

REGISTER  
TODAY

## Grief Sensitivity Virtual Learning Institute

February 23 & 24, 2022

TWO DAYS OF RICH  
LEARNING FOR THOSE  
SUPPORTING INDIVIDUALS  
EXPERIENCING GRIEF AND  
LOSS DURING COVID-19  
AND BEYOND

### ABOUT GSVLI

Welcome to our MHTTC Network's two-day institute, a learning space designed for those supporting individuals (general mental health and school mental health) experiencing grief and loss through COVID-19 and beyond.

### INTENDED AUDIENCE

Community Mental Health Practitioners, Social Workers, Psychologists, Therapists, School Mental Health Personnel, School Counselors, Educators, School Administrators, and anyone interested in enhancing their grief sensitivity.

### DATES

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022:** General Mental Health Workforce Sessions

**Thursday, February 24, 2022:** School Mental Health Workforce Sessions

### SESSION THEMES FOR EACH DAY:

- **Evidence-Based & Culturally-Defined Practices:** Session faculty provide clinical training on grief-related evidence-based or culturally-defined practices. Hear from faculty who are contributing to the grief counseling field through equitable research design and implementation, and share new practices that are timely for the populations of our providers-you!- are serving.
- **New Directions:** Session faculty share how they are expanding the grief and bereavement fields, new ways of understanding grief sensitivity, new language, and invitations for the traditional field's expansion; the sessions also include what we have learned and are learning from COVID-19 and pan/syndemic grief sensitivity.
- **Lived Experience, Culture, & Grief:** Session faculty might be griever themselves with stories and wisdom to share to providers to inform their practices; faculty will also share what and how we can learn from those with lived experience, different cultural grief narratives, and needs to inform our practice.

### BECOME GRIEF SENSITIVE WITH US!

9:00am-2:45pm PT / 10:00am-3:45pm MT / 11:00am-4:45pm CT / 12:00-5:45pm ET each day

**February 23, 2022**

REGISTER NOW

**February 24, 2022**

REGISTER NOW

### GENERAL MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE: February 23, 2022

**Opening and Keynote:** 9:00-9:40am PT

**Session 1 - Evidence-Based & Culturally-Defined**

**Practices:** 9:45-11:00am PT

**Session 2 - New Directions:** 11:10am-12:25pm PT

**Session 3 - Lived Experience, Culture, & Grief:** 12:35-1:55pm PT

**Closing:** 1:55-2:15pm PT

**Optional Breakout/Discussion:** 2:20-2:45pm PT

### SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE: February 24, 2022

**Opening and Keynote:** 9:00-9:40am PT

**Session 1 - Evidence-Based & Culturally-Defined**

**Practices:** 9:45-11:00am PT

**Session 2 - New Directions:** 11:10am-12:25pm PT

**Session 3 - Lived Experience, Culture, & Grief:** 12:35-1:55pm PT

**Closing:** 1:55-2:15pm PT

**Optional Breakout/Discussion:** 2:20-2:45pm PT

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

- For each day of the Institute, each session is hosted by one single zoom link; by registering you have access to any and all sessions.
- You can attend either day and any session no matter your role to support your interests and learning. The populations you serve may be discussed across each Institute day, settings and sessions.
- A recording of the learning institutes will be made available in the MHTTC Products and Resource Catalog.
- Certificates of completion (issued for each day of the Institute) are available for participants who attend of 50% or more of either day. CEUs are not available for these sessions.
- Visit our website to access additional MHTTC grief training and resources [here](#).
- Questions? Contact us at [networkoffice@MHTTCNetwork.org](mailto:networkoffice@MHTTCNetwork.org)

# WELCOME TO GSVLI 2022!

Both days of the GSVLI will be rich with faculty who will offer grounding and foundations for grief sensitivity for the mental health or school mental health workforces, who will share where we have been as a field, where we are now, and where we are going (new research, findings, and learnings to impact our practice). Each day will begin and end with the same opening and closing speaker, inspiring, and connecting our day of learning.

