

DIALOGUES in DIVERSITY

A Webinar Series on the EDI Implications of COVID-19

Dialogues in Diversity is a series of conversations among leading academics, EDI practitioners and social justice advocates whose work reflects the realities of COVID-19 and the challenges we now face. It will provide an interactive and engaging space to support the critical analysis necessary to successfully address the social, economic and cultural inequities, now exacerbated by COVID-19.



Thinking Differently about COVID-19: Neurodiversity, Mental Health and Wellness

The webinar will explore the range of psycho-social challenges and demands placed on individuals, families and communities by COVID-19. In addition to a discussion around mental health during the pandemic, the webinar is designed to hear from voices of the neurodiverse community, who may be especially vulnerable at this time.

The webinar will also provide insight for parents (particularly of neuro-diverse children) on instructional and pedagogical approaches that help children to adjust to home-schooling and the loss of social connections.



June 25, 2020 @ 2pm

REGISTER 



Dr. Andrew B. Campbell

Educator, Advocate, Coach, Author
Adjunct Faculty
OISE
The University of Toronto



Ms. Wanda K. Deschamps

Inclusivity and Neurodiversity Champion
Founder and Principal
Liberty Co (Waterloo)



Ms. Suzanne Fani

Registered Psychotherapist and
EMDR Internationally Certified
Therapist



Dr. Yona Lunsky

Director
Health Care Access Research and
Developmental Disabilities
(H-CARDD)
CAMH

Moderated by Kelly McNaughton,
Organizational Lead, Mental Health Program, The Hospital for Sick Children

Thinking Differently about COVID-19: Neurodiversity, Mental Health and Wellness

The uncertainty of COVID-19 has resulted in heightened levels of anxiety, with potentially serious and long-term implications for (mental) health and wellness globally.

The second webinar in the *Dialogues in Diversity* series will explore the range of psycho-social challenges COVID-19 and its management has placed on individuals (adult and juvenile), families and communities as they respond to the demands of the situation.

In addition to providing useful resources, approaches and coping strategies for managing mental health, the webinar is designed to hear from voices of the neurodiverse community, which may be especially vulnerable at this time.

The webinar also hopes to provide insight for parents (particularly of neuro-diverse children) on instructional and pedagogical approaches that help children to adjust to home-schooling and the loss of social connections.

The webinar will focus on:

1. health and wellness, and coping with anxiety during the pandemic;
2. accommodating the neurodiverse in a period of unprecedented change;
3. offering strategies to manage the “new normal”.

At the end of this webinar, attendees will:

1. appreciate the ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has presented challenges, especially to members of the neurodiverse community, in relation to mental health and well-being;
2. understand how these challenges can be appropriately addressed to provide equitable and favourable mental health outcomes.
3. be equipped with insights and strategies into how to manage new paradigms of learning, which require social distancing.

Thinking Differently about COVID-19: Neurodiversity, Mental Health and Wellness



Dr. Andrew B. Campbell (DR. ABC) is a graduate of the University of Toronto, with a PhD. in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Diversity. He is presently a Faculty member in the Master of Teaching (MT) Program at the University of Toronto and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Queens University (online). He is an Ontario Certified Teacher (OCT) and has been an educator for over 25 years in Jamaica, The Bahamas and Canada. He has authored two books: “*Teachable Moments with DR. ABC: A Spoonful for the Journey* (2015)” and “*The Invisible Student in the Jamaican Classroom* (2018).” His research and teaching focus on issues of Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Leadership, LGBTQ Issues, and Teacher Performance Evaluation. He has presented at numerous peer-reviewed academic conferences and has delivered many presentations as a motivational speaker, keynote, and workshop facilitator. He loves people, food, fashion, and travelling.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Wanda Deschamps is founder and principal of Liberty Co., a consultancy working to advance meaningful social causes through organizational and individual partnership. She's had a 25-year career in the philanthropic sector, serving as a consultant for KCI (Ketchum Canada Inc.), a leading Canadian fundraising consultancy, and as an institutional development leader. A champion for inclusivity, with a special focus on neurodiversity and gender equity, she enjoys writing under the banner of the *Inclusion Revolution*, a worldwide movement launched in 2018. Outside of work she relishes time with friends, exercising and reading biographies, as well as books about history and current affairs. Recently she was appointed to The Charity Report's Review Panel which has given her a new avenue to indulge this passion for learning. Wanda lives with her husband and their two sons in Waterloo ON.



Suzanne Fani is a Registered Psychotherapist and EMDR Internationally Certified therapist. She graduated from OISE, University of Toronto in 1991 and has specialized in the areas of: Acute Grief and Loss, Traumatic Stress Injuries, and First Responders/Front Line Workers. Suzanne has over 17 years of experience in Employee and Family Assistance programs working with families, couples and individuals providing employers and their employees with Depression Care, Work Assist and Trauma Assist programs. Since 2014 she has worked with Trauma Care as an associate with Dr. Laidlaw and Associates in Burlington.

Although front-line workers are her priority, she also treats individuals who are victims of crimes and traumatic events. She specializes in traumatic loss and grief and has worked as a trainer/facilitator for Hospice Niagara Grief Program and as a coordinator/host for the Hospice Foundation of America: Living with Grief Series for several years. With specific training in many aspects of trauma: Mastering treatment of Complex Trauma, Therapy with Military Veterans, Working Effectively with First Responders, EMDR and Relational Trauma, she views herself as a lifetime learner.



Dr. Yona Lunsky is Director of the Azrieli Adult Neurodevelopmental Centre, and Director of the Health Care Access Research and Developmental Disabilities (H-CARDD) Program at CAMH. She is Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto and Adjunct Scientist at ICES.

Her research focuses on the mental health needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families. She studies psychosocial risk factors for psychiatric disorders and health service utilization patterns in this population. Dr. Lunsky is the principal investigator of several studies examining clinical and systems issues related to health services. She is also involved in a number of projects focused on improving primary, emergency and mental health care. She is particularly interested in working together with people with developmental disabilities and their families to design interventions and resources that are most helpful to them.