A Celebration of Women’s Contributions to Psychology

Our March newsletter commemorates Women’s History Month, which is a celebration of the significant contributions that women have made over the course of history. Within the field of psychology, women have played a tremendous role in transforming the field. For years, women in psychology protested discriminatory treatment and perpetual exclusion in the American Psychological Association (APA) as well as in the broader educational institution. Continuous persistence by women to change the existing culture within the discipline led to the creation of groups such as the Association for Women in Psychology and the Committee on Women in Psychology. These efforts also culminated in a number of guidelines, including the Guidelines for Avoiding Sexism in Psychological Research. It’s critical to acknowledge that the first women of color that obtained psychology doctoral degrees indeed broke barriers that created new opportunities for future generations of underrepresented scholars. Prior efforts led by psychologists of color can be attributed to women securing influential positions in APA’s board of directors, such as Alice F. Chang (1994-1997), Melba J.T. Vasquez (2007-2009), and more recently, Jessica Henderson Daniel (2018 to present). Within this newsletter issue, we recognize women psychologists who have shaped the discipline through their research, service, and leadership positions.

Women Psychologists

Estefania Aldea-Lim
• First Filipina to receive a doctorate in clinical psychology
• Founding member of the Philippine Association of Psychologists
• Organized the First International Conference on Student Mental Health

Mamie Phipps
• Founder of the Northside Center for Child Development in Harlem, New York City
• Research on African American children’s self-consciousness was used in the landmark Supreme court case, Brown v. Board of Education

Martha Bernal
• First Latina to receive a PhD in psychology
• Contributed to the establishment of the Board of Ethnic Minority Affairs of the American Psychological Association
• Founded the National Hispanic Psychology Association

E. Ritch Childs
• Contributed to the formation of the Association for Women in Psychology
• Help established the University of Chicago’s Gay Liberation Front
• Provided culturally grounded therapy sessions to marginalized communities

Marigold Linton
• First American Indian to receive a PhD in psychology
• Founder of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science

Women Psychologists from UC Riverside

Carol Tomlinson-Keasey
• Developmental psychologist who taught courses at UCR and held administrative positions
• Served as the founding chancellor of UC Merced and held the position from 1999-2007

Diane F. Halpern
• Served as the former president of the American Psychological Association, the Western Psychological Association, the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, and the Division of General Psychology

Ellen Leggett
• Widely known for her expertise in corporate settings
• Research has contributed valuable insights to jury psychology
• Provides consultation to lawyers and the public through her consulting firm, Leggett Jury Research, LLC

Veronica Benet-Martinez
• President elect for the European Association of Personality Psychology
• Held the position of Associate Editor for the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology
• Influential cross-cultural and personality psychology research

Carolyn B. Murray
• Received the Dr. William Montague Cobb Award in 2018 by the NAACP for contributions to public health
• Founder of the University STEM Academy, which teaches children how to be health advocates

Native American Student Programs and Women’s Resource Center Wellness Collaboration with Martha Redbone. "Warrior Women: Music is Power", Thursday, March 4 at 4:00 pm-5:00 pm. https://haspwrncmr.eventbrite.co m
**Student & Faculty Spotlights**

We are pleased to spotlight Sandra Rosales and Dr. Aerika Brittain Loyd for the fifth edition of the DEI Newsletter.

**Sandra Rosales** completed her bachelor’s in psychology and a minor in political science from the University of California, Riverside in June 2020. Sandra was part of the research staff for the Adversity and Adaptation Lab and is currently a research lab manager for the Kids Interaction and Neurodevelopment (KIND) lab. Sandra’s research focuses on the role of power dynamics within racial and ethnic contexts, and the subsequent effects on development, socialization, and mental health. Sandra also recently presented at the SPSP’s Health Pre-conference.

**Dr. Aerika Brittain Loyd** has made significant contributions to the field of psychology by conducting research that examines the effects of environmental factors and life experience on development among African American and Latinx youth. Dr. Loyd is the principal investigator for the Youth Health and Development lab (https://youthdevlab.ucr.edu/), whose focus involves engaging in community-based research to empower and positively contribute to the community. As a developmental scientist, Dr. Loyd provides recommendations for culturally informed practice, prevention, and policy. Her research on the links between racial stress, health and development among African American youth has been funded by NICHD and NIH’s Office of Research on Women’s Health. Dr. Loyd’s research on youth of color in the United States and youth in South Africa has been published in *Child Development Perspectives, Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology, Journal of Adolescent Research,* and the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence.* In the areas of service, Dr. Loyd is a co-chair in the SRCD Equity and Justice committee and a DEI committee member in the psychology department. Dr. Loyd has been invested in countless diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives in an effort to promote greater representation in higher institutions.

**Recommended Readings**


**Additional Resources**

- Association for Women in Psychology: [https://www.awpsych.org/awp_herstory.php](https://www.awpsych.org/awp_herstory.php)
- Society for the Psychology of Women: [https://www.apa.org/about/division/div35](https://www.apa.org/about/division/div35)