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Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 09:46:18 PM EDT

Subject: CFP: Special Issue of the American Psychologist on Intergenerational Trauma and Community Strengths

Dear Colleagues:

Attached is a Call for Papers for a Special Issue of the *American Psychologist* titled “Intergenerational Trauma and Community Strengths: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy.” Please help circulate this call widely and consider submitting an abstract.

Link: <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/amp/intergenerational-trauma-community-strengths>

Call for Papers: Intergenerational Trauma and Community Strengths: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy

Guest Editors

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Lillian Comas-Díaz, associate editor, *American Psychologist*

Background

We are living through one of the most challenging periods in modern history. Minoritized communities, including People of Color, women, immigrants, queer and transgender individuals, people with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, and those experiencing

deep poverty, face systemic oppression and heightened collective trauma. The rise in hate crimes, deportations, family separations, wars, political conflicts, and trauma rooted in racism are some of the contemporary examples that intensify the cycle of these collective wounds (see Adames et al., 2024; Bryant-Davis, 2019; Comas-Díaz et al., 2024; Comas-Díaz & Torres Rivera, 2020; Crenshaw, 2005; Gone, 2013; Lefevor et al., 2019).

The impact of collective trauma can be passed down from one generation to the next. Scholars have described intergenerational trauma as historical trauma, ancestral wounds, and soul wounds that affect the full humanity of minoritized groups (see Bryant-Davis, 2019; Brave Heart & DeBruyn, 1998; Cénat, 2023; Comas-Díaz et al., 2024; Gone, 2013). Together, these traumas impact both physical and mental health. They are linked to depression, anxiety, anger, distrust, somatic complaints, physical health outcomes such as cardiovascular problems and weakened immune responses, dissociation, emotional dysregulation, negative sense of self, and difficulty functioning (see Comas-Díaz et al., 2019; Galea et al., 2005; Helms et al., 2010; Hood et al., 2023; Norris et al., 2002; Polanco-Roman et al., 2016; van der Kolk, 2014; Yehuda et al., 2005).

Special Issue Aims

This special issue of *American Psychologist* aims to synthesize the latest research and theory on intergenerational trauma, examine how minoritized communities build pathways to thriving despite systemic harm, and how these practices are transmitted across generations. Collectively, the articles will enhance understanding of intergenerational trauma while contributing to the development of prevention strategies, interventions, and public health policies to address this global challenge and highlighting the understudied but critical role of intergenerational strengths.

Specifically, we are interested in manuscripts on the effects of hate crimes, deportation, family separation, wars, political conflicts, and trauma rooted in racism, cissexism, heterosexism, and colonialism. Manuscripts should consider the complexities of the topic by incorporating the influence of intersectional oppressions on collective trauma and intergenerational healing processes such as the survival strategies or psychological strengths that have contributed to the survival and healing of oppressed communities. We welcome submission of manuscripts that cover theory, empirical research, clinical counseling implications, and policy issues.

We welcome submissions on topics including mental health consequences, protective factors, community strengths, evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions and healing approaches, policy needs, and therapeutic models to address intergenerational trauma and strengths related to:

- The Holocaust
- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade
- Genocide
- Internment Camps
- Colonization and dispossession
- Deportation and forced relocation
- Immigration detention centers
- Indigenous boarding/residential schooling
- State-Sanctioned and other group-organized violence
- War
- Criminalization and dehumanization
- Societal trauma of a singular form of oppression or intersectional oppression
- Hate crimes
- Refugee status
- Epigenetics
- Psychological and Community Strengths

Submission Details

Interested contributors should submit a letter of interest (LOI) consisting of 500-word abstract and 150-word author biographies. LOIs and author biographies should be emailed to [Hector Y. Adames](#) by **June 1, 2025**.

The editors will provide authors with decisions by **July 1, 2025**. Invited contributors will have 5 months to develop and submit their manuscript (i.e., by **December 1, 2025**). Submitted manuscripts should follow guidelines for regular submissions to *American Psychologist* posted on the [journal website](#), including the page length limit of 35 pages all inclusive. Manuscripts will undergo a peer review process. An invitation to contribute does not guarantee acceptance of the manuscript.

Full manuscripts must be submitted through the [American Psychologist submission portal](#) by **December 1, 2025**. Submission will undergo masked peer review. Questions and

additional information may be addressed to at [Dr. Hector Y. Adames](#) and at [Dr. Thema Bryant](#).

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