



Society for Prevention Research, Diversity Network Committee

DNC Speaker Series

Advances in Prevention Science, Diversity, and Inclusion

Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

Fourth World Data Science Is for Us and Ours, Yours and Theirs

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at 12 pm – 1 pm EST / 9 am – 10 pm PST

Join us over Zoom. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/xWoKBmkERw-aMUHQ2979sw>

Speaker:



Valentín Quiroz de la Sierra, PhD, MSW is Yo'eme from the California Yo'eme (Yaqui) Indian community and currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health. Dr. Sierra's clinical and research agendas focus on eliminating mental health disparities, particularly suicide and substance use co-occurrence, for urban Native American young people through culturally grounded practices and interventions. Prior to joining Johns Hopkins, Dr. Sierra worked as a Child Therapist at the American Indian Child Resource Center in Oakland, California. Dr. Sierra previously led the Helping Our People End Suicide (HOPES) Study, a 7+ year community-based participatory research partnership with the Sacramento Native American community that developed the HOPES Screener, the first culture-based suicide risk assessment

tool designed for urban Native American youth. Dr. Sierra earned a PhD from the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare, where they also earned a Master of Social Welfare degree.

Dr. Sierra will introduce Fourth World Data Science, or the creation and use of Artificial Intelligence systems and machine learning methods grounded in Indigenous sovereignty that are built from Indigenous Knowledge systems, governed by Tribal nations, and accountable to land and kinship rather than colonial systems. Drawing on findings from the Indigenous Wholistic Factors Project–2, which analyzes 10 years of California Healthy Kids Survey data, the talk will demonstrate how interpretable machine learning methods can reveal distinct patterns of suicidal ideation risk among Native American youth in urban and non-urban settings. Together, these insights underscore why prevention science must move beyond one-size-fits-all methods toward sovereignty-promoting approaches that advance health and well-being for Native American youth.

The aims of the DNC presentation series are to highlight research on prevention science and public health that is led by researchers from underrepresented groups and primarily conduct research with groups that are understudied (e.g., racial/ethnic minorities, individuals who identify as a sexual minority, individuals with disabilities). The presentation series will also aim to create a forum for the guest speaker(s) to share career/professional reflections as a researcher from an underrepresented group(s) and to promote discussions of diversity and inclusion in professions related to prevention science and public health.