



6-2023

## **7th Annual GSEP Research Symposium**

Lonnie McNamee



# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual GSEP Research SYMPOSIUM

*June 8, 2023*

**8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

*Pepperdine West Los Angeles Campus*



# Welcome

Welcome to Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology (GSEP). We are committed to equipping our faculty, staff and students for exceptional service. Through our research, we strive to discover innovative visions, distinctions, technological expansions, and methodical precisions. Increasing our understanding of various topics supports our mission of academic excellence. At GSEP, our faculty, staff, and students possess a wealth of knowledge across many spectrums. We look forward to this day of learning with our community and guests.



*“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6*

**Pepperdine University**  
Graduate School of Education and Psychology  
6100 Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045

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## *GSEP Mission Statement*

*The Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology (GSEP) is an innovative learning community where faculty, staff, and students of diverse cultures and perspectives work collaboratively to foster academic excellence, social purpose, meaningful service, and personal fulfillment*

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As a graduate school within a Christian university, GSEP endeavors to educate and motivate students to assume leadership roles in professions that improve and enrich the lives of individuals, families, and communities. At GSEP we embrace human diversity - which we believe to be the natural expression of God's creation - in our work to advance learning and service. GSEP advances, sustains, and advocates for multicultural proficiency.

The strategies for accomplishing this mission are:

- Promoting discourse that values each member's background, experiences, and perspective;
- Recruiting, retaining, and advancing diverse students, staff, and faculty;
- Developing curricular models for practice in educational and psychological environments; and reaching out to broader communities to promote understanding and facilitate solutions to diversity challenges.

Our spirit, energy, and actions will be an inspiration to education and psychology communities.



## *Session One*

**9:10 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.**

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Dr. Carrie Castaneda-Sound, Kailey Painter, Gabriela Pineda ***Applications of Mujerista Psychology: Testimonios as Collective Liberation*** (Room 332)

Dr. Kfir Mordechay ***Moving Out and Apart: Race, Poverty, and the Suburbanization of Public-School Segregation*** (Room 343)

Dr. Abraham Song ***Improving the Technical Assistance of America's Small Business Development Centers*** (Room 337)

Dr. Shelly Harrell ***My Sabbatical Travels and the Birth of Sankofa Theory and Practice*** (Virtual Presentation, Room 335)

## *Session Two*

**9:35 A.M. - 9:55 A.M.**

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Dr. Weina Chen, Dr. Laura Hyatt ***Faculty Leadership Practices in Teaching Hybrid Graduate Courses*** (Room 332)

Dr. Stephanie Woo ***Coping with Miscarriage: What We Can Learn from Cross-Cultural Perspectives of Grief*** (Room 343)

Lina Safa ***Gender Discrimination Among American Adults: Perceptions vs. Experiences*** (Room 345)

Terrance Cao, Dr. Seta Khajarian ***Compliance: An End Goal or a Foundation?*** (Virtual Presentation, Room 335)

Yi Lu, Dr. Kevin Wong ***Promoting L2 vocabulary learning through hybrid learning platforms in higher education*** (Room 337)

## *Session Three*

10:00 A.M. - 10:20 A.M.

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Dr. Jennifer Vaughn *Faith Leaders as Agents of Healing After Trauma: Preliminary Findings from a Faith-Based, Trauma-Informed Prevention Program for Leaders of Latinx Congregations* (Room 332)

Yas Hardaway, Nadine Souret, Usman Khan *Incorporating Faith and Spirituality in Career Development* (Room 343)

Dr. Dennis Lowe: *Using Learning Science: How to Spend the First and Last 5 Minutes of a Class (and the time in-between)* (Virtual Presentation, Room 335)

Dr. Tonya Wood *The Role of Religion for Families Considering Fertility Treatments* (Room 345)

Dr. Eric. Hamilton, Dr. Seung Lee, Dr. Danielle Espino *Broadening participation, building STEM competencies/cross-cultural and international collaboration in project-based learning* (Room 337)

## *Session Four*

10:25 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.

