

Loving Across Racial and Cultural Boundaries: Interracial and Intercultural Relationships and Mental Health Conference

Friday, October 24, 2025 & Saturday, October 25, 2025

Location: OISE Library, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto

Day 1: Friday, Oct 24, 2025

9:00 - 9:30 Registration (*tea/coffee*)

9:30 - 9:45 **Welcome and Introductions**

- Dr. Abby Goldstein, Dr. Joanna Amirault
- Dr. Shivon Raghunandan, Deanna Rudder

9:45 - 11:00 **Radical Love: Undoing Supremacy, Reimagining Intimacy**

- The Construction of White Supremacy and Its Impact on Interracial Relationships and Mixed-Race Identity, *Dr. Jody Metcalfe*
- Intersections of Love: Navigating Race, Gender, and Queerness in Relationship Healing, *Dr. Reihaneh Mahdavisahri*
- Reimagining Interracial Co-Parenting: Insights from Qualitative Narratives of Mixed-Race Families, *Dr. Marguerite Lengyell*

Chair: Dr. Hema Ganapathy-Coleman

11:00 - 11:15 Break

11:15 - 12:15 **Hybrid Hearts: Navigating Identity, Culture, and Queer Connection**

- Navigating Cultural Crossroads: A Thematic Analysis of Individuals' Sacrifices in Intercultural Romantic Relationships, *Hanieh Naeimi*
- Treating Queer Intercultural Dyads: A Case-Based Approach to Ethical Non-Monogamy and Relational Expansion, *Jennifer Patterson*
- "But Where do I Belong?": Navigating Belonging and Identity as Mixed-Race Canadians, *Deanna Rudder*

Chair: Dr. Roy Moodley

12:15 - 1:15 **Lunch will be provided** (OISE Library)

Day 1: Friday, Oct 24, 2025 (continued)

- 1:15 - 2:30 **Interracial Experiences from Self-of-the-Therapist and Life Span Perspectives**
Dr. Rachael Olufowote, Dr. Shruti Poulsen, Dr. Gita Seshadri, Dr. Tabitha Webster
- Chair: Dr. Marguerite Lengyell*
- 2:30 - 2:45 Break
- 2:45 - 3:30 **The Spice of Difference: Love Across Caste, Race, and Culture**
- Intercaste Marriages and Romantic Relationships among South Asian Indians: A Review, *Alayna Puli*
 - The Hidden Spice in the Recipe of a Mixed-Race Relationship, *Aanchal Rai*
- Chair: Dr. Shivon Raghunandan*
- 3:30 - 4:30 **Loving Across Racial and Cultural Boundaries: Voices of Interracial and Intercultural Couples and Families** (*Audience Discussion*)
Facilitated by Dr. Olga Oulanova, Dr. Shruti Poulsen and Dr. Jody Metcalfe
- Chair: Deanna Rudder*
- 5:00 - 6:15 **Dinner and reception** (Nexus Lounge – 12th Floor)
- 6:15 *Walk to Luella Massey Studio Theatre for Frantz Fanon Play Reading Performances*
- 7:00 - 9:00 **Frantz Fanon Play Reading Performances**
Finding Fanon: Artist, Healer, Activist at the Luella Massey Studio Theatre, 4 Glen Morris Street, Toronto, ON M5S 1J1, at the University of Toronto.



Scan this QR code to access the conference abstract booklet as an online PDF!

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Friday, October 24, 2025 & Saturday, October 25, 2025

Location: OISE Library, 252 Bloor St. West, Toronto

Day 2: Saturday, Oct 25, 2025

10:00-10:15 **Registration** (*tea/coffee*)

10:15-11:15 **Choosing Interracial Couples and Multiracial Families as a Topic of Scholarship and Advocacy: Our Story and Hopes for the Future of this Work**

Dr. Kelley R. Kenney and Mark E. Kenney

Chair: Dr. Roy Moodley

11:15-12:15 **The Body of Love: Mapping Intercultural Intimacy**

Voices of interracial and Intercultural Couples and Families

Panel Members: Vijay Puli, Feros Taz Puli, Chris Matthews, Arthur Kong, Nicole Curling

Facilitation: Dr. Kelley R. Kenney and Mark E. Kenney

12:15-1:15 **Lunch will be provided** (Rooms 9-104 and 9-105 – 9th Floor)

1:15 – 2:15 **Beyond the Border of Love: Participatory and Decolonial Perspectives**

- Using Participatory Methods to Study Intercultural Relationships in the Indian Diaspora in the Greater Toronto Area, *Dr. Hema Ganapathy-Coleman*
- Loving Across Racial Borders and Decolonializing Perspectives in Canada, *Dr. Shivon Raghunandan*

Chair: Dr. Jody Metcalfe

2:15 – 3:00 **Facilitated Conversations on Love, Engagement, and Parenting Across Boundaries: Identity, Intercultural Mixing, and Interracial Families**

- Identity and Intercultural Mixing, *Dr. Olga Oulanova and Deanna Rudder*
- Interracial and Intercultural Families and Parenting, *Dr. Rachael Olufowote, Dr. Gita Seshadri and Dr. Tabitha Webster*

Chair: Dr. Shivon Raghunandan

3:00-3:15 **Plenary & Conclusion**

Dr. Hema Ganapathy-Coleman and Dr. Roy Moodley

Conference Organizing Committee

Shivon Raghunandan
Hema Ganapathy-Coleman
Deanna Rudder
Yumeng Zhang
Roy Moodley
Olga Oulanova
Ariel Lewis
Jenny Hui

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Research, Partnership and Innovation Office – OISE, University of Toronto
Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development (APHD) – OISE, University of Toronto
Faculty of Social & Community Services – Humber Polytechnic
Department of Psychological & Brain Sciences – University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
Centre for Diversity in Counselling and Psychotherapy (CDCP) – OISE, University of Toronto



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