

GRADUATE GROUP #6

Add aging into diversity seminars. Confront ageism. Market career paths and opportunities. Work with Chairs and Deans to articulate the importance of geropsychology. Support those applying to internships. Advocate to APA (e.g. accreditation).

BRIDGES_CONFERENCE FEB 17, 2021 01:13PM

INSTRUCTIONS

BRIDGES_CONFERENCE FEB 26, 2021 03:06PM

1. Decide on a leader and 2 scribes

2. Open your group's padlet as shown in the zoom chat.
3. For each question/column, identify at least 3 issues and discuss.
4. Use the + button to add your ideas and notes.
5. Spend 10 minutes on each question/ column.
6. Someone from the planning committee will stop by your group to check in - but feel free to be innovative to solve tech issues.

#1 Identify and discuss 3 BARRIERS to attracting interest in aging at the graduate level.

ANONYMOUS MAR 02, 2021 10:18PM

Barriers to interest in aging at graduate level

1. Relatability - lack of experience/exposure to the lives of older adults, both personally and professionally.
2. Lack of understanding/awareness of what a geropsychologist does, what a career in geropsychology entails
3. Stigma/bias/stereotyping - e.g., do older adults really benefit from psychotherapy? Assumption that gero is focused on loss, grief, and death/dying.
4. Lack of undergraduate coursework on older adults - older adulthood not included in developmental psych classes
5. Uncertainty regarding what training for a career in geropsychology entails - eg, belief that it is heavy in neuropsych; limited recognition for the diversity w/in geropsychology (health, rehab, assessment, etc.).

#2 Identify and discuss 3 STRATEGIES to enhance racial and ethnic diversity in geropsychology.

ANONYMOUS MAR 02, 2021 10:44PM

Strategies to enhance diversity

1. Mentoring- exposure to older adult population, opportunities to observe
2. More research with diverse samples of older adults
3. Representation - Highlight diversity among geropsychologists and older adults in interviews and marketing materials
4. Talk with students early on about intersectional identities and how these are experienced by older adults
5. Shift the cultural/social context w/in which older adults receive care to create safe spaces to discuss aspects of identity (e.g., gender ID/expression, sexual orientation, etc.) while also honoring the cultural/religious values of those settings.

#3 Identify and discuss 3 SOLUTIONS/ ACTION STEPS to increase interest in aging at the graduate level.

ANONYMOUS MAR 02, 2021 10:44PM

Solutions/action steps

1. Mentoring - helping students explore work with older adults, questioning the reasons for "that's not for me" comments about the population
2. Education/marketing - help students better understand what geropsychology encompasses (aspects of health, neuro, rehab)

3. Anti-ageism training - analogous to safe space/zone training for LGBTQ+ health care
4. Improve marketing of geropsych to broaden conceptualization of what it looks like to work w/older adults, where this work happens, and highlight the diversity within this work.
5. Start early - undergrad exposure to geropsych and aging more broadly. Talk about career opportunities in aging (but problem of \$\$ remains)
6. Outreach to student organizations, graduate programs across the country (interviewing geropsychologists re: their rewarding careers)
7. Offer time up as alumni (e.g., "give an hour" model) to provide webinars and speaker series to talk about aging/geropsych to attract new students. Record presentations to make easily and broadly available.
8. Attract students based on research interests separate from population (e.g., attracting students interested in social anxiety across age ranges). Finding creative ways of bringing students into the field beyond focusing on age groups specifically.
9. Emphasize the importance of competency for working with

older adults for generalists, not just gero specialists

Other issues or comments?

ANONYMOUS MAR 02, 2021 10:37PM

Other issues/comments

1. the need to recruit more diverse students across the range of educational levels.
