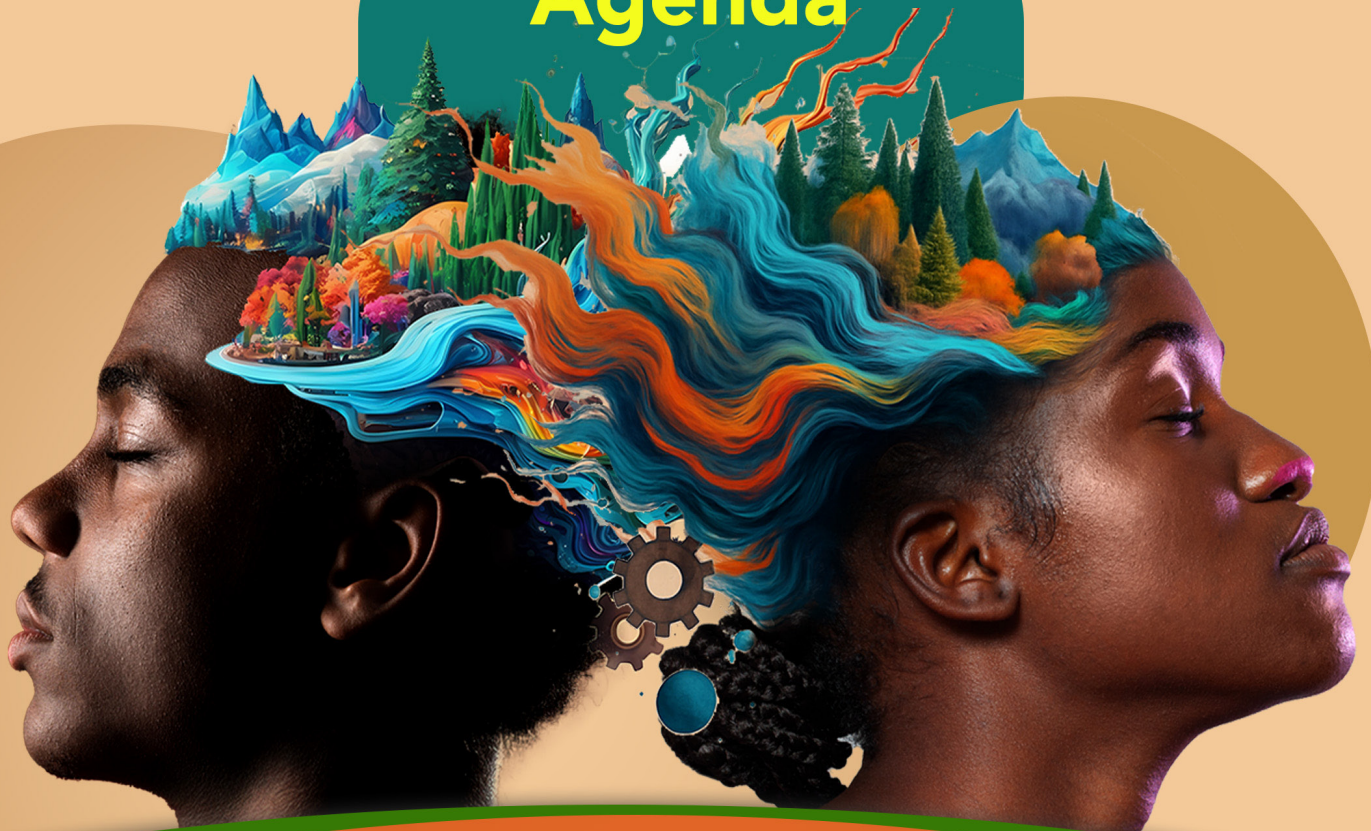




Conférence nationale sur la santé mentale des personnes noires:
Nourris par l'héritage, portés par la justice

National Black Mental Health Conference:
Rooted in Legacy, Rising in Justice

Agenda



27 - 29
Mai | May

Université d'Ottawa
University of Ottawa

National Black Mental Health Conference 2026
May 27 – May 29

**Conférence nationale nationale sur la santé
mentale des personnes noires**
27 mai – 29 mai

Agenda | Programme



Day 1 | Jour 1 – May 27, 2026 (TBT)

Invited Choir – Chorale Invitée: Chorale Adventiste Francophone d'Orléans

14h00 : **Welcome & Registration –**
Accueil et inscription (Huguette Labelle)

15h00 – 16h00 : **Conference Opening Remarks –**
Discours d'ouverture de la conférence

