

...with Jeune Guishard-Pine

Consultant psychologist in the NHS and in private practice

One thing that organised psychology could do better

It's about time we had a network within the BPS that is devoted to ethnicity and culture. I set up the Association of Psychology and Culture (UK) with the aim of establishing a database of all research, published and unpublished, on the social science of UK ethnic minority people. It's simply too huge a remit for a single person to manage, although my forthcoming book considers how we can inform and enhance the work that applied psychologists are doing with a range of ethnic groups in the UK. Alternatively, having a special feature for every Black History Month (October in the UK) in *The Psychologist* would be a useful start.

One inspiration

My mother worked full time

(I am the last of 13). I only really understood her true value when as a full-time working mother myself, my vacuum cleaner broke down one day and I had to sweep the house from top to bottom. I realised then just how much my mum had contributed physically, mentally, emotionally and financially so that our family could survive. I felt ashamed about how much I had been taking for granted domestically.

One book

Howitt and Owusu-Bempah's 1994 book *The Racism of Psychology: Time for a Change*.

One thing that you would change about psychologists

Psychologists should make an effort to link to more diverse social groups. I think too many of us rarely in our personal lives encounter a

similar range of people to those we work with.

One vital aspect of psychology in foster care

To notice how easy it is for all of us 'helping' the child to mimic the flaws in the child's birth family.

One great thing about jazz

My husband, Professor Courtney Pine CBE, is pretty amazing! Oh, and his music's not too bad either! Seriously, to hear great jazz is to hear outstanding musicianship. Jazz musicians are creating music instantaneously rather than writing and rewriting it over a period of months.

One alternative career path

I would have liked to stick with music/events management from my early days of managing jazz bands if we didn't end up having six children! Life on the road is no good for children.

One great thing that psychology has achieved

I'm really proud of the role that psychology continues to play in the debates and practice about how one's sense of self develops – and recovers – from traumas. The various theories both transcend and elevate the role of race and culture in the development of self.

One challenge you think psychologists face

To truly believe in something.

I think the politics of human organisations force too many psychologists to blow like the wind in terms of the values about the work we are doing, especially psychologists who are ambitious in status terms.

One role for black fathers

In promoting the self-pride that will strengthen the child's defences from the violence of racism.

One hope for 'black psychology' in the UK

There is a definite need for a renaissance. I think once many of us associated with the black psychology movement got bogged down with balancing family life and the daily struggle of surviving public institutions, we no longer had the energy or the physical time to keep the momentum going. If we can achieve just one



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major publication every year, that would be a major boost to the movement.

More answers online at www.thepsychologist.org.uk

resource

My undergraduate dissertation 'Black self-concept is a negative self-concept: A re-examination of black children in Britain'. It stemmed from my experience of teaching Caribbean children in community schools at the age of 19. I thought that self-concept as a Eurocentric theory may not be applicable to children of African descent and that the concept of self-acceptance was more relevant as a construct and measure of self-reflection. I was stunned by just how much had already been published in the US and the UK that could assist me with developing my thesis, and it is essentially what introduced me to black psychology as a discipline.

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