at our coffee hour and look forward to another year of serving our students.

Sara Sagui
HPGSA President (2015-2016)

Congratulations to the members of the HGPSA Executive Board for 2016-2017!!

President: Nadia Jafari
Vice president: Jessica Taylor
Secretary: Oliva Riffle

Treasurer: Paisley Lewis
Philanthropy Chair: Meredith Griffin
Social Chair: Alyssa Minnick
General concentration rep: Nicole Hilaire
Clinical concentration rep: Alyssa Vela
Community concentration rep: Erin Godly-Reynolds

Congratulations!!!

Graduates

Congratulations to Jenna Ray (general), Jessica Groleau (clinical), Maysa DeSousa (general), Katherine Roof (general), and Virginia Johnson (community) for successfully completing the Program and receiving a doctoral degree Health Psychology.



**From Left to Right: Jenna Ray, Jessica Groleau, Maysa DeSousa, and Katherine Roof.
Fall 2015**



Virginia Johnson and Jim Cook; spring 2016

Internship Placements

Congratulations to our four advanced students who applied and matched for internships this year. Each student matched to one of their top choices and will be completing health psychology-related internships at nationally renowned sites.

Abigail Hardin: University of Washington, Behavior Medicine and Neuropsychology
Linda McWhorter: DuPont Children's Hospital, Pediatric Psychology
Michelle Rodriguez-Diaz: University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital, Outpatient Behavioral Health/Hispanic focus
Noy Phimphasone: West Haven VA (Connecticut), Clinical Health Psychology

Student Awards

Congratulations to **Cara Blevins** for winning that Outstanding Graduate Poster Award from 2nd Annual Veteran's Health Conference at UNC Charlotte. Cara was also recognized for Outstanding Service to APA Division 19-Military Psychology. Cara was also awarded the The Mind and Life Institute Summer Research Institute Fellowship Award, the UNC Charlotte Dorrie S. Fretwell Professional Development Award, an APA Outstanding Poster Award (Division 56: Trauma Psychology), and an APA Student Travel Award (Division 19: Military Psychology). Finally, Cara has been nominated for the P.E.O. International National Doctoral Scholar Fellowship.

Congratulations to **Spencer Fix** for winning the Francisco J. Varela Award for Contemplative research from the Mind and Life Institute.

Congratulations to **Jaimelee Behrendt-Mihalski** for being the inaugural recipient of the UNC Charlotte DRReaM Graduate Fellowship and for being named the National Student Representative for SCRA (APA Division 27) for a 2-year term.

Congratulations to **Jessica Taylor** who was accorded an honorable mention by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for her application to the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Receiving this honor is a significant national academic achievement.

Congratulations to **Sara Sagui** for being named the Outstanding Student Research and the Outstanding Student Teaching Assistant by the Health Psychology PhD Program. Sara was also awarded a student travel award from the Society for Personality and Social Psychology to attend their 2016 annual meeting.

Faculty Awards

Ryan Kilmer was awarded the 2016 Provost's Faculty Award for Community Engagement.

Margaret M. Quinlan was awarded the Bonnie E. Cone Early-Career Professorship in Teaching (2015-2018).

Andrew Case was recognized by the American Evaluation Association for an Exemplary Evaluation for "Consumer Researcher Driven Evaluation of Services at a Community Mental Health Center."

Faculty Achievements

Andrew Case: Received a two-year loan repayment award from the National Institutes of Health.

George Demakis was named to the Clinical Advisory Committee for Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, the country's largest mental health service plan. The Board meets quarterly and helps determine clinical policy and procedures for the many mental health practitioners that work with/or bill through Cardinal.

Ryan Kilmer was elected President of the American Orthopsychiatric Association. Founded in 1924, Ortho is a membership organization of professionals from psychiatry, psychology, social work, sociology, nursing, and law who are concerned about the application of mental health research to the creation of humane social policy, the improvement of mental health practice in a manner consistent with human rights, and the prevention of mental health problems.

