Tuesday, February 9, 2021 | 2 PM – 3 PM

RACE, LOVE, & MARRIAGE

Dr. Chalandra M. Bryant, University of Minnesota

Dr. Chalandra M. Bryant is a full Professor in the Department of Family Social Science in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota. Her research focuses on the developmental roots and course of close relationships; the ability to sustain close intimate ties; and the manner in which social, familial, economic, and psychosocial factors are linked to marital outcomes. A National Institutes of Health-funded project, A Study of African American Marriage and Health, examined factors contributing to the marital and health outcomes of newly married African American couples as well as the interrelationship between marriage and health. She has served on the editorial boards of the Journal of Family Theory and Review and the Journal of Marriage and Family. She is a co-author of the book, Family Stress Management: A Contextual Approach, Third Edition published by Sage. From 2017 - 2019, Dr. Bryant was a rotating program officer at the National Science Foundation.

Although race-comparative studies help us identify issues that warrant exploration in greater depth for any given racial or ethnic group, such analyses can be dangerous because they run the risk of pathologizing certain groups. The H.E.A.R.T. project focuses exclusively on African American families. About 700 African American married couples shared information about their life experiences, feelings, health (mental and physical), and their marriages. During this presentation, a conceptual framework depicting factors associated with African American marital outcomes will be discussed. The framework (which incorporates race-specific factors) underscores the complexity of intrapersonal, interpersonal, familial, community, and environmental factors affecting marriages among African Americans. Findings regarding a range of topics will be addressed – ranging from Body Mass Index, stepfathers, racial discrimination, to genes. All of these topics will be tied to marital functioning. Would you like to know what the acronym H.E.A.R.T. means? Come join the fun and find out!

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