


DIÁLOGOS VIRTUALES

A Lecture-Discussion Series on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & the Global Dimensions of Education

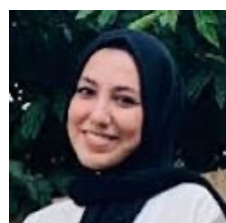
SPANGLISH DECOLONIAL HEALING

Monday, November 8th • 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. PST • [Zoom Registration](#) 

Nigerian scholar Oyèrónké Oyèwùmí's analysis on gender among the Yoruba tells us that prior to Western colonization the Yoruba did not have a gender system in place (Yorùbá language is gender-free). Because their past and present has been written into English (a gender-specific language) as a means to propagate the West and therefore to erase the rest, Yorùbá now has a gendered language system. Similarly, communities around the world now have “mental health problems” and “therapy treatments” because it is how experiences of suffering and possibilities of healing have been written in English from the privileged position of the West. Consequently, the English language, as world-maker, predominates in the training of plurilingual healers in the U.S., as “therapists” competent in Eurocentric “therapy” practices that are untranslatable to non-English speaking communities and that, in turn, place alternative healing practices under erasure. In this *Diálogos Virtuales*, we discuss Spanglish as an example of a possible decolonial interlinguistic framework of practice and training in coalition with English. We make a call for the need of interlingual alternatives of healing and healers in mental health from the vantage points of Turkish, Farsi, Vietnamese, Spanish and Colombian Spanish



marcela polanco. My ancestry es Muisca, African and South European de Colombia. Mi trabajo de supervisión, teaching, research, and therapy in my immigrant English are informed by the Australasian narrative therapy and U.S. Black feminism. En my Español Colombiano y Spanglish, I am particularly interested in decoloniality from Abya Yala, anti-racist feminismos and Chicax borderland activismo as a response to Eurocentrism. I am part of the faculty team of the family therapy master's program at SDSU, located in unceded land of the Kumeyaay. I am also a practicing licensed Marriage and Family Therapist en los Estados de California and Texas.



Nilufer Akman, MFT Graduate Student. Turkish-speaking from Turkey and a first-year student in the Marriage and Family Therapy master's program at San Diego State University.



Guadalupe Villarreal Ontiveros, MS, MAFT is a Spanish speaking individual from the United States. She is a graduate of the marriage and Family Therapy master's program at San Diego State University. Guadalupe is currently an associate Marriage and Family Therapist working with school age children and their families in the city of Los Angeles.



Tri Nguyễn, Ph.D. I am a 1.5 generation, bi-cultural/bilingual, Vietnamese American. I grew up in San Diego, California, and a first-generation college graduate. I have over 10 years of experience working in community mental health, particularly with Asian Pacific Islanders and monolingual immigrant communities. Currently, I am a practicing licensed family therapist at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, WA. I also have a small online private practice offering therapeutic services to California and Washington State residents. I recently completed a PhD in Psychology from the Taos Institute and Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB). My dissertation examines the inter-relationships between interculturality, decoloniality and multicultural competence counseling practices.



Navid Zamani, MS, LMTF is a licensed Marriage and Family therapist practicing in San Diego. His work is structured around supporting families experiencing domestic violence, and conceptualizes these experiences from a poststructural, decolonial feminism situated in Narrative practices. His interests in counseling, philosophy, and music are blended together with an interest in relational ethics, the politics of revolutionary love, and leaning into complexity. He currently teaches at San Diego State University and is the Head of Clinical Services at License to Freedom, a non-profit that supports refugees and immigrants from the Middle East who are experiencing domestic violence issues.



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