



# **Eighth Annual**

## **PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS**

*Reducing Health Inequalities Within and Among Countries:  
Psychology's Contributions to the United Nations  
Post-2015 Global Agenda*

**United Nations Headquarters Conference Building CR-3  
New York, New York**

**Thursday 30 April 2015  
3:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Website: [www.unpsychologyday.org](http://www.unpsychologyday.org)**

**Facebook: UN Psychology Day**

**Twitter: @UNPsychologyDay**

**#PsychDayUN2015**

**Email: UNPsychDay@gmail.com**

**Co-Sponsored by\***

**The Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations  
and**

**The Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations**

*\*See the final page of this program for a complete list of co-sponsors.*

## PROGRAM

### **EIGHTH ANNUAL PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS**

**THEME: *Reducing Health Inequalities Within and Among Countries:  
Psychology's Contributions to the United Nations Post-2015 Global Agenda***

*World health crises, such as the recent Ebola epidemic, underscore the necessity of access to resources by individuals, families, and communities for the well-being of affected populations. This program examines global health inequities with special attention to understanding and addressing psychosocial well-being, which is often overlooked in health crises but related to resiliency. Presenters will address integrating psychological science into the health care response, and promoting mental health and well-being into the United Nations Post-2015 vision, voice, and programs.*

### **REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Chair of the Eighth Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations:

**Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP**

*NGO Representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI Representative) for the American Psychological Association; Professor and University Fellow, Illinois School of Professional Psychology, Argosy University, Chicago, IL.*

### **OPENING REMARKS**

**H.E. Ambassador Rubén I. Zamora**

*Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations*

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Brian D. Smedley, Ph.D.**

*Executive Director, National Collaborative on Health Equity*

*Title of Presentation: "Advancing Health Equity: Addressing the Needs of Marginalized Populations through a Focus on Social Determinants"*

### **Q & A**

## **BREAK**

## **PANEL**

**Moderator: Roseanne Flores, Ph.D.**  
*American Psychological Association*

### **Speakers:**

**Barbara C. Wallace, Ph.D.**  
*Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University*  
Title of Presentation: *“African and Global Indigenous Perspectives on Health and Psychological Well-Being: Toward a Health-Psychological Science for Healing from the Trauma of Racism and/or Oppression”*

**Tahereh Ziaian, Ph.D.**  
*Professor, Division of Health Sciences, University of South Australia*  
Title of Presentation: *“The Impacts of Inequality on the Efficacy of Health Care among Underserved Populations: Migrant and Refugee Mental Health in Australia”*

**Bonnie K. Nastasi, Ph.D.**  
*Professor, Tulane University*  
Title of Presentation: *“Promoting Psychological Health and Well-Being of Children, Youth, and Families Under Stressful Conditions: Engaging Local Communities in Cultural Construction of Programs”*

**George Ayala, Psy.D.**  
*Executive Director, Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)*  
Title of Presentation: *“Structural Violence and Its Impact on Achieving UNAIDS’ Accelerated HIV Targets Among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) Worldwide”*

**Discussant: H.E. Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto**  
*Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations*

## **Q & A and DISCUSSION**

**Moderator: Miriam Vega, Ph.D.**  
*Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues*

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP**

*NGO Representative to the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI Representative) for the American Psychological Association; Professor and University Fellow, Illinois School of Professional Psychology, Argosy University, Chicago, IL.*

## **RECEPTION**

**Cibo Restaurant**

767 Second Avenue (between 41st and 42nd Streets)

**(NOTE: Advance reservations required.)**

## **EIGHTH ANNUAL PSYCHOLOGY DAY at the UNITED NATIONS** **30 April 2015**

**Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP**

*Chair, Psychology Day 2015 Planning Committee*



**Neal S. Rubin, Ph.D., ABPP**

Neal S. Rubin is a Professor and University Fellow at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Chicago and an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Rubin has been certified as a Diplomate in Clinical Psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Clinical Psychology (AACP). He is also a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Eastern Psychological Association (EPA). Since 2003 Dr. Rubin has served on the American Psychological Association's United Nations NGO Team at UN Headquarters in New York City. In this role, he works to contribute to psychologically informed global policies, utilizing research-based psychological information and resources pertinent to the behavioral dimensions of social issues worldwide. Dr. Rubin is Past President of Division 52 (International Psychology) of the APA and has served on the Executive Board of the International Council of Psychologists (ICP) as Director at Large (2011-2013). [Email: [nealrubin@hotmail.com](mailto:nealrubin@hotmail.com)]

