

GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY LECTURE SERIES
GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH & COVID19:
PERSPECTIVES FROM THE CARIBBEAN &
AFRICAN REGIONS

PANELISTS



Marie Guerda Nicolas, PhD.

Dr. Guerda Nicolas, Professor in the Educational and Psychological Studies department at University of Miami, School of Education and Human Development; Secretary General of the Caribbean Alliance of National Psychological Association; and Co-Founder of Ayiti Community Trust.

She obtained her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Boston University. She completed her predoctoral training at Columbia University Medical Center and her postdoctoral training the New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University, Department of Child Psychiatry. As a multicultural (Haitian American) and multilingual psychologist (Spanish, French, and Haitian Creole), her research is reflective of her background and interests. Her current research focus on the integration of race and culture and well-being for ethnically diverse and immigrant communities. Some of the projects that she is currently working on includes: promoting academic excellence among ethnically diverse youth, identify development of Black youths, and empowering ethnically diverse parents to be effective parents. In addition, she conducts research on social support networks of Caribbean populations with a specific focus on Haitians.

She has published several articles and book chapters and delivered numerous invited presentations at the national and international conferences in the areas of women issues, depression and intervention among Haitians, social support networks of ethnic minorities, and spirituality. She is the recipient of the 2018 Humanitarian Award of the American Psychological Association.

She is the Co-Editor of the Book Series, Pan-African Psychologies with Palgrave Publisher,

<https://www.palgrave.com/gb/campaigns/call-for-papers-social-science/pan-african-psychologies-cfp/15526138>



Rene Domersant Jr. PhD

Professor René DOMERSANT Jr is the Mental Health Unit coordinator of the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Haiti and the coordinator of the Haitian Healthy Housing Network. Former General Director of the National Telecommunications Council (CONATEL) and former Administrative Director of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, he leads research work and teaches various topics such as Mental Health in Schools, Health Education, Psychosociology of Organizations and Human Resources Management at local universities.

Prof. Domersant completed a Master's degree Program in Developmental Sciences from Faculté d'Ethnologie of the State University of Haiti as well as a Master's degree Program in Psychology from the Université Jean Price-Mars. He also specialized in clinical psychology at Mars & Kline Psychiatry Center, followed a FETP training in Front Line Epidemiology and is a graduate of the Global Health Program at Harvard University's School of Public Health.



Janice Cooper, Ph.D., MPA

Janice Cooper is Senior Project Advisor Global Mental Health, for The Carter Center in Monrovia, Liberia. Previously, Cooper was the Project Lead for the Liberia Mental Health Program (2010-18) for The Carter Center where she directed a capacity-building, policy support and anti-stigma initiative focused on behavioral health. She is a member of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Pillar for the Government of Liberia's National COVID-19.

Other positions in her career include leadership positions at the Coalition for School-Based Primary Care, the Minnesota Children's Mental Health Division, and Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty. She was on the Institute of Medicine's Committee on Clinical Trials During the 2014-15 Ebola

Outbreak, and the Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health 2018. Cooper was co-lead for Liberia's MHPSS response during the Ebola Outbreak. In 2017, she received the Beyond Health Award from Boston University School of Public Health. She holds degrees from Essex University in the UK, Columbia University and Harvard University in the US. She lives and works in Monrovia, Liberia.

MODERATOR



Pamela Collins, MD, MPH

Pamela Collins is Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences and Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington, where she is Executive Director of I-TECH and director of the UW Global Mental Health Program, a joint effort of the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Global Health. She is a psychiatrist and mixed methods researcher with 25 years of experience in global public health and global mental health research, education, training and capacity-building, and science policy leadership. Prior to her current role she directed the Office for Research on Disparities & Global Mental Health and the Office of Rural Mental Health Research at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) (USA). She has served the field in diverse leadership roles, most recently as a commissioner for the Lancet Commission on Global Mental Health and Sustainable Development, a leader of the Grand Challenges in Global Mental Health initiative, co-lead of the NIMH-PEPFAR initiative on mental health and HIV, a member of the World Economic Forum's Agenda Council on Mental Health, and the director of the RISING SUN initiative on suicide prevention in Arctic Indigenous communities.

Dr. Collins's research has focused on social stigma related to mental illness and its relationship to HIV risk among women of color with severe mental illness; the intersections of mental health with HIV prevention, care, and treatment; and the mental health needs of diverse groups in the US, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. She is currently the Principal Investigator of EQUIP Nairobi: a pilot implementation of Trauma-Focused CBT in Nairobi, Kenya, part of a more comprehensive effort to meet the mental health needs of children and adolescents in Nairobi.