



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
OCTOBER 17 & 18 * TEXAS

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM



**Psychology at the Border, Resilience,
Mental Health, and the Immigrant Journey**



PRE-CONFERENCE | THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2025

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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PROGRAM SESSION I | 9:00AM

8:00AM-5:30PM		Registration	
8:30AM-9:00AM	Alfonso Mercado	Welcome	
9:00AM-12:00PM	Cassandra Bailey, Jerry Lockhart, Giselle Soler Lopez, Claudette Antuña, Melvin Navarro	Conducting Immigration Evaluations: An In-Depth Training for Psychologists: Part 1	Workshop CE (3 credits)
9:00AM-12:00PM	Stephanie Reeves, Serena Davila	Advocacy in a Rapidly Changing Political Environment	Workshop CE (3 credits)

LUNCH PROVIDED |12:00 - 1:00 PM

NOTE: CEs and presentations are subject to change

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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PROGRAM SESSION II | 1:00 PM

1:00PM- 4:00PM	Cassandra Bailey, Jerry Lockhart, Giselle Soler Lopez, Claudette Antuña, Melvin Navarro	Conducting Immigration Evaluations: An In-Depth Training for Psychologists: Part 2	Workshop CE (3 credits)
5:00PM-7:45PM	BIENVENIDA EVENT		
5:00PM-5:30PM	Sister Norma Pimentel	Restoring Human Dignity: Mental Health and Migration	Keynote
5:30PM-6:00PM	Hidalgo County Judge Richard Cortez		
6:00 PM		South Texas fiesta, food and entertainment	
6:45PM-7:45PM		Optional Rio Grande River/Border Wall Trolley Experience	

NOTE: CEs and presentations are subject to change

DAY 1 | FRIDAY OCTOBER 17, 2025

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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7:30AM-5:30PM		Registration	
8:00AM-5:00PM		Library/Mercado	
7:40AM-7:50AM	Welcome and Introduction: Alfonso Mercado		
7:50AM-8:50AM	Luis Zayas	Immigration Enforcement and Asylum-Seeking Parents and Children	Keynote CE (1 credit)

PROGRAM SESSION I | 9:00AM

9:00AM-10:00AM	Eleanor Gil-Kashiwabara, Diana Formoso, Francisco Garcia	Psychology at the Border: Addressing Mental Health through Artistic Expression and Storytelling	Panel (1 credit)
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Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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9:00AM-10:00AM	Student Committee	Grounding Room	Panel
9:00AM-10:00AM	Lianelys Cabrera, Ivan Carbajal, Aldo Barrita, Melissa Briones Zamora, Deisy Gonzalez Zapata	¿Quiénes Somos?: Measuring Latinidad from a Research and Clinical Perspective	Panel
9:00AM-10:00AM	Miguel Arana, Regina Armas, Susana López, Giselle De Leon	Los llevo en mi Corazón: Grief, Loss, and Healing in Latiné Immigrant Communities	Panel (1 credit)
9:00AM-10:00AM	Katherine Canas, Paola Contreras, Stacy Reed-Barnes, Shay Valentine, Marta Pagán-Ortiz	Addressing the Sex Trafficking of Venezuelan Migrants in Medellín, Colombia through Psychological Science and Practice	Panel (1 credit)
9:00AM-10:00AM	Erica Sandoval, Cristina Contreras, Laudy Burgos, Mariana López	Breaking Stigma and Building Resilience: Latinx Immigrant Storytelling and Narratives	Roundtable
9:00AM-10:00AM	Darien Combs, Bryan Rojas-Araúz, Gwen Vogel Mitchell	From Assessment to Advocacy: Psychological Immigration Evaluations as Tools for Justice	Roundtable
9:00AM-11:00AM	Julia Roncoroni, Andrea Chame, Tomas Niro Chame, Jenna Anain	Cocina Libre: Food-Based Decolonial Research at the Borderlands of Identity, Migration, and Community Healing	Workshop CE (2 credits)