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### **BIOGRAPHIES OF PROGRAM SPEAKERS**

*(Listed in Order of Presentation)*

#### **OPENING REMARKS**



**H.E. Ambassador Rubén I. Zamora**

Ruben I. Zamora is Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations for El Salvador. He obtained his Licenciatura en Ciencias Jurídicas (Law) from the University of El Salvador, and his M.A. in Political Science from Essex University, England. Prior to holding the position of Ambassador to the United Nations, he was head of the Political Science Department at the University of El Salvador, and Visiting Lecturer and Researcher at various universities, including San Carlos and Rafael Landivar (Guatemala), Stanford (USA), Wilson Center, Washington DC (USA), and Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Notre Dame (USA).

Dr. Zamora is a Founder and Board Member of INTERPEACE (formerly WSP-International), Geneva, Switzerland, and President of the Salvadorian Institute for Democracy (ISPADE). He previously consulted for UNDP on programs in Guatemala, Panama, and Cyprus. He has held numerous political positions in El Salvador, including member of the Legislative Assembly, candidate to the Presidency of the Republic (1994 and 2000), Founder and Vice-President of the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR), Founder and General Secretary of the Social Christian Popular Movement, and, most recently, the United Democratic Center (CDU). He was formerly Ambassador of El Salvador to India.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER



### **Brian D. Smedley, Ph.D.**

Brian D. Smedley is co-founder and Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity ([www.nationalcollaborative.org](http://www.nationalcollaborative.org)), a project that connects research, policy analysis, and communications with on-the-ground activism to advance health equity. From 2008 to 2014, Dr. Smedley was Vice President and Director of the Health Policy Institute of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, DC, a research and policy organization focused on addressing the needs of communities of color. Formerly, Dr. Smedley was Research Director and co-founder of a communications, research and policy organization, The Opportunity Agenda ([www.opportunityagenda.org](http://www.opportunityagenda.org)), which seeks to build the national will to expand opportunity for all. Prior to helping launch The Opportunity Agenda, Dr. Smedley was a Senior Program Officer in the Division of Health Sciences Policy of the Institute of Medicine (IOM), where he served as Study Director for the IOM reports, *In the Nation's Compelling Interest: Ensuring Diversity in the Health Care Workforce* and *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*, among other reports on diversity in the health professions and minority health research policy. Among his awards and distinctions, in 2013 Smedley received the American Public Health Association's Cornely Award for social activism; in 2009 Smedley received the Congressional Black Caucus Congressional Leadership in Advocacy Award; in 2004 he was honored by the Rainbow/PUSH coalition as a "Health Trailblazer" award winner; and in 2002 he was awarded the Congressional Black Caucus "Healthcare Hero" award.

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## PANEL SPEAKERS



### **Barbara C. Wallace, Ph.D.**

Dr. Barbara Wallace is Psychologist, tenured Professor of Health Education, Coordinator of Programs in Health Education and Community Health Education, Director of Health Equity for the Center for Health Equity and Urban Science Education, Director of the Research Group on Disparities in Health, and Director of Global HELP – Health Education Leadership Program within the Department of Health and Behavior Studies, Teachers College, Columbia University. She is a Fellow within Divisions 50 (Addictive Behaviors) and 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues), American Psychological Association. Her books include: *Crack Cocaine: A Practical Treatment Approach for the Chemically Dependent* (1991), *The Chemically Dependent: Phases of Treatment and Recovery* (Editor, 1992), *Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families: Prevention, Intervention and Treatment for Community Mental Health Promotion* (1996), *Understanding and Dealing with Violence: A Multicultural Approach* (with Co-Editor Robert T. Carter, Ph.D., 2003), *HIV/AIDS Peer Education Training Manual: Combining African Healing Wisdom and Evidence-Based Behavior Change Strategies* (2005), *Making Mandated Addiction Treatment Work* (2005), and *Toward Equity in Health: A New Global Approach to Health Disparities* (2008). She is Editor-in-Chief of the online open access *Journal of Equity in Health* (JEHonline.org) and has published numerous journal articles and chapters in edited books.

