Training Psychologists as Social Justice Advocates

Tania Israel, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Counseling, Clinical, & School Psychology
University of California, Santa Barbara
taniaisrael.com
@tania_israel
What Is Social Justice?
What is social justice in counseling psychology?

“Actively working to change social institutions, political and economic systems, and government structures that perpetuate unfair practices, structures, and policies in terms of accessibility, resource distribution, and human rights.” (Fouad, Gerstein, & Toporek, 2006)

### Counseling Psychology Core Competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Readiness for Practicum</th>
<th>Readiness for Internship</th>
<th>Readiness for Entry to Practice</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oriented Toward Social Justice</td>
<td>Demonstrates awareness of social, political, economic and cultural factors that impact individuals, institutions and systems, in addition to other factors that may lead them to seek intervention</td>
<td>Uses awareness of the social, political, economic or cultural factors that may impact human development in the context of service provision</td>
<td>Intervenes with client to promote action on factors impacting development and functioning</td>
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<td>Systems Change</td>
<td>Understands the differences between individual and institutional level interventions and system’s level change</td>
<td>Promotes change to enhance the functioning of individuals</td>
<td>Promotes change at the level of institutions, community, or society</td>
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How do counseling psychology doctoral trainees perceive SJ training?

Table 1. Qualitative Themes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open-Ended Questions</th>
<th>Participant Themes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do you define social justice?</td>
<td>Promotion of social equality</td>
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<td>Minimization of current social inequalities</td>
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<td>Recognition of the context of society</td>
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<td>Social justice as a concept or ideal to strive toward versus acts or efforts that are</td>
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<td>behaviorally based and outcome oriented</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do you practice social justice professionally?</td>
<td>Self-awareness/reflection on one's biases</td>
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<td>Self-education on social justice issues</td>
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<td>Infusion of social justice in clinical work</td>
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<td>Infusion of social justice in research</td>
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<td>Infusion of social justice in teaching</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Campus/community activism</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do you practice social justice personally?</td>
<td>Self-awareness/reflection on personal biases</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Self-education</td>
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<td>Consciousness raising</td>
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<td>&quot;Walking the talk&quot;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Social justice activism</td>
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<td>How do you envision the Goodwin et al. (2004) social justice principles should be</td>
<td>Infusion across all aspects/levels of training</td>
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<tr>
<td>integrated into counseling psychology doctoral training?</td>
<td>&quot;Walking the talk&quot;</td>
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<td>Training opportunities outside of counseling psychology programs</td>
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Counseling Psychology Trainees’ Perceptions and Commitments

Nature of social justice
- Necessarily political
- Voice and confrontation
- Struggle

Motivation for activism
- Spirit
- Contact
- Empowerment
- Witnessing change

Role of training
- Curriculum
- Supportive environment
- Professional barriers

Personal and professional integration
What makes a social justice advocate?

- Belief in a just/unjust world
- Social justice interest
- Social justice outcome expectations
- Social justice self-efficacy
- Social justice social barriers
- Social justice training support
- Social justice support
- Activism orientation

Integration of social justice training

- Coursework experiences
- Practicum experiences
- Research experiences
- Professional development
- Mentoring
- Role modeling
Priorities for community action

1. Safety – harassment, violence, discrimination
2. Diversity within LGBT communities
3. Social events and spaces
Pass a VAWA that protects ALL!

VAWA 2013
LET'S GET IT DONE.
• Facebook: ProjectRISEUCSB
• Twitter: @LGBTRISE
We want our students to be

Effective
Advocates
Drawing on psychological knowledge and skills
To dismantle barriers to equity and justice

Pair-Share

• Select one way of integrating social justice training into your doctoral program
• What would it look like?
• What would be needed to implement it?
All I need to know about social justice advocacy training, I learned from

The First Slayer

"I live in the action of death, the blood cry, the penetrating wound. I am destructive. Absolute... Alone."
The Chosen One
Remember Your Potential

From now on, every girl who might be a Slayer will be a Slayer. Every girl who could have the power will have the power. Can stand up, will stand up. This is the power of Slayers. Everyone one of us. Make your choice. Are you ready to be strong?