

# THURSDAY DIVERSITY FORUM



*Deep Diversity: Using Action Methods to Examine Implicit Bias*

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Dr. Sajnani's areas of research include culturally responsible pedagogy, performative methodologies, and issues related to displacement. She is the editor of *Trauma-Informed Drama Therapy* (edited with David R. Johnson) and editor of *Drama Therapy Review*, the peer-reviewed journal of the North American Drama Therapy Association (NADTA). Her most recent writing appears in *Home: An Imagined Landscape* (edited by Marjorie Agosin).

Implicit bias refers to the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. The implicit associations we harbor in our subconscious cause us to have feelings and attitudes about other people based on characteristics such as race, ethnicity, age, and appearance. Residing deep in the subconscious, these biases are different from known biases that individuals may choose to conceal for the purposes of social and/or political correctness. Rather, implicit biases are not accessible through introspection. However, they may become available to examine and work through using action methods. Indeed, psychodramatists and drama therapists possess powerful and necessary tools that may be used to counter divisiveness and promote understanding. This is the third diversity forum hosted by the ASGPP.