Dear HDP Students, Alumni, and Faculty:

CONGRATULATIONS for finishing yet another year strong. This year may have been especially challenging for us as educators, researchers, and people who work in our immediate community of Los Angeles where diversity is often celebrated because of the shift in the larger sociopolitical climate and increase in polarization of ideas. We saw great accomplishments from our students, faculty, and the larger HDP family to add to the ever growing list of our successes as a division. We’re highlighting just a few in this newsletter, beginning with a huge congratulations to all of the HDP graduates, class of 2017.

As your HDP student representatives for this year, we were blessed to be more involved in each of your lives and the larger planning of our division overall. We have learned a lot from this opportunity and will continue to make ourselves available for support and representation as we pass along the official title to next year’s reps.

Here’s to continuing our lifelong work on translating our research into practice, bringing resources to marginalized communities and doing work that has a critical impact on human development.

Cheers to the summer, Amirah, Laura, and Manpreet

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CONGRATULATIONS!

Class of 2017

Faisal Alnemary, Ph.D.
Fahad Alnemary, Ph.D.
Natpat Chanjavanakul, Ph.D.
Carla Kekejian, M.A.
Cindy Lee, M.A.
Jonathan Panganiban, Ph.D.

Alex Pekelis, M.A.
Kate Ridell, Ph.D.
Victoria C. Rodriguez-Operana, Ph.D.
Remi Torres, M.A.
Rak Qijun Yang, M.A.
HDP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

HDP is excited to announce a new mentorship program geared toward connecting HDP students that are earlier in the program with students that are further along. It is our hope that this program will serve as both a resource to help students navigate life as a graduate student and an opportunity to build community in HDP across research labs and cohorts. Meet the first cohort of HDPMP!

Getting to Know HDP!

What are HDP Students Binge Watching?
- Scandal
- How I Met Your Mother?
- Sense 8
- Shameless
- Queen Sugar
- Bloodline
- Bosch
- Dear White People
- Master of None
- Fargo

What are some of HDP's hidden talents?
- Can play French Horn
- Filipino dances and tula
- [physically] stronger than what most people would expect
- “I can lick my elbow...only one of my elbows”
Post Doc Spotlight: 
Dr. Negin Ghavami

Dr. Ghavami uses an intersectional approach to understand the impact of race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation on school experiences and outcomes during adolescence. She is the recipient of a 3 year F32 National Research Service Award from NICHD which funded her postdoctoral studies along with support from a number of other competitive grants and organizations including the Spencer Foundation, APF Placek and UCLA Center for American Cultures. Dr Ghavami recently accepted an Assistant Professor position in the Department of Psychology at Loyola Marymount University which she will begin in the fall. She sat down with us to talk a little about her research, life as a post doc and how she was able to successfully navigate the job market.

What led you to your research interests?

"Around the time that I got my PhD., we were facing a critical social problem -- a rash of teen suicides by kids who were either perceived to be LGBQ or actually identified as such. When folks talked about these tragedies, the sexual orientation piece was often forefronted without much attention to the complexity of the context or other social factors. These youth were as young as 11 and came from all walks of life - they were racial/ethnic minorities, boys and girls, attending urban schools etc. So it became clear to me that we needed to complicate our thinking and our approach and focus more on the context - whether it be race/ethnicity, gender, school diversity.... and also on a sort of personal level I wanted to give voice to my own experiences. I couldn’t find anything in the literature that spoke to that."

Why a post doctoral fellowship?

"...I wanted to focus on solving the problem that was facing LGBTQ youth of color but I had never felt that our culture or social climate was ready to really attend to issues of sexuality and gender identity among youth of color. But these tragedies really brought to the forefront the challenges that LGBTQ youth of color are facing and raised people's consciousness. So the timing was right. But I wasn’t so sure about the academy. I had to find the right mentor who had the expertise with school-based research and the commitment to social justice work around sexual orientation. Coincidentally, one day I was talking to my friend, Michael Giang who graduated from HDP, about my interests and he suggested that I contact his former mentor Sandra Graham who is an expert on school-based research. I wrote to Sandra, telling her about my interests -- she agreed to meet with me. Meeting her was really pivotal! We met weekly for a couple months and fleshed out my ideas and submitted an NRSA. It was funded on the first try and the rest is history."  
(interview continued on pg. 8)
HDP students have presented at conferences all over the world this year!
Here are some conferences with submission deadlines over the summer!

Society for Research on Adolescence
American Educational Research Association
Cognitive Development Society
Society for Personality and Social Psychology
National Head Start Parent & Family Engagement
Resources & Grants
Click the links below for tools to help navigate your academic and professional careers and grant applications!

