



cira

Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS
at Yale University

CIRA Talk: Understanding Intersectional Stigma and Its Impact on HIV Prevention and Care – Community & Research Implications

**The first in a series of panel
presentations and discussions on
intersectional stigma in HIV.**

Presenters (clockwise from top left):

- Jasmine Abrams, Boston University School of Public Health
- Skyler Jackson, Yale School of Public Health
- John Pachankis, Yale School of Public Health
- Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., UConn School of Social Work



**Wednesday, November 18, 2020
11:00 am – 12:30 pm**

Register via Zoom:

<https://yale.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIod-uhrDkpEtWCoRKPfA6-I8LPnLf9ykPK>

Contact Daniel Davidson (Daniel.Davidson@yale.edu) with any questions.

Organized by the Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA).

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CIRA Talk: Understanding Intersectional Stigma and Its Impact on HIV Prevention and Care – Community & Research Implications

Overview:

In this panel presentation and discussion, presenters will describe terminology and theories of intersectionality and intersectional stigma, provide an overview of the current landscape of intersectional stigma research in HIV, and discuss the perceived impact of intersecting forms of stigma in the community on HIV service delivery and HIV outcomes.

Speaker Bios:

Jasmine Abrams, PhD, Assistant Professor, Boston University School of Public Health; Founder, Thrive Institute for Professional Development

Dr. Jasmine Abrams is an International Behavioral Research Scientist and Assistant Professor of Community Health Sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health. Recognizing that interdisciplinary approaches are needed to explain, prevent, and reduce health disparities, she utilizes intersectionality theory and a bio-psycho-social approach to investigate the etiology and prevention of disparities experienced by Black women across the African diaspora. Dr. Abrams has secured numerous awards to support her research and programming, including funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Fogarty International Center, National Institute for Mental Health, National Institute for Minority Health Disparities, and the Office on Women's Health. Dr. Abrams is also an entrepreneur and founder of the Thrive Institute for Professional Development that offers transformative training experiences for early career academics focused on increasing productivity and well being.

Skyler Jackson, Ph.D., Associate Research Scientist, Yale School of Public Health

Dr. Skyler Jackson's research focuses on the ways individuals' social identities (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation) shape their everyday lives and influence health and well-being. In particular, he is interested in how experiences of stigma—if not adequately coped with—interfere with psychological functioning and contribute to health disparities. Relying on a broad range of methodological approaches (e.g., microlongitudinal, experimental, qualitative), Dr. Jackson's current projects examine complex, understudied manifestations of stigma across sexual, racial, and gender minority populations, including (a) intersectional stress among individuals holding multiple marginalized identities (e.g., LGBTQ people of color, Black women), and (b) border identity stress among populations holding identities that defy binary categorization (e.g., bisexuals, multiracial people, transgender/nonbinary individuals). Emerging interests include assessing the mental health consequences of dehumanizing experiences and the study of interventions aiming to reduce stigma-related stress among marginalized populations.

John Pachankis, PhD., Susan Dwight Bliss Associate Professor of Public Health (Social and Behavioral Sciences), Yale School of Public Health

John Pachankis (he/him) directs Yale's LGBTQ Mental Health Initiative, which serves as a home for scholarship devoted to understanding and improving the mental health of LGBTQ populations in the US and around the world. His NIH-funded research program examines the efficacy of LGBTQ-affirmative interventions delivered via novel technologies (e.g., smartphones), in diverse settings (e.g., Eastern Europe, Appalachia), and with diverse segments of the LGBTQ community (e.g., queer women, men of color). These treatments have shown often-times strong and sustained reductions in depression, anxiety, suicidality, substance use, and HIV risk across several randomized controlled trials. He has published 100+ scientific papers on LGBTQ mental health and stigma and recently co-edited the *Handbook of Evidence-Based Mental Health Practice with Sexual and Gender Minorities* published by Oxford University Press. You can learn more about his research at esteem.yale.edu.

Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, UConn School of Social Work

For over a decade, Alberto Cifuentes, Jr., LMSW, has been a community organizer and social justice advocate for underrepresented and marginalized populations, including LGBTQ+ individuals, undocumented immigrants, and returning citizens. He has been an active leader of several non-profit organizations, such as the National Association of Social Workers Connecticut Chapter (NASW/CT) and GLSEN Connecticut.

Alberto is a Health Policy Research Scholar (HPRS), a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation fellowship supporting doctoral students whose research and leadership advances policy towards a Culture of Health. Alberto's research focuses on developing inclusive and equitable policies and practices for consensual sex workers, those that willingly participate in the sex trade. His dissertation will explore the effects of stigma and criminalization on the health outcomes of consensual sex workers using a sex-positive, harm reduction approach. His ultimate goal is to direct an organization that will increase access to vital services and programs for consensual sex workers.