



NORTHEAST REGIONAL PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

TRENDS IN THE TRAINING FIELD

Trends in the Training Field: Adapting for Action

April 10th, 2026

8:00 a.m. – Registration & Breakfast Opens

[East/West Room]

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. - Welcome

8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Keynote Presentation

[Auditorium 2nd Floor - Lecture Hall] (CE credit – 1.25)

“Incorporating Race and Anti-Racism in Clinical Training and Practice...Yes, we can and Must!!”

by Alex L. Pieterse, Ph.D.

Associate Professor & Director – Institute for the Study of Race and Culture at Boston College (MA)



Dr. Alex L. Pieterse is an Associate Professor and Director of the Institute for the Study of Race and Culture at Boston College. He received his Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, his master’s in counseling from New York University and has Bachelor of Health Science (Nursing) from the Australian Catholic University. Dr. Pieterse’s scholarship focuses on psychosocial aspects of race and racism, racial trauma, and anti-racism training and advocacy. Dr. Pieterse is a fellow of the American Psychological Association and current Editor of *The Counseling Psychologist*. His most recent book, co-authored with Robert T. Carter and Jessica Forsyth, is titled *Black Americans’ Strength-Based Cultural Practices: Tools for Clinicians to Promote Psychological Well-Being*. Dr. Pieterse is also a licensed psychologist and maintains an independent psychotherapy practice working with individuals and couples.

10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – Concurrent Sessions

(CE credit – 1.25)

- **What About the Babies? Training Clinicians in Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health** by Carlita Elias (she/her), Psy.D. [*East Room*]
- **A Competency-Based Framework for Training Psychologists in the Use of AI in Clinical Practice** by Elizabeth Austin (she/her), Psy.D. & Ashley Hart (she/her), Ph.D. [*3rd Floor, AS3-2120, “Cube”*]
- **15-minute presentation blitzes** [*2nd Floor Auditorium*]
 - **Developing Interpersonal Awareness in Trainees: Using Therapeutic Performativity to Improve Alliance and Outcome** by Chris Defossez (he/him), Psy.D.
 - **Reflective Practice for Trauma Therapists** by Michelle Loris (she/her), LMFT
 - **MindStylz II: How Stylists and Barbers Can Address Mental Health Issues in Communities of Color** by Lena Stefano (she/her), B.A.
 - **Using A.I Before A.I Uses Us: A Proactive Approach to Integrating A.I Into Practice** by Justin Sandler (he/him), B.A., & Vincent Pignatiello (he/him), Psy.D.

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Lunch [*East/West Room*]



12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. – Plenary Symposium on Supervising in Today’s World

[East/West Room] (CE credit - 1.25)

- **An Overview of the Training Guidelines in Clinical Child Adolescent and Pediatric Psychology** by Rachel Schein (she/her), Psy.D. & Kelly Weber (she/her), Psy.D.
- **The Messy Middle: Treating and Supervising a “Ghosted” Developmental Phase** by Kate Patterson, Psy.D.
- **Training Across the Lifespan: Geropsychology** by Tessa Lundquist (she/her), Ph.D.

2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. – Concurrent Sessions

(CE credit - 1.25)

- **75-minute presentations**
 - **Best Practices in Clinical Supervision: Providing Culturally Competent Supervision** by Monica Roy (she/her), Ph.D., David Topor (he/him), Ph.D., & Christopher AhnAllen (he/him), Ph.D. [2nd Floor Auditorium].
 - **Innovations in Psychology Education: What can be learned from medical education literature?** by Stephanie Towns (she/her), Psy.D. [3rd Floor, AS3-2120, “Cube”].
- **25-minute presentations** *[East/West Room]*
 - **Benefits and Barriers of Innovative and Digital Approaches to Mental Healthcare Services**
 - **for Underserved Senior Ethnic Community** by Sukanya Ray (she/her), Psy.D., Sophia Naim, & Connor Dugan
 - **From Emergency Adoption to Enduring Practice: Training Considerations for Online**
 - **Psychotherapy** by Elda Zeko (she/her), Ph.D.

The Identity Mapping Board Game: A Vehicle for Gender, Sexual, and Reproductive Identity Exploration in Emerging Adults by Lily Rousseau (she/her), B.S., Lindsey Broadhurst (she/her), B.S., & Shannon McIntrye (she/her), Ph.D.

3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. – Concurrent Sessions
(CE credit – 1.25)

- **Scaffolding Students Engage in Comprehensive Autism Spectrum Assessments for young adults** by Cynthia Palmisano (she/her), Psy.D. & Jessica Plouffe (she/her), Psy.D. [3rd Floor, AS3-2120, “Cube”].
- **Culturally Responsive Supervision, Clinical Intervention and Training in Supporting Transgender Youth and Adults** by Sharon Horne (she/they), Ph.D., Adrien Blanshei (they/them), M.S., Marjola Daja (she/her), B.S., Kensie Faldoski (she/her), M.Ed., Ally B. Hand (they/them), M.A., Klover E. Haynes (she/they), M.A., Meredith R. Maroney (she/her), Ph.D., Kelsey A. Kehoe (they/them), M.A., & Heidi M. Levitt (she/her), Ph.D. [2nd Floor Auditorium].
- 75-minute critical conversations [*Location*]
 - **COMMAND: Training Students to Counter Health Related Mis, Mal & Disinformation** by Dave Castro-Blanco (he/him), Ph.D.
 - **Different Degrees, Shared Mission: Psychologists Strengthening Physician Training & Patient Care** by Cassandra Holinka (she/her), Psy.D., Jessica Silverman (she/her), Psy.D., Danielle Kaplan (she/her), Psy.D., Kimberly Santora (she/her), Ph.D., & Brian Padilla (he/him), Ph.D.
 - **Giving Voice to Intangible, Non-Death Grief: Naming Losses Related to AI Utilization in Psychology Training and Education** by Katherine Russell (she/her), Ph.D.

**5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Poster Session and
Social Hour**

[3rd Floor, AS3-2120]

- **Poster 1: Examining Ethics Education in Geropsychology within Graduate Psychology Training** by Shannon Brown (she/her), Psy.D. & Marisa Moorhouse (she/her), B.A.
- **Poster 2: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Heart Rate Variability Biofeedback Coherence Training with Tai Chi on Cognitive Functions and Pain Management** by Paul Gunser (he/him), Psy.D.
- **Poster 3: Future Directions of Providing Developmentally Appropriate Feedback in Pediatric Assessment** by Teresa Girard (she/her), M.A. & Jennifer Frechette (she/her), Ph.D.
- **Poster 4: Navigating Social Media–Driven Diagnostic Questions in Clinical Practice** by Zach Pessia (he/him), M.A.
- **Poster 5: Navigating Social Media–Driven Diagnostic Questions in Clinical Practice** by Roselyn Peterson, Ph.D., Robert Dvorak, Ph.D., Fiona Marques, & Jessica Cabrera Chacon
- **Poster 6: Hope as resilience? The impacts of hopefulness on moral injury, psychological well-being, and sustained advocacy behavior among psychologists and psychology trainees** by Emily Padilla, Psy.D. (she/her)



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