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Dr. Lusineh Gharapetian, Dr. Elizabeth Fong *Have Behavior Analysts' Self-Reported Cultural Competency Changed?* (Room 332)

Dr. Denise Calhoun, Dr. Reyna Garcia Ramos *Rethinking Learning Potentials: The Benefits of Learning Across the Life Span* (Room 343)

Ziyan Guo, Dr. Kevin Wong *Chinese characters are so beautiful: Empowerment and transformation* (Room 337)

Dr. Veronica Viesca, Chantal Daley *Draw it out: Art interventions in EFT for Survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury* (Room 345)

Dr. Shaentta Weatherspoon, Miyue Chen, Monica Pereda *Analyzing the Impact: Foster Grandparent Program* (Room 335)

# *Featured Presentation*

**KEVIN MULCAHY**

**“THE FUTURE OF WORK”**

**11:00 A.M. - 11:45 A.M.**

**(Room 333/334)**



Kevin Mulcahy is an author, speaker, educator, and thought leader on the future of work and workplace trends. He co-authored the book, “The Future Workplace Experience: 10 Rules For Mastering Disruption in Recruiting and Engaging Employees.”

He directs Professional Education, Future of Work, and Scale Up. He curates insights on trends reshaping the future of work and the future of learning; designs and delivers online workshops to cohorts of growth-oriented business leaders; and facilitates discussions on the themes outlined in his book.

Kevin earned his MBA at the Boston College Carroll School of Management and his BA in Management Science, Statistics, and Industrial Systems from Trinity College Dublin. He currently resides in Boston, MA.

## Session Six

1:00 P.M. - 1:20 P.M.

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Dr. Sonya Sharifard **Local Food Environments, Intercultural Perspectives, and Food Security: How do Campus Food Pantries Support Student Success?** (Room 343)

Kristen Votta, Dr. Gimel Rogers, Dr. Marina Basilli **Systematic Review of the Efficacy of State-Level Juvenile Crime Prevention Programs** (Virtual Presentation, Room 332)

Dr. Theresa Dawson **Best Practices for Using Reflection in the Student Global Learning Experience** (Room 337)

Kelly Sullenberger, Dr. Kay Davis **Navigating equitable practices and positive mentorship in the doctoral dissertation process** (Room 345)

Dr. Melissa Huy **Mindful Rest And Brain Advantage**( Virtual Presentation, Room 335)

## Session Seven

1:25 P.M. - 1:45 P.M.

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Jaden Shields **Competence to Stand Trial: An Evaluation of Methods** (Room 337)

Sharletta Green **Reimagining Religious Leadership in the 21st Century in the Public Square embracing the Four R's -Retell, Restore, Reconnect, and Reflect** (Virtual Presentation, Room 335)

Yujung Seol **Trust and Psychological Empowerment in Global Virtual Teams** (Room 345)

Kayleigh Axtell **Overcoming Barriers to Career Advancement for Women in the U.S. Military** ((Virtual Presentation, Room 343)

Dr. Eric Hamilton **Understanding and Repairing Dysfunctional Political Discourse** (Room 332)



## *Session Eight*

**1:50 P.M. - 2:10 P.M.**

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Tallie Gigi *Motivations of Master Level Clinical Psychology Student* (Room 332)

Jodie-Carla Hatherall, Amber Brittain-Hale *Public Diplomacy in the Digital Age: Leadership Communication as a Catalyst and a Control* (Room 343)

Mira Fadel, Dr. Samaa Haniya, Dr. Anne Lukomia *New Media, Digital Footprints, and Women Empowerment: Exploratory Study* (Virtual Presentation, Room 335)

## *Session Nine*

**2:15 P.M. - 2:35 A.M.**

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Cassandra Miasnikov *ADHD and Self-Harm in Girls: Protective and Risk Factors* (Room 332)

Tianshi Hao, Dr. Samaa Haniya *Public The Metaverse Comes to Campus: Enhancing Social Adjustments and Classroom* (Room 343)