**Accessing Sessions:** We hope you will join as many sessions as possible. This brochure provides descriptions of each session, their time slot and date, and which learning track the session is part of (Evidence-Based & Culturally-Defined Practices, New Directions, and for Lived Experience, Culture, & Grief).

**Breaks:** We have built in breaks between sessions so you can attend all sessions and still move around, stretch, have your lunch, and practice self-care. Please note the start and end times for each session.

**Optional Breakout/Discussion:** After the formal closing, the MHTTC Network's GSVLI Staff will host optional spaces for participants to debrief and process their learnings together (this space is one that GSVLI 2020 participants deeply enjoyed).

*Please note: Speaker lineup is subject to change.*

## *Wednesday, February 23, 2022: General Mental Health*

**Opening & Keynote Address:** 9-9:40am PT / 10-10:40am MT / 11-11:40am CT / 12-12:40pm ET

### *Keynote*

Megan Devine, LPC



#### **Speaker Bio:**

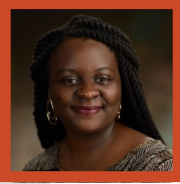
**Megan Devine** is a best-selling author, psychotherapist, and grief advocate. With over 20 years in the field - and deep personal experience of grief - she is the go-to authority for griever, supporters, and industry professionals. Her pioneering work provides a professional, inclusive, and realistic approach to grief, one that goes beyond pathology-based, reductive models.

New York Magazine's *The Strategist* named the book in their "Top 16 Grief Books Recommended by Psychologists in 2021." With engagement in the millions, Megan's original grassroots movement, [REFUGES IN GRIEF](#), houses a committed and rapidly growing community of grievers drawn to her direct and validating approach. Her animated short, "[How to Help a Grieving Friend](#)," has been viewed over 70 million times and is used in training programs around the world. She has been published in *Psychology Today*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*, and has served as a grief expert for major media outlets including NPR, iHeartRadio, and the PBS documentary, [Speaking Grief](#). In 2021, Megan launched her highly-anticipated, weekly podcast [HERE AFTER](#) (from iHeartMedia). The show aims to change how we talk about mental health by radically changing how we talk about grief. Learn more about Megan Devine [here](#).

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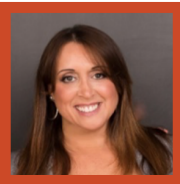
## *Evidence-Based & Culturally-Defined Practices*

Robyn Douglas, MA; Julie Kaplow, PhD, ABPP; Carolyn Ng, PsyD, FT, MMSAC, RegCLR; Sherman Lee, PhD



### **Speaker Bio:**

**Robyn Douglas, MA** is a Clinical Psychology Doctoral student at Texas A&M University under Dr. Noni Gaylord-Harden. Prior to starting her doctoral studies, Robyn obtained a master's in clinical mental health counseling from Sam Houston State University and has eight years of previous research, clinical, policy, and advocacy experience working with underserved, trauma-exposed communities. These experiences include working with young adults experiencing houselessness, low-income individuals receiving inpatient care, immigrant and refugee youth and families of color, and families navigating chronic illness, bereavement, and palliative care. She has received training in both Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents (TGCT-A) and Evidence-Based Treatment Approaches to Adult Traumatic Grief. Her research, clinical, and advocacy work examines the experiences of Black youth and youth of color exposed to community violence, bereavement, racial trauma, and structural poverty. Additionally, she is passionate about class-conscious and culturally informed mental health treatments, community-based healing practices, and the overall resiliency of oppressed communities. She ultimately aims for her research to focus on developing and implementing praxis-oriented, strength-based, community partnered, and trauma-informed studies for youth and families exposed to community stressors and traumatic grief. Douglas is the primary author of Racial, ethnic, and neighborhood income disparities in childhood post-traumatic stress and grief: Exploring indirect effects through trauma exposure and bereavement. For more information, Robyn can be contacted at [robynddouglas.com](http://robynddouglas.com) or at [douglard@tamu.edu](mailto:douglard@tamu.edu).



