
In honour of Black History Month, each week of February Psychology EDI Events is highlighting a Black researcher in psychology whose work focuses on EDI.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

RESEARCHER HIGHLIGHT

DR. CHRISTOPHER K. MARSHBURN

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

BACKGROUND

Dr. Christopher K. Marshburn received his Ph.D. in **Social Psychology** from the University of California, Irvine and is currently an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Kentucky (UofK). At UofK, Marshburn is the director of the of the **Broaching Race in Interpersonal, Dyadic, and Group Exchanges** (BRIDGE) lab. His research examines the inter- and intra-personal factors that influence how people think about, understand, perpetuate, and **cope with racism**. His recent work specifically investigates the dynamics of talking about racism in same- (Black/Black) and cross-race (Black/non-Black) and the consequent outcomes for **Black people's well-being**.

NOTABLE PUBLICATION

Responding Responsively: Benefits of Responsive Racism-Specific Support for Black College Students in Same- and Cross-Race Friendships (2024)

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RESEARCHER HIGHLIGHT

DR. LINDA IWENOFU, C.PSYCH

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (OISE)

BACKGROUND

Dr. Linda Iwenofu received her MA & Ph.D. in **Clinical Child Psychology** from the University of Toronto (UofT). She is currently an Associate Professor at the UofT's Ontario Institute for Studies of Education (OISE) in the Department of **Applied Psychology and Human Development**. As director of the **Power in Youth Lab**, her research focuses on how anti-Black racism, structural racism, & other forms of adversity shape the mental health, educational experiences, and life trajectories of Black children, youth, and emerging adults in Canada; and how to **transform mental health services and systems** to better serve **Black and other equity-deserving communities**. She is also the Chair of the Canadian Psychological Association's Black Psychology section.

NOTABLE BOOK CHAPTER

Supporting black students' mental health in the classroom. In A Campbell (Ed) *The ABCs of Blackness in our schools: Affirming identity, fostering belonging, and celebrating learning.* (2026)

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RESEARCHER HIGHLIGHT

DR. JUDE CÉNAT

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

BACKGROUND

Dr. Jude Mary Cénat earned his Master's degree from Université Toulouse II and his PhD in Psychology (**Psychopathology & Clinical Psychology**) from **Université Lumière Lyon (2014)**. He is a professor in the **School of Psychology** at the **University of Ottawa**, where he leads the **Vulnerability, Trauma, Resilience and Culture Research Laboratory (V-TRaC Lab)** and serves as Director of the **Interdisciplinary Centre for Black Health**. His research focuses on **trauma, resilience, cultural factors, and racial disparities in mental health**, including how racism and discrimination shape mental health outcomes and access to care. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) with the **CIHR-funded Team on Interpersonal Traumas**.

NOTABLE PUBLICATION

Complex Racial Trauma: Evidence, Assessment, and Treatment (2023)

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RESEARCHER HIGHLIGHT

DR. VALERIE JONES TAYLOR

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

BACKGROUND

Dr. Valerie Jones Taylor earned her PhD in **Social Psychology** (2009) from Stanford University and completed a BA in **Psychology (Honours)** and a BA in **Ethnic Studies** (Honours) at the University of Texas at Austin (2002). She is an **Associate Professor** of Psychology at **Rutgers University–New Brunswick**. As director of the **Stereotyping and Social Interactions Virtual Reality Lab (SSI-VR Lab)**, her research examines how **stereotyping, social identity threat, and discrimination** shape interracial interactions, academic and workplace experiences, and perceptions of **racialized physical spaces**. Her work also uses **VR/AR/XR** as a research tool to reduce bias, build identity-safe environments, and support social justice learning.

NOTABLE PUBLICATION

Racially minoritized individuals' responses to identity-safety and -threat relational cues in imagined interactions with White strangers, friends, & allies. (2026)
