M.A./Ph.D. in Depth Psychology

with Specialization in Community Psychology, Liberation Psychology, and Ecopsychology

This degree program specialization is a bold initiative to forge transdisciplinary and transformative approaches to the critical personal, community, cultural, and ecological challenges of our time. Accomplishing this necessitates a radical engagement in re-conceiving psychology as a potentially liberatory and restorative force in society, one engaged in initiatives to promote social, economic, and environmental justice, peace-building, and ecological sustainability. The specialization is committed to rebuilding fragmented cultural and ecological connections, and to co-creating democratic, dialogical, joyful, sustainable, and nonviolent living.

To study community and ecopsychology in the light of liberation and indigenous psychologies commits us to deeply explore and address the profound effects of injustice, violence, and exploitation on psychological, communal, and ecological well-being. The curriculum places multicultural approaches to depth psychological theories and practices in dynamic dialogue with ecopsychology, indigenous psychologies, critical community psychology, and psychologies of liberation from diverse cultural settings. Students gain an understanding of the interdependence of individual, community, cultural, and ecological well-being.

Coursework nurtures creative approaches to collaboration in organizations, non-profits, community groups, and educational settings. Through community and ecological fieldwork and research, students are supported in the pursuit of their distinctive areas of interest, and in strengthening their research and practice skills so that they are able to make their own significant contributions.

This specialization is a commitment to transformative practices aimed at social justice and ecological sustainability, to sumak kawsay/buen vivir, and, ultimately, peace and reconciliation.

~ Susan James
Specialization Co-Chair

The curriculum places decolonial approaches to depth psychological theories and practices in dynamic dialogue with ecopsychology, indigenous psychologies, critical community psychology, and psychologies of liberation from diverse cultures.

~ Nuria Giofalo
Specialization Co-Chair
ACADEMIC FORMAT

Classes for the Community Psychology, Liberation Psychology, and Ecopsychology specialization take place in nine three-day sessions (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday), approximately once each month during fall, winter, and spring. In the first and second summers, students complete fieldwork and research in their home communities or other off-campus sites. In the third summer and subsequent year(s), students are involved in writing their dissertations in their home communities.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

FIRST YEAR

Fall
- Introduction to Decolonial Depth Psychology – DPC 730, 2 Units
- Introduction to Critical Community Psychology – DPC 700, 2 Units
- Psychoanalytic Tradition: Social Psychoanalysis – DPC 760, 2 Units
- Council Practice – DPC 871, 2/3 Unit

Winter
- Jungian Psychology – DPC 761, 2 Units
- Psychologies of Liberation – DPC 781, 2 Units
- Ecopsychology I: The Ethics of Place – DPC 732, 2 Units
- Appreciative Inquiries – DPC 872, 2/3 Unit

Spring
- Indigenous Psychologies I – DPC 710, 2 Units
- Foundations for Research in Depth Psychology:
  - Participatory Qualitative Research – DPC 881, 2 Units
  - Mythopoetic Imagination: Community Theater – DPC 873, 1.33 Units
  - Community Dreamwork – DPC 874, 1.33 Units

Summer
- Community/Ecological Fieldwork Practicum – DPC 783, 5 Units

SECOND YEAR

Fall
- Archetypal Psychology – DPC 762, 2 Units
- Phenomenology and Communication of Depth Psychological Cultural
  and Ecological Work – DPC 880, 2 Units
- Depth Psychology of Violence and its Prevention – DPC 731, 2 Units
- Restorative Justice – DPC 875, 2/3 Unit

Winter
- Hermeneutic and Phenomenological Traditions – DPC 991, 2 Units
- Liberation Studies and Action – DPC 965, 2 Units
- Indigenous Psychologies II – DPC 860, 2 Units
- Crafting Generative Questions – DPC 876, 2/3 Unit

Spring
- Community Program and Organization Evaluation – DPC 879, 2 Units
- Ecopsychology II: Environmental and Earth Justice – DPC 847, 2 Units
- Psychosocial and Collective Trauma – DPC 923, 2 Units
- Somatic Approaches to Trauma Healing – DPC 877, 2/3 Unit

Summer
- Community/Ecological Fieldwork and Research Practicum – DPC 883, 5 Units
- Depth Transformative Practices – DPC 997, 0 Units