Mikelle Barberi-Weil & Barbara Rodriguez *Generosity and the Power of Suggestion | Increasing Social Capital for Women and Girls by Leveraging Emotional Intelligence* (Virtual Presentation, Room 335)

Jolisa Johnson *An overview of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their correlation with ASPD in adulthood* (Room 337)

## Poster Session

2:40 P.M. - 2:55 P.M. (Room 333-334)

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**Feidana Yalikun** ***Digital Media as a Resource for Dynamic Language Learning*** Web 2.0, the second generation of web development and design, has facilitated social interaction on the Internet by enabling active communication and collaboration, transforming habits of passive consumption into opportunities for dynamic access, use, and sharing of information.



**Qiang Qiang**: ***Culture Shifting Your Organization During Post-Pandemic*** Organizations are facing challenges and obstacles caused by COVID-19. After widespread vaccines, lifestyle became normal and entered the post-pandemic era. Organizational culture is the key that organizations shift during the post-pandemic.



**Dr. Kevin Wong** ***Equipping Teachers to Talk to Children about (Multi)racial Identity through Picture Books*** Although 2.9% of the U.S. population and 4% of California identify as Multiracial, only 0.2% of U.S.-published children's books feature multiracial characters. Multiracial children, therefore, rarely see themselves in literature, missing vital opportunities to understand experiences of 'monoracism' where they are bullied or shamed for not meeting 'monoracial' norms.

**Ashlie Grundy** ***Workplace Trauma and Burnout within Black Employee***

***Populations and Mitigating Strategies*** A history of racism in the United States has contributed to systemic inequality and barriers societally, including the workplace. As a result of the racist history, tenants of exclusion negatively impact people who are Black in modern forms of racism.

## Presenters

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**Dr. Carrie Castaneda-Sound, Kelly Painter, Gabriela Pineda**

### **Applications of Mujerista Psychology: Testimonios as Collective Liberation**

Mujerista psychology is a Latina feminist theory that is infused with a spiritual-feminist- liberation approach. It evolved from mujerista theology, which was coined by Ada Maria Isasi-Díaz. Isasi-Díaz explained that mujerista theology explores the intersection of Latina's faith/spirituality and their struggle for liberation, with the work of mujeresistas to be geared towards a deep understanding of the hopes, expectations, and beliefs that Latinas hold around justice and peace.



### **Dr. Kfir Mordechay Moving Out and Apart: Race, Poverty, and the Suburbanization of Public-School Segregation**

As US suburbs experience profound demographic shifts, scholars have expressed concern about rising segregation among suburban public schools. Examining exposure to poverty by race and racial differences in exposure to economic disadvantage in the wake of the Great Recession across a typology of suburban neighborhoods.



### **Dr. Abraham Song Improving the Technical Assistance of America's Small Business Development Centers**

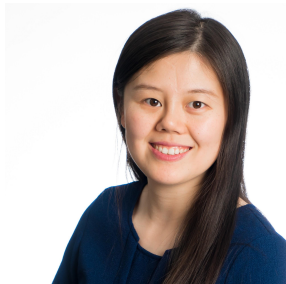
The study examines whether behavioral nudges improve technical assistance (TA) services provided at small business development centers (SBDC). Through the use of nudges, the TA Project pilot program is intended to promote improved client engagement with SBDCs leading to improved business outcomes for clients.



**Dr. Sonya Sharifard** **Local Food Environments, Intercultural Perspectives, and Food Security: How do Campus Food Pantries Support Student Success?** The study examines whether behavioral nudges improve technical assistance (TA) services provided at small business development centers (SBDC). Through the use of nudges, the TA Project pilot program is intended to promote improved client engagement with SBDCs leading to improved business outcomes for clients.



**Dr. Shelly Harrell** ***My Sabbatical Travels and the Birth of Sankofa Theory and Practice*** During 2022 I was blessed to be granted a sabbatical during which I traveled to Ghana, Senegal, and Cuba, as well as immersed myself in African and diasporic mind-body-spirit healing. The larger goal was to inform the development of culturally-informed psychological interventions in the service of improving the relevance, engagement, and effectiveness of mental health care for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.



