

Paola Acosta*De eso no se habla: Barriers of Disclosing Childhood Sexual Abuse in the Latine Community*

Child sexual abuse (CSA) self-disclosure and culturally relevant treatment approaches amongst the Latine community remains unexplored. This study aims to investigate obstacles inhibiting CSA self-disclosure and the effectiveness of evidenced-based treatment such as eye movement desensitization reprocessing (EMDR). The researcher conducted three semi-structured interviews with mental health clinicians currently working alongside Latine individuals and trauma. Participants provided insight and expertise on the clinical implications for treating Latine individuals who experienced CSA. Through interpretive phenomenological analysis, the three following themes emerged: importance of intersectionality, barriers to self-disclosure of CSA experiences in the Latine community, and culturally responsive treatment for the Latine community. The findings corroborate the body of literature on barriers Latine individuals may face to CSA self-disclosure. Further, participants shared their examples of culturally adapted therapeutic approaches.

Valeria Ayala*Entre Hombres: Exploring Group Interventions for Latino Men*

Cultural and gender expectations significantly impact Latino men's support systems as they encourage emotional and physical strength as a form of masculinity. The present study explored group interventions through the perceptions and experiences of counselors who counsel Latino men. Chapter one provides a review of the literature followed by methods, results of three interviews, and a discussion of the results as they connect to the current literature. Findings suggest that Latino men's presenting concerns include mental health concerns, maintaining and building relationships, and communication and parenting. Additionally, findings indicate that current barriers to intimacy for Latino men are a result of cultural and gender expectations, fear and shame, and group challenges. Using group interventions, the present study demonstrates an approach to de-stigmatization of mental health for Latino men.

Estevan Barajas*Healing Pathways: Psilocybin Treatment Considerations with Young Adult Latinx Men Struggling with Trauma-Influenced Sex Addiction*

As a result of the growing availability of research, psilocybin-assisted therapy has received support from those working inside and outside the scientific community. Research has pointed out how the medicinal use of psilocybin in controlled and contained therapeutic settings can help relieve difficult symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, cancer-related anxiety, and smoking cessation issues. Despite breakthroughs in research, there is a gap in research regarding the issue of sex addiction. An additional gap in research shows how scientific literature falls short in addressing Latinx responses to psilocybin-assisted therapy regarding sex addiction, let alone other prominent mental health issues affecting Latinx populations. This study aims to address the following research question: What psilocybin treatment considerations are important to treat young adult Latinx men struggling with trauma-influenced sex addiction? After researching several aspects of the issue and creating a literature review, three professionals/practitioners who practice the psilocybin modality were interviewed to gather relevant study themes. The themes collected from the interviews include: a) Cultural and religious impact on sexuality; b) Nuances to

language and culture; and c) Barriers to treatment. The results suggest that addressing Latinx cultural and religious stigma surrounding sex and sexuality, accommodating clients' language and cultural needs in treatment, and addressing barriers such as financial and clinician availability could help to support young adult Latinx men struggling with trauma-influenced sex addiction receiving psilocybin-assisted treatment.

Dana Ann K. Billena

Integrating Mindfulness-Based Practices Within Modern-Day Therapy with Native Hawaiian and Asian Pacific Islander To Create Culturally Safe Spaces

The present qualitative study explores the use of mindfulness-based practices and interventions while working with historically marginalized populations such as/but not limited to: Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, Asian Americans. The researcher conducted three semi-structured interviews with mental health clinicians local to Hawai'i. Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) methodology was used to analyze the collected data. Three super-ordinate themes emerged from the interviews: incorporation of mindfulness-based interventions, the treatment of Pacific Islander clients, and the types of trauma and conflict experienced from these populations. The findings, in conjunction with existing literature, suggest that education surrounding clinicians working from a culturally relevant and sensitive framework is vital in the treatment of historically suppressed populations.