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9:00AM-11:00AM	Michelle Aiello, Gisela Jiménez-Colón, Yovanska Duarte-Vélez	Socio-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Suicidal Behaviors: Clinical strategies to work with Latinx immigrant families	Workshop CE (2 credits)
9:00AM-11:00AM	Candice Aparicio	Navigating the Nepantla: Applying Mestiza Consciousness in Clinical Practice	Workshop CE (2 credits)
9:00AM-11:00AM	Annmarie Caño	Leading Toward Liberation: Applying Liberation Psychology to Promote Thriving in Higher Education and Healthcare	Workshop CE (2 credits)
9:00AM-11:00AM	Cristina Perez	Cultivating Resilience Through Positive Psychology: Addressing Body Image and Acculturative Stress in Hispanic Populations	Workshop
9:00AM-11:00AM	Carmen Cuevas	ASCEND: Culturally Rooted, Intergenerational Strategies to Support First-Gen Latinx Mental Health and Academic Resilience	Workshop
9:00AM-11:00AM	Priscilla Dominguez, Azucena Verdín, Mia Sánchez	Borderland Methodologies in Action - Group Pláticas y Su Impacto	Workshop CE (2 credits)

PROGRAM SESSION II | 10:15AM

10:15AM-11:15AM	Rebecca Toporek, Selma Yznaga	Healing Justice: What We Can Learn About Solidarity, Empowerment and Social Change from Rio Grande Valley Community Organizations	Panel
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10:15AM-11:15AM	Manuel Teran Hernandez, Aldo Barrita, David Zelaya, Roberto Abreu	Intersectional Discrimination and Protective Pathways: A Holistic View of Latine SGM Health	Symposium CE (1 credit)
10:15AM-11:15AM	Ivan Carbajal, Lianelys Cabrera Martinez, Jessica Orea	From Reflection to Action: Critical Approaches to Latine Identity Development	Symposium
10:15AM-11:15AM	Emily Lemon, Kathleen Mera Nieto, Karla Ruelas, Casandra Gomez Alvarado	Latinx and Immigrant Youth Mental Health in Action across the U.S. South	Symposium CE (1 credit)
10:15AM-11:15AM	Katia Canenguez, Carmen Valdez, Hector Chaidez Ruacho, Roxana Llerena-Quinn	Understanding and Supporting Central American Families Through Culturally Informed Research and Interventions	Panel CE (1 credit)
10:15AM-11:15AM	Margareth Del Cid, Joanna Servin, Mercedes Palacios	Aquí Seguimos: Presence, Power, and Moral Injury in Academic Medicine	Roundtable

LUNCH AND KEYNOTE | 11:30AM-12:30PM

11:30AM-12:30PM	German Cadenas, Luz Garcini, Selma Yznaga	Beyond the Clinic: Advocacy as Empowerment for Clinicians and Communities	Keynote, CE (1 credit)
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PROGRAM SESSION III | 12:45PM

12:45PM-1:45PM	Carina Marques, Alfonso Mercado, Selma Yznaga, Luis Torres-Hostos	Humanitarian Research and Practice efforts of the Human Mobility Institute on the U.S. Mexico Border	Panel CE (1 credit)
12:45PM-1:45PM	Mutsa Majero, Mohammed Ali	Bridging Cultures, Building Resilience: Inclusive Mental Health Strategies for Refugees and Migrants	Panel CE (1 credit)
12:45PM-1:45PM	Ardhys De Leon, Robert Rosales, Marybel Gonzalez, Oswaldo Moreno	Context Matters: Exploring Multilevel Sociocultural Determinants of Substance Use in Latinx Communities	Symposium CE (1 credit)
12:45PM-1:45PM	Andrea Donis, Mayra Gaona, Emilia Roman, Stephanie Ramos	Centering Community Voices in Implementation Research for Latine Immigrant Communities	Symposium CE (1 credit)
12:45PM-1:45PM	Student Committee	Getting Ready for the Job Market and Postdocs	Panel
12:45PM-1:45PM	Jennifer L. Doty, Geovanna Rodriguez, Blanche Wright, Anne-Marie Mauricio, Geselle Muñoz, Ellen Hawley McWhirter	Strategies to build research-community partnerships to synergize resources and empower Latine families during crises	Roundtable
12:45PM-1:45PM	Rachel Fidler, Nicole Pacateque	Applying the Developmental Ecological Problem-Solving Model to Bilingual Psychology Supervision	Roundtable

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Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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PROGRAM SESSION III | 12:45PM

