

Dear Penn State Psychology Community,

We hope that this email finds you well. In a letter we circulated on March 30, we discussed several initiatives that BRIDGE is implementing in response to increased reports of anti-Asian discrimination and harassment both nationwide and locally. Please find information on these (and more) below.

Feel free to email us if you have any questions!

Sincerely,
BRIDGE

NON-BRIDGE EVENTS

PEN America Webinar: Hate, Xenophobia, and COVID-19: How Should Higher Ed Respond?

Wednesday, April 15 at 3:30 PM

In recent weeks, there has been an enormous spike in reports of hate and bias incidents targeting Asian Americans related to the spread of COVID-19. As faculty and administrators monitor these developments—and in some cases, support students who have been directly targeted—there is a need to raise our voices against xenophobia and racism, and to talk about proactive and reactive steps that higher education can take.

Join this online forum on Wednesday, April 15 at 3:30 pm Eastern standard time to hear about how higher education leaders, administrators, staff, and faculty should be responding to this scourge, amid our broader public health crisis.

More info here: <https://pen.org/event/webinar-hate-xenophobia-and-covid-19-how-should-higher-ed-respond/>

BRIDGE-SPONSORED EVENTS

Conversation Hour: Race in the Time of COVID-19

Monday, April 20 at 4 PM

Join us for a conversation hour to talk about issues of race during this unprecedented time in the United States. We will discuss the rise of xenophobia and racism in response to the pandemic on a national level, and also discuss instances and responses at our local level. We want this to be a safe space for people to share their opinions and experiences.

Register ahead of time at: <https://tinyurl.com/ukgh8v4>

If you have any questions, please contact Anna Zhou (amzhou@psu.edu)

Racism and Xenophobia and Social Distancing: A Conversation on Advocacy

Guest Speaker: Dr. Seria Chatters

Thursday, April 23 at 12:00 PM

During these unprecedented times, we can be inclined and should focus on ourselves and those we serve. Our focus on issues related to equity and social justice can take a backseat. In this session, we will discuss how we can continue to enact tenets of bystander intervention during this age of social distancing. We will also discuss our observations and ways we can stay involved.

Dr. Seria Chatters is an Adjunct Associate Professor of Counselor Education in the Department of Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education at The Pennsylvania State University and the Director of Equity and Inclusivity of the State College Area School District. Her research interests focus on the impact of diversity on interpersonal violence with a specific focus on the prevention of bullying and harassment in secondary, postsecondary, and work settings. Additionally, her research focuses on how prejudice and bullying intersect, better known as bias-based bullying, and how different aspects of diversity such as ethnicity, race, disability, LGBT, religion, poverty, and veteran status impact experiences of bullying, cyberbullying, and interpersonal violence.

Please register ahead of time at:

https://psu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkce2orjwGdEz2lgrBN_s-vXf6ldfCD6

If you have any questions, please contact José Soto (jas95@psu.edu) or Anna Zhou (amzhou@psu.edu)

BRIDGE INITIATIVES

BRIDGE Internal Reporting of Discrimination during COVID-19

If you have experienced or witnessed any discrimination, harassment, and/or violence as a result of the increasing racism and xenophobia resulting from rhetoric surrounding CoVID-19, this is a space for you to report those instances.

Information that is reported to BRIDGE through this form will be used to alert the Psychology community of instances of discrimination in the State College area as well as to track if any particular areas seem to be spaces where more discrimination is occurring. This will allow BRIDGE to alert others and, when appropriate and possible, work with locations to eliminate the discrimination that is occurring. In addition, BRIDGE can help file official reports if that is desired.

Please note that this information will not be collected as study data and nothing will be shared with personal, identifiable information.

Link to report: <https://forms.gle/g3rPpmJ7aAKMu9iC9>

University Reporting*: <https://studentaffairs.psu.edu/support-safety-conduct/victim-survivor-support-advocacy/reporting-options>

*Please note that BRIDGE can help with reporting incidents to the University and/or the State College Police Department.

If you have questions, please contact Nathaniel Schermerhorn (njs5478@psu.edu).

BRIDGE Buddy System

In response to COVID-19 related xenophobia and a rise in anti-Asian sentiments and hate crimes, BRIDGE is organizing a sign-up sheet to facilitate a pairing process between those who need help and those who are willing to help in the following capacities:

- Groceries and shopping for necessities (either accompanying you or helping you pick things up)
- Providing a buddy for walks or exercise (either while maintaining social distancing, or through a virtual walk by video-chatting with you while you are out and about)
- Assisting with reporting racist incidents (process requisite paperwork, answer follow-up questions) – support individuals will be trained to help navigate this process

To request: <https://tinyurl.com/BRIDGEcovidrequest>

To support: <https://tinyurl.com/BRIDGEcovidsupport>

If you have questions, please contact Natalia Van Doren (nataliavandoren@gmail.com), Stacey Levan (sls217@psu.edu) or Katie Lewis (kal40@psu.edu).