Virginia Gil-Rivas was selected as Member at Large of the Board of Directors of the American Orthopsychiatric Association.

Magaret M. Quinlan (co-producer) of *Creative Abundance*. Feature-length documentary produced by L. M. Harter, E. Shaw, & **Margaret M. Quinlan**. Athens, OH: WOUB Center for Public Media. First released documentary in series entitled *The Courage of Creativity*. The series explores connections between art and well-being. Creative Abundance profiles the efforts of Patty Mitchell and Susan Dlouhy, activists working alongside individuals with disability who embrace an asset-approach for organizational innovation and social change.

Publications

Bute, J. J., †Quinlan, M. M., & Quandt, L. (2016). Informing or exploiting? Public responses to Giuliana Rancic's health narrative. *Health Communication*.

Carmack, H. J., DeGroot, J., & †Quinlan, M. M. (2015). "Topping from the bottom": Relational convergence of meaning in domestic discipline relationships. *Sexuality & Culture*, 19, 85-102.

Carmack, H. J., DeGroot, J., & †Quinlan, M. M. (2015). "A view from the top": Crafting the male "domdentity" in domestic discipline relationships. *The Journal of Men's Studies*, 23, 63-78.

†Case, A. D. & Gordon, D. M. (2016). Contextualizing the health behavior of Caribbean men. In J. L. Roopnarine & D. Chadee (Eds.), *Caribbean psychology: Indigenous Contributions to a Global Discipline*. Washington, D. C.: American Psychological Association

Cho, J. (South Korea), Lee, H. E. (South Korea), & †Quinlan, M. M. (2015). Complementary relationships between traditional media and health apps among American college students. *Journal of American College Health*, 63, 248-257.

†Davis, C. S., & †Quinlan, M. M. (2016). Living in a fat body: Communicating stigma, acceptance, and biodiversity. In J. Yamasaki, P. Geist-Martin, & B. F. Sharf (Eds.) *Storied health and illness: Communicating personal, cultural, and political complexities*. Independence, KY: Wadsworth.

†Davis, C. S., †Quinlan, M. M., & Kilby, D. (2016). Constructing the dead: Retrospective sensemaking in eulogies. *Death Studies*.

†Demakis, G., & †Reeve, C.L. (in press). Diagnostic differences and demographic predictors of respondents adjudicated civilly incompetent versus competent. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*.

Dunkel, C. S., †Reeve, C. L., Woodley, M. A., & van der Linden, D. (2015). A comparative study of the general factor of personality in Jewish and non-Jewish populations. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 78, 63-67.

- †Elnitsky, C., Fisher, M.P., & *Blevins, C.L. (under review). Conceptualizing Military and Veteran Reintegration: An Empirical Analysis and Integrative Model. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. Currently under review with a revise and resubmit.
- Fix, R. L., *Fix, S. T., Totura, C. M. W., & Burkhart, B. R. (2016). Disproportionate Minority Contact Among Juveniles Adjudicated for Sexual, Violent, and General Offending: The Importance of Home, School, and Community Contexts. *Crime & Delinquency*, 0011128715626162.
- Fix, R. L., & *Fix, S. T. (2015). Trait Psychopathy, Emotional Intelligence, and Criminal Thinking: Predicting Illegal Behaviors in College Students. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry*, 42, 183-188. doi:10.1016/j.ijlp.2015.08.024
- †Gil-Rivas, V., & †Kilmer, P. R. (in press). Building community capacity and fostering disaster resilience. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*.
- Hanges, P.J., Scherbaum, C., & †Reeve, C.L. (2015). There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than DGF. *Industrial and Organizational Psychology*, 8, 472-481.
- Highhouse, S, Zickar, M.J., Brooks, M.E., †Reeve, C.L., Sarkar-Barney, S.T., & Guion. R.M. (in press). A public-domain personality item bank for use with the Raymark, Schmit, and Guion (1997) PPRF. *Personnel Assessment and Decisions*.
- †Hopcroft, Rosemary L. (2016). *Evolution and Gender: Why It Matters for Contemporary Life*. Routledge
- Hunter, C. D., †Case, A. D., Joseph, N., Bokhari, E. (2016). Race-related stress and depression in Black Caribbean Americans: What is the role of shared racial fate and connection with African Americans? *Journal of Black Psychology, Advance Online Publication*
- Johnson, B. & †Quinlan, M. M. (in press). Insiders and outsiders and insider(s) again in the (in)fertility world. *Health Communication*.
- Johnson, B., & †Quinlan, M. M. (in press). High-society framing and mythology: *The Brooklyn Eagle* and the popularity of Twilight Sleep in Brooklyn. *Health Communication*.
- Johnson, B., & †Quinlan, M. M. (2015). Technical vs. public spheres of knowledge: A feminist analysis of women's rhetoric in the Twilight Sleep debates of 1914-1916. *Health Communication*, 30, 1076-1088. doi:10.1080/10410236.2014.921269
- †Levens, S. M., Elrahal, F., & *Sagui, S. J. (in press). The role of family support and perceived stress reactivity in predicting depression in college freshman. *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*.
- †McAnulty, R. D., & *Griffin, M. M. (2015). Teen pregnancy. In P. Moglia (Ed.), *Salem health: Adolescent health and wellness*. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press.