12:45PM-1:45PM	Betsy Galicia, Tiffany Truong	Crossroads of Exploitation: The Invisibility of Labor Trafficking in Latine and Vietnamese Communities	Roundtable
12:45PM-1:45PM	Audrey Glenn Perez, Cristina Lopez, Maya Elste	Empowering graduate students in the advancement of psychological sciences: Growth in service of Latinx communities	Roundtable
12:45PM-1:45PM	Erika Guzman, Emily Lemon	When Systems Harm: Moral Injury in Latinx Immigrant Populations in the U.S.	Roundtable
12:45PM-1:45PM	Coatlicue Rose, Claudio Filho	Transcriber or Terminator?: AI Safety and Ethics in Clinical Practice	Roundtable
POSTERS & CAFECITO 2:00 - 3:00 PM			Poster

PROGRAM SESSION IV | 3:15PM

3:15PM-4:15PM	Joseph Hovey, Isabella Cruz, Nadeen Salhadar, Finley Sims, Monica Ochoa, Amanda Peralez	An Examination of Suicide Risk and Protective Factors for Suicide Behavior in Latina Youth from the Rio Grande Valley	Symposium
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3:15PM-4:15PM	Geovanna Rodriguez, Ellen Hawley McWhirter, Blanche Wright, Jennifer Doty	Frutos de labor con intención: Empowering Latine mental health during challenging times	Symposium CE (1 credit)
3:15PM-4:15PM	Priscilla Dominguez, Crystal Lopez	Exploring the Rupture: Hispanic Therapists Reflect on El Arrebato, Identity & Belonging	Roundtable
3:15PM-4:15PM	Regina Jean Van Hell	Interested and Current Mentees Community Gathering/ NLPA Mentoring Program	Program
3:15PM-4:15PM	Student Committee	Fellowship Application Panel	Panel
3:15PM-4:15PM	Andrea Hercules, Alejandra Cortes, Emily Cortez, Monica Romero, Joana Perez	Affirming, Not Policing: A Relational Model of Psychological Support for Latina Girls	Roundtable
3:15PM-5:15PM	Kim Nguyen-Finn, Andy Torres, Cecilia Garza, Alfonso Mercado	Healing Hands: A Workshop on Trauma-Informed Therapeutic Expressive Arts Activities for Vulnerable Immigrant Children	Workshop CE (2 credits)
3:15PM-5:15PM	William Martinez	Fuerte: School-based Behavioral Health Prevention Programming for Newcomer Latinx Students	Workshop CE (2 credits)
3:15PM-5:15PM	Diana Formoso, Dana Rusch, Ana Laterrade, Daisy Gonzalez, Frances Chiliquinga, Giselle De Leon, & Grace Martin	Expanding Professional Borders: Supporting Youth and Families in a Shifting Immigration Landscape	Workshop CE (2 credits)

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3:15PM-5:15PM	Lissa Lim, Josefina Espino	UndocuAlly Training	Workshop
3:15PM-5:15PM	Susana Lopez, Bryan Rojas-Araúz, Debora Vitaliano, Kristina Lopez	Tenemos Riqueza Cultural: Immigrant communities actively resist and survive attacks on their humanity	Workshop CE (2 credits)
3:15PM-5:15PM	Katia McEvoy-Holguin, Leslie Guzman	Out of the Cracks, We Bloom: Re-Imagining Clinical Supervision with Borderlands Wisdom	Workshop
3:15PM-5:15PM	Osmara Medrano	Fostering Creative Resilience: Supporting Refugees and Immigrants Through Ambiguous Grief	Workshop CE (2 credits)

PROGRAM SESSION V | 4:30PM

4:30PM-5:30PM	Carmen Valdez	Sociopolitically and Trauma-Informed Public Health Approaches for Latino Immigrant Families in the United States	Symposium
4:30PM-5:30PM	Rocío Carreño Rodríguez, Daniela Di Carlo, Maria Alejandra Chavez, Katherine Diaz, Elizabeth Altamirano, Maritza Gallardo-Cooper	Understanding The Intersectionality Between Culture, Policy, and Neurodiversity Among Children with ASD Within the Latinx Community in the U.S.	Symposium
4:30PM-5:30PM	Sandra Gomez, Tatiana Vera, Giselle De Leon, Flor Castellanos Sanchez, Samaria Parada, Yasmin Butt	Latine Immigrant Well-Being: Borderlands, Belonging, and Structural Stressors Across Contexts of Work, Mentorship, and Policy	Symposium

