ECP Member Spotlight: Priscilla Lui, Ph.D.

Please welcome to SoAP one of our early career members, Priscilla Lui! Dr. Lui is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. She received her B.S. in Biology and Psychology from the University of Washington and M.A. in Psychology from the California State University—Los Angeles. She then completed her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Purdue University. Her clinical psychology internship was done at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine.

What are your research interests?

Broadly, I am interested in how people from diverse ethnocultural backgrounds make sense of the world, and how lived experiences and individual differences in culture, ethnicity, and race affect people’s alcohol use and other psychopathology symptoms. In my lab, I have examined the influences of acculturation and intergenerational cultural conflict, overt and subtle racial discrimination, as well as personality traits and emotion experiences related to psychological adjustment. For example, one of my manuscripts was recently accepted for publication in the *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. Using a meta-analytic approach, we examined the complex relations linking acculturation to alcohol consumption and related problems among Asian Americans.

The goal of my program of research is to bridge alcohol studies on individual processes and sociocultural contexts to inform a comprehensive understanding of drinking related behaviors and outcomes in our diverse society. Along the same line of interest, my colleague, Byron L. Zamboanga, and I are guest editing a special issue (“Sociocultural Factors and Mechanisms in Alcohol Use: Epidemiology, Prevention, and Intervention among Ethnic Minority Groups”) in the *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*. Thus far we have received immense support and many excellent abstract submissions. We hope this generates even more scientific discourse about sociocultural factors that influence alcohol and substance use among ethnic minority people.

What are your clinical interests?

I am not practicing at the moment, but I have had experiences working with patients with alcohol and substance use disorders, eating disorders, mood and anxiety disorders, chronic pain, and co-occurring personality disorders across levels of care.

What are your educational/training interests? Are you currently involved with supervising students or early career professionals?

Currently, I am teaching research methods and multicultural psychology at SMU. I am involved in supervising graduate teaching assistants and a team of research assistants. These have been very enjoyable and fruitful experiences!

What is something you are looking forward to as a member of the Society on Addiction Psychology (Division 50)?

I would love to be more involved in the Society by networking with folks with shared interests and connecting for possible collaborations. I think our science is as good as our collective efforts and the participation of awesome students and colleagues who bring different expertise.

Editor’s Corner

Matthew R. Pearson, Ph.D.
TAN Editor

Greetings Division 50!

I want to thank Bruce Liese for his President’s Column, Nancy Piotrowski for the Advocate’s Alcove), and Christine Vinci and Aaron Weiner for introducing us all to Priscilla Lui in the ECP Member Spotlight. David Eddie and Seemaclfasefi provided us with APA 2018 updates. Tessa Frohe and Laura Banu invites you all to the student/early career social at CPA and updates us all on the Student Research Grant program. Kim Fromme announces the 2018 SoAP award recipients. Mark Myers updates us on the Candidates for SoAP offices, and Jen Read lets us know about Call for Papers on opioids.

I want to give a special thanks to Lisa Najavits who gave her time to have a great Candid Conversation with me. It was thoroughly enjoyable speaking with her, and I hope you all enjoy it as well.

I hope you all appreciate the diminishing Editor’s Corner. Next issue should be 140 characters or less!

Do you have any policy/advocacy interests?

I am interested in advocating for enhanced diversity of our profession and professional development opportunities for students, researchers, and professionals of color. As a fellow in the APA’s Minority Fellowship Program (sponsored partly by SAMHSA), I have helped advocate continued efforts and funding to train and support the next generation addiction and mental health stu-
dents, providers, and researchers. I am involved in the Society of Clinical Psychology (Division 12) to enhance the diversity (broadly defined) of clinical psychologists.

How did you get interested in addictive behaviors?

My interests in addiction began when I was an undergraduate research assistant at the University of Washington. I helped out in a project examining the efficacies of various arms of treatment (including DBT and medications) for people with heroin use disorder. During graduate school, I sought out clinical practicum experiences at Indiana University School of Medicine’s Pain Center. I was struck by the importance and benefits of considering psychosocial determinants of chronic pain and drug misuse. I became very interested in not only individual differences in these processes but also ethnocultural group differences, and found myself invested in studying these issues in my research.

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What do you like to do outside of work?

Although I don’t consider my work “work,” in my spare time, I enjoy kickboxing, having game nights with friends, and exploring restaurants in Dallas (there is such a brunch culture here!). I am itching to try indoor rock climbing, too!