Katherine A. Bottinelli

Vulnerability as a Necessary Component for Secure Attachment in Romantic Relationships

The present study explores the role of vulnerability in cultivating a secure attachment in romantic relationships. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with three mental health clinicians who specialize in couples' treatment. Data collected from these conversations were analyzed using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), with the following three overarching themes identified: presentation of insecure dynamics among couples, vulnerability processes in romantic relationships, and EFT as a treatment modality. Partner's relational history and self-protective strategies, along with safety, connection, and tolerance were among the topics discussed. Findings in these areas expanded upon the limited research on vulnerability within romantic partnerships, providing increased evidence toward a more clearly defined understanding of its role and functionality between partners. Outcomes on EFT's ability to assist insecurely attached couples with vulnerable exchanges were also identified and generally supported by the body of research. The results of the study suggest that the prioritization of vulnerability between partners may lead to the development and sustainability of a secure dynamic through the support of EFT-related interventions.

Sheila W. Chambers

Defusing Social Anxiety Using Mindful Practices in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

This research study reviewed the scholarly literature as well as best practices of acceptance and commitment (ACT) practitioners who work with social anxiety disorder (SAD). This revealed a growing consensus that SAD may now be the most prevalent psychological disorder. It also suggested that ACT is a beneficial modality for treatment of SAD. Three ACT practitioners were interviewed regarding their experiences working with SAD clients. Three themes merged the literature with findings from the interviews as relevant to clinical practice: The prevalence of SAD symptom expression and comorbidity, factors in development and disruption of social skill

norms, and therapeutic foci for treatment of SAD using ACT. One significant finding was based on the participants shared premise. They claimed that given the combined impact of ubiquitous social media and the Covid pandemic, SAD prevalence has increased in direct proportion to a decrease in regular opportunities for in-person socializing. While their perspectives have some support in current literature, interviewees espoused for more research into geopolitical and biopsychosocial contexts which they considered as contributory systemic factors in the etiology of the disorder.

Jennifer Chu

The Effects of Attachment Trauma in the Coming Out Process on Same-Sex Adult Romantic Relationships

This qualitative exploration investigates how attachment trauma during the coming out process affects adult romantic relationships among gay and lesbian individuals. Three key themes emerged from semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis: (a) trauma dynamics and expressions, (b) approaches to healing and therapy, and (c) barriers versus resources. The identified themes highlight a range of effects from trauma, various coping mechanisms, and elements impacting relationship dynamics after the initial coming out process. These findings underscore the complex impact of attachment trauma on later romantic relationships, emphasizing the necessity for customized interventions and strong support systems to promote healthier relationship outcomes.

Erin Raye Costello

The Importance of Community for the Collective Healing of Neurodivergent Queer Clients

The present study explores the way counselors use community and groups in the treatment of neurodivergent, queer clients as a way to promote collective healing. The current literature reviewed mainly studies the intersection of neurodivergent and queer identity, with evidence presented that queer identity is directly shaped and understood under a neurodiverse lens. The topic of utilizing community for collective healing was of interest to counseling researchers due to the isolative nature of neuroqueer identity, and the perceived positive impact of connection. Within this research study, three neuroqueer therapists were interviewed about their experiences working with neuroqueer clients, with an emphasis on utilizing community spaces and group therapy. Themes around the impact of white supremacy, the influence of collective healing, and common intervention strategies are explored. The findings supported the hypothesis that community connection is imperative for the collective healing and empowerment of neuroqueer clients.

Sarvenaz Farzad

Friendship is Magic: Exploring Cultural Homelessness within the 1.5 Immigrant Generation

The present study explores clinicians' experiences collaborating with the 1.5 immigrant generation, a neglected immigrant population within extant literature, their encounters with cultural homelessness, and provides insights into the impact of friendship on cultural homelessness. Following a review of the existing literature, three mental health professionals were interviewed using a semi-structured approach. Three major themes materialized: the intersection of culture and identities, the trials and tribulations of immigration and cultural homelessness, and the journey toward healing. Findings emphasize that immigration generates cultural friction between collectivism and individualism, which engenders distress,

parentification, identity confusion, loneliness, parental distance, and ultimately, feeling culturally homeless. Suggested treatment interventions involve, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), psychoeducation, and rapport building, and most readily emphasized: identity work and expansion of social support.