NOTE: CEs and presentations are subject to change

DAY 2 | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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7:30AM-5:45PM		Registration	
8:00AM-5:45PM		Library/Mercado	
7:45AM-8:00AM	Welcome and Introduction: Alfonso Mercado		
8:00AM-9:00AM	Amanda Venta, Carla Sharp	Attachment Rupture & Repair in Immigrant Families: Restoring Connection	Keynote CE (1 credit)

PROGRAM SESSION I | 9:15AM

9:15AM-10:15AM	Gerardo Mireles, Erica Perez	The Business of Psychology: Successful Latinx Founders of Mental Health Clinics in Underserved Communities	Symposium CE (1 credit)
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NOTE: CEs and presentations are subject to change

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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9:15AM-10:15AM	Daniel Mesa Buitrago, Nicolás A. Alvarez-Frank, Natalia Giraldo Santiago, Oswaldo Moreno	From Cultural Adaptations to Integrations: Why Context Matters in Developing Innovative Approaches for Latine Communities	Symposium
9:15AM-10:15AM	Cecilia Montiel-Nava, Ana Lucia Garrido Huerta, Victoria Villarreal, Ifeoma McGuire	Latino Voices in Autism Science: Building Culturally Responsive and Equitable Approaches	Symposium
9:15AM-10:15AM	Ade Oluyemi, Nida Ali, Mayra Vasquez	Family Systems and Student Mental Health: Exploring the Impact of Family Background on Adolescent Well-Being	Symposium
9:15AM-10:15AM	Amanda Venta, William Martinez, Luz Garcini, Sita Patel, German Cadenas, Cynthia de las Fuentes, Alfonso Mercado	APA Presidential Taskforce on Immigration and Health: What is next?	Panel CE (1 credit)
9:15AM-10:15AM	Student Committee	Leadership Academy	Panel
9:15AM-10:15AM	Rosa Malagon	Fostering Connection Through the Chaos Platica: The Need for Third Spaces for Our Communities	Roundtable
9:15AM-10:15AM	Betsy Galicia, Jesus Rodriguez, Grace Morales, Evelyn Ocampo	Leveraging Cultural Values and Social Norms to Reduce Violence in a Forensic Psychiatric Spanish-speaking Unit	Roundtable

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Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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9:15AM-11:15AM	Michelle Mojica	Decolonizing our Mental Health Practice: an Introduction	Workshop CE (2 credits)
9:15AM-11:15AM	Juana Osorio Ramirez, Evan Auguste	Healing Across Borders and Through Crossroads: A Circle on Diasporic Grief, Ancestral Wisdom, and Black, Brown, Indigenous Futures	Workshop CE (2 credits)
9:15AM-11:15AM	Mercedes Palacios, Yanira Hernandez	Invisible Borders: Navigating Bicultural Burnout as Latinx Professionals from Immigrant Families	Workshop CE (2 credits)
9:15AM-11:15AM	Patricia Delgado, Patricia Conde-Brooks	Rooted and Rising: Leveraging Latino Cultural Drivers to Promote Mental Health and Borderland Community Resilience	Workshop
9:15AM-11:15AM	Erica Sandoval, Maria Lugo, Yanira Hernandez, Leti Cavazos	Por Nosotros: Supporting Mental Wellness for Frontline Latinx Professionals	Workshop CE (2 credits)