### **Speaker Bio:**

**Julie Kaplow, PhD, ABPP** is a licensed clinical psychologist, board certified in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, and Professor of Psychiatry at the Tulane University School of Medicine. Dr. Kaplow founded the first Trauma and Grief (TAG) Center in 2012 while on faculty at the University of Michigan Medical School and later established two additional TAG Centers in Texas and Louisiana. As the Executive Director of the TAG Centers at The Hackett Center for Mental Health in Houston and the Children's Hospital New Orleans, she develops, evaluates, and disseminates trauma- and bereavement-informed "best practices" to community providers nationwide. Dr. Kaplow also helped to establish the Santa Fe Resiliency Center following the Santa Fe High School shooting, where her staff have provided evidence-based assessment and treatment to families who were impacted by the shooting.

A strong proponent of a scientist-practitioner approach, Dr. Kaplow's primary research interests focus on the behavioral and psychological consequences of childhood trauma and bereavement, with an emphasis on protective factors that can be used to inform interventions. She has published widely on the topics of childhood trauma and grief, with over 85 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. She is lead author of Multidimensional Grief Therapy, co-author of Collaborative Treatment of Traumatized Children and Teens: The Trauma Systems Therapy Approach, and co-author of Trauma and Grief Component Therapy for Adolescents. Dr. Kaplow has served as a consultant to the DSM-5 Sub-Work Group on Persistent Complex Bereavement Disorder, the ICD-11 Work Group on Disorders Associated with Stress (PTSD and Prolonged Grief), the National Academy of Medicine (Scientific Advisory Council on Child Death), and the Mass Violence and Children Working Group of the FBI.



**Speaker Bio:**

**Carolyn Ng, PsyD, FT, MMSAC, RegCLR** maintains a private practice, Anchorage for Loss and Transition, for training, supervision, and therapy in Singapore, while also serving as an Associate Director of the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition. Previously she served as Principal Counsellor with the Children's Cancer Foundation in Singapore, specializing in cancer-related palliative care and bereavement counseling.

She is a master clinical member and approved supervisor with the Singapore Association for Counselling (SAC) and a Fellow in Thanatology with the Association of Death Education and Counselling (ADEC), USA, as well as a consultant to a cancer support and bereavement ministry in Sydney, Australia. She is certified in Solution-Focused Brief Therapy and Narrative Therapy and holds an MA in Pastoral Ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary in the USA. She is also a trained end-of-life doula and advanced care planning facilitator. Find out more at: [www.anchorage-for-loss.org](http://www.anchorage-for-loss.org).



**Speaker Bio:**

**Sherman A. Lee, PhD** is an associate professor of psychology at Christopher Newport University. Lee studies negative feeling states, such as anxiety and grief, and the role personality and religion play in those emotional experiences. He also teaches courses in the psychology of personality, psychology of the human-animal bond (Anthrozoology), and the psychology of death, dying, and bereavement (Thanatology).

Lee is also the creator/co-creator of the Pandemic Grief Scale, Trait Sympathy Scales, Islamophobia Scale, Persistent Complex Bereavement Inventory, and the Coronavirus Anxiety Scale, and the director of the Pandemic Grief Project and the Coronavirus Anxiety Project. Read more about the [Coronavirus Anxiety Scale: A brief mental health screener for COVID-19 related anxiety.](#)

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**Session 2:** 11:10am-12:25pm PT / 12:10-1:25pm MT / 1:10-2:25pm CT / 2:10-3:00pm ET

## *New Directions*

Erin Emery-Tiburcio, PhD, ABPP; Erica Srinivasan, PhD; Noni K. Gaylord-Harden, PhD; Lise Van Susteren, MD



**Speaker Bio:**

**Dr. Erin Emery-Tiburcio** is an Associate Professor of Geriatric & Rehabilitation Psychology and Geriatric Medicine at Rush University Medical Center, as well as Co-Director of the Rush Center for Excellence in Aging. She is past-Chair of American Psychological Association Committee on Aging, and past-President of the Society for Clinical Geropsychology.