Faith Haas

Embodied Healing: Using Somatic Experiencing with Adult Female Survivors of Trauma

The present study explored the experiences of mental health professionals who utilize Somatic Experiencing (SE) in their clinical practice. The study aimed to comprehend the application of SE in processing trauma, with a specific focus on examining adult female survivors of IPV. Three semi-structured interviews were conducted with trained SE clinicians to gain insight into their observations and knowledge of this approach in their work with clients. Thematic analysis of the data resulted in three overarching themes: foundations of SE, therapeutic process and alliance, and challenges and opportunities. The findings suggested somatic interventions improve overall functioning, and the therapeutic relationship is critical for positive outcomes. The results of the present study support the efficacy of SE in trauma work and expand on the limited body of research examining the utilization of SE with IPV survivors.

Rebecca Hendler

The Wounds Created in Childhood: Relational Healing for Youth Experiencing Complex Developmental Trauma

The present study explores clinicians' experiences of working with youth experiencing complex developmental trauma. The study aims to expand on current knowledge of developmentally appropriate treatments and how clinicians can best support early intervention and healing for youth experiencing pervasive maltreatment from early childhood relationships. Four mental health professionals were interviewed using a semi-structured approach. Three themes developed from the interviews: the impact and symptomology of childhood trauma, client goals and implications for treatment, and relational healing. The findings outline treatment approaches that prioritize interpersonal connection, creativity in working with youth, and clinical considerations to ensure autonomy and safety. Overall, the results are consistent with preexisting literature that highlighted the developmental and identity impact on youth and expanded on treatment approaches for healing.

Gabriela A. Hernandez

¡Cuidate Mujer! Exploring the Influence of Cultural Values on Depression and Self-Care among Latinx Women

The present study explores the experiences of clinicians working with Latinx women dealing with depression and self-care concerns. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with three mental health clinicians to collect qualitative data. The main themes that emerged from the interviews included (1) the complex dynamics of depression, (2) cultural nuances in self-care, and (3) culturally relevant therapy. The findings validate and extend existing literature that explores the impact of specific Latinx values, such as Marianismo and familismo, on women's mental health. Additionally, these results broaden the scope of limited research on culturally sensitive treatment. Lastly, the study provides valuable perspectives on strategies to decolonize mental health and self-care practices to enhance accessibility, relatability, and consistency for Latinx women. The implications for clinical practice, recommendations for future research, and

study limitations were also discussed, providing a comprehensive overview of the study's contributions and avenues for further exploration.

Ellen Henderson

Clinician Perspectives on Utilizing Family Therapy in Treatment for Adolescent Self-Injury

This qualitative research study investigates family therapy for adolescents engaging in self-injury, drawing insights from in-depth interviews with three experienced clinicians. The analysis uncovers four major themes: 1) functions and motivations for self-injury, 2) family-related factors, 3) intervention strategies, and 4) considerations for therapists. Participants stressed the need for psychoeducation on self-injury, emphasizing coping, communication, and connection skills. Explored family factors include intergenerational patterns, communication challenges, and emotional burdens. Clinicians advocate for “pre-work” with individuals before engaging in family therapy and call for therapist self-reflection when engaging in this work. The study suggests avenues for future research, including longitudinal studies on intergenerational patterns and exploration of indicators for readiness for family therapy. The research underscores the nuanced nature of family therapy for adolescent self-injury, providing valuable insights and applications for clinicians.

