

EVENT

Transformational Research in Developmental Science: Navigating Shifting Contexts

REGISTER

When?

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025 1:00PM TO
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2025 2:00PM

Where?

Virtual

Webinar Presenters:

Mellissa Gordon, University of Delaware; Dr.
Ann Aviles, University of Delaware;

Cost?

Price: \$15 non-members, \$5 professional
members; Free for students, emeriti, and
LMIC members.

EVENT DETAILS

Guided by traditional and critical frameworks that examine the impact of structural racism and racial inequality on the family, this webinar explores the influence of changing sociopolitical terrains on higher education. Empirical research will contextualize the importance of centering diversity and equity within families and communities. The session draws attention to practical approaches to fostering inclusivity, advancing culturally responsive approaches, and building resilient partnerships. Participants will gain insight on strategies that contribute to inclusive practices that uplift students, families, and the broader communities that higher education serves.

Presenters:



Mellissa Gordon is an associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Delaware. Her research examines how at-risk families and their communities impact adolescent and young adult developmental outcomes. In particular, she explores the mechanisms underlying these relationships and investigates the complex interactions between families, communities, and youth that inform youth and young adult outcomes. Her work is situated at the intersection of several theoretical frameworks, including Ecological Theory and Critical Race Theory. As an immigrant and woman of color, she is especially sensitive to spaces that create, encourage, and continually foster diversity, equity, and inclusion.

**Mellissa
Gordon**



Dr. Ann Aviles is an associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Sciences at the University of Delaware. Her research areas include examining policies, services and programs that impact the educational opportunities, material realities and mental health of youth of color experiencing homelessness/instability; Latina/o Education; education policy; education equity; critical/justice-based teacher preparation; school-community partnerships; critical race theory (CRT); Latina/o critical theory (LatCrit); and positive youth/community development. Dr.

Aviles is the author of several publications, including her recent book, *Serving Students Who Are Homeless, A Resource Guide for Schools, Districts, Educational Leaders, and Community Partners* (Teachers College Press, 2025).

**Dr. Ann
Aviles**

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