

Developing intercultural resiliency through pluralism in the time of COVID

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Intercultural resiliency is fostered therapeutically by the life stories of clients who invite the therapist to share in the process of creating new meanings to unfortunate life events. Each individual (and family) possesses a life story woven with successes, challenges, and failures. The growing multiculturalism of client populations are challenging therapists to expand their skills outside their own worldviews. Since early 2020, the COVID pandemic is also pushes therapists to meet needs of clients outside their typical modalities of providing therapy and regular client populations.

This growing diversity within client populations calls for therapists to assume a pluralist position in therapy. The pluralist position is relational whereby the cultural story of both the client and therapist are acknowledged to be present in the session. It offers a means address the new challenges found within clients and the therapists due to the COVID pandemic. Research shows that clients are experiencing increased anxiety along with overwhelming stressors associated with financial difficulties, increased parenting responsibilities and isolation. In addition, therapists are also experiencing increasing stress due the trials of telepsychology, changes in ethical and practice guidelines and the need to adjust therapeutic interventions.

Intercultural resiliency offers a process of exploring the different ways people find healing through their sense of self, caregivers and the communities that support them. Intercultural resiliency provides ways of understanding differences, and a means for developing healing. Assuming the pluralist position provides a foundation of respect for all people which allows the therapeutic relationship to become a process of collaborative interchanges including the sharing of world orientations in which both the client and therapist bring resources which both can benefit. This collaboration of developing intercultural resiliency through the pluralist position supports the uncertainties and vulnerabilities associated with the COVID pandemic now and in the future.

Biography

Joanne Ginter is a registered psychologist in Alberta, Canada having over 35 years of clinical experience with individuals and families of all ages. With graduate degrees in both psychology and religious studies, Joanne specializes in the area of trauma, family violence, play therapy, culture and religion. In her work, Joanne focuses on the process of the therapeutic relationship integrating narrative, solution-focused, collaborative approaches and hypnosis. In addition to being a practicing therapist, Joanne is actively devoted to training students and front-line therapists through clinical supervision and the development and presentation of workshops professionally. Joanne is a member of the Canadian Psychological Association and the American Psychological Association (Associate). Joanne is actively promoting her workshop on 'Developing Intercultural Resiliency' and developing resiliency in different cultures and with nature that follows her first book *The Fifth Position: A Guide for Developing Intercultural Resiliency and Pluralism*.