

Speaker: Cristino Chavez (Adelphi University, USA)

Presentation title: In the eyes of the court: Judicial perceptions of criminality among black youth involved in the justice system and the risk of recidivism

This presentation examines the judicial perceptions of juvenile delinquency among Black youth involved in the juvenile justice system and how racially biased perceptions increase the risks of recidivism. The goal of this presentation is to address the impact of racial biases within the court room and traditional forms of “punishment” and how critical race approach through restorative justice practices reduces the risks of recidivism. Our criminal justice system continues to uphold oppressive forms of correction and punishment and reinforce racial stereotypes of constitutes “juvenile delinquents” and the negative outcomes regarding mental health are imposed among Black youth. Through a critical race theoretical approach to juvenile justice reform, professionals within the courts must imply restorative justice approaches within juvenile court cases. In this presentation, I will illustrate how racially biased judicial perceptions negatively impact the mental health of Black youth involved in the justice system and its role in recidivism, as well as how critical race approaches through restorative justice practices promotes effective and efficient outcomes in juvenile court proceedings. I will challenge current practices within the juvenile courts and offer recommendations to increase just, racially unbiased, and restorative justice methods of mediation within proceedings.