**Dr. Weina Chen, Dr. Laura Hyatt** ***Faculty Leadership Practices in Teaching Hybrid Graduate Courses*** Hybrid learning, a combination of online and traditional classroom learning, is rapidly gaining popularity in graduate programs. Research on hybrid learning has focused on areas such as engagement strategies, student attitudes, learning effectiveness, and technology tools. Yet, little attention has been given to the role of faculty leadership practices. This study aims to address this gap by examining leadership approaches used by faculty while teaching in hybrid graduate courses.

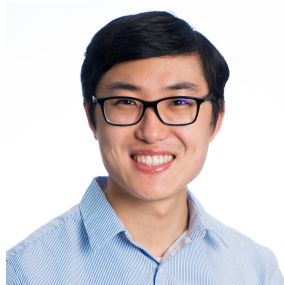


**Dr. Stephanie Woo, Dr. Tonya Wood, Hanieh Fakhrai** ***Coping with Miscarriage: What We Can Learn from Cross-Cultural Perspectives of Grief*** Globally, there are an estimated 43 million miscarriages each year. Miscarriage is associated with significant immediate and long-term health risks, economic costs, and psychological morbidity (Quenby, et al., 2021). The process of psychological recovery from miscarriage can be lengthy and difficult and may include a complex mixture of reactions including grief, anger, shock, and self-blame (Lee & Rowlands, 2015).





**Lina Safa** *Gender Discrimination Among American Adults: Perceptions vs. Experiences* Most of the research on discrimination focuses on social attributes and aspects such as gender, race, religion, economic inequities, and inequality. Researchers have rarely investigated the potential sociological sources of discrimination as perceived by American adults. Considering the potential differences between the perception of discrimination by American adults and the actual discrimination experiences at work and in society, it will help us understand the phenomenon from an objective perspective.



**Terrance Cao, Dr. Seta Khajarian** *Compliance: An End Goal or a Foundation?* Formal assessment processes aim to inform programs about student learning outcomes and support meaningful decision-making. The implementation of formal assessment may be associated with rote compliance that does not provide value beyond the completion of a requirement. There are also criticisms that attempts to utilize “one-size-fits-all” approaches to assessment overlook unique and meaningful contextual factors in a program or school.



**Yi Lu, Dr. Kevin Wong** *Promoting L2 vocabulary learning through hybrid learning platforms in higher education* E-learning has been increasingly adopted in higher education contexts worldwide due to the effectiveness and convenience of delivering high-quality instruction to students through digital platforms. With continued technological developments and the demand for remote instruction, demonstrated, in part, by the COVID-19 pandemic, a thorough understanding of e-learning platforms in post-secondary contexts is immensely needed.



**Dr. Jennifer Vaughn Faith Leaders as Agents of Healing After Trauma: Preliminary Findings from a Faith-Based, Trauma-Informed Prevention Program for Leaders of Latinx Congregations** The shortage of culturally- and linguistically-proficient mental health practitioners (Marquine & Jimenez, 2020) necessitates implementation of sustainable prevention programs that can be feasibly led by community providers. Latinx faith-based organizations have a long history of providing critical social services and support for marginalized populations.



**Usman Khan, Nadine Souret, Yas Hardaway**

***Incorporating Faith and Spirituality in Career Development***

Research studies have explored the positive relationship between career development and spirituality. It has been shown that aspects of faith and spirituality promote vocational identity development and career satisfaction. Hence, within the context of a faith-based organization like Pepperdine University, career development professionals may recognize, validate, and discuss spirituality-based topics and challenges for clients as part of the career planning process.



**Dr. Dennis Lowe (Virtual Presentation) *Using Learning Science: How to Spend the First and Last 5 Minutes of a Class (and the time in-between)* Virtual**

James Lang (2021) explored the science of learning and identified small changes in teaching that can make a big difference. He observes that "the first five minutes of a college class often get frittered away with logistical tasks" rather than capturing students' attention and preparing them for learning. According to Lang, the final minutes of class are often used as "an opportunity to

cram in eight more points before students exit, or to say three more things that just occurred to us about the day's material, or to call out as many reminders as possible about upcoming deadlines."