PROGRAM SESSION II | 10:30AM

10:30AM-11:30AM	Diana Formoso, Jocelyn Meza, Amanda Venta, Milla Emden, Ashley Bautista, Daniel OConnell, Maria Cuervo, Renee Frederick, Frances Chiliquinga, Giselle De Leon, Ana Laterrade	Who Supports the Caregivers? Support Needs and Family-Focused Interventions Among Caregivers Raising Migrant Youth	Symposium CE (1 credit)
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10:30AM-11:30AM	Ezequiel Peña, Alexis Hassan, Bernadette Solorzano, Adriana Gil-Wilkerson, Kelsey Penn	Latine Psychology in the Borderlands: Integrating Latine LGBTQIA+ Intersectional Themes in Graduate Training Programs	Symposium CE (1 credit)
10:30AM-11:30AM	Valeria Ramirez, Andy Torres, Erin Tovar Garza, Alfonso Mercado	Mental Health, Identity, and Resiliency of College Students on the South Texas-Mexico Border	Symposium
10:30AM-11:30AM	Aileen Terrazas, Israel Arevalo, Stephany Pinales, Melissa Tolentino	Bridging Gaps & Expanding Mental Health Equity in South Texas: Telehealth, Community Partnerships and Collaborative Care	Symposium
10:30AM-11:30AM	Lisa Flores, Julia Roncoroni, Jorge Gonzalez, Gabriela Nagy	Getting your Research Published: Journal of Latinx Psychology	Panel
10:30AM-11:30AM	Enjolie Lafaurie, Mayra Alvarado Hernandez, Estrellita Alvarado, Jessica Alvarado	Accompaniment and the Tonalpahqui Community Mental Health Program	Panel CE (1 credit)
10:30AM-11:30AM	Katia McEvoy-Holguin, Francisco Holguin	A Prueba de Todo Terreno: Reclaiming Immigration Stories From Colonial Psychology	Roundtable
10:30AM-11:30AM	Frances R. Morales, Cynthia Cavazos Gonzalez, Nicole Velez Agosto	Barriers and Facilitators to Latinx Student Success in Psychology Graduate Programs	Roundtable

NOTE: CEs and presentations are subject to change

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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LUNCH AND KEYNOTE | 11:45AM-12:45PM

11:45PM-12:45PM	Maysa Akbar	Reimagining Psychology’s Impact in a Changing World	Keynote CE (1credit)
POSTERS & CAFECITO 1:00 - 2:00 PM			Poster

PROGRAM SESSION III | 2:15PM

2:15PM-3:15PM	Cecilia Montiel-Nava, Maria Cecilia Montenegro, Geohanna Noel, Carmen Orendain Soto	Fronteras Compartidas: Binational Perspectives on Screening, Services, and Equity in Latino Autism Care	Symposium
2:15PM-3:15PM	Dana Rusch, Diana Formoso, Rebecca Ford-Paz, Julia Rabin, Karen Zisman, Victoria Kolev, Emily Martinez, M Paez	From Barriers to Bridges: Understanding and Overcoming Barriers to Treatment for Migrant Youth	Symposium CE (1 credit)
2:15PM-3:15PM	Milton Fuentes, Edward Delgado-Romero, Patricia Arredondo, Brian McNeil	Entre Familia: A Charla [Chat] with NLPA Past Presidents -- How are we all “Really” Doing?	Panel
2:15PM-3:15PM	Student Committee	BIPOC in Psychology: Navigating Academia & Beyond	Panel

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2:15PM-3:15PM	MaryAnn Rocha	Counselors en la Frontera: Transforming Counselor Preparation to Support Latino Communities	Roundtable
2:15PM-3:15PM	Bryan Rojas-Arauz, Rebecca Toporek, Juana Osorio Ramirez	Social Action When Responding to 1,000 Fires: Strength, Solidarity, Strategy, and Sustainability	Roundtable
2:15PM-4:15PM	Lisa Flores, Celeste Padron	Protest to Practice: A Social Justice Tool Kit for Psychologists	Workshop
2:15PM-4:15PM	Mercedes Palacios, Yanira Hernandez	La Primera en Todo: Navigating the First-Gen Wound in Clinical Spaces and Beyond	Workshop
2:15PM-4:15PM	Diana Rodríguez Velásquez	Migrar sin romperse: primeros auxilios emocionales para migrantes en crisis	Workshop CE (2 credits)
2:15PM-4:15PM	Marina Valdez	Advanced Topics in Immigration Evaluation and Related Clinical Practice	Workshop CE (2 credits)
2:15PM-4:15PM	Coatlicue Rose, Jennifer Larrasquitu, Claudio Filho, Tabitha Hill	Nuestras Voces, Nuestra Cultura, Nuestra Praxis: Photovoice and Arts-Based Interventions	Workshop CE (2 credits)

