

**Society for Prevention Research
27th Annual Meeting
San Francisco, CA**

Pre-Conference Workshop III

Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Time: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm

Difficult Dialogues in Prevention Science: Improving Engagement, Research, and Pedagogy on Controversial Topics or with Vulnerable Populations *(To register select: Difficult Dialogues)*

Organizer:

- Sarah D. Lynne, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences, University of Florida

Presenters:

- Sarah D. Lynne, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences, University of Florida
- Jyotsna Vanapalli, Difficult Dialogues National Resource Center 2018 Conference Chair, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University of Maryland
- Antonio Farias, Chief Diversity Officer & Senior Advisor to the President, University of Florida

Description:

Topics relevant to prevention science are part of many of the most heated and controversial public conversations nationally. The momentum for dialogue and action is promising; however, there is a need to ensure that sound empirically informed speech is part of the dialogue. It is also critical to develop our ability and the ability of the next generation of prevention scientists to conduct rigorous science on controversial topics and develop authentic partnerships with diverse and vulnerable populations. In order to do this, we need to develop our ability to engage in respectful, inclusive conversations with diverse audiences on controversial topics from the field of prevention science. The purpose of this workshop is to develop the skills of prevention scientists to engage ethically and authentically with vulnerable populations, communicate respectfully with multiple stakeholder groups, and enhance pedagogy in prevention science training programs related to forming genuine partnerships through effective communication.

Intergroup and Difficult Dialogues incorporate identity formation and articulation, group relationships, and theories of communication to provide a structured approach to difficult issue resolution. These empirically-based strategies will be used during the workshop activities to facilitate skill building.

Specific Learning Objectives:

To build the capacity of prevention scientists to:

- 1.) engage in respectful and productive dialogue on controversial prevention science topics;
- 2.) develop inclusive partnerships with the populations we wish to serve;
- 3.) develop meaningful relationships with policymakers at all levels to facilitate the translation of science to policy;
- 4.) enhance our ability to train the next generation of prevention scientists in the ethical conduct of prevention science research with vulnerable populations.

Target Workshop Audience: Prevention science researchers at all levels of professional development with an interest in working with diverse communities or on controversial issues.

Materials to be Provided to Attendees: Case Studies, Practitioner’s Toolkit (resources, handouts, checklists, etc.), e- Handbook on difficult dialogue how-to; Start Talking: A Handbook for Engaging Difficult Dialogues in Higher Education (2008), which is available free of charge at the UAA Difficult Dialogues website: <http://www.difficultdialoguesuaa.org/handbook/landing>

Role of the Presenters:

Sarah Lynne brings practical applied experience as a prevention science educator and researcher working with vulnerable communities. She will facilitate the pre-conference workshop. She will ensure that case studies and activities are relevant to prevention science professionals, encourage engagement of the participants, and serve as a bridge between the discipline of prevention science and the experts in communication and diversity. She will ensure that all pre-conference objectives are met.

Jyotsna Vanapalli will provide the empirically-based strategies, training activities, and materials related to communication theory and difficult dialogues. She will be a primary lead for the skill building experiences and resulting toolkit of pre-conference attendees.

Antonio Farias will provide strategies related to developing genuine partnerships with diverse groups under conditions where no partnership currently exists as well as under circumstances where historical trauma or other contextual factors may result in a negative initial relationship.

Relevance to Conference Themes and/or TNATF-identified Themes:

One of the core missions of prevention science is reducing disparities for vulnerable or disenfranchised groups including those vulnerable due to age, poverty, disabilities, sexual/gender identity, or minority, immigrant, or aboriginal status. We are also the experts who know the science best on some of the most controversial conversations taking place nationally including preventing gun violence or preventing sexual harassment/assault.

As scientific leaders we have an ethical responsibility to build our capacity to 1.) engage in respectful and productive dialogue on controversial prevention science topics; 2.) develop authentic partnerships with the populations we wish to serve; 3.) develop meaningful relationships with policymakers at all levels to facilitate the translation of science to policy; 4.) enhance our ability to train the next generation of prevention scientists in the ethical conduct of prevention science research with vulnerable populations.

Developing these skills is directly in line with the SPR priority training area related to ethics in the conduct of prevention research in all communities but particularly among those that have faced historical and continued disadvantage.