**Dr. Tonya Wood** **The Role of Religion for Families Considering Fertility Treatments** Many religions emphasize pronatalism in their beliefs and principles yet view scientific interventions such as “in-vitro fertilization” are also sometimes contrary to their ideology. Thus, the application and use of reproductive technology for conception is limited or not always ordained. In these situations, the religious ideas about use of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) create medical and psychological challenges for individuals and couples in need of fertility treatments.



**Dr. Seung Lee, Dr. Danielle Espino, Dr. Eric Hamilton** **Broadening participation, building STEM competencies/cross-cultural and international collaboration in project-based learning** This presentation will provide an overview of the Asset-Based Learning Environments (ABLE) project, a study funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that engages middle and high school students and educators in an international, project-based learning and media-making community in areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



**Dr. Lusineh Gharapetian, Dr. Elizabeth Fong** **Have Behavior Analysts' Self-Reported Cultural Competency Changed?** Behavior analytic practitioners often advocate for culturally responsive and sensitive services for the individuals they serve; however, there has been limited research that supports the requirements needed for formal training and implementation.



**Dr. Eric Hamilton** **Understanding and Repairing Dysfunctional Political Discourse** While political discourse is one the greatest assets of our nation and its foundational right of freedom of speech, it has in the United States become increasingly overwhelmed by contempt, alienation, and intensifying tribalism – sabotaging the ability of our nation’s citizenry to engage meaningfully with those of differing perspectives, distorting perceptions, and changing us and our society for the worse. These dysfunctionalities have become especially prominent with the ascendancy of social media, which presents tradeoffs between giving voice to many while monetizing algorithms designed to fuel discord. Political discourse in the United States has devolved to a dysfunctionality that threatens the viability and survivability of the nation.



**Dr. Denise Calhoun, Dr. Reyna Garcia Ramos** ***Rethinking Learning Potentials: The Benefits of Learning Across the Life Span*** Is there ever a point in life when it is too late to learn? Researchers are continuously concerned about ways to intervene cognitive and communicative decline in older adults. In fact, many of the symptoms associated with aging seem to resemble early childhood development issues like limited mobility, and poor communication (Matteson, et al., 2007).



**Kevin Wong, Ziyang Guo** ***Chinese characters are so beautiful: Empowerment and transformation*** The past decade has seen an undeniable increase in Chinese learners around the world, reflected in classrooms that teach Chinese to emergent bilinguals as a new or heritage language in the United States (Wong & Tian, 2022). To support bilingual language development, scholars and practitioners alike recognize the importance of maximizing language input and exposure to learners in both formal and informal learning environments (Dressman & Sadler, 2020). Informal learning contexts, however, are far less studied and far less consistent in providing systematic, research-informed Chinese instruction to Chinese learners.



**Jolisa Johnson** ***An overview of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their correlation with ASPD in adulthood*** There is limited research examining childhood risk factors that correlate with the likelihood of committing heinous crimes involving sadism, torture, serial murder, and mass murder. These crimes have been known to be associated with psychopathy and sociopathy. According to the DSM-5-TR, the patterns of behavior associated with antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) are also often associated with psychopathy and sociopathy.



**Dr. Veronica Viesca, Chantal Daley** ***Draw it out: Art interventions in EFT for Survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury*** Traumatic brain injury, defined as an alteration of the pathology or functionality of the brain due to an external force (Kline, 2016), impacts an estimated 69 million people each year worldwide (Dewan et al., 2019). While broad and varying in severity, the repercussions of TBI, acute or chronic, are known to impact romantic partnerships (Kreutzer et al., 2007).



**Dr. Shaentta Weatherspoon, Miyue Chen, Monica Pereda** ***Analyzing the Impact: Foster Grandparent Program*** The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is a multigenerational approach to community volunteerism. The study uses intergenerational solidarity to conceptualize the impact of the FGP. The study aims to examine the impact from two dimensions by assessing data from the Assignment Assessment Forms and the New General Self-Efficacy Scale.