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Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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2:15PM-4:15PM	Carmen Valdez, Ana Chatham	Empowering Latinx Community Voice through Participatory Visual Methods: A Photovoice Workshop	Workshop CE (2 credits)
2:15PM-4:15PM	Erica Sandoval, Maria Lugo, Yanira Hernandez, Leti Cavazos	Por Nosotros: Supporting Mental Wellness for Frontline Latinx Professionals	Workshop CE (2 credits)

PROGRAM SESSION IV | 3:30PM

3:30PM-4:30PM	Lorraine Benuto, Brian Leany, Jorge Benuto, Edwin Jurado, Brenda Zavala	Cultura, Familia, and Recovery: Cultural Contexts and Clinical Care for Individuals with First Episode Psychosis	Symposium CE (1 credit)
3:30PM-4:30PM	Rebeca Zapata, Francisco Banda, Ricardo Robles	Trauma, Culture, and Coping: Understanding Latinx Psychological Health Across Contexts	Symposium CE (1 credit)
3:30PM-4:30PM	Cynthia Cavazos Gonzalez, Gabriela Ontiveros, Marlene Baldizón	Integrating Cultural Identity into Professional Development: Latinx Psychology Doctoral Students	Panel CE (1 credit)
3:30PM-4:30PM	Margareth Del Cid	Rooted and Rising: Uplifting Identity and Belonging for Newcomer Immigrant Youth	Roundtable
3:30PM-4:30PM	Mia Sánchez, Azucena Verdin, Priscilla Dominguez	(Re)claiming Nurturing Spaces During Hostile Times	Roundtable

NOTE: CEs and presentations are subject to change

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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3:30PM-4:30PM	Cassandra Bailey, Isabel López, Diana Formoso, Susana Ayala López	Getting Involved in the Immigrant Collaborative Special Interest Group	Roundtable
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PROGRAM SESSION V | 4:45PM

4:45PM-5:45PM	Bryan Rojas-Arauz, Ellen McWhirter, Benedict McWhirter	Imigrantes en Nuestra Tierra: Training Students to Support Latine & Indigenous Wellness in Times of Humanitarian Crisis	Panel
4:45PM-5:45PM	Student Committee	Internship Application and Interviews	Panel
4:45PM-5:45PM	Ernesto Ramirez, Fidencio Mercado, Gabriela Ortiz-Ramirez	Somos Bilingües: Confusion and Bilingual Counseling Certification Credential	Panel
4:45PM-5:45PM	Yovanska Duarte-Velez, Michelle Aiello, Gisela Jimenez-Colon	Addressing Gaps in the Treatment of Latinx Youth with Suicidal Behaviors	Symposium CE (1 credit)
4:45PM-5:45PM	Anita Sohn McCormick, Patricia Sanchez Lizardi	What is bilingual supervision? Knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes necessary to support bilingual mental health trainees and providers	Roundtable

NOTE: CEs and presentations are subject to change

Time:	Presenters	Titles	Session Type
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4:45PM-5:45PM	Raquel Sosa	Ethical Considerations for Immigrant Patients in Today's Sociopolitical Climate	Roundtable
4:45PM-5:45PM	Aileen Terrazas, Anita Sohn McCormick	Navigating Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Bridging Systems and Language Among Spanish Speaking Providers in Latine Mental Health Care	Roundtable
4:45PM-5:45PM	Veronica Torrico	Where Is Your Humanity? Advocating for Immigrants in the Face of Crisis	Roundtable
4:45PM-5:45PM	Anda Zhao	Supporting Immigrant-Affected Clients in Conservative Contexts: Coping, Advocacy, and Navigating Identity Dynamics in Therapy	Roundtable

NOCHE VAQUERA/AWARDS CEREMONY | 7:00PM-12:00AM

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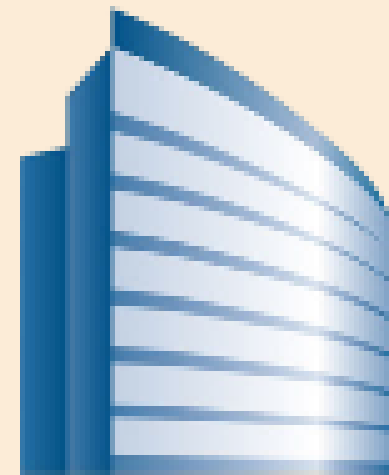
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