Dr. Jude Mary Cénat,

Director, Interdisciplinary Centre for Black Health (ICBH) & Vulnerability, Trauma, Resilience, and Culture (V-TRaC) lab | Directeur, Centre interdisciplinaire pour la santé des Noir.e.s (CISN) & laboratoire Vulnérabilité, Trauma, et Résilience (V-TRaC)

Dr. Awad Ibrahim

Vice-Provost, Equity, Diversity and Inclusive Excellence | Vice-provost, équité, diversité et excellence en matière d'inclusion

Ms. Annie Comtois

Director General, Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) | Directrice générale, Centre de la santé mentale et du bien-être, Agence de la santé publique du Canada (ASPC)

Dr. Cintia Quiroga

Director, Research and Public Policy | Directrice, Recherche et politiques publiques

Dr. Sylvain Gagnon

Director, Ph.D. Clinical Program, School of Psychology | Directeur, Programme de doctorat en psychologie clinique, École de psychologie

Dr. Josephine Etowa,

Full Professor, School of Nursing & Scientific Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Black Health (ICBH) | Professeure titulaire, École des sciences infirmières & Directrice scientifique du Centre interdisciplinaire pour la santé des Noir.e.s (CISN)

16h00 – 17h30 : Keynote Speech by: | Intervention de :



Dr. Wendi Williams:

On Refusal and Recovery: Black Psychological Resilience in Precarious Times | Rejet et rétablissement : la résilience psychologique des personnes noires en période d'incertitude

17h30 – 18h00 : Break & Networking | Pause & Résautage

18h00 – 18h30 : Movie Screening | Projection de film

18h30 - 20h00 : Cultural activity, Cocktail & Networking | Activité culturelle, cocktail et réseautage



Day 2 | Jour 2 – May 28, 2026

8h00 – 9h00 : Conference Registration | Inscription au colloque (FSS2005)

9h00 – 10h15 :

Plenary Session 1 | Session plénière 1 – FSS2005



Chair | Discutant:
Dr. Jude Mary Cénat

Dr. Alex Pieterse

Associate Professor and Director of the Institute for the Study of Race and Culture at Boston College | Professeur agrégé et directeur de l'Institute for the Study of Race and Culture, Boston College (États-Unis)



**Recognition, Restoration, and Resistance:
Pathways to Healing and Preventing Racial Trauma**

10h15 - 10h25 : Wellness Break | Pause bien-être – FSS2005

10h25 – 10h30 : Coffee break (Grab & Go) | Pause Café (à emporter)

10h30 – 12h00 : Concurrent sessions | Sessions simultanées
(4 - FSS1006, FSS1007, FSS2005, FSS4007)



Session 1

Session 1 :

From Racial Trauma to Collective Healing | Du traumatisme racial à la guérison collective – FSS1006

1. Trauma in Target Populations within Black Communities

Michelle James , Papa-Ladjike Diouf, Shannon Black ; Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition

2. Roots, Ritual and Relief: Healing Racial Trauma in the Black Diaspora and BIPOC communities via Psilocybin Mushroom Ceremonies

M. Myriah Macintyre, Monnica Williams, Sergio Perez Rosal, Patrice Dwyer, Sedina Acolatse ; University of Ottawa

3. McGill University's SWH Implementation of the VTraC Lab's "How to Provide Anti-Racist Mental Health Care" Training;

Vera Romano, Angela Ahenkorah, Dana Carsley, Melissa Cobbler, Samantha Goldberg, Maya Michel, Sabine Neree, Devon Simpson, Virginie Yeba ; McGill University



Session 2

Session 2 :

Racism: The Body, The Heart & The Brain | Le racisme : le corps, le cœur et le cerveau – FSS1007

1. Microaggressions au travail : Impacts sur la santé mentale des employées noir.es au Québec

Lydie Koblan-Huberson, PHD(c) ; Université Laval

2. The Cultural Phenomenon of Black Fatigue in Ontario, Canada

Sommer Knight, Irene Vitoroulis ; University of Ottawa

3. Workplace Racism as a Traumatic Occupational Exposure

Rose Darly Dalexis

4. Racism and the Brain: Evidence from Resting-State Functional Neuroimaging

Seyed Mohammad Mahdi Moshirian Farahi



Session 3 :

When Racism Makes Us Sick: Physical and Mental Health Impacts
| **Quand le racism nous rend malades : les conséquences sur la santé physique et mentale – FSS2005**

