



Center for Research on U.S. Latino HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

Addressing Health Disparities among Latino Transgender Populations: The TRANSforma Project

Monday, November 14th

10:00 am

AHC-5, Room 300

Academic Health Center 5
Third Floor Conference Room

Sheilla Rodríguez-Madera, PhD

Professor, Dept. of Social Sciences,
School of Public Health,
University of Puerto Rico,
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Presentation

Transgender individuals in the US continue to be disproportionately impacted by health disparities across multiple health outcomes such as HIV/AIDS, substance use, and other health conditions. Despite prevention efforts, HIV prevalence among transgender women is equal to or greater than among other traditionally highly impacted populations (e.g., men who have sex with men). Relative to cisgender persons, transgender women and transgender men have higher prevalence of substance use and mental health conditions, are more often victims of violence and discrimination, and are less likely to have health insurance. In particular, the Latino transgender population faces more structural challenges and disadvantages in their economic opportunities when compared to non-Latino transgender individuals. In the context of Puerto Rico, this situation is exacerbated in light of the Island's social deterioration linked to its current economic crisis. Since 2011, the TRANSforma Project has been implementing a research agenda to reduce health disparities affecting Latino transgender persons on the Island. In this lecture, I will present data gathered through TRANSforma's NIH-funded studies targeting the structural and social determinants that negatively impact health outcomes among this population.

About the Lecturer

Dr. Rodríguez-Madera is a clinical psychologist and a National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded researcher specializing in health disparities affecting the Latino transgender population in Puerto Rico. She published a book addressing the issue titled *Género Trans: transitando por las zonas grises* (2009), and she has published her research—on this topic and others—in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. Dr. Rodríguez-Madera has participated extensively in forums, both local and internationally, while disseminating the findings from her work. She has been an active agent in current public debates on violence prevention and gender-related issues affecting health—integrating her skills as a researcher, clinical psychologist, and social activist. She has received multiple grant awards from NIH, including funding from NICHD, NIDA, and NIMH.

