

MARCH 2022

ACCULTURATION, DIVERSITY, AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY TEAM (ADAPT) NEWSLETTER



Who We Are

We are researchers at the Southern Methodist University (SMU) in the Department of Psychology. ADAPT is led by Dr. Priscilla Lui, a clinical psychologist with expertise on mental health and ethnic/racial health disparities.

What We Do

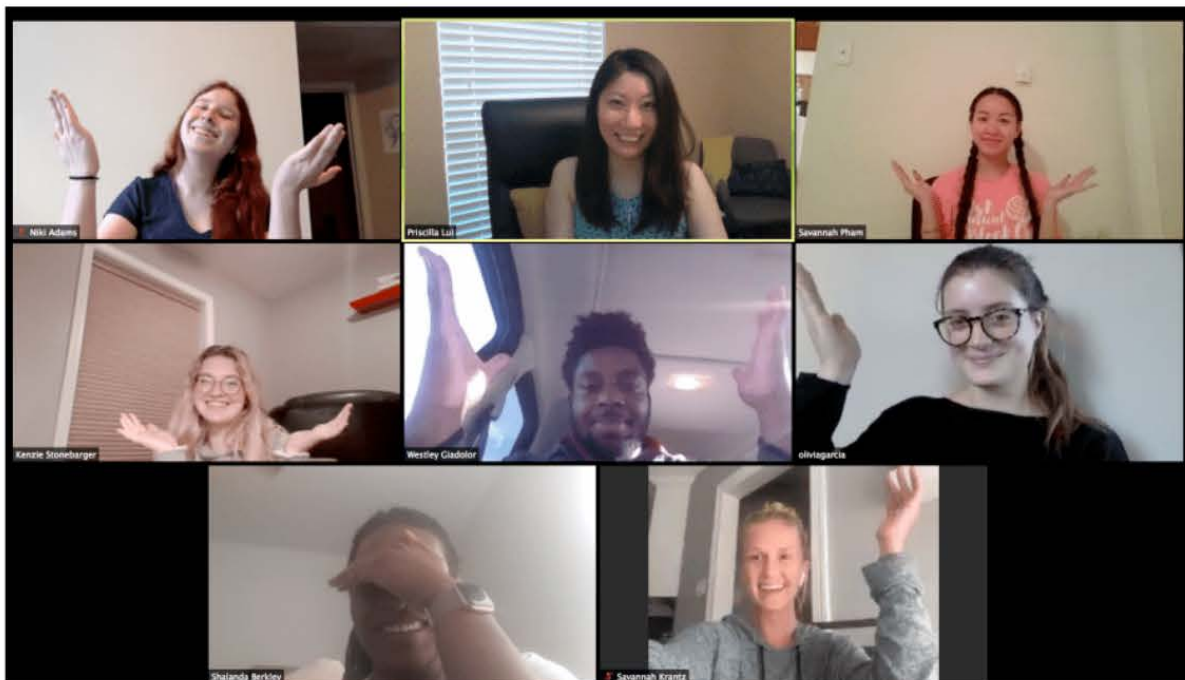
We conduct and publish research that examines the impact of culture, ethnicity, and race on mental health outcomes and addictive behaviors. We are interested in how thoughts, emotions, and sociocultural factors affect alcohol (mis)use and other psychopathology conditions. The ultimate goal of our research is to inform clinical interventions that are most effective in alleviating distress and improving psychological functioning among people from diverse ethnic/racial backgrounds.

In this issue...

**HIGHLIGHTS OF
ADAPT
ACHIEVEMENTS
SINCE THE START
OF COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

**INTRODUCING
NEW MEMBERS
IN 2021-2022**

**CURRENT
STUDIES**



During the last 2 years, we had to be creative and resourceful in performing research activities in safe and responsible ways for our participants and team members. We are grateful for the support from the community and SMU administrators, and proud of the resilience and persistence of our students!

Selected Recent Publications

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN BUSY WITH

Dr. Lui led a team of researchers and student trainees on a large evidence synthesis project. The paper, "**Linking Big Five Personality Domains and Facets to Alcohol (Mis)Use: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis**" was published in *Alcohol and Alcoholism*. We found that conscientiousness and agreeableness were robust correlates of alcohol use outcomes. Personality traits extraversion (excitement seeking) and neuroticism (impulsiveness and angry hostility) also predicted negative drinking consequences.

