



SCHOLARS IN ACTION
Healing from Racial Trauma and
Promoting Antiracist Practice

Panel Discussion
Featuring Recent Faculty Scholarship
Tuesday, November 24, 2020, at 4: p.m.
VIA WEBEX - REGISTER HERE

Please join us for an informative and entertaining panel discussion featuring the recent research of WCSU faculty including **Dr. Carina Bandhauer**, professor, Social Sciences Department; **Dr. Stacey Alba Hawkins**, professor, World Language & Culture Department; **Dr. Karen McLean**, associate professor, Social Work; and **Dr. Lorraine Moya Salas**, assistant professor, Social Work Department. [Dr. Missy Alexander](#), provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, will moderate.

Dr. Carina Bandhauer will be presenting her paper, “**Identifying Racism as a Preface to Social Justice for Latinx Communities**” was originally presented to the Latino Sociology Section American Sociological Association Conference in New York, NY (August, 2019). The paper examines the question of what makes anti-Latinx, anti-immigrant (and anti-immigration) discourse and actions racist is continuously batted around between progressives and conservatives. In fact, even self-proclaimed progressives sometimes flinch or hesitate when asked to explain why those opposing immigration and Latinx communities are racist. What makes immigration and the treatment of Latinx communities issues of racism needs to be clarified as a methodological tool before we can obtain social justice not just for these communities, but in general. Thus, identifying racism in the anti-immigrant discourse (which is invariably anti-Latinx) is a crucial tool for social justice. Data for this paper draws from a 20-year longitudinal ethnographic study on the U.S. Anti-Immigrant Movement which almost exclusively targets Mexico, Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and Chicanxs, but which lacks a critical assessment of all other groups as well. More than fifty formal long interviews were conducted with leading anti-immigrant activists as well as key pro-immigrant activists between since 1999.

Dr. Stacey Hawkins’ presentation, **The Defense of Human Rights in Modern Mexican Narrative**, addresses counterhegemonic voices that reject the fear and silence of imposed power structures in Mexico, focusing on the specific example of Antonio Ortuño (1976-), a Mexican journalist and novelist. His novel *La fila india* (2013) unmasks racism in Mexico against Central American immigrants who are the victims of drug trafficking and human trafficking cartels. When social protest faces censorship or death, fictional imaginaries offer a discourse to break the wall of fear and complicity. Against the music, film, and narratives that glorify drug cartels in the neoliberal global hegemony of the narco-aesthetic, the cultural imaginary in Ortuño’s novel empowers “other” voices, inviting readers to re-imagine a shared humanity.

Dr. Karen McLean will provide an overview of a panel presentation she participated in as a member of the Diversity Committee of the National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter on **Understanding Cultural Humility Through the Lens of Micro, Mezzo, and Macro Practice**. Cultural humility is a reflective, lifelong process of recognizing the uniqueness of individuals that challenges our own knowledge about what we “think we know” about people, groups, or cultures and encourages individuals to tell you “who they are”. A vignette was used to illustrate how intervention strategies are developed at each level of social work practice.

The pervasiveness of trauma and the need for trauma-informed care are commonly recognized in the literature and amongst behavioral health practitioners. In her presentation, **Trauma-Informed Care and Radical Healing with Latina/o Immigrant Families**, **Dr. Lorraine Moya Salas** explains how the impacts of historical and racial trauma to Black Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) are less recognized. Standard definitions of trauma do not include historical and racial assaults; assessment and treatment approaches similarly are frequently “colorblind.” Emerging in the field is an understanding of historical and

racial trauma. Yet much of this research has focused on African Americans and indigenous communities. Using a critical theory lens, I consider the effects of both historical and racial trauma on Latina/o immigrant families.