Anya T. Kasparian

Involuntary Childlessness: An Invisible and Living Loss

The prevalence of childlessness is increasing in Western nations around the world, yet the underlying reasons are largely unrecognized. Conventional wisdom holds that individuals either choose not to have children or face the inability to have children due to medical infertility. However, most women without children find themselves in the category of 'childless by circumstance'. The present study explores the growing phenomenon of involuntary childlessness amongst women in industrialized nations. Employing a qualitative approach, data was gathered through four semi-structured interviews with clinicians specializing in and directly supporting women experiencing involuntary childlessness. Through the analysis of the data collected this study seeks first, to understand how involuntary childlessness is unique from other forms of childlessness and why it is both stigmatized and misunderstood. Next, this study aims to make sense of the silence, invisibility, and largely disenfranchised grief associated with this demographic. Finally, the results highlight some of the clinical implications and potential biases for counselors working with this population, while introducing inclusive and affirming treatment interventions for this important and underserved population.

Yen-Tzu Liu

The Art of Play Therapy: Counseling Asian American Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The present study is intended to explore clinicians' perspectives on using play therapy to work with Asian American children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The researcher interviewed three clinicians to explore the efficacy of using play therapy in treating Asian-American children with ASD. Interpretative phenomenological interpretive was utilized to analyze the data collected from the interviews. The results of the present study include challenges faced by children with ASD, treatment with Asian-American children with ASD, and working with parents of Asian-American children with ASD. The findings indicate that the flexibility and inclusiveness of non-directive play therapy serve as the best tool to assist Asian-American children with ASD increase emotional and social growth as well as decrease behavioral

problems. Moreover, the findings also suggest that working with parents is indispensable during the treatment process and provides considerations and strategies for working with parents of Asian-American children with ASD.

Cathryn E. Loo

Nothing Without You: Exploring the Social Context of Codependent Emerging Adults

This study aimed to investigate the experiences of mental health professionals working with emerging adults displaying codependent traits. Following a review of the literature, three clinicians were interviewed to collect data, which was then analyzed into three main themes: risk factors and cultural influences contributing to codependency, the emergence of codependency in individuals and relationships, and dynamics of the treatment process. The analysis explored topics such as the individuation process in adolescence, early childhood experiences, and societal influences. The findings indicated that factors like traumas and societal gender norms could predispose individuals to codependency. While various treatment methods were mentioned, findings emphasized the importance of the therapeutic relationship's role in the healing process of codependency. Additionally, the systemic nature of codependency was emphasized, aligning with existing literature on the importance of group and family therapy.

Isabelle Marquez

"Not Your Erotic, Not Your Exotic": Therapeutic Approaches for BIPOC Women Survivors of Sexual Trauma

The present study explores culturally sensitive therapeutic approaches for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) women who have survived sexual trauma. Following a review of the existing literature, interviews were conducted with three mental health professionals regarding their experiences working with this population. Three overarching themes emerged from the interviews: survivors' responses to sexual trauma, cultural challenges and barriers, and therapeutic approaches to working with BIPOC women survivors. Findings suggest that survivors' responses may be influenced by culture, and the challenges they face may stem from societal oppression due to their intersecting identities. Suggested treatment approaches include somatic interventions, such as eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) therapy, and somatic techniques, such as grounding, as BIPOC women survivors appear to prefer these interventions over traditional talk therapies. Lastly, BIPOC women's strengths are highlighted and discussed in the context of facilitating healing from sexual trauma.

Jennifer McGivern

Utilizing Narrative Therapy to Treat Queer Individuals with Religious Trauma

The present study explores how narrative therapy is used when treat queer individuals who have experienced religious trauma. The current literature reviewed established mechanisms of trauma, the impact of conversion therapy, the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, and the impact on spiritual identity. In this study three participants who are narrative therapists and treat religious trauma were interviewed in a semi-structured format about their experiences. Data gathered was interpreted utilizing Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis. Emerging themes include mechanisms of trauma, the impact of trauma on relationships, rapport with clients, and choosing religious identity. The findings supported the literature connecting religious trauma to post-traumatic stress disorder. The finding also supported the use of systemic approach when treating queer people with religious trauma, as well as the efficacy of narrative therapy for these

issues.