THIRD YEAR

Fall
- Participatory Research Practicum: Creating an Interpretive Community
  – DPC 990, 2 Units
- Community Building and Empowerment – DPC 720, 2 Units
- Social Network Analysis – DPC 878, 1 Unit

Winter
- Advocacy and Policy Development – DPC 886, 2 Units
- Coalition Building and Resource Mobilization – DPC 885, 1 Unit
- Community Consultation and Research – DPC 884, 1 Unit
- Reconciliation and Peacebuilding – DPC 740, 2 Units
- Dissertation Development I – DPC 932A, 2/3 Unit

Spring
- Frontiers of Depth Psychologies – DPC 963, 2 Units
- Frontiers of Liberation Psychologies – DPC 964, 1 Unit
- Liberatory Pedagogy – DPC 992, 2 Units
- Frontiers of Ecopsychology – DPC 832, 1 Unit
- Dissertation Development II – DPC 932B, 2/3 Unit

Summer
- Research Writing: Conceiving the Dissertation – DPC 933, 5 Units

CONTINUING

Dissertation Writing – DPC 980, 15 Units

This curriculum may vary depending upon evolving academic needs. The required fourth and fifth years of study focus on reading, research, and dissertation writing.

I am an act of kneading, of uniting and joining that not only has produced both a creature of darkness and a creature of light, but also a creature that questions the definitions of light and dark and gives them new meanings.

~Gloria E. Anzaldúa

This degree program is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).
For gainful employment information, visit pacifica.edu/gainfulemployment
This specialization is the only graduate program in the U.S. that focuses on liberation psychology, and the only one that places critical community psychology, indigenous psychologies, and ecopsychology into dynamic conversation with one another. In community and ecopsychological fieldwork, students act as bridges between the knowledge developed by ecological and cultural workers and each area of focus.

Students apply learning to leadership positions in a wide variety of professions, including: health services (including hospice); youth, secondary, adult, and alternative education; organizational development and transformation; prison reform and restorative justice initiatives; governmental and nongovernmental organizations; social and environmental justice, community building and policy development; advocacy and grassroots coalitions; arts-activism; trauma healing; peace-building and community dialogue; planning and evaluation; land preservation; ecological sustainability; local food initiatives; philanthropy; micro-lending and economic alternatives.

There are a variety of scholarships available for this specialization, including Coverdell Fellows Program Scholarships for returned Peace Corps volunteers, Herman Warsh Community-Based Scholarships, Pacifica Yellow Ribbon Scholarships for veterans, and Pacifica Matching Americorps Scholarship Program.
It is a question of whether psychological knowledge will be placed in the service of constructing a society where the welfare of the few is not built on the wretchedness of the many, where the fulfillment of some does not require that others be deprived, where the interests of the minority do not demand the dehumanization of all.

~Ignacio Martin-Baró

STUDENTS IN THE COMMUNITY PSYCHOLOGY, LIBERATION PSYCHOLOGY, AND ECOPSYCHOLOGY SPECIALIZATION:

Deepen insight about individual, group, and cultural life through study of depth psychology.

Develop scholarly and creative writing skills.

Learn innovative and historical approaches to trauma healing, restorative justice, ecological sustainability, community building, economic justice, forced migration, alternatives to violence, peace-building, and reconciliation.

Practice participatory action research and program and organizational evaluation, while deepening ethical discernment of issues of power and privilege.

Train in a wide variety of group approaches to cultural and ecological work.

Heighten sensitivity to the imaginal, the metaphorical, and the mythical.

Develop the capacity to teach in academic and community learning environments.

My experience at Pacifica has been life changing, both in regard to my personal journey and my academic career. It led me to recognize where my strengths could best be applied.

AAQILAH ISLAM, M.A.
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE,
Depth Psychology Program

If you have come here to help me, then you are wasting your time...But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.

~Aboriginal Activists Group, Queensland

The depth psychological perspective brought me to Pacifica, and that has been a launching pad for my work. Although I was already deep into my work, the studies and relationships I found here have redesigned my approach in ways not possible before.

HARRY GRAMMER, M.A.
DOCTORAL CANDIDATE,
Depth Psychology Program