

# PSYSR

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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## Rest in Power



Representative John Lewis, the youngest leader of the 1963 March on Washington and icon of the Civil Rights movement, who passed away on July 17th, 2020 of pancreatic cancer.

“Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our

struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America.” - John Lewis

## Steering Committee Updates

The steering committee met on Friday 7/10/20 to discuss updates from working groups, student chapters, community conversations, and activism from our membership.

We meet monthly. If you have any feedback or questions for the steering committee, please send it to [psysr.ac@gmail.com](mailto:psysr.ac@gmail.com)

## PsySR Working Groups

Working groups support PsySR members in mobilizing around targeted issues within the field of psychology. Email the designated point person to learn more about each working group and how to get involved.

### **APA accountability working group**

Point person: Maya Florsheim [mflorsheim@wi.edu](mailto:mflorsheim@wi.edu)

- Description: The APA accountability working group focuses on learning about the history and inner workings of the APA in an effort to identify areas where PsySR can advocate for and put pressure on the APA to take a strong stance on acts of injustice and systems of oppression.

### **Anti-Racist working group**

- Point person: Maya Florsheim [mflorsheim@wi.edu](mailto:mflorsheim@wi.edu)
- Next meeting: Tuesday 7/21 at 5pm PST
- Description: This group is committed to (i) education around White Supremacy and anti-Black racism, (ii) interrogation of our role, both personally and professionally, in upholding the system, and (iii) exploring ways to actively dismantle and fight against White Supremacy in ourselves, our institutions and our communities.

### **Abolition working group**

- Point person: Daniela Kantorova [daniela.kantorova@gmail.com](mailto:daniela.kantorova@gmail.com)
- Description: The abolition working group focuses on decoupling law enforcement and mental health. Together, we imagine different systems beyond ending mass incarceration and moreover transforming society to include a future without

incarceration.

- This group meets biweekly on Tuesdays at 5 PM Pacific. The next meeting is on August 4.



### **Palestine Solidarity Working Group**

PsySR recently endorsed the Boycott, Divestment, & Sanctions" (BDS) Movement, which aims to support justice and liberation efforts for Palestinian communities in struggle. There will be a working group on Palestine solidarity launching shortly.

In the meantime, there is a request from the organizers: To further this movement building, raise awareness about the campaign, and engage psychologists, we are requesting pictures to encourage psychologists to express support and solidarity for the BDS Movement.

**The "ask"** is for you to take a photo with a message of support and solidarity (as shown in an example), and share it with a steering committee member, Hana Masud ([hana.r.masud@gmail.com](mailto:hana.r.masud@gmail.com)), so that these can be brought together in encouraging other psychology organizations, such as APA Division 48, to support the BDS Movement.

Please submit your photos by July 31.

Have an idea about another working group? Want to have your working group featured on the next PsySR newsletter? Email Monica at [noriegamonica2@gmail.com](mailto:noriegamonica2@gmail.com)

## **Call to Action!**

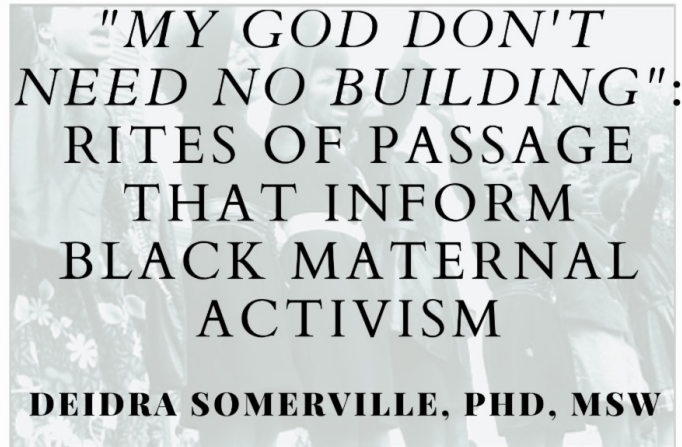
### **Public Health Crisis in San Quentin Prison and Other Carceral Sites**

Please consider endorsing the **UCSF White Coats for Black Lives Statement on the San Quentin COVID-19 Outbreak**

Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom:

## Upcoming Community Conversations

*PsySR Conversations*



August 12, 2020, 6pm CST via zoom  
Psychologists for Social Responsibility

### ***"My God don't need no building": Rites of passage that inform Black Maternal Activism***

**Wednesday, August 12, 2020**

**1 PM HST// 4:00Pm PDT// 6:00PM CDT // 7:00PM EDT**

**9:00AM CEST (Aug. 13) // 9:00AM MEST (Aug.13 )//1:00AM MEST  
(Aug. 13)**

**Presenter: Deidra Somerville, PhD MSW**

The role and contributions of Black maternal activists to historical and current movement spaces has been little explored. Black maternal activists are noted for their work as "foot soldiers" of the civil rights movement, and this is only half of the story. Research on community organizing has not adequately explored the context in which Black maternal activists endeavor as "foot soldiers", strategists, and movement leaders. This community conversation will begin with an exploration of how Black maternal activism is defined from their perspective, the contextual reality and values that inform the work. We will then open up to a broader conversation about the context of Black

maternal activism within the current uprising, as well as the roles of psychologists and scholar-activists in supporting the work of Black maternal activists in the current moment.