**Kristen Votta, Dr. Gimel Rogers, Dr. Marina Bassili** ***(Virtual Presentation) A Systematic Review of the Efficacy of State-Level Juvenile Crime Prevention Programs*** Across the United States, there are vast differences in the presence/effectiveness of juvenile crime prevention programs. The federal government tasked each state to develop a program to reduce juvenile crime. To date, all fifty states have such a program, but more information is needed on how efficacious these programs are compared to each other.





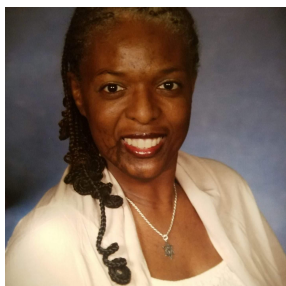
**Dr. Theresa Dawson** *Best Practices for Using Reflection in the Student Global Learning Experience* The incorporation of critical analysis and reflection are key components of experiential learning. Furthermore, reflection and self-awareness are key to developing cultural awareness required for a global experience. Reflection models by Eyler, Giles and Schmiede (1996) and Ash and Clayton (2009) will be described.



**Dr. Melissa Huy** (Virtual Presentation) *Mindful Rest And Brain Advantage* Mindfulness techniques such as meditation and yoga are showing to be powerful in navigating stress, assisting with improved cognition and overall benefits to the brain. Review of research findings with specific links to mindful rest and functional brain changes including brain benefits of mindful rest are explored. Main highlights include research investigating brain preservation, decreasing overactive mind wandering and increased overall wellbeing.



**Jaden Shields** *Competence to Stand Trial: An Evaluation of Methods* This research paper explores the evaluative methods for assessing an individual's competency to stand trial with special consideration to sociocultural and socioeconomic background. The legal construct of discerning one's competence to stand trial has ancient, Anglo-Saxon roots, and reflects interests that are central to the adjudication process in the United States.



**Sharletta Green** (Virtual Presentation) *Reimagining Religious Leadership in the 21st Century Embracing the Four R's -Retell, Restore, Reconnect, and Reflect* Religious leadership is essential to the work of faith in the public square. Religious leadership has been confined to local churches and religious and educational institutions for decades. However, as the world becomes more diverse and less focused on traditional ways of expressing and experiencing religion, leaders must think outside the preverbal box.



**Yujung Seol** *Trust and Psychological Empowerment in Global Virtual Teams* Although global virtual teams are becoming more commonplace because of their many benefits, they are also challenged by a lack of interpersonal and emotional trust between team members whose relationships are short-lived and without the intimacy of frequent in-person interactions.



**Kayleigh Axtell** *Overcoming Barriers to Career Advancement for Women in the U.S. Military* Although more roles are open to women than ever, women remain underrepresented in the armed forces and have to work harder to prove themselves in their jobs than men (Gill, 2021; Lordan & Pischke, 2016). As a result, they face barriers to advancement, including finding advocates & sponsorship, reputation management, and family planning (Bensahel et al., 2015; Martin, 2015).



**Tallie Gigi** *Motivations of Master Level Clinical Psychology Student* Post-pandemic the field of therapy is booming and masters-level terminal psychology training programs are receiving a record number of applicants. Individuals become therapists for a diverse array of reasons, however, this field of literature is relatively bare as most research is focused on client-centered work. Client-centered work is the foundation of evidence-based therapy, however gaining further insight into the therapist and their motivations is crucial to the well-being of clients.



**Dr. Kelly Sullenberger, Dr. Kay Davis** *Navigating equitable practices and positive mentorship in the doctoral dissertation process* The number of doctoral degrees conferred has more than doubled in the last 50 years from 64,998 degrees in 1971 to 190,178 degrees in 2020 (NCES). Doctoral degrees tend to consist of academically-intensive coursework and then a culminating research piece typically called a dissertation or thesis.