- †McAnulty, R. D., & *Griffin, M. M. (2015). Virginitly. In P. Moglia (Ed.), *Salem health: Adolescent health and wellness*. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press
- †Quinlan, M. M., & Bates, B. R. (2015). Unsmoothing the cyborg: Technology and the body in integrated dance. *Disability Studies Quarterly*. <http://dsq-sds.org/article/view/3783/3792>
- *Sagui, S. J., & †Levens, S. M. (in press). Brief Report: Cognitive reappraisal ability buffers against the indirect effects of stress reactivity on type 2 diabetes. *Health Psychology*.
- Sweeney, J. B., †McAnulty, R. D., †Reeve, C.L., & Cann, A. (2015). An intervention for HPV risk reduction based on the Theory of Planned Behavior: An exploratory study with college-aged women. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, 10, 199-217.
- *Taylor, J.J., *Papay, K.A., †Webb, J.B., & †Reeve, C.L. (in press). The good, the bad, and the interactive: Evaluative concerns perfectionism moderates the effect of personal strivings perfectionism on self-esteem. *Personality and Individual Differences*.
- †Tedeschi, R.G. & *Blevins, C.L. (in press). Posttraumatic Growth: A pathway to resilience. In U. Kumar (Ed.) *Resilience: A Psychosocial Perspective*.
- †Tedeschi, R.G., & *Blevins, C.L. (2015). From Mindfulness to Meaning: Implications for the Theory of Posttraumatic Growth. *Psychological Inquiry*, 26, 373-376.
- Vishnevsky, T., †Quinlan, M. M., †Kilmer, R., Danhauer, S., & Cann, A. (2015). “The keepers of stories”: A grounded theory study of posttraumatic growth and wisdom in a sample of oncology nurses. *Journal of Holistic Nursing*.
- †Webb, J. B., & *Hardin, A. S. (in press). An integrative affect regulation process model of internalized weight bias and intuitive eating in college women. *Appetite Special Issue: Weight Stigma and Eating Behavior*.
- †Webb, J. B. (2015). Body image flexibility contributes to explaining the link between body dissatisfaction and body appreciation in White college-bound females. *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1016/j.jcbs.2015.06.001
- †Webb, J. B., Wood-Barcalow, N. L., & Tylka, T. L. (2015). Assessing positive body image: Contemporary approaches and future directions. *Body Image*, 14, 130-145. doi: 10.1016/j.bodyim.2015.03.010
- †Webb, J. B., & *Jafari, N. (in press). *Body objectification*. Entry to appear in the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Psychology and Gender*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

† Denotes Health Psychology Program faculty/auxiliary faculty

* Denotes Health Psychology Doctoral Student

Presentations

Alia, K. & †Scott, V. (2015). *Translating Program Theory into Implementation and Evaluation Across Multiple Systems: Using FORECAST in the SCALE Project*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

