

# **BEYOND GEOPOLITICAL BORDERS: EQUITY, RACISM, AND MENTAL HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

MAS ALLÁ DE LAS FRONTERAS GEOPOLÍTICAS: EQUIDAD,  
RACISMO Y SALUD MENTAL EN LATINOAMÉRICA Y EL CARIBE

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The Puerto Rican Journal of Psychology is pleased to present this special issue titled as “Equity, racism, and mental health in Latin America and the Caribbean.” This issue, coordinated by our associate editor, Dr. Mariluz Franco Ortiz, together with a guest editorial board composed of Dr. Jaime Calderón Soto, Dr. Evelyne Laurent Perrault, Dr. Eduardo Lugo Hernández, and Dr. Raúl Quiñones Rosado, presents seven regular articles and three commentaries. This issue, number 2 of volume 35, corresponding to 2024, is a discussion about how issues of racism, colonialism, and inequality impact mental health. We have representation from Chile, the United States of America, Perú, and Puerto Rico.

Colom Cruz et al. present how ethnic identity and colonial mentality can influence traits of machismo in their article “*Pa’ Que Tú Lo Sepas: Does Ethnic Identity Affect Colonial Mentality and Machismo in Puerto Ricans?*” On the other hand, the so-called mixed-race with which we grew up as a Latino community and the dilemma of with which one we identify and the impact on racism, it is analyzed by Ávila López. From a psychoanalytic perspective, she presents in her writing the dilemma and paradox of this mixture of identity in the article “*Our Paradoxical Mixed Identity: A View from Psychoanalysis.*” Racism and its effect on mental health, as well as alternative ways to fight it, is a central theme in three of the articles in this issue: “*Challenging Invisibility: Including Ethnic-Racial Variables in Data Collection to Confront Anti-Black Racism in Mental Health*” (Díaz-Torres et al.); “*Identifying the Effects of Racism and Colonialism Through the Power, Threat, and Meaning Framework*” (Feliciano Graniela & Luiggi-Hernández), and “*Agitation to Sanity: Principles and Practices in Becoming Anti-racist*” (Reinat Pumarejo).

Faced with the onslaught of colonialism and racism, communities have developed their own ways of finding their center as a path to healing. This is reflected in two of the articles; “*Acts of*

*Healing among Ayacucho women in the Peru’s Post-Conflict Context*” (Velázquez & Ruiz Bravo) and “*Methodological Challenges in a Process of Support for Mapuche Lafkenche women Leaders in Two Regions of Southern Chile*” (Zambrano Constanzo et al.). We are grateful to Jocelyn A. Géliga Vargas, Gloriann Sacha Antonetty Lebrón, and Yanellys Román-Díaz for their comments on this special issue with their contributions, “*Elucidating, Confronting, and Embodying Power: Interdisciplinary Strategies in Pursuit of Equity,*” “*Love of Blackness and Healing Self-Stigma to Counter Racism in Media and Other Systems,*” and “*Commentary on Equity, Racism, and Mental Health in Latin America and the Caribbean,*” respectively. We are also grateful to Yasmin Hernández for the cover art.

Finally, I would like to thank the authors who have trusted the Puerto Rican Journal of Psychology to submit their work, all the reviewers who contributed with the review process of manuscripts to guarantee a higher quality and of course, our guest editorial board led by Dr. Mariluz Franco Ortiz, whose support has made it possible to see the final product. A special gratitude to our editorial assistant Jorge L. Rivera Carrasquillo, who oversaw the editorial work of this issue and Dr. Marco Peña Jimenez, for the coordination and production. I hope that this issue will not only be a space for reflection but also for action towards equity.

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