Vikiea Mckamie

Treating the Wounds of an Invisible Belt: Unlearning Narratives and Breaking Intergenerational Patterns of Parental Shame

The primary focus of this study is to investigate how childhood experiences of parental shame impact the mental health of African American adults. A secondary focus was to uncover possible explanations for the use of parental shame. Semi-structured interviews were used with four mental health clinicians to collect qualitative data. Three overarching themes emerged: the invisibility of parental shame, factors contributing to invisibility, and treatment considerations for working with this population. Three key findings were revealed. First, the findings suggest that parental shame experienced in childhood has long-term effects that impact the self-perception and self-worth of African American adults. The second finding suggests that parental shame is an intergenerational issue within African American families. The final finding suggests that several factors make identifying parental shame in African American adults challenging for clinicians and their clients. These results highlight the adverse effects of parental shame and the impact of intergenerational modeling.

Aylin Sarabia Meza

Straddling Two Worlds: Exploring the Experiences of Undocumented Latine College Students

Beneath every migration story lies undisclosed trauma and challenges. Undocumented Latine college students often find themselves navigating between two worlds: the country they immigrated to and their country of origin. The present study explores clinicians' experiences working with undocumented Latine college students. Three mental health professionals were interviewed in this qualitative study to identify effective treatment modalities to support this population. The qualitative analysis identified three major themes: emerging concerns, navigating challenges and harnessing strengths, and their healing journey. Participants provided valuable perspectives and knowledge regarding the clinical implications of treating undocumented Latine college students. Findings highlighted the significance of understanding how undocumented status impacts mental health and other facets of their lives. The results further underscore the benefits of integrating a social justice lens into treatment approaches. Implications for clinical practice, areas for future research, and limitations of the present study were also discussed.

Sinclair Mitchell

Clinical Considerations for Utilizing Mindfulness for Compulsive Sexual Behavior in Women

Given the pervasiveness of gender discrimination, women may be impacted by the vulnerabilities posed by gender inequality when experiencing and seeking treatment for compulsive sexual behavior. The present study explored culturally attuned treatment of compulsive sexual behavior in women utilizing mindfulness interventions. Following a review of the existing literature, three mental health professionals were interviewed regarding their experiences working with this population, presenting concern, and treatment modality. Three themes emerged from the interviews: gender inequalities impacting women, compulsive sexual behavior as an avoidance of pain, and mindfulness treating compulsive sexual behavior through awareness and acceptance. Findings suggest that utilizing mindfulness to elicit awareness and acceptance may mitigate the experiences of negative affect, emotional regulation deficits, and

impulsivity and compulsivity in a culturally empowering manner for women with compulsive sexual behavior.

Vanessa Muñoz

Cicatrices Invisibles: Exploring the Traumatic Experiences of Latinx Immigrant Youth

The existing research is limited in scope regarding Latinx immigrant communities and even more scarce when encompassing children. The present study explores the trauma that Latinx immigrant populations are constantly subjected to, particularly children, through a liberation psychology lens. Through an interpretative phenomenological analysis, this research was examined through semi-structured interviews with three participant clinicians working with immigrant Latinx children and families. These interviews were transcribed and analyzed through level one and level two coding which consisted of paraphrasing and meaning making. Through this, the study demonstrated three themes: a) Latinx cultural elements in the therapeutic setting through the use of liberation psychology; b) Family dynamics in working with Latinx immigrant children; and c) Navigating the unseen barriers: Exploring trauma within Latinx immigrant communities. The results suggest that liberation psychology is a commendable modality and that Latinx immigrant children experience trauma through cultural factors, family dynamics, and unseen barriers.