Session 3

1. Bleeding While Black (MH in GYN)

Molola Afolabi, University of Ottawa

2. Depression and Anxiety in African, Caribbean, and Black Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease

Teniola Ajani, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland

3. Killing them softly within healthcare: The mental toll of anti-Black racism within nursing

Nadia Prendergast, Toronto Metropolitan University

4. Perceived Racial Discrimination in Healthcare and Self-Rated Mental Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Evidence from African, Caribbean, and Black Communities in Canada

Josephine Etowa, Amos Buh ; University of Ottawa





Session 4 :

Rethinking Mental Health Care: Equity, Technology, and Community Approaches | Repenser les soins de santé mentale : équité, technologie et approches communautaires – FSS4007

Session 4

1. Algorithmic Racism in Canadian Healthcare: How AI Reproduces Structural Anti-Blackness

Emmanuel Nwatu, University of Ottawa

2. Food for Wellness: Lessons from Policy and Community Programs to Advance Culturally Relevant Care for African, Caribbean, and Black Residents in Long-Term Care

Mwali Muray, Eunice Hammond, Krystal Kehoe Macleod ; University of Ottawa

3. Questioning Coercive Psychiatric Practices in Black and Indigenous Families and Communities

Emmanuelle Bernheim, Mwali Muray, Meghan Guerriero-Blaise ; University of Ottawa, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre

4. Rooted and Reclaiming: Leveraging Data to Advance Mental Health Equity in Ontario's Child Welfare System

Vania Patrick-Drakes, Keishia Facey ; OVOV, OACAS



12h00 – 13h00 : Lunch | Dîner (FSS4007)

13h00 – 14h15 :

Plenary Session 2 | Session plénière 2 – FSS2005



Chair | Discussant:
Dr. Idrissa Beogo

Dr. Roberto Lewis Fernandez

Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons | Professeur de psychiatrie clinique au Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons



Enhancing Cross-Cultural Equity in the Clinical Encounter

14h15 – 15h15 : Movie Screening + Panel Discussion | Projection d'un film + table ronde – FSS4007



Racism & Mental Health | Racisme & santé mentale

15h15 – 15h30 : Wellness Break | Pause bien-être – FSS4007

15h30 – 15h45 : Coffee break | Pause Café

15h45 – 17h15 : Concurrent sessions | Sessions simultanées (3 - FSS1006, FSS1007, FSS4007)



Session 5 :

Rooted Wisdom : Africentric Approaches to Mental Health, Healing and Equity | Sagesse ancestrale : approches centrées sur l'Afrique en matière de santé mentale, de guérison et d'équité – FSS1006

Session 5

1. **ADWEN: A framework for advancing equity in mental health promotion**

Noah Boakye-Yiadom, University of Calgary

2. **Rooted in Practice: Black Mental Health Practitioners' Experiences Integrating African Healing Traditions in Psychotherapy**

Sandra Osazuwa, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Toronto

3. **The C.U.L.T.U.R.E. Framework: Advancing Equity and Healing Through an AfriDiasporic Approach to Mental Health Practice**

Shanique Victoria Edwards, Canadian Black Nurses Alliance, Black Mental Health Canada, Newmarket African Caribbean Canadian Association

4. **Fried Kokoo for the Mind & Soul: The Power of Plantain in Black Mental Health**

Amma Gyamfowa, Womanist Healing Counselling Services





Session 6 :

Collective Care: Community Approaches to Mental Health in Black Communities | Soins collectifs : approches communautaires pour la santé mentale des communautés noires – FSS1007

Session 6

1. Breaking the Silence of Mental Illness in Black Families and Communities in Canada

Joseph Adu, Josephine Wong, Priscilla Boakye, Egbe Etowa, Sebastian Gyamfi ; Toronto Metropolitan University, University of Windsor

2. Rest as Revolution: Black Healing in Stillness and Joy

Mitchell Fimo, When the Village Meditates

3. Ubuntu Philosophy as a Framework for Mental Health Promotion among Racialised Communities

Egbe Etowa, Joseph Adu, Victoria Ranieri, Anoushka Anoushka, Catherine Kim, Michael Butac, Josephine P. Wong ; Toronto Metropolitan University, Ontario HIV Treatment Network, Canadians of African Descent Health Organization

4. Culturally Affirming and Creative Approaches to Black Mental Health Service Delivery at Somerset West CHC

Amoy Jacques, Sonja Prakash, Nagad Hersi, Mary Nduati, Nadia Fatah, Thomason Balingene Mahindule, Mugisho Mulimbwa, and Michael Fyfe ; Somerset West Community Health Centre



Session 7 :

An International View of Black Mental Health | Une perspective internationale sur la santé mentale des personnes noires – FSS4007

Session 7

1. The transnational mental health burden of Haiti's alleged collapse: preliminary findings from The Haitian Well-Being Study