**Presenter Bio:** Deidra Somerville is a mother, scholar-activist and healer whose work is intentional in coop development, healing from trauma, and advancing decolonized principles and practices in organizational spaces. Her dissertation work, examining the strategies and networks of Black maternal activists in Chicago, has given her insight into the challenges, opportunities, and possibilities for communities to use disruptive practices while working with established systems to improve the quality of life in communities. Deidra received her PhD in Community Psychology from National Louis University and is a member of PsySR, Cooperation for Liberation, Esusu Chicago, and SCRA.

**Zoom registration:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYIceyhqjMoE9ztC0CWMFFpHsavaLkPG6BS>

Check out recordings of past community convos and National Day of Action at <https://vimeo.com/psysr>

## Member Submissions

From Elizabeth Berger, MD: Good news! The International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies has devoted a special issue to Palestine, edited by Martin Kemp and including wonderful articles by Martin Kemp, Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Abeer Otman, David Harrold, Stephen Sheehi, Lara Sheehi, Elizabeth Berger, and Samah Jabr. The editor-in-chief of the IJAPS, Nadia Ramzy, has provided a link to all of the contents of this special issue, available for a limited time absolutely free.

Given the gravity of the current situation in Palestine/Israel and the Israeli prime minister's planned annexation of the West Bank, we are pleased to announce that John Wiley & Sons, our publisher, is offering complimentary online access to this special issue at the following link: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/toc/15569187/2020/17/2>. This special issue, includes the following papers: Martin Kemp: Editor's Introduction; Martin Kemp: The psychoanalytic encounter with settler colonialism in Palestine/Israel; Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian: Gun to body: Mental health against unchilding; Abeer Otman: Handcuffed protectors? Palestinian fatherhood-protection unlocking its chains; David Harrold: From sumud to intifada: Supporting non-violent action to enhance mental health; Stephen Sheehi and Lara Sheehi: The settlers' town is a strongly built town: Fanon in Palestine; Elizabeth Berger and Samah Jabr: Silencing Palestine: Limitations on free

speech within mental health organizations

Nadia Ramzy, Ph.D Editor-in-Chief International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies [ramzyland@msn.com](mailto:ramzyland@msn.com)

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From Susan Spieler: Black Psychoanalysts Speak video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8-Vli7tb44>

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From Nancy Arvold: The documentary [Psychoanalysis in the Barrio](#) will be available, open access, without needing a subscription to PEP for one month, beginning today, July 15th, 2020. Click [here](#) to access.

The video, directed by Basia Winograd (Director, Black Psychoanalysts Speak), challenges the widespread, unfounded notion that Latinos who are poor, are so consumed with the pressures of everyday survival that they cannot make use of psychoanalysis and can only benefit from time-limited, symptom-focused interventions.

The video features: Ricardo Ainslie, Daniel Gaztambide, Patricia Gherovici, Rafael Javier, Ernesto Mujica, Lourdes Mattei, Carlos Padrón, and David Ramirez.

## Call for Submissions

As we delve deeper into conversations and reflections about anti-racism, abolition, and social justice it is important that we remain connected and grounded in community. The PsySR newsletter is a valuable resource that can be used to celebrate, promote, and raise awareness around important issues that members might be working on across professional and grassroots contexts. We'd love to hear about the work you are doing and the causes you are passionate about! Please send newsletter submissions to Monica at [noriegamonica2@gmail.com](mailto:noriegamonica2@gmail.com) to be included in the next PsySR newsletter.

## Call for Volunteers

Looking to get more involved in the struggle for social justice and collective liberation? Want to be part of an organization where you can integrate your passion for social justice with your professional identity within the field of psychology?

PsySR is currently looking for volunteers to support with a variety of our organizing efforts including social media, outreach, and member support services. Please email Daniela [daniela.kantorova@gmail.com](mailto:daniela.kantorova@gmail.com) with inquiries.

## PsySR Student Organizing

Calling on all PsySR student members! We are organizing a meeting to discuss and organize around the impact of COVID-19 on the safety and mental health of externs, practicum students, and predoctoral interns. Please email Lisa at [lcruz23@mail.yu.edu](mailto:lcruz23@mail.yu.edu) for more information.

## From the Margin to the Center

The officers that killed Breonna Taylor (while she was asleep in her apartment) have yet to be charged or convicted. Take action to demand justice for Breonna Taylor at <https://www.standwithbre.com/>



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