Laura Schickling

Letting Go for Dear Life: Exploring Clinicians' Experiences Counseling Women Healing from Divorce Through an Attachment Lens

This qualitative research study aimed to explore counselors' experiences utilizing an attachment lens to work with women moving through the divorce process. In reviewing the available research, there was considerable information on the benefits of developing an earned secure attachment after divorce. However, there was little information on how women moving through divorce can become more securely attached. To gather more practical data on the topic, the researcher interviewed three clinicians with experience working with the target population. After analyzing and organizing the data collected, three major themes emerged that impact divorce healing: factors within the divorce transition, the importance of deconstructing the relationship itself, and healing from divorce within the therapeutic space. This research has significant clinical implications as the therapeutic relationship was found to be one of the most critical factors in post-divorce healing. By understanding the divorce transition from an attachment lens, clinicians will be better able to serve their future clients moving through divorce.

Tamara Solano

Eso no es Normal: Exploring the Cultural Factors That Influence Sexual Identity Development and Disclosure in Queer Latine Women

Although the experiences of queer individuals are increasingly explored in research, there remains a significant gap in literature related to the unique experiences of queer women. This gap is further widened by the lack of research exploring how queer Latine women navigate queerness in the context of Latine culture. The present study explores the cultural factors that influence sexual identity development and sexual identity disclosure in queer Latine women through interpretive phenomenological analysis. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with three mental health professionals that are experienced working with queer Latine women. The interview data was analyzed through open and axial coding. The results suggested that a

combination of client-centered and feminist therapies may help queer Latina/e clients address the issues of the pervasive impact of marianismo and navigation of sexual identity disclosure.

Haley B. Stinson

Survival Adaptations: Unveiling the Lifelong Impact of Parentification on Second- Generation Latine/x Adults

Whether due to cultural values (i.e., familismo) or oppressive systemic factors in the U.S., second-generation Latine/x individuals may have an increased likelihood of experiencing parentification into adulthood. The present study explored the intersection of colonialism and parentification in second-generation Latine/x individuals and effective, culturally sensitive treatment approaches for working with this population. Following a review of the existing literature, three mental health professionals were interviewed regarding their experiences working with this population. Three themes emerged from the interviews: historical and cultural influences, parentification within second-generation Latine/x clients, and approaches to therapy. Findings suggest that parentification may be a survival adaptation to colonialism and systemic oppressive forces, a lifelong experience for second-generation Latine/x adults (as opposed to only a childhood experience), and an emotional burden once individuals reach adulthood. Suggested treatment interventions include maintaining an empowerment-oriented perspective, thorough exploration of family history (e.g., genogram, migration story), contextualizing parentification within systemic factors, and utilizing indigenous healing practices. Overall, the use of cultural strengths may support efficacious treatment.

Daameonia Stokes

Yes, Black People Have Eating Disorders: Clinical Perspectives on Treating Black Women with Eating Disorders

While there is ample amount of research highlighting the experiences of White woman with eating disorders, little is known about the ways Black women navigate the disorder. This can be attributed to various reasons including racial stereotypes, misinformation about disordered eating, and an overall lack of knowledge on the ways development and symptomology is different for Black women. Very often, a one size fits all approach is used to treat eating disorders, and this might not be efficacious for Black women whose intersectional identities are connected to a long history of societal oppression. To address these concerns, the present study utilizes interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) to examine the experiences of three clinicians who treat Black women for eating related disturbances. The study aimed to address two questions: (1) what does symptomology and development of eating disorders look like for Black women, and (2) is a decolonized approach (i.e. liberation psychology) a more effective treatment option for Black women. Three key themes emerged from the data analysis: (a) Black women may be unaware they have an eating disorder, (b) Black women are unprotected, and (c) effective treatment approaches. Clinical implications point to a need for more research on the lived experiences of Black women with eating disorders, and for non-Black clinicians to actively practice cultural humility.