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS
Online workshop geared toward preparing conference proposals and presentations in the social sciences provided by the Graduate Student Resource Center

SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSES
Webinar by Ph.D. student Robert Marx of Vanderbilt University providing an introduction to systematic review and meta-analysis

THEESIS & DISSERTATION FORMATTING
Online presentation on the UCLA electronic thesis & dissertation (ETD) filing formatting guidelines

CAREER TOOLKIT
The UCLA Career Preparation Toolkit for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars is designed to help you think critically about how to navigate a lifetime of career decisions

SPENCER DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
Supports individuals whose dissertations show potential for bringing fresh and constructive perspectives to the history, theory, or practice of formal or informal education anywhere in the world

UCLA TRAVEL GRANTS
For doctoral students to support conference travel, off-campus research and off-campus professional development opportunities. Amount: $1,000

AERA RESEARCH AND DISSERTATION GRANTS
Small grants for conducting studies of education policy and practice using federally-funded, large-scale data sets

FORD FOUNDATION DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP
For Ph.D. degree candidates who will complete the dissertation during the 2018-2019 academic year, but no later than fall 2019
Post Doc Spotlight (cont)

What has been most rewarding in your career thus far and what has been the most challenging?

"Working with schools, the teachers, administrators and especially the kids was the most rewarding. My postdoc gave meaning to my work and validated my own experiences. I got to see first hand some of the challenges that these students faced as well as the teachers who were teaching them. It reaffirmed why I was doing what I was doing and why I wanted to work with marginalized communities in the first place. I am a product of LAUSD schools and grew up in the same communities that I am now working with now...the risk needs to be understood in the context of remarkable resilience."

"Initially, I thought that getting into the schools and talking to parents would be the most challenging. I mean I was going into the schools to do research on sexual orientation among youth! But I was extremely lucky to have had the support of Sandra and her team to do school-based research. I also was very fortunate that my former MA advisor introduced me to folks at LAUSD...I faced the most challenge with my colleagues -- I had to continuously convince them why studying the experiences of LGBTQ youth of color using an intersectional framework was important. This became particularly apparent on the job market. I would get questions like "why is this population important to focus on?" Or some colleagues would say "well, LGBTQ are such as small portion of population why focus on them?" That just broke my heart. I also received push back on the theoretical grounds - for example, "what is intersectionality?" "What does this add to what we already know?" "Does this mean that we need to abandon all the theories we have now?" All valid questions and I welcomed the intellectual challenge but I was hoping for folks to be open - open to my ideas, the population and to let me convince them as opposed to dismiss my work."

Did going on the job market take an emotional toll and how did you overcome those challenges?

"Initially I was taking it personally. The intellectual challenge that I really appreciate and actually seek was turning into personal attacks - I felt like my academic community didn't value me or my work. That was exhausting - at times I felt frustrated, other times I felt sad and defeated and I mean I couldn't be on the market forever - I have family responsibilities and other personal goals in life. But I think having supportive friends, family and mentors was helpful - I couldn't have done any of this without them! Sandra helped me depersonalize the process and really try to understand where the field is."

"Also, I think the right context just hadn’t come along yet, like the right job wasn't there. It became really clear to me that I need to be at an institution or a department that was social justice oriented, values interdisciplinary work and is supportive of doing research with different populations...and also they had to be okay with having someone like me on their faculty...with all my identities, who I am, how I do research, and how I approach a particular social issue...I think with the LMU position all of that came together."
Meet Next Years Reps!
Remi, Taylor, and Kyle

What's one thing you wish you knew for graduate school?

Remi: I wish I knew that it is okay to feel overwhelmed and a little lost!

Taylor: It's hard to do and read and write everything and even harder (actually impossible) to do all these things perfectly.

Kyle: That subscribing to email notifications from relevant journals is a good way to keep up on new papers that come out in your field. It's really easy and helpful!

What is your favorite part about HDP?

Remi: How applied the program is, many professors do research directly in schools and the community!

Taylor: My favorite part of HDP is my RAC!

Kyle: I like how different everyone's interests are across the department. It lets you see your own work from a lot of different perspectives.

What is your favorite hobby or something you like to do in your free time?

Remi: I love going to yoga, meditating, hiking, cooking and exploring LA!

Taylor: [My husband] and I like to explore the city, but mostly it's a lot of Netflix and chilling.

Kyle: I like to stay active. Spending time with family is also one of my favorite ways to relax, especially my baby niece.
Are you interested in joining a weekly summer writing group?

If so, email Laura at lhrinehart@gmail.com

The Human Development & Psychology Reps wish you

A WONDERFUL SUMMER!