

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



## *THE ART OF SURPRISE*

## **NISHA SAJNANI, PhD, RDT-BCT**

**Dr. Nisha Sajnani is the Director of the Drama Therapy Program and Theatre & Health Lab at New York University. She is a visiting faculty member with the Harvard Program in Refugee Trauma and editor of *Drama Therapy Review*. Her artistic and written scholarship reflects an interest in the role of improvisation and performance in stimulating discovery and addressing concerns related to identity, difference, migration, and place. Dr. Sajnani is the recipient of the Corann Okorodudu Global Women's Advocacy Award from the American Psychological Association, the Gertrud Schattner Award from the North American Drama Therapy Association, and the first**

**Diversity Award from the American Society for Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama.**

Her keynote will address the emotional geography of change and the role of improvisation in bringing about moments of artful dissonance and wonder that can stimulate new patterns of being and relating. Drawing on the theory and practice of Developmental Transformations (and a little amateur magic!) she will invite reflection on communities as complex living organisms that thrive at the borders of difference.