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**Tahereh Ziaian, Ph.D.**

Dr. Tahereh Ziaian, B.Sc. (Hons), M.Ed.Psych., Ph.D. (Health Psych), MAPS, is a Community Health Psychologist and a senior lecturer with the Division of Health Sciences, the University of South Australia. She has a long and extensive engagement in transcultural psychology and public health working with different groups in a tertiary environment, primary health care and mental health areas, both in private and public health settings. The research Dr. Ziaian conducts offers innovative insights relevant to issues confronting the health of the public, health services and social support research. Her innovation in forging new multidisciplinary and theoretical ground is acknowledged by her medical, mental health, and nursing research colleagues as having potential for real impact on how refugee and migrant people living with mental health conditions, think about their health status and their use of health services. Dr. Ziaian was appointed for the UniSA's Research Leadership Program to provide new leadership for the institution and the wider state and national research effort. She was also appointed by the Governor of South Australia to be a member of Health Performance Council (HPC), to play a key role in advising the Minister for Health on the effectiveness of the health system and health outcomes for South Australians and specific population groups. She has been the recipient of many awards including a 'British Commonwealth Award for Excellence in Women's Health' for the 'Non-English Speaking Background Women and Violence Project,' and the 'Equal Opportunity Achievement Award, Individual Category.'

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**Bonnie K. Nastasi, Ph.D.**

Bonnie Kaul Nastasi, Ph.D. (Kent State University, 1986, School Psychology & Early Childhood Education), Professor of Psychology, co-directs the trauma specialization in School Psychology at Tulane University, New Orleans, USA. Her research focuses on the use of mixed methods designs to develop and evaluate culturally constructed assessment and intervention approaches for promoting mental health and reducing health risks such as sexually transmitted infections, both within the US and internationally. She has worked in Sri Lanka since 1995 on development of school-based programs to promote psychological well-being and directed a multi-country study of psychological well-being of children and adolescents with research partners in 12 countries from 2008-2013. She was one of the principal investigators of an interdisciplinary public health research program to prevent STIs among married men and women living in the slums of Mumbai, India, from 2002-2013. She is active in promotion of child rights and social justice within the profession of school psychology and is an Associate of the International Institute of Child Rights and Development. Dr. Nastasi is a past-president of Division 16 of the American Psychology Association (APA), past co-chair of APA's Committee on International Relations in Psychology, and incoming President-Elect of the International School Psychology Association. Email: [bnastasi@tulane.edu](mailto:bnastasi@tulane.edu)

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**George Ayala, Psy.D.**

George Ayala, Psy.D., has worked in the non-profit HIV/AIDS sector managing multi-million dollar budgets and supervising large, interdisciplinary teams of professionals for nearly 25 years. His expertise ranges from international development and public health policy to program implementation and evaluation. A clinical psychologist by training, Dr. Ayala has conducted HIV community-based social science and intervention research since 1996. His research has mainly focused on understanding the mechanisms through which social discrimination affects the risk for HIV among gay men of color in the U.S. He has more recently explored the facilitators and barriers to HIV-related services and the HIV treatment cascade through his international cross-sectional online survey research with gay men/MSM. Dr. Ayala is currently the founding Executive Director of the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), an international advocacy and technical support organization devoted to ensuring equitable access to effective HIV services for gay men and other men who have sex with men, while promoting their health and human rights worldwide.

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**H.E. Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto**

H.E. Dr. Caleb Otto is the current Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations. Ambassador Otto is the founder of the Coalition for a Tobacco Free Palau and was the negotiator representing Palau on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control for which he received the WHO Director General Award in 2003. He championed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Palau. His advocacy for human rights includes work on the Implementation of the Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes as the means to ensure the rights of infants to breastmilk, work on Rights of Persons with Disability, Women's rights under CEDAW and rights of the Indigenous People, including protection of traditional and cultural heritage. In Palau, Ambassador Otto had served as a Senator in the National Congress for 1 term of 4 years. He was on the Board of the Palau National Olympic Committee and was the team physician to the 2012 Olympics in London. During the recently concluded United Nations Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, he led the efforts to include mental health and well-being in the targets under the goal on health and advocated for availability and access to water as matter of human rights. He also advocated strongly for a stand-alone goal on peaceful and stable society, grounded on tolerance, acceptance and understanding, as an important component of a firm foundation for sustainable development as well as stand-alone goals on Oceans and Climate Change, respectively.