Chery Maurice, Blanc Judite, University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine

2. Facteurs de risques et de protection en contexte de crise humanitaire. Analyse des données collectées auprès des déplacés internes en raison de la violence des gangs en Haïti

Lukinson Jean

3. Santé mentale des étudiants internationaux francophones

Idrissa Beogo, University of Ottawa

17h15 - 18h00 : **Blitz Presentation Contest - Concours de présentations éclair**
– FSS4007

Ceremonies of Liberation: Exploring Psilocybin's Role in Addressing Racial Trauma in Black and Indigenous Populations

M. Myriah Macintyre

Exploring the Role of Community in Psychedelic Interventions for Racial Discrimination

Harsimrat Gundu

Microagressions et adoption interraciale : impact sur le développement identitaire de femmes noires adoptées au sein de familles blanches

Éloïse Gravel

Questioning Coercive Psychiatric Practices in Black and Indigenous Families and Communities

Emmanuelle Bernheim, Meghan Guerriero-Blaise

Assessing the Role of Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario in Improving Access to Mental Health Services for Black and Immigrant Youth Aged 12–25

Sarah Nkouta

The effect of anti-racist program on multicultural competency among Black mental health care providers

Tuba Buyuktepe

Day 3 | Jour 3 – May 29, 2026

9h00 – 10h00 :

Plenary Session 3 | Session plénière 3 – FSS2005



Chair | Discutant:
Dr. Josephine Etowa

Dr. Vincent Agyapong

Professor of Psychiatry and Global Mental Health and the Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Dalhousie University | **Professeur de psychiatrie et de santé mentale mondiale, Université Dalhousie**



Rising in Justice: Reimagining Mental Health Systems for Black Communities



10h00 – 11h00 :

Plenary Session 4 | Session plénière 4 – FSS2005



Chair | Discutant:
Dr. Jude Mary Cénat

Charlemagne-Simplice Moukouta, PhD

Associate Professor (HDR) in Clinical Psychopathology and Intercultural Psychology, Université de Picardie Jules Verne | Maître de conférences HDR en Psychopathologie clinique et psychologie interculturelle, Université de Picardie Jules Verne



Qui d'entre nous délire ? Entre malentendus et obstacles aux soins.

11h00 - 11h15 : Coffee break | Pause Café

15h45 – 17h15 : Concurrent sessions | Sessions simultanées
(4 - FSS1006, FSS1007, FSS2005)



Session 8 :

Structural Racism, Data Governance, and Mental Health Equity |
**Racisme structurel, gouvernance des données et équité en matière
de santé mentale – FSS1006**

Session 8

1. Community-Centered Data Governance as a Pathway to Mental Health Equity for Black Communities in Canada

Michelle Sraha-Yeboah, Arone Fantaye, Josephine Etowa, Glenda T Muzenda ; University of Ottawa

2. The Reification of Race: A Constructivist Analysis of Race-Based Data Collection in Healthcare

Meghan Guerriero-Blaise, Rochelle Einboden ; Children's Hospital of Easter Ontario Research Institute, University of Ottawa, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre

3. Racism as a structural determinant of mental health: A humanitarian imperative for racialized communities in Canada

Arone Fantaye, Josephine Etowa, Yinka Bolarinwa, Lisa Bourque Bearskin, Elizabeth Mcgibbon, Kannin Osei-Tutu, Tari Ajadi, Tony Singh, Claire Betker ; University of Ottawa, University of Victoria, St. Francis Xavier University, University of Calgary, McGill University

4. La santé mentale des communautés noires au Canada : perspectives des leaders religieux et des professionnels de la santé

Heandel Beaubrun, Université d'Ottawa



Session 9 :

Mental Health, Reproductive Justice, and Health Equity for Black Women and Birthing Persons | **Santé mentale, justice reproductive et équité en matière de santé pour les femmes noires et les personnes qui accouchent – FSS1007**

Session 9

1. Unspoken Mental Load: Exploring Postpartum Stress and Unmet Needs of Black Women and Birthing Persons

Priscilla Boakye, Tibeb Zena Debele, Cynthia Maxwell, Modupe Tunde-Byass, Crystal Clark, Kenneth Fung, Egbe Etowa, Karline Wilson-Mitchell, Josephine Etowa, Rosanra Yoon, Janet Yamada ; Toronto Metropolitan University, Women's College Hospital, North York General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, University of Toronto, University of Ottawa