We collected some survey data during the initial lockdown period of the COVID pandemic. A number of research questions were asked: What were people's experiences with anti-Asian hate and who were inclined to step in and help? How were people's mental health and attitudes toward seeking professional psychological services changing? What did people think about the blood donation deferral policy targeting men who have sex with men as implemented by the US Food & Drug Administrative? Our research projects led to the following publications:

- **Anti-Asian Discrimination and Antiracist Bystander Behaviors amid the COVID-19 Outbreak** in *Asian American Journal of Psychology*
- **Short-term Changes in Internalizing Symptoms and Help-seeking Attitudes during the Coronavirus Pandemic** in *Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology*
- **Is the Blood Donation Deferral Policy a Reflection of Anti-LGBTQ Institutional Bias? Community Perceptions amid COVID-19 Pandemic** in *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*

Selected Recent Publications (cont.)

We in ADAPT believe that the most impactful research is one that uses best practices to advance scientific understanding of all people and to advocate for communities that are historically subordinated and understudied/underserved. Hence, we engage in responsible research practices that result in transparent workflow and can yield credible science. Several recent publications reflect these:

- **Open Science and Multicultural Research: Some Data, Considerations, and Recommendations** forthcoming in Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology
- **Advancing Transparency and Impact of Research: Initiating Crosstalk between Indigenous Research and Mainstream “Open Science”** in Journal of Indigenous Research
- **Advancing Knowledge on the Health Consequences of Discrimination: The Potential of Virtual Reality** in Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology

New ADAPT Members

This academic year, we welcomed 6 new lab members: Saima Alwani, Jesse Cheng, Ellie Hood, Brittany Huynh, Krystelle Sunga, and Joann Yang.

Saima is a junior double majoring in Health and Society and Film Media Arts. She plans to become a pediatric physician.

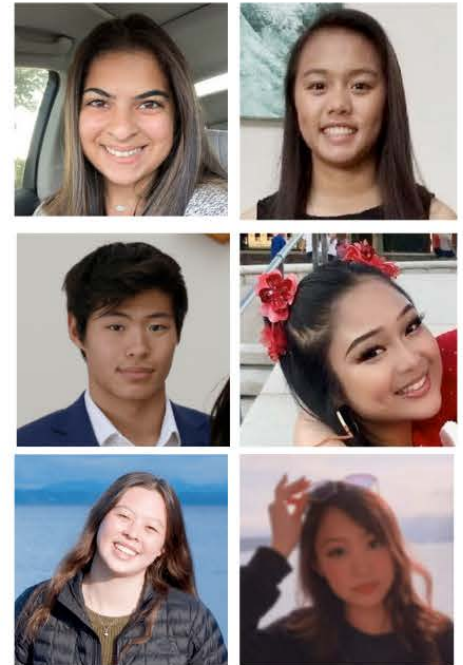
Jesse is a sophomore majoring in Biology. He aspires to be a physician.

Ellie is a sophomore majoring in Psychology and Sociology. She plans to pursue a career in forensic psychology or multicultural psychology.

Brittany is a sophomore with a major in Statistical Science. She plans to become a physician.

Krystelle is a senior majoring in Psychology. She hopes to pursue a doctoral juridical science degree and become an attorney.

Joann is a senior in Psychology and Business Management. She is also a student in the Psychology Distinction Program under Dr. Lui's mentorship. She plans to pursue a career in clinical or organizational psychology.



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VR Social Interactions Study:

We are interested in learning how people respond to the use of virtual reality (VR) technology in psychological research, and how people react to different social situations. We began the study in April 2021. So far, we have completed data collection with >150 individuals (85% of target sample size). **Thanks to our participants who already completed the study!**

We continue to recruit adults aged 18-30 years who identify as people of color and are not full-time college students. In-person and remote options are available. If you qualify and complete the study, you will receive \$30 in cash or Amazon e-giftcard. Please refer your family and friends to participate. Visit our website for more info: <https://people.smu.edu/adapt/sis/>

Considerations in VR & Minority Health Research:

We are launching a new online survey study. We are interested in understanding what people think about practical and ethical issues relating to psychological research methods.

We have begun reaching out to eligible research participants. Please consider participating to help contribute to science if you received our invitation! You will receive a \$10 Amazon e-giftcard once you complete the study.

NEW
NEW
NEW

Other News

WHAT ELSE WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON

Some accomplishments by ADAPT members over the past year:

- Dr. Lui received the 2021 **Early Career Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research** from the Asian American Psychological Association. The award is given to Dr. Lui for her outstanding achievement in research and scholarship.
- Dr. Lui was invited to present on an expert panel organized by the Association for Psychological Science on "Psychological Science of Racism" in March 2021. The panel can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnEuVrQOFtU>
- Our doctoral student in clinical psychology, Sarah Gobrial, received the 2021 **Junior Scientist Fellowship** awarded by the American Psychological Association Graduate Students/Psi Chi Honors Society.
- Joann Yang was nominated and selected as a winner for the 2022 **Senior Award for Outstanding Performance** in SMU's Department of Psychology.