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Paul Jenkins, Psy.D., M.A., is a licensed clinical psychologist who works in the Sacramento area of California. He is a Professor of Psychology with National University, and provides psychological assessment, training, and psychotherapy services for various programs and institutions in Northern California. I have a strong and varied background in leadership, education, and clinical services. This background has focused on substance abuse, psychopathology, and forensic issues. I have been active in the field of psychology for the last 35 years.

I have had a strong interest in a multi-cultural approach to psychology since I was an undergraduate. I was born and raised in a highly diversified city (San Francisco) and regularly interacted with people from many cultures as I grew up. I saw and experienced the differences between groups in how they socialized, worshiped, and loved. I discovered that there are some ways we are all the same and thus there are always 'points of contact' to be discovered and nurtured. At the same time, there are always group differences, sometimes dramatic ones, that challenge us to find understanding and acceptance. There are also always individual differences, which remind us that people are associated with groups, but are still individuals, with their own unique lived experience, beliefs, and dreams. Seeing that people 'exist' at all three levels (universal, group, individual) at the same time presents an enormous challenge to the field of psychology. Our theories/models have a tendency to view people through only one of the three levels and thus fail to see the whole person - the person in context. My highest aspiration in this field, from the beginning, has been to work with people, *at all three levels*, and to assist in the development of a meta-theory of psychology that integrates the various perspectives of our existing models. While the Bio-Psycho-Social model is a start, I believe it is just that and in many ways it is struggling. The focus of this task force reflects a strong interest I have in valuing the lived experience and perspective of people from different cultural backgrounds and finding a way to integrate that *lived truth* into the overall field of psychology. Can this be done without either 'melting' the different into the mainstream or so extending the definitions of the mainstream to include the different that they lose all meaning? This, I feel is a profound question and challenge for psychology in general, and (perhaps) this task force. I am interested in finding out more about where this group is taking these issues, and would welcome the opportunity to join your conversation.