*Blevins, C.L., Elnitsky, C., Sery, P., Junious, E., †Tedeschi, R.G., †Canevello, A.B., Warren-Findlow, J., Vacchi, D., & Wiese, D. (2016). *Associations Between Health Related Quality of Life Variables and Academic Success in OEF/OIF Veterans*. Poster to be presented at the 2nd Annual UNC Charlotte Veteran Health Conference, Charlotte, NC.
*Award recipient- Outstanding Division Poster

*Blevins, C.L., Haselden, M., Swaim, M.S., Beaver, K., Cann, A., & †Tedeschi, R.G. (2016). *Living the Good Life: Posttraumatic Growth and Both Hedonic and Eudaimonic Well-Being*. Poster to be presented at the 124th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.

Blevins, C.L., Porter, A.M., *Sagui, S.J., & †Reeve, C.L. (2016). *Using Latent Growth Curve Modeling to Examine Longitudinal Changes in Religiousness and Biopsychological Outcomes*. Poster to be presented at the 124th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.

Chirinos, D. A., *Smith, C. E., Turner, A. D., Wyatt, J., Manber, R., & Ong, J. C. (2016). *Profile of cognitive and affective symptoms of insomnia as predictors of short- and long-term treatment response*. Poster presented at the Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation, Chicago, IL.

Davies, A., Davis, S., Hardy, A., *Palmer, B., *Vela, A., *Minnick, A., †Cachelin, F., & †Gil-Rivas, V. (2015, October). *Women's Health Project: A Community-Based Program of Research*. Poster presented at the annual Southeast ECO Conference, Charlotte, NC.
Recipient of the Alex Ojeda Poster Award.

†Elnitsky, C., †Warren-Findlow, J., *Blevins, C.L., Sery, P., Junious, E., Vacchi, D., & Wiese, D. (2016). *Combat Trauma Injuries and Academic Success of Student Service Members and Veterans*. Poster to be presented at the Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Boston, MA.

Fu, D., Bonaccio, S., Lysterly, J., & †Reeve, C.L. (2015). *Influence of academic entitlement on learning and class related emotions and motivation*. Paper presented at the 76th Canadian Psychology Association Annual Convention, Ottawa, ON

*Godly-Reynolds, E & †Scott, V. (2015, October). *"Hot Topic" in American education: Can Community Psychologist help?* Presented at the Southeastern Ecological Community Conference, Charlotte, NC.

- Emmet, W., Wrenn, G., & †Scott, V. (2015, Dec 16). *Getting Ready for Integrated Care: Action-Oriented Enabling Tools*. [Webinar]. In IBM's People for Smarter Cities: Leaders' Edition Virtual Roundtable Webinar Series.
- †Hopcroft, R., (2015). Parental Investments and Educational Outcomes: Trivers Willard in the U.S." Paper presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.
- *Lewis, P., *Riffle, O., *Orejuela, A., *Blevins, C.L., & Cann, A. (2016). Resolution of a Traumatic Event and Posttraumatic Growth: Differences by Event Type. Poster to be presented at the UNC Charlotte Graduate Research Symposium, Charlotte, NC
- *Minnick, A. M., Davies, A., Hardy, A., *Palmer, B., *Vela, A., Davis, S., †Cachelin, F., & †Gil-Rivas, V. (2016, August). *Variables associated with treatment outcome in Latina women who binge eat*. Poster accepted for presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.
- Moss, S. A., Rogers, E. S., †Webb, J. B., & Ambwani, S. (2015). *Letting survivors speak: How should we define recovery and why does it matter? A qualitative investigation*. Poster presented at the 2015 International Conference on Eating Disorders, Boston, MA.
- Moss, S. A., Rogers, E. S., †Webb, J. B., & Ambwani, S. (2015). *Stronger than ever before: A qualitative study of posttraumatic growth through eating disorder recovery*. Poster presented at the 2015 International Conference on Eating Disorders, Boston, MA.
- *Sagui, S. J., *Blevins, C. L., & †Levens, S. M. (2016). Don't worry, be happy: Longitudinal changes in positive affect predict behavioral health outcomes. Thematic Flash Talk accepted for presentation at the Society for Affective Science Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- *Sagui, S. J., & †Levens, S. M. (2016, January). *Mechanisms of mindfulness in predicting health-enhancing behaviors*. Poster presented at the 17th Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego, CA.
- †Scott, V., Mock, K., Danquah-Duah, K., Cartledge, C., & *Godly-Reynolds, E. (2015, November). *Multi-Method Approach to Improving Healthcare Quality in a Complex System*. Poster presented at the annual meeting for the American Evaluation Association Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Sery, P., Elnitsky, C., *Blevins, C.L., Junious, E., Vacchi, D., Wiese, D., & Copolla, S. (2016). Student Veterans: A longitudinal study of 4- to 6- year graduation trajectories. Poster to be presented at the 2nd Annual UNC Charlotte Veteran Health Conference, Charlotte, NC.
- *Smith, C. E., & †Gil-Rivas, V. (2016). *The contribution of emotion dysregulation to sleep quality*. Poster to be presented at the Society for Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions, Washington, D.C.