Dr. Emery-Tiburcio is Co-Director of CATCH-ON, the Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program based at Rush University Medical Center. Dr. Emery-Tiburcio also co-directs the Engage, Educate, Empower for Equity: The E4 Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health Disparities in Aging at Rush.



**Speaker Bio:**

**Dr. Erica G. Srinivasan** is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse, where she also serves as the Director for the Center for Grief and Death Education, is Co-Chair for the Gerontology Emphasis, and is on the Planning Committee for the University's International Conference on Death, Grief and Bereavement.

Additionally, she conducts workshops on loss and grief. Her research areas focus on grief and coping experiences with assisted death, dementia, and COVID-19.



**Speaker Bio:**

**Noni Gaylord-Harden** is a Professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at Texas A&M University. Dr. Gaylord-Harden conducts research on stress, coping, and psychosocial functioning in Black youth and families in challenging contexts. Her most recent work focuses on the impact of exposure to community violence on Black adolescents in disinvested, urban communities.

The overarching goals of her work are to address disparities in community violence exposure and traumatic loss, to understand the impact of emotional desensitization and physiological hypersensitization to violence, and to minimize the impact of violence exposure by enhancing existing strengths and assets embedded in Black youth, families, and communities.

She has published several peer-reviewed research articles and presented numerous scientific conference presentations on these topics, and her team aims to utilize findings from this research to develop and implement culturally and contextually relevant interventions for Black adolescents and families. She has received funding from The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the American Psychological Association, and the Institute of Education Sciences for her research efforts.



**Speaker Bio:**

**Dr. Lise Van Susteren** a practicing general and forensic psychiatrist in Washington, DC, is an expert on the physical and mental health effects of climate change. Dr. Van Susteren has served as a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Georgetown University and has been a consultant to the Executive Branch of the US Government profiling world leaders.

After receiving her medical degree from the University of Paris, she practiced medicine in West Africa, at community health centers and homeless shelters in metropolitan Washington DC. In addition to community organizing on climate issues, Dr. Van Susteren has served on the Advisory Board of the Center for Health and the Global Environment at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and is currently on the board of Physicians for Social Responsibility, Earth Day Network, Eco-America, and is co-founder of "[Climate Psychiatry Alliance](#)," a professional group dedicated to promoting awareness and action on climate from a mental health perspective.

In 2009, she co-convoked the first panel on climate disruption and mental health with experts in climate disruption and national security, communication and messaging, animal and plant extinction, community organizing, and disaster psychiatry to discuss the unfolding crisis and its future impacts on the mental health of the public. In 2011 she co-authored "The Psychological Effects of Climate Warming on the U.S. - Why the US Mental Health System Is Not Prepared." Read more about Lise's work [here](#).

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## Lived Experience, Culture, & Grief

Monique Minahan; Roshni Kavate, BSN; Monique Castro, LMFT



### Speaker Bio:

**Monique Minahan** is the author of [The Grief Practice](#), an explanation and exploration of grief in the body through a polyvagal-based, trauma-informed lens. As a yoga teacher and Somatic Experiencing™ practitioner in training with a profound experience of grief herself, she blends science and somatics with the soulful, human experience of grief in a way that honors the innate healing ability of every human being and every human body.

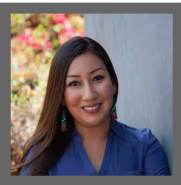


### Speaker Bio:

**Roshni Kavate** is a Palliative Care Consultant with over a decade of nursing experience in both clinical and leadership positions working with diverse populations in New York City, Los Angeles and Oakland. Her work has spanned from working as birth doula, transplant ICU nurse, home health nurse and to an end of life nurse.

