

Presentation at APA Virtual Convention

From: Dr. Louise Sundararajan
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 12:36 AM

Dear All,

If you have registered for the APA virtual convention, you may want to check out a symposium below. Otherwise, attached please find my discussion of the session, and Richard Katz's book flyer. If you would like to use this book in teaching clinical or counseling or community psychology courses, please contact Dick (RKatz@firstnationsuniversity.ca) about the book.

Enjoy,
Louise

Session ID: 237
Symposium Sponsored by Division 1
Colisting Divisions: 24, 27, 32, 34, 39, 45, 48, 52

Back to the Future---Retracing Our Steps via Indigenous Psychologies

Chair and Discussant:
Louise Sundararajan, PhD, EdD, Rochester, NY

Participants

- Richard Katz, PhD, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

Title: Indigenous Healing Psychology: Pathways Toward Justice and Equity

- Rachel S.K, Ting, PhD, Monash University, Malaysia

Title: An Anti-Hero Version of Resilience That Challenges Our Priorities

Abstract

The 21st century is grappling with the fact that the run-away train of science and

technology is heading toward irrevocable degradation of the biosphere, not to mention the potential degradation of humanity. The recent breakthroughs in biology have the potential to put humans in the same position as the domestic animals whose being we edit to suit our needs and pleasure. What does it mean to be human, and what are the values we need to live by as humans? These are the questions raised by the unprecedented opportunity/responsibility of editing our own being. As the historian Harari (2011) points out, "Tinkering with our genes won't necessarily kill us. But we might fiddle with Homo sapiens to such an extent that we would no longer be Homo sapiens" (p. 453). How can psychology help to open up a new trajectory of science by questioning some of its ontological assumptions and resetting some of its epistemological priorities? To meet these challenges of the 21st century, an international panel of experts on indigenous psychology proposes a radical move: Retrace our steps, thereby rediscover the pertinent answers so far neglected. More specifically, the panel demonstrates that we can reimagine possibilities to be human with the help of indigenous psychologies that have deep roots in the remote past, when human's epistemic priorities were completely different. The first speaker introduces teachings from our "first psychologists," who are the Indigenous elders and healers, including wisdom teachings from our hunting-gathering ancestors. The second speaker reports the discovery, in indigenous populations in China and Malaysia, of a primordial form of resilience so far neglected in mainstream psychology.