- Swaim, M., *Blevins, C.L., & †Tedeschi, R.G. (2016). *Examining the effects of posttraumatic growth and mindfulness on perceived stress in combat exposed veterans of OEF/OIF*. Poster submitted to the 124th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.
- *Taylor, J. J., & †Webb, J. B. (2015). *A conditional process model of worry about physical imperfections based on level of self-compassion*. Poster presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine's 36th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions, San Antonio, TX.
- †Tedeschi, R.G., *Blevins, C.L., †Canevello, A.B., †Elnitsky, C., & French, N. (2016). *Military Service Members and Challenges to reintegration: Data and Applications*. Symposium to be presented at the 124th Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association, Denver, CO.
- Turner, A. D., *Smith, C. E., Chirinos, D. A., Wyatt, J., Manber, R., & Ong, J. C. (2016). The contribution of stress, anxiety, and beliefs about sleep to mindfulness-based insomnia treatment response. Poster to be presented at SLEEP, Denver, CO.
- *Vela, A.M., *Minnick, A., *Palmer, B.E., Davies, A., †Gil-Rivas, V., & †Cachelin, F.C. (2016, March). *Self-reported health ratings in Latinas suffering from binge eating*. Poster presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.
- †Warren-Finlow, J., & †Reeve, C.L. (2015). Validation of a brief self-report index to assess DASH diet quality. Paper at the ISBNPA annual meeting, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- †Webb, J. B. (2015). *Body image flexibility and affect regulation perspectives on positive body image*. Paper presented as part of the APA Division 35 Symposium entitled Beyond Negative Body Image—Innovative Constructs Carve out Paths to Embodied Well-being, APA 2015 Convention, Toronto, CANADA.
- †Webb, J. B., *Jafari, N., & *Fiery, M. F. (2015). *A conditional process model of fat talk in college women based on level of self-compassion*. Poster presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine's 36th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions, San Antonio, TX.

† Denotes Health Psychology Program faculty/auxiliary faculty

* Denotes Health Psychology Doctoral Student

2015-2016 Student Cohort



Drew Gadaire

BS in Psychology from Davidson College

Community Concentration

Drew is interested in youth development in marginalized populations and community factors/interventions that may improve outcomes for at-risk youth. Drew is also interested in education and the healthy development of immigrant youth.



Erin Godly-Reynolds

M.Ed. in Sport Administration from Wingate University, 2011

B.A. in Psychology and Dual Certification (Childhood Education/Special Education) from Marist College, 2008

Community Concentration

Erin is interested in the prevention of childhood obesity and Type II diabetes; mother and infant wellness, specifically breastfeeding duration and rates in minority populations; utilizing program evaluation and implementation science to address challenges in educational and healthcare systems; and access to free and appropriate education for all children, including children with special needs and children from low SES households.