Most recently she worked as a Palliative Care Nurse at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland. She was actively involved in studying disparities in care provided to people of color, and educating on topics of trauma informed care and cultural humility. She also served as a lead Wellness Advocate for her department. Combining her interest in art, wellness and advocacy she has launched a startup, [Cardamom and Kavate](#) to help people reclaim nourishing practices rooted in ancestral wisdom for living their best lives.

Roshni earned a B.S. in Nutritional Sciences from UC Berkeley and a B.S. in Nursing from NYU with honors. She is also trained in Urban Zen Integrative Yoga Therapy to provide complementary holistic care to people with serious illness. She has been grateful to use her nursing skills on service trips abroad and learn from traditional healers in India, Mexico, Morocco and Guatemala. Roshni grew up in India and California and enjoys cooking, swimming in the ocean, studying plant medicine and ceramics.



### Speaker Bio:

**Monique Castro** is a citizen of the Diné (Navajo) Nation and Mexican, born and raised on the ancestral homelands of the Tongva People (aka Los Angeles). She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, certified professional coach, social justice consultant, facilitator and advocate with over 14 years of professional experience in the areas of health, wellness, community organizing, and education.

Her approach centers an Indigenous world view and core values. She is a collaborative and relational-leader with an exceptional track record building and maintaining sustainable relationships with Native-led organizations, Tribes, higher education institutions, and community members throughout California and nationally.

Her leadership includes establishing the California Native Vote Project (co-founder), So'oh-Shinálí Sister Project (co-founder) and Indigenous Circle of Wellness (founder and CEO), a thriving psychotherapy private practice located in Southeast Los Angeles. Monique earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from California State University of Los Angeles (CSULA) and Master of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Mount Saint Mary's University (MSMU) and is clinically trained in Relational Gestalt Therapy, EMDR, and other holistic approaches to wellness.

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**Closing Session:** 1:55-2:15pm PT / 2:55-3:15pm MT / 3:55-4:15pm CT / 4:55-5:15pm ET

## *Closing*

Megan Devine, LPC



### **Speaker Bio:**

**Megan Devine** is a best-selling author, psychotherapist, and grief advocate. With over 20 years in the field - and deep personal experience of grief - she is the go-to authority for griever, supporters, and industry professionals. Her pioneering work provides a professional, inclusive, and realistic approach to grief, one that goes beyond pathology-based, reductive models.

New York Magazine's The Strategist named the book in their "Top 16 Grief Books Recommended by Psychologists in 2021." With engagement in the millions, Megan's original grassroots movement, REFUGE IN GRIEF, houses a committed and rapidly growing community of griever drawn to her direct and validating approach. Her animated short, "How to Help a Grieving Friend," has been viewed over 70 million times and is used in training programs around the world. She has been published in Psychology Today, The New York Times, and The Washington Post, and has served as a grief expert for major media outlets including NPR, iHeartRadio, and the PBS documentary, Speaking Grief. In 2021, Megan launched her highly-anticipated, weekly podcast HERE AFTER (from iHeartMedia). The show aims to change how we talk about mental health by radically changing how we talk about grief. Learn more about Megan Devine [here](#).

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## *Optional Breakout Discussion Sessions*

On both days, we offer breakout discussion sessions for you to meet other Institute participants, share and reflect on your learnings from the main sessions, and have an opportunity to make meaning of your experience thus far.

Sessions for both days will take place from **2:20-2:45pm PT / 3:20-3:45pm MT / 4:20-4:45pm CT / 5:20-5:45pm ET**.

The breakout discussion sessions will be facilitated by MHTTC staff and will include small group discussions; we highly encourage you to be on video and audio for these sessions.

