



# Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Newsletter

## UC Riverside Psychology Department

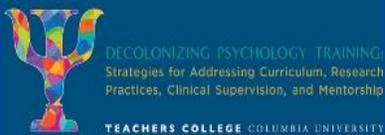
April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Issue 6

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### Upcoming Events



Decolonizing Psychology: Strategies for Addressing Curriculum, Research Practices, Clinical Supervision, and Mentorship. April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 9:00 am-3:30 pm, EDT. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dec-olonizing-psychology-training-conference-registration-142227942605>. Conference Link: <https://www.tc.columbia.edu/dec-olonizing-psychology-conference/>



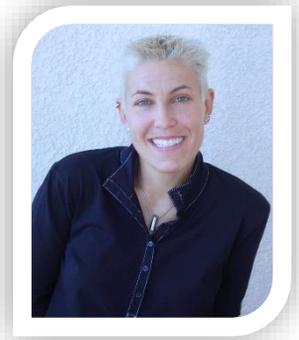
UC Global Health Day 2021; Decolonizing Global Health to Advance Health Equity April 24, 2021. RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/uc-global-health-day-2021-tickets-136041227975>

## Celebrating Arab American Heritage Month

April marks the celebration of Arab American Heritage month, recognizing the rich history and diverse cultures of Arab Americans. Descendants of Arab immigrants are connected to one or more of the 22 Arab nations that span the areas of northern Africa to western Asia. When considering the presence of Arab Americans in psychological research, there continues to be a lack of representation. For a significant period, Arab American psychologists could only connect with one another through informal networks, given the broader invisibility of Arab Americans in the field. Only after the events of 9/11 did psychological research on the discriminatory experiences faced by Arab Americans increase. Years later, the establishment of the [Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association \(AMENA-Psy\)](#) in the American Psychological Association (APA) marked a significant turning point in the field for this represented the first pan-Arab association. In this issue of the Psychology DEI Newsletter, we begin with spotlighting Dr. Tuppett Yates and Elizabeth Fletes for their contributions to DEI, and then provide a timeline capturing the key events that contributed to the formation of an Arab American psychology.

### Student & Faculty Spotlights

**Dr. Tuppett Yates** is the director of the Adversity and Adaptation Lab which specializes in the intersections of clinical and developmental psychology. Dr. Yates' research focuses on the underlying mechanisms contributing to adversity and how such factors can promote resilience among individuals, families, and communities. In addition, Dr. Yates is the founder and executive director of the UCR Guardian Scholars Program for Foster Youth, which was established in 2008. The Guardian Scholars Program was developed to provide a support system to students through programming and scholarships. Within the area of service, Dr. Yates chairs the UCR Psychology department's DEI committee and has contributed to expanding the committee's internal structure and the development of effective initiatives that are positively impacting the department and the university.



**Elizabeth Fletes** is a fourth-year undergraduate student pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology. Elizabeth works under the guidance of Dr. Annie Ditta, in her TEACH lab, as well as Dr. Rachel Wu's CALLA Lab. Elizabeth has conducted research investigating the motivation to learn in younger and older adults. Recently, Elizabeth was selected as a student recipient for the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement. Every year two graduating seniors are selected to receive this award. Congratulations Elizabeth!





SRCD 2021 Biennial Meeting  
Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 8:00  
am EDT to Friday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021,  
6:00 pm, EDT. To register visit:  
<https://www.srcd.org/event/srcd-2021-biennial-meeting/pre-conferences>

### Past Event



World Down Syndrome Day,  
March 21, 2021. To learn more  
visit  
<https://www.worlddownsyndrome.org/>

### UCR Psychology DEI

#### Website:

<https://psychology.ucr.edu/diversity-and-inclusion/>

To nominate a deserving student  
or scholar who conducts research  
on topics related to DEI or social  
justice and/or who represents the  
work of BIPOC scholars, please  
complete [this form](#).

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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF ARAB AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGY

### 1973

The first social psychological dissertation was published that exclusively focused on the experiences of Arab Americans (Kershaw, 1973).

### 1996

A chapter written by Nuha Abudabbeh entitled 'Arab Families' in the book *Ethnicity and Family Therapy*, served as a valuable source for scholars and the Arab community by providing guidance on culturally-informed practices.

### 2005

In 2005, the Iranian Psychological Association of America (IPAA) was founded. The mission of the IPAA is to provide education around psychology and the unique psychosocial experiences of Iranian and American communities.

### 2015

At the 123rd APA convention, *New Directions for Arab American Psychology Research* was a featured program that included Germine H. Awad, Julie Hakim-Larson, Karen L. Haboush, Maisa S. Ziadni, and Mona M. Amer

### 2016

The publication of *The Handbook of Arab American Psychology* by Mona M. Amer and Germine H. Awad marked a significant turning point in the presence of Arab American Psychology in the broader field.

### 2017

AMENA Psy (American Arab, Middle Eastern, and North African Psychological Association) was formally established at the 125th APA Annual Convention in Washington, D.C.

### 2020

The inaugural AMENA-Psy conference was held on September 26th, 2020. The theme of the conference was *Coming Together: Shaping and Nurturing a Strong Future for AMENA-Psy*

### RESOURCES

- Abudabbeh, N. (1996). *Arab families*. In M. McGoldrick, J. Giordano, & J. K. Pearce (Eds.), *Ethnicity and family therapy* (p. 333-346). Guilford Press.
- Amer, M. M., & Awad, G. H. (Eds.). (2015). *Handbook of Arab American psychology*. Routledge.
- Kershaw, R.M. (1973). Attitudes toward religion of Saudi Arabian students in the United States (Order No. 7400927). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Full Text (302682819).
- Nassar-McMillan, S. C., Ajrouch, K. J., & Hakim-Larson, J. (Eds.). (2013). *Biopsychosocial perspectives on Arab Americans: Culture, development, and health*. Springer Science & Business Media.