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KEYNOTE FORUM | DAY 1

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**Writing for our lives:
 A multi-dimensional
 approach for working
 our way through
 trauma by writing and
 sharing our stories**

This presentation will discuss the role of literacy across different disciplines and paradigms. It will specifically present writing as a form of healing and negotiating power. There will be a discussion of an effective approach that was used as a tool to attain healing and regaining of power through personal narrative. This approach has proven to be effective in (1) developing and finding one's voice, (2) shifting self-perceptions, and (3) writing as an outlet for expression and for sharing traumatic and challenging events. Since the work recognizes the body/mind connection there will be investigation and exploration of the application of those

techniques as an effective element of the multi-dimensional treatment plan to better manage the effective challenges facing individuals with STD and HIV/AIDS. The presentation will be highlighted by written examples of participants from prior research work.

Biography

Limor Pinhasi-Vittorio, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Literacy and the Coordinator of the Graduate Program in Literacy Studies in Lehman College. Her research has focuses on using critical literacy and the arts to promote social justice and self-empowerment for various marginalized populations. Her most recent works and publications deal with using literacy as a tool for negotiating power and as a form of healing for women recovering from substance abuse. Her work is multidimensional as it recognizes the body and mind connections. Some of her latest publications



Limor Pinhasi-Vittorio

Lehman College, New YorkHygiene,
 USA

examine the interplay of traditional and nontraditional forms of literacy in advancing the academic success of failing youth in the inner-city schools. Her practice is centered on the development of writing, aesthetic education, and the use of imagination as ways to promote critical literacy and social justice.

limor.pinhasi-vittorio@lehman.cuny.edu