# Thursday, February 24, 2022: School Mental Health

**Opening & Keynote Address:** 9-9:40am PT / 10-10:40am MT / 11-11:40am CT / 12-12:40pm ET

## Keynote

Candice Valenzuela, MA



### Speaker Bio:

**Candice Rose Valenzuela** is a mother, educator, lecturer, writer, coach and community wellness advocate. Candice has worked at the intersection of urban education and holistic health for 12 years, serving in a variety of roles from teen health educator, to Special Education teacher and instructional coach, before finding her calling in teacher support and wellness.

She got her Master's degree in East-West Psychology from the California Institute for Integral Studies, and studied cultural healing practices with healers in Los Angeles, the Bay Area and Oaxaca. Her passion is to transform school communities into authentic spaces of healing and liberation by strengthening their greatest asset: their community of teachers.

Candice has facilitated healing circles, provided professional development, lectured and coached teachers and administrators at public schools, universities, retreats and conferences in the Bay Area and Los Angeles.

Her expertise is integrating critical pedagogy, culturally responsive teaching, and youth empowerment with holistic, mindful frameworks for healing.

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**Session 1:** 9:45-11:00am PT / 10:45-12:00pm MT / 11:45-1:00pm CT / 12:45-2:00pm ET

## Evidence-Based & Culturally-Defined Practice

Rozlyn Kwong, LMFT, IFEC MHS, RFP II; Jillian M. Blueford, PhD, LPC, NCC, CT; Polly Gipson, PhD



### Speaker Bio:

**Rozlyn Kwong** is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and she is currently the Implementation Specialist at Sycamores and its affiliated program, The Hathaway Center for Excellence, a Research and Training Institute. She obtained her Masters of Science degree in Counseling Psychology from Mount St. Mary's University in Los Angeles.

Rozlyn holds multiple certifications to provide treatment, supervision and/or training in multiple Evidenced-Based Practices. She has completed training in using Trauma Focused-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) in Childhood Traumatic Grief (CTG) Treatment.

Rozlyn has supported grieving clients ranging from aged three to adults, and she has experience in facilitating grief support groups for different types of loss.





**Speaker Bio:**

**Dr. Jillian Blueford** is a Clinical Assistant Professor for the school counseling program at the University of Denver. She is also a Licensed Professional Counselor in Colorado, a National Certified Counselor, and is certified in Thanatology. Dr. Blueford's research expertise falls under grief counseling training and preparation and counseling grieving children and adolescents.

Dr. Blueford is an active member of several professional associations, including the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision, the National Alliance for Children's Grief, and the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

Dr. Blueford is also collaborating with several grief experts to develop professional grief counseling competencies as Co-Chair of the Grief Counseling Competencies Task Force. Recent publications include: Trauma-informed grief counseling with older BIPOC individuals, Counselor preparedness to counsel grieving clients: Insights and implications, and Elementary school counselors supporting students experiencing anticipatory grief. You can view Dr. Blueford's complete Curriculum Vitae [here](#).



**Speaker Bio:**

**Dr. Polly Y. Gipson** is a Clinical Associate Professor, Associate Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Director of the Trauma and Grief Clinic in the Department of Psychiatry at Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan. She is the principal investigator for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars award focused on the promotion of resilience and implementation of trauma-informed interventions in an urban Southeastern Michigan school/community.

Dr. Gipson is also a co-investigator for a NIH funded study focused on the warning signs of youth suicide attempters. She is a site principal investigator for a SAMHSA funded investigation focused on the development of bereavement-informed best practices for youth. She is a member of the Youth and Young Adult Depression and Suicide Prevention Research Program.

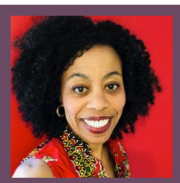
She is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in child and family evidence-based clinical practices; trauma-and bereavement-informed assessment and intervention; suicide risk assessment and intervention; universal screening; brief interventions; and community-based participatory research approaches.

