

**Social Justice & Historical Repair:
Race, Culture, Diversity & the Lives of Healers in Forensic Mental Health**

Matthew Mock, PhD

Keynote Presentation

Room: Regency I/II/III/Main

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (3.0)

Narrative

Forensic psychologists and mental health staff consider race, culture, ethnicity as well as the dynamics of power differentials in assessment; diagnoses; performing evaluations; treatment and dispositioning; forming effective working relationships and short and long term outcomes. Performing our work with deeper meaning, insight and awareness often means appreciating our own backgrounds including trauma exposure, loss, challenges and triumphs, and relational ruptures as well as repair.

Services at all levels such as those in forensic mental health continue to strive for cultural humility, and cultural competency and responsiveness with a vision for optimal mental health practices. Our work is not only knowing those we serve but also being aware of self, professionally as well as personally, relationally. Awareness of our own backgrounds related to what we do is inextricably tied to being cognizant in our work. This presentation will acknowledge commitments as well as future challenges with research, policy, practice as well as system recommendations.

In the United States, the growth of cultural, ethnic, racial and linguistic (CERL) communities as well as sexual orientation, class, spirituality diversity both challenge and invigorate service systems to integrate culturally recognized practices into mental health treatment. Stigma, shame, experiences of service system micro-aggressions, social inequities and disproportionalities have been well documented as barriers to seeking mental health treatment (U.S. Surgeon General's Report, 2000). The presenter will make a strong, well-grounded case for how forensic mental health services and interventions must incorporate issues of race, ethnicity and power into research, theory, practice and systems services.

There will be a presentation of some of the most up-to-date systems transformations from the State of California in the USA context given the mandates of the Mental Health Services Act to transform the public mental health system with taxpayer support.

This session should particularly benefit forensic psychologists, consumers, and mental health and legal professionals who have a practice with an eye on future, cutting-edge work to make a difference with improved and more social just outcomes in increasingly racially, ethnically and culturally diverse communities in forensic settings.

BIO

Matthew Mock, PhD

Matthew has given dynamic presentations on the relevance of cultural competence, ethnicity and multiculturalism in psychotherapy locally, throughout California, nationally and internationally. He is currently a Professor of Psychology with John F. Kennedy University. Prior to this, he was

the Director and Ethnic Services/Multicultural Services Coordinator for the Family, Youth and Children's Services of Berkeley Mental Health for 20 years then the director of the Center for Multicultural Development with CIMH in Sacramento. He also has a private clinical and consulting practice in Berkeley providing clinical services to children, couples, adults and families, as well as consultation to programs and organizations. Matthew is third generation Asian-American and has been committed to community mental health concerns, competent and responsive services to culturally diverse communities, and social justice policies and practices, throughout his career. He has received numerous awards from professional organizations, guilds and programs, most recently 2019 Distinguished Contributions award from the Asian American Psychological Association. He is the author of several book chapters and articles. Several recently published book chapters by Matthew have direct relevance to social justice, men and the deleterious influences of patriarchy and experiences in his own life that inspire ongoing contributions to achieving greater social equity.

Learning Objectives

1. List specific barriers and challenges confronting racial and cultural communities being served through forensic mental health services in the context of current times.
2. Describe and increase awareness of ways our own backgrounds as practitioners may contribute significantly to our forensic mental health and related work as practitioners and staff.
3. Identify evidence-based practices and practice-based evidence effective for use with cultural, ethnic, racial, linguistic populations within forensic mental health systems further addressing historical and current inequities.
4. Identify and describe innovative racial, cultural and ethnic community research and practices for further advancing socially just and effective forensic mental health systems in California and nationally through perspectives of relational healing.