

Addressing Trauma and Building Resilience: Personal and Professional Perspectives

A VIRTUAL COLLOQUIUM

FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST

The Institute for Professional Development (IPD) provides training to mental health providers to deliver trauma-informed, culturally responsive services to refugees, displaced persons, immigrants, survivors of torture, and communities impacted by loss. IPD fosters collaborative research focused on the psychological impact of war, forced displacement, natural disasters, and loss.

There is no fee for this event.

REGISTER



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



JOEL SLACK

*President, Slack Consulting
Founder, RESPECT Institute of Georgia*

Looking Back to Move Forward

Joel Slack is President of Slack Consulting, a specialized firm that advances the voice of lived experience in psychiatric organizations worldwide. He is a leader in the national and international mental health consumer advocacy movement. He is instrumental in developing innovative programs that create opportunities for his peers and advance the issues of respect and recovery at all levels of the mental health system. Joel has served on many national and international councils and boards. Currently, he serves on the Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Program Global Advisory Council. Joel graduated from Allegheny College with a degree in International Economics and Business Psychology.

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Breakout Groups



Breakout Group #1

Wisdom, Courage and Hope: Effective Care for Forced Migrants and Survivors of Torture

HAWTHORNE SMITH, Ph.D.

Director, Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture, Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Psychiatry, NYU School of Medicine

Dr. Smith is a licensed psychologist who has focused his work on human rights issues for the past three decades. He is the Director of the Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture. He also serves as the President of the National Consortium of Torture Treatment Programs. Dr. Smith has been running a support group for Francophone African survivors for 28 years. He is also a musician who performs internationally and domestically.



Breakout Group #2

Understanding the Essentials of EMDR: Providing Empirically-Based Trauma Therapy

NAOMI AZAR, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist, Founder & Director of Orange Door Collaborative, a center for integrative treatment of traumatic stress. | [OrangeDoorCollaborative.com](https://www.OrangeDoorCollaborative.com)

Dr. Naomi Azar is a licensed clinical psychologist specializing in the treatment of traumatic stress. She is certified in EMDR. She completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at the esteemed Trauma Center at Justice Resource Institute. Here she oversaw the creation of the New England Coalition Against Trafficking (NECAT), an organization with a mission to identify survivors of human trafficking in order to increase access to intervention for survivors. Dr. Azar then went on to create the Orange Door Collaborative, a center for integrative treatment of traumatic stress, which offers a wide variety of classes, workshops and programming for clients, and the general public. Dr. Azar values an open and collaborative approach to the profound work of healing the effects of traumatic stress, building resilience in the face of adversity, and helping people find a sense of calm and strength in their own skins.

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Schedule

Opening & Introductions 1:00 PM – 1:15 PM

- **Kevin B. Meehan, Ph.D.**
Professor of Psychology, Director - Clinical Psychology Ph.D. Program, Long Island University, Brooklyn
- **Joan W. Duncan, Ph.D.**
Founder & Co-Director, IPD, Former Professor of Psychology, Long Island University, Brooklyn
- **Caroline S. Clauss-Ehlers, Ph.D., ABPP**
Professor of Psychology, Co-Founder & Co-Director, IPD, Long Island University, Brooklyn

Keynote Speaker 1:15 PM – 1:45 PM

- **Joel Slack**

Breakout Groups 1:50 PM – 2:35 PM

GROUP 1: **Hawthorne Smith, Ph.D.**

GROUP 2: **Naomi Azar, Ph.D.**

Wrap Up 2:35 PM – 2:55 PM

- **Breakout Group Summary Reports**
- **Group Discussion**

Closing Remarks 2:55 PM – 3:00 PM