

Rev. Jesse Jackson, who is running for president, speaks at a news conference in New York City last week. Jackson is the first African American to be elected to the office of mayor of a major U.S. city.

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**Meet the APA at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual South African Psychology Congress!**

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# The PsySSA/APA MOU partnership picks up momentum

## Meet the APA at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual South African Psychology Congress!

As you may know, PsySSA has established relationships with a range of international bodies, including MOUs with 27 other national psychological societies. The first MOU partnership was, in fact, with the American Psychological Association (APA), dating back to 1998.

*Informed by the PsySSA Strategic Plan 2014-2018 and in accordance with a decision of the PsySSA Council in 2015, the further strengthening of relationships with MOU partners in the medium-to long term is a priority.*

Most welcome, therefore, was a proposal received in 2015 from the APA to operationalise the existing MOU through the provision of mutual opportunities to meet, interact and collaborate as Societies. Accordingly, APA member rates for APA Convention registration, APA databases, and APA books and journals have applied to all PsySSA members since 2015!

***Also, no less than six seasoned academics, accompanied by an International Specialist in the Office of International Affairs at the APA (see their details below), will participate in the 2016 PsySSA Congress!***

***We encourage all Congress delegates to seek out these individuals in advance of and during the Congress with a view of, firstly, welcoming them to our shores, but also to establish potential collaborative relationships, going forward...***



# AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



**Glenn Adams, PhD** is Professor of Psychology and Director of the Cultural Psychology Research Group at the University of Kansas. He served for three years as a teacher in Sierra Leone before completing his PhD in Social Psychology at Stanford University. His graduate training included two years of field research in Ghana, which provided the empirical foundation for his research on cultural-

psychological foundations of relationship. His current work builds on this foundation in an attempt to decolonise knowledge production in psychological science and to articulate models of human development that promote sustainable ways of being and social justice for broader humanity.

**Note, Prof Adam's presentation, *Decolonising psychology: A special thematic section of the Journal of Social and Political Psychology*, is scheduled for Friday, 23 September 2016 (11.30 – 12:30) under Stream 8.**



**Ramani Durvasula, PhD** is a Professor of Psychology at California State University Los Angeles, and a psychologist in private practice in the Los Angeles area. Dr Durvasula's research interests include HIV/AIDS, women's health, personality disorders and health, and health disparities. In addition, Dr Durvasula's teaching is focused on first generation college students, and the development of international training programmes to foster collaborative learning environments for students and faculty. She currently chairs the APA Committee on Socioeconomic Status.

**Note, Prof Durvasula's presentation,**

***Understanding trauma, mental illness, and sexual risk in HIV: What about the personality disorders?, is scheduled for Thursday, 22 September 2016 (10:30 – 12:30) under Stream 2.***

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**Robyn L. Gobin, PhD** is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Director of the Transforming Trauma and Mental Health Research Lab. Dr Gobin's programme of research focuses on interpersonal trauma (e.g., sexual assault, physical and emotional abuse), posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), PTSD treatment outcomes, and cultural factors (e.g., religiosity and spirituality) that may be used to facilitate posttraumatic resiliency. Populations of interest include vulnerable trauma-exposed groups, military Veterans, and adult survivors of childhood abuse.

***Note, Prof Gobin's presentation, Religiosity and spirituality in the aftermath of interpersonal trauma exposure among African Americans: What is psychology's responsibility?, is scheduled for***

**Friday, 23 September 2016 (09.00 – 10:00) under Stream 8.**

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**Karen Ingersoll, PhD** is a clinical health psychologist and Professor of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences at the University of Virginia. Her calling is to improve health among people with medical conditions complicated by addictive behaviors in two areas: HIV and women's health. She has been an international leader in developing interventions to reduce the risk Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders. Dr Ingersoll mentors South African doctoral students in the US under UVA's Global Infectious Disease Research Training programme, and US students traveling to South Africa to conduct summer research. Her research in South Africa tests how to train local practitioners to promote patient self-management and positive behaviour change among patients with chronic conditions such as HIV, diabetes, and hypertension. In 2017, she will lead a team of US and South African investigators to conduct a pilot epidemiological study of the risk for alcohol-exposed pregnancy in rural villages in the Vhembe district of Limpopo.

**Note, Prof Ingersoll's presentation,**

***Reducing the risk of alcohol-exposed pregnancies, is scheduled for Friday, 23 September 2016 (09.00 – 10:00) under Stream 3.***

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**John Pachankis, PhD** is a clinical psychologist and Associate Professor in the Yale School of Public Health, Yale University. He studies the health of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals. His research specifically seeks to identify the psychological and social contextual influences that might explain LGBT individuals' disproportionate experiences with several adverse mental and physical health outcomes, like depression and substance abuse. He uses social epidemiological, psychological, and mixed methods approaches to conduct this research. He is currently testing the efficacy of mental health treatments for LGBT individuals across novel technologies (e.g., smartphones), in international settings (e.g., Eastern Europe), and with diverse segments of the LGBT community (e.g., rural youth).

***Note, Prof Pachankis' presentation, *Translating clinical wisdom into empirically-supported LGBT-affirmative treatments*, is scheduled***

**for Thursday, 22 September 2016  
(16:45 – 17:45) under Stream 6.**

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**Jack Tsai, PhD**, is psychologist for the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Yale School of Medicine, and Co-Director of the Yale Division of Mental Health Services Research. Dr Tsai was born in Taiwan but has lived in the US for nearly three decades. Dr Tsai has received federal grants and published over 130 peer-reviewed studies on homelessness, severe mental illness, and trauma. He serves in leadership roles for the APA and the American Public Health Association, and is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Social Distress and the Homeless.

**Note, Prof Tsai's presentation, *Medical student beliefs and attitudes towards mental illness across three countries*, is scheduled for Thursday, 22 September 2016 (16:45 – 18:45) under Stream 2.**

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**Amanda Clinton, PhD** is an International Specialist in the Office of International Affairs at the APA. A licensed clinical psychologist and a credentialed school psychologist, Dr Clinton has experience in academic, hospital, community and policy settings. Dr Clinton's scholarly work includes the edited volume titled "*Integrated Assessment of the Bilingual Child*" and numerous peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, as well as Associate Editorship of two journals. Dr Clinton's research interests include social-emotional learning, cultural adaptation of programmes and curricula, and bilingualism and learning disabilities.



**The countdown has begun...**





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