**Jodie-Carla Hatherall, Amber Brittain-Hale** *Public Diplomacy in the Digital Age: Leadership Communication as a Catalyst and a Control* Political leaders in the 21st century exert influence through info politik, public diplomacy, and social media. Global cybersecurity threats of misinformation and disinformation underpin the geopolitical landscape of the modern leader, as a potent mediator of political power. Leadership communication frameworks are explored in this study, presenting both exacerbating and mitigating consequences for public diplomacy risk.



**Mira Fidel, Dr. Samaa Haniya, Dr. Anne Lukomia** *New Media, Digital Footprints, and Women Empowerment: Exploratory Study* Recent innovations in digital media have impacted every aspect of our lives by offering tremendous opportunities to drive innovations and lead to equitable growth. In this presentation, we will highlight the lived experiences of MENA women and their use of technology for empowerment and change. In particular, we will focus on MENA Women's digital footprints across the domains of education, entrepreneurship, politics, and agriculture.



**Dimitrina Gotzeva** *Best Educational Practices Supporting English Learners During Remote Learning* Remote Learning has gained increased momentum and significance in recent years, especially after the pandemic lockdown. That said, RL has been in existence for a long time. It is considered a tool that allows students to gain quality education even when they are far from reputable educational institutions. It is expected that by the year 2025, Distance Education to become mainstream.





**Cassandra Miasnikov** ***ADHD and Self-Harm in Girls: Protective and Risk Factors*** Girls and women diagnosed with ADHD experience an array of psychosocial difficulties, and this population is significantly more likely to attempt suicide and self-harm than their peers. Research suggests that girls are consistently underdiagnosed, leaving this critically in-need population more vulnerable to self-injurious behaviors.



**Tianshi Hao, Dr. Samaa Haniya**

***Public The Metaverse Comes to Campus: Enhancing Social Adjustments and Classroom*** This is a paper that aims to discuss the use of immersive technologies to address the challenges of social adjustments many international students face as they arrive in the US to continue their education. In particular, emphasis will be given to studying the potential implementation of VR to resemble the campus in a virtual form and thus aid future students in accommodating and adjusting to the new campus life. We will also discuss the potential benefits of VR learning to address students' challenges.



**Mikelle Barberi-Weil & Barbara Rodriguez** *(Virtual Presentation)*

***Generosity and the Power of Suggestion | Increasing Social Capital for Women and Girls by Leveraging Emotional Intelligence*** This topic aims to examine how the power of suggestion combined with high social and emotional intelligence can be leveraged to increase another's social capital (Yasso, 2005). Planting seeds of encouragement can lend invaluable insight into operationalizing mindfulness (Goleman, 1995) through generosity and observation.

# *Thank You*

We sincerely thank the people who made this event possible:

Dr. Farzin Madjidi  
Dr. Robert deMayo  
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Dr. Maria Marion Wright  
The Office of the Provost  
The Office of the Vice Provost  
Dr. Helen Easterlig Williams, Vice Chancellor  
Dean's Executive Leadership Team  
Daniel Lee, Information Technology  
Elias Ferede, Information Technology  
Brett Johnson, Information Technology  
Mirtha Eckles, Information Technology  
Sophia Diop, Information Technology  
Latrice Richardson, Administration  
Sophia Moritiz, Talent Management  
Aeisha Palmore, Talent Management  
Krystina Vargas, Talent Management  
Madalyn Casarez, Talent Management  
Esther Foster Ortega, Administration/Talent Management  
Elias Saade, Virtual Initiatives Team  
Lucy Li, Virtual Initiatives Team  
Linda Lee, Virtual Initiatives Team  
GSEP Faculty, Staff, and Student Presenters  
GSEP Community and Guests

Thank you for attending the Seventh Annual GSEP Faculty, Staff and Student Research Symposium. It is our hope that this event has heightened our focus on research and scholarship and increased our sense of community. We would like to express our sincerest gratitude to all of our Pepperdine and GSEP community for their support.



*“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” Proverbs 2:6*

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