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**Session 2:** 11:10am-12:25pm PT / 12:10-1:25pm MT / 1:10-2:25pm CT / 2:10-3:00pm ET

## *New Directions*

Saun-Toy Trotter, MA; Sharim Hannegan-Martinez, PhD; Stephanie Cariaga, PhD



**Speaker Bio:**

**Saun-Toy Latifa Trotter** is a healer. She is the Manager of School Based Behavioral Health programs at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and a Trauma Informed Systems trainer and Coach. She brings over twenty years of experience providing behavioral health services to adolescents and families, including 14 years of practice at school based health centers. She serves on the board of the National School Based Health Alliance.

Saun-Toy is committed to culturally responsive, trauma and resilience informed practices that foster individual, organizational and community wellness.



#### Speaker Bio:

**Dr. Sharim Hannegan-Martinez's** teaching-informed research examines the relationship between loving pedagogies, literacy, and student wellness, particularly as it relates to Students of Color. Her most recent study explores the pedagogy of loving relationships— cultivated in part by the literacy practices employed by teachers — as an intervention to traumatic stressors within the context of urban classrooms ([From Punk Love to Compa Love: A Pedagogical Paradigm to Intervene on Trauma - The Urban Review](#)).

This research has been recognized by both the Ford Foundation's Predoctoral and Dissertation Year fellowships. Before pursuing her PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles, she was a high school English teacher in East Oakland and worked with pre-service teachers in the University of San Francisco's Urban Education and Social Justice (UESJ) program. She is an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky, a founding member of the People's Education Movement Bay Area and has collaborated with other grassroots education organizations such as the Education for Liberation Network.



#### Speaker Bio:

**Stephanie Cariaga, PhD** has served the wider Los Angeles community for over thirteen years as a high school and middle school literacy teacher, founding member of the People's Education Movement, and now an assistant professor in teacher education at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Rooted in radical feminist epistemology that centers wholeness, healing, and intimacy, her teaching and research examines the intersections between healing justice, critical literacy, and critical teacher sustainability. She is inspired by her best teachers, daughter Laila and son Catalino. Learn more about Dr. Cariaga's work: *Towards Self-Recovery: Cultivating Love with Young Women of Color Through Pedagogies of Bodymindspirit* (2019); *The Pedagogy of Mind, Body, and Spirit with Dr. Stephanie Cariaga* (Leading Towards Equity Podcast Episode); and *Research as Healing* (2015).

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**Session 3:** 12:35-1:55pm PT / 1:35-2:55pm MT / 2:35-3:55pm CT / 3:35-4:55pm ET

## *Lived Experience, Culture, & Grief*

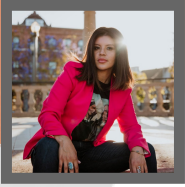
Justin Grinage, PhD; Paulina Almarosa, LCSW; Michael Hannon, PhD



#### Speaker Bio:

**Justin Grinage** is an Assistant Professor of Literacy Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Minnesota. With a particular focus on Black education, critical whiteness studies, and critical literacy, his research examines processes of racialization in school and classroom spaces alongside explorations of how curriculum and pedagogy can engender anti-racism.

His recent publications have appeared in *Harvard Educational Review*, *English Education*, *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing*, and *Curriculum Inquiry*. He is a National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), *Cultivating New Voices Among Scholars of Color* fellow (2018-2020) and is the recipient of the 2020 NCTE English Language Arts Teacher Educators Janet Emig Award. Justin was recently awarded a National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in 2021 to conduct an ethnographic project in the Minneapolis area centered on understanding racial trauma and healing with youth in schools. He received his B.A. in English, his M.Ed. in English Education and his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction all from the University of Minnesota. A former English teacher, Justin has taught in multiracial high school classrooms in the Twin Cities area for more than a decade.