Maria T. Sueldo

“No One Had Ever Seen Me Like You Have”: Using Compassion to Empower Gang-Affiliated Youth

The present study explored clinicians' experiences utilizing compassion-based interventions with gang-affiliated youth. There is a gap in the literature on using this treatment with adolescents in gangs, and this study aims to address it. Thus, three semi-structured interviews were conducted with clinicians who have experience implementing compassion-based interventions with gang-affiliated youth. The data obtained from these interviews were transcribed and coded. The three themes that emerged were the following: (1) understanding gang-affiliated youth, (2) the process of therapy, and (3) outcomes of using compassion-based treatment. The results from this interview indicate the challenges gang-affiliated youth endure, the importance of the therapeutic alliance with this population, and the effectiveness of using compassion-based interventions with gang-affiliated adolescents. Clinical implications for therapists wanting to utilize this treatment with youth in gangs are discussed. Areas of future research and limitations of this study are also mentioned.

Angela M. Umeres

Facilitating Healing with Parents Experiencing Child Loss to Terminal Illness

The present study examines mental health clinicians' experiences and perceptions of working with parents in healing from child loss to terminal illness through the use of therapeutic interventions, such as Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR) therapy and various helpful approaches. The researcher conducted three semi-structured interviews with professionals who engage in grief work, specific to loss and terminal illness, to provide descriptive narratives of their experiences. A thematic analysis of the data resulted in three significant themes: grief as waves of unique experiences, factors influencing healing from child loss, and treatment approaches for parental bereavement. The results of the study support the existing body of literature that discusses the complexity and delicate nature of bereavement related to a child's death, parental identity and meaning-making, and unique experiences after loss to terminal illness. The results also expand on the most significant factors contributing to clients' healing through such a "different" and socially unspoken type of loss. Clinical implications, areas for future research, and limitations of the study are addressed. This study is a call to action for mental health practitioners to educate themselves and receive training to facilitate healing processes and instill hope for parents coping with child loss to terminal illness.

Yadira J. Uribe

Cycles Unveiled: An In-Depth Exploration of CSA, Forced Marriages, and Culturally Competent Therapies in Latine Contexts

This thesis examines the nuanced experiences of Latinas who endured child sexual abuse (CSA) and later entered relationships with their abusers, exploring the sources of strength and areas of oppression in cultural context. The research question explores improving therapeutic support for these individuals, specifically through the Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) lens. Employing Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and purposive sampling, three licensed clinicians with expertise in mental health counseling and EMDR were interviewed. Findings highlight the temporal nature of survivors acknowledging abuse. EMDR, psychoeducation, and familial support emerge as crucial in healing. The study provides insights for therapists working with Latinas who have experienced CSA and complex relationships in a culturally sensitive manner.

Minh Ngoc Phuong Vo

A Quiet Struggle: Vietnamese Informal Dementia Caregiving and Effective Interventions

This qualitative study investigates the challenges faced by Vietnamese informal dementia caregivers. Through in-depth interviews with three licensed clinical social workers, the study examines the experience of Vietnamese caregivers, barriers to seeking assistance, and interventions that are helpful for this population. Caregivers experience significant stigma and self-depreciation that ultimately influence their help-seeking initiatives, and non-directive approaches such as play therapy and narrative therapy are reported to be appropriate for this population. The study advocates for culturally affirming interventions that can empower caregivers and help them reframe. The findings also underline the need for more research efforts on this understudied population.

Kayla Zuckerman

Transforming Unseen Scars: Exploration of Clinician Experiences with Ketamine Assisted Psychotherapy (KAP) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Survivors Struggling with Self-Concept

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a leading cause of disability that can lead to a variety of issues in daily life. Physical symptoms are often the focus, however, psychological difficulties are also abundant in this population. The present qualitative study aims to explore how ketamine assisted psychotherapy (KAP) may aid these survivors of TBI with self-concept issues. Informed by the current literature, interviews were conducted with three mental health clinicians with experience treating TBI survivors and implementing KAP. The data from the interviews produced three overarching themes: (1) client mindset, (2) treatment is not one size fits all, and (3) current systemic barriers to treatment. The results expand on the existing literature on the TBI population, KAP, and issues with self-concept. The findings are discussed to provide possible clinical implications and examine areas of future research for this treatment and population in the field of counseling.