Meredith Griffin

BS in Psychology with Highest Honors from UNC Chapel Hill

Clinical Concentration

Meredith is interested in the hookup culture on college campuses, online mobile dating application use (i.e. Tinder), and romantic relationships.



Marie Hayes

BA in Psychology from the University of Albany (SUNY)

Clinical Concentration

Marie's current research interests are the application of technology to the prevention of disease through interventions promoting positive health behaviors, primarily in populations that are otherwise non-treatment seeking, or hard to reach.



Alyssa Minnick

BA, Psychology, Dickinson College, 2011

M.S., Clinical Psychology, Loyola University of Maryland, 2013

Clinical Concentration

Alyssa's research interests are eating disorders, obesity, weight loss maintenance, social and interpersonal factors (e.g., fat talk) that contribute to body dissatisfaction and disordered eating incorporating technology into treatment



Sydney Park

BA in Psychology with a minor in Biological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Clinical Concentration

Sydney is interested in executive functioning and emotion regulation



Brittany Price

BA in Psychology and BS in Animal Science from North Carolina State University

Clinical Concentration

Brittany is interested in stress, health disparities and physiological markers of stress.



Lydia Roos

Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the College of Charleston

General Concentration

Emotional trauma, health behaviors, and yoga, and their effects on stress reactivity, immune function, and the neuroendocrine system.

New Health Psychology Faculty



Victoria Scott

As a community psychologist, I work across settings and ecological levels (e.g., individual, program, organizational, community) to promote collective wellness using strength-based approaches. I have a background in clinical-community psychology and business, and particularly enjoy projects that involve interdisciplinary collaboration. My interests relate primarily to capacity building and the processes involved in spreading capacities across systems to elevate social impact. I am passionate about working with health care systems and community organizations. Currently my colleagues and I are working with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement on the Spreading Community Accelerators through Learning and Evaluation (SCALE) Initiative, a national effort to enhance the readiness and capabilities of communities for healthy outcomes. My research team is also collaborating with the Kennedy Forum and Morehouse School of Medicine to develop an instrument for measuring and improving the readiness of organizations for integrating behavioral health and primary care. Additionally, we are working in partnership Palmetto Health and the University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Columbia to study the impact of frontline nurse engagement in quality improvement activities. With a commitment toward bridging the gap between research and practice, we are continuously working to bring the fruits of our research into to hands of practitioners.



Andrew Case

My research focuses on the psychology of marginality and resilience with specific attention given to the experiences of African Americans and Black immigrants. Through one line of inquiry, I examine marginality as a social-structural determinant of health and life outcomes, identifying the specific pathways through which minority status adversely impacts physical and psychological health in adults and educational attainment and justice system-involvement in youth. Through another line of inquiry, I examine how individuals collectively resist marginality and enhance their wellbeing. I use the Counterspaces Framework to identify settings (e.g., churches, cultural organizations) and the setting processes within them (e.g., narrative identity work, social support) that foster resilience to racial marginality. To better illuminate the transactions between these settings and the persons who participate in them, I routinely employ context-sensitive approaches and methodologies including PAR/CBPR, participant observation, document analysis, and interviewing. As a community psychologist I hold a deep commitment to transformation; ultimately, I seek to use my research and consultation activities to enhance the social-structural conditions that precipitate favorable outcomes for racial/ethnic minority individuals within health, education, and justice systems.

Upcoming Conferences

American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology

Chicago, IL
June 9-12, 2016

International Regional Stress and Behavior Conference

Miami, FL
June 22-24, 2016

American Psychological Association Annual Convention

Denver, Colorado
August 4-7, 2016

Integrative Medicine for Mental Health

Washington D.C.
September 29 – October 2

American Evaluation Association

Atlanta, Georgia
October 24-29, 2016

Southeastern ECO Conference

Atlanta, GA (Georgia State University)

October 21-22

International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Dallas, TX

November 10, 2016

International Society of Behavioral Medicine

Melbourne, Australia

December 7-10, 2016