**Speaker Bio:**

**Paulina Isabel Almarosa** is a bilingual, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) in the state of California and the founder of Latinx Grief. She was born in Morelos, Mexico, and immigrated to the U.S. at a young age and lived a significant period of her life in the U.S. undocumented. Paulina holds a B.A. in Psychology & Social Behavior from UCI and a Master's degree in Social Welfare from UCLA.

She has over 10 years of experience in the mental health field. She has worked in schools, hospitals, jails and community mental health clinics, serving a wide range of populations including children and families; residents of the community of Skid Row; incarcerated men and women; and end-of-life patients in hospice.

Paulina is currently in the process of developing a private practice that will continue to develop Latinx Grief as a space focused on providing grief support services that are culturally competent and rooted in honoring a person's history.

Paulina's work is guided by her ancestors, chief among them her father Mateo who died of lung cancer in 2015. She is grateful for the community of friends, family and colleagues who continue to provide their support as she continues to develop her grief work. Paulina is an avid writer, mother and creative who enjoys connecting with others through the use of humor, compassion and authenticity.



**Speaker Bio:**

**Dr. Michael Hannon** is an Associate Professor of Counseling at Montclair State University. His counseling experience includes work as a counselor educator, clinical mental health counselor, school counselor, and student affairs professional over the last 20 years. Dr. Hannon's research primarily focuses on Black men's wellness, with a focus on the value they derive from their roles as fathers, community leaders, clients, and counselor educators.

His dissertation was the first study about the mental health of Black fathers of autistic people. He also actively conducts studies and publishes about anti-Black racism in professional counseling and school counselors' professional development needs. To date, Dr. Hannon has authored 30 publications and made over 90 presentations at professional counseling and allied health conferences.

Dr. Hannon earned a doctoral degree in Counselor Education & Supervision from The Pennsylvania State University, an Educational Specialist degree in School Counseling Services from Rider University, a master's degree in Student Affairs Practice and a bachelor's in Human Development & Family Processes from the University of Delaware.

Dr. Hannon and his wife, Dr. LaChan Hannon, are the co-founders of the Greater Expectations Teaching and Advocacy Center for Childhood Disabilities, Inc. (GETAC), a non-profit organization in Burlington County, New Jersey dedicated to supporting families raising and institutions serving children with neuro-diverse and other marginalized children and families.

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**Closing Session:** 1:55-2:15pm PT / 2:55-3:15pm MT / 3:55-4:15pm CT / 4:55-5:15pm ET

## *Closing*

Candice Valenzuela, MA



### **Speaker Bio:**

**Candice Rose Valenzuela** is a mother, educator, lecturer, writer, coach and community wellness advocate. Candice has worked at the intersection of urban education and holistic health for 12 years, serving in a variety of roles from teen health educator, to Special Education teacher and instructional coach, before finding her calling in teacher support and wellness.

She got her Master's degree in East-West Psychology from the California Institute for Integral Studies, and studied cultural healing practices with healers in Los Angeles, the Bay Area and Oaxaca. Her passion is to transform school communities into authentic spaces of healing and liberation by strengthening their greatest asset: their community of teachers.

Candice has facilitated healing circles, provided professional development, lectured and coached teachers and administrators at public schools, universities, retreats and conferences in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. Her expertise is integrating critical pedagogy, culturally responsive teaching, and youth empowerment with holistic, mindful frameworks for healing.

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## *Optional Breakout Discussion Sessions*

On both days, we offer breakout discussion sessions for you to meet other Institute participants, share and reflect on your learnings from the main sessions, and have an opportunity to make meaning of your experience thus far.

Sessions for both days will take place from **2:20-2:45pm PT / 3:20-3:45pm MT / 4:20-4:45pm CT / 5:20-5:45pm ET.**

The breakout discussion sessions will be facilitated by MHTTC staff and will include small group discussions; we highly encourage you to be on video and audio for these sessions.



Thank you  
for your  
participation!