

Abstract of Keynote at the 2019 National Multicultural Conference and Summit

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Gargi Roysircar

Dept. of Clinical Psychology
Antioch University New England

I acknowledge that assessment tools and clinical interventions have the potential to mischaracterize or even miss the mental health needs of an international population due to nationality and regional/local differences, stigma, literacy, the unique presentation of symptoms, explanations of psychological distress, and distrust of providers and authority in general (Roysircar, 2013). Issues with the application of assessments to linguistically and culturally diverse communities include norms not being developed in the language of or for the population in which the assessment is being administered; and test items may reflect the dominant culture in which the assessment was developed rather than the test-taker's heritage culture, compromising interpretation and applicability (Roysircar & Krishnamurthy, 2018). Being aware of such limitations of community-based research, we started our involvement with the Port-au-Prince area of Haiti since 2010 as a form of "qualitative research" that might be helpful in the future at the early stages of cultural adaptation of psychological practices, including trauma assessment, resilience-building education, and counseling for children and their families (Roysircar, Colvin, Afolayan, Thompson, & Robertson, 2017; Roysircar, Geisinger, & Thompson, in press). Further, it is our responsibility to ensure sufficient outreach to allow community feedback at the completion of each research project and the monitoring of our services to ensure that we, as providers, are well-versed in the practice of cultural competence, and that community members themselves have had educational opportunities from us designed to inform them of signs and symptoms of mental health problems and how to access services. We hope that our culturally

adapted research and intervention align with community-based participatory research (CBPR; Jernigan, Jacob, the Tribal Community Research Team, & Styne, 2016). CBPR and our community-engaged research approach involve working closely with community members as partners and stakeholders, improving recruitment of marginalized people, resolving potential problems of the community's trust or interest, reducing attrition, and improving cultural appropriateness.