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## **Panel Moderators**



### **Roseanne L. Flores, Ph.D.**

Dr. Flores is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at Hunter College of the City University of New York. She received her Ph.D. from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and more recently an Advanced Certificate in Public Administration and Public Policy as well as a Certificate in Health Care Policy and Administration both from the CUNY School of Professional Studies. She is a Developmental Psychologist by training and was a National Head Start Fellow in the Office of Head Start in Washington, DC in 2009-2010 where some of her work focused on research, practices and policies that influenced children, families, and communities. In 2013 she participated in the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities Translational Health Disparities course which provided her with a foundation for much of her current research and scholarship which addresses the effect of poverty on the health and educational outcomes of minority children and families. Roseanne is currently serving as an ECOSOC Representative to the United Nations for the American Psychological Association (APA), as well as a member of the Coalition for Psychology in Schools and Education at the APA. In addition, she is currently a member of the NGO Committee on Children's Rights, New York. She can be reached at [rlbflores@gmail.com](mailto:rlbflores@gmail.com).

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### **Miriam Vega, Ph.D.**

Dr. Vega, an experienced executive of non-profits who has a Ph.D. in Social Psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. from Vassar College in Psychology, is currently the Executive Director of AIDS Project of the East Bay. She completed a two-year Prevention Fellowship at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A majority of her work has focused on the issues of health disparities, culture and stigma. To that end she conducts program evaluation research as well as communications research with a focus on social marketing and media. Furthermore, she conducts operations and structural level intervention research. Along with her colleagues, Dr. Vega has created, tested, and published an intervention targeting gay Latino men called SOMOS (Vega, Spieldenner, DeLeon, & Nieto, 2010). She has also managed, coordinated and provided capacity building assistance, technical assistance, coaching, and consultations to state and local health department and community-based organizations. In that capacity, Dr. Vega created the CHANGE (customized, holistic, analytical, network-building, grassroots and evaluatory) model of capacity building (Vega, 2009). She has recently presented her latest research project titled "#retweet This" at the International AIDS Conference looking at the intersection of twitter, stigma and HIV/AIDS. She can be reached at [dr.miriam.y.vega@gmail.com](mailto:dr.miriam.y.vega@gmail.com)

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## **Co-Sponsoring Organizations**

### **The Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations**

### **The Permanent Mission of Palau to the United Nations**

American Psychological Association (APA)

Academic Division, New York State Psychological Association (NYSPA)

Association for Trauma Outreach & Prevention (ATOP) (Meaningfulworld)

Division of International Psychology (APA Division 52)

Division of Psychoanalysis (APA Division 39)

Institute for Multicultural Counseling and Education Services (IMCES)

International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP)

International Council of Psychologists (ICP)

International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)

OrgVitality

Psi Chi

Psychology Coalition of NGOs Accredited at the United Nations (PCUN)

Society for Environmental, Population, and Conservation Psychology (APA Division 34)

Society for General Psychology (APA Division 1)

Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) (APA Division 14)

Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI)

Society for the Psychology of Women (APA Division 35)

World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP)

## **Psychology Day 2015 Planning Committee**

### ***Chair***

Neal S. Rubin

### ***Sub-Committee Chairs***

*Administration:* Walter Reichman

*Finance:* Nelida Quintero

*Logistics:* Janet Sigal and Martin Butler

*Mission Outreach:* Rashmi Jaipal

*Program:* Roseanne Flores and Miriam Vega

*Publicity:* Richard Velayo

Mary O'Neill Berry

Florence Denmark

Emily Dow

Ayorkor Gaba

Juneau Gary

Samantha Holdren

Judy Kuriansky

Corann Okorodudu

Mathian Osicki

Rachel Ravich

John C. Scott

Norma Simon

Lori Foster Thompson

Peter Walker

### ***Interns:***

APA: Dalal Alhomaizi, Noor Baker, Roxane Caires, Jin Hashimoto, Eri Imahori, and Leah Kaylor

ATOP: Renoude Charles, Suyeon Yang

ICP: Alaa Alhomaizi, Pancho Diaz, Lucio Forti, Evie Mitchell

### **SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

The APA Office of International Affairs, Merry Bullock, Ph.D. (Senior Director), Sally Leverty (International Assistant).

The United Nations Psychology Day logo developed and donated by Dr. Rachel Ravich (SPSSI) and Mr. Eli Rosenbloom, 2010.

Sarika Persaud (Psy.D. student at Pace University) for helping develop the event website.