

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Psychology
ANNUAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE COLLOQUIUM

Sharpening My Knife: Race, Context, and Mental
Health

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**Friday, May 8th, 2009
3:00 PM
Martin Colloquium Center
4127 Sennott Square**

In this talk I will review the body of research I've developed examining, broadly, the role of race, culture and context in the risk for- and the response to psychopathology among African Americans. Specifically, I will address the current epidemiological paradox of reverse mental health disparities based on data indicating that ethnocultural groups in the United States have reduced risk for major mood and anxiety disorders in comparison to White Americans. Unpacking this paradox requires a strengths-based perspective that examines promotive factors that exist in communities of color. I will review evidence for the possibility that early family socialization, racial identity, religious participation and culturally informed coping strategies among African Americans may mitigate psychiatric risk. If elucidated, the underlying mechanisms of these promotive factors may have potential for inclusion in intervention strategies designed to reduce risk for other groups.

Reception to follow in Room 4125 Sennott Square