2. Determinants of health disparities among Black women in high-income countries: a systematic review

Josephine Etowa, Glenda Muzenda, Amos Buh ; University of Ottawa

3. Exploring Psychosocial and Cultural Competency in Oncology Practice: Perspectives of Healthcare Professionals Serving Black Canadian Women with Breast Cancer

Kwizera Ruth, Ghizlene Sehabi, Anifa Kalay, Sophie Lebel ; University of Ottawa

4. Pathways to culturally responsive and equity oriented perinatal mental health services in Canada: Voices of Black women and birthing persons

Priscilla Boakye, Debele Tibeb Zena, Fung Kenneth, Karline Wilson-Mitchell, Josephine Etowa, Crystal Clark, Cynthia Maxwell, Modupe Tunde-Byass, Egbe Etowa , Rosanra Yoon , Janet Yamada, Josephine Wong ; Toronto Metropolitan University, University of Toronto, University of Ottawa, Women's College Hospital



Session 10 :

Symposium – FSS2005

S.10

Santé mentale des femmes noires survivantes de violences : trauma complexe, attachement et résilience psychocorporelle-apports d'une recherche-action menée par LOBA;

Héloïse Onumba-Bessonnet, LOBA

12h45 – 13h45 : Lunch | Dîner (FSS4007)

13h45 – 14h00 : Wellness Break | Pause bien-être – FSS4007

14h00 – 15h00 :

Plenary Session 5 | Session plénière 5 – FSS2005



Chair | Discutant:
Dr. Helen Ofosu

Linda Iwenofu, PhD, C. Psych

Assistant Professor in the Department of Applied Psychology and Human Development at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto | Professeur adjoint au Département de psychologie appliquée et de développement humain à l'Institut d'études pédagogiques de l'Ontario, Université de Toronto



The Politics of Being Seen: What Black Children and Youth Teach Us About Healing, Care, and Belonging

15h00 – 15h15 : Coffee break | Pause Café (Hall by FSS2005)

15h15 – 16h45 : Concurrent sessions | **Sessions simultanées**
(4 - FSS1006, FSS1007, FSS2005)



Session 11 :

Navigating Identity and Belonging: Black Youth Mental Health |
Identité et sentiment d'appartenance : la santé mentale des jeunes
Noirs – FSS1006

Session 11

1. Reclaiming Voice and Belonging in Black Canadian Youth Mental Health

Petra Owusu, Jacqueline Specht, Gabrielle Lee ; Western University

2. Au carrefour de mes mondes : identités, racisation et santé mentale chez les jeunes noirs au Québec.

Bendley Lubin, University du Québec à Montréal

3. History and Legacy of the N-Word

Sadia Abdullahi, Ottawa Carleton District School Board

4. Afrocentric Perspectives on Black Student Mental Health: Comparing Barriers and Culturally Grounded Interventions in Canada and American Schools

Rachel Grant



Session 12

Session 12 :

Access to Care and Mental Health Equity for Black Youth | Accès aux soins et égalité en matière de santé mentale pour les jeunes Noirs – FSS1007

1. Bridging the Data Gap: The UDADA Project and Black Youth Mental Health in Canada (16-26)

Mariana Garrido De Castro, Dorothy Sierra, Tapo Chimbanga ; Furture Black Female

2. Illuminate: Access to Care for Black 2SLGBTQI+ Youth in Ontario - A Sector Strategy Project

Tiyondah Fante-Coleman, Melissa Booker, Nahomi Amberber ; Black Health Alliance, University of Toronto, McMaster University

3. Breaking the Silence: Addressing GBV in Black Communities through an Afrocentric Youth-Led Approach

Maryann Macharia, Leon Bell, Mariana Garrido de Castro, and Dr. Tapo Chimbanga.; Future Black Female

4. Prevalence of Anxiety, Depression and PTSD among Black Adolescents: A Meta-Analysis and Systematic Review of Associated Factors

Grace Jacob, B.A., Seyed Mohammad Mahdi Moshirian Farahi, PhD; Jude Mary Cénat, PhD, University of Ottawa



Session 13 :

Racism: The Body, The Heart & The Brain | Le racisme : le corps, le cœur et le cerveau – FSS1007

1. Supporting Equity for Black and Racialized Communities: A Community Mental Health Organization's Approach *

Maryann Roebuck, Myriam Georges-Estigene, Adrien Tempier, Vincent Poulin, Tracy Charles, Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch

2. Cultural Humility in Mental Health Care: Client Perspectives

Malick Ouattara, School of Psychology, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

S. 13

16h45 – 17h15 : Closing Ceremony & Awards Ceremony | Cérémonie de clôture et remise des prix

17h15 – 18h30 : Musical Performance | Spectacle musical

