

The Psychological & Medical Anthropology
Seminar Series at UC San Diego Presents:

Therapeutic Interventions Amid Immigration Limbo

This presentation will explore emergent themes concerning the intersection of US immigration policies and mental health care, using research data on the therapeutic experiences of two different groups: Cameroonian asylum claimants seeking legal status and newly resettled Congolese refugees.

The talk will investigate the psychic toll of a growing backlog of pending immigration cases (asylum claims and family reunification cases, respectively) among those caught within it. How do situations of protracted uncertainty regarding the outcome of their cases inform the use, meaning, and experience of therapeutic interventions? What are the perceived limitations and possibilities of various mental health treatments in the face of ongoing existential and familial rupture? Through these ethnographic examples, the presentation will also consider the shape and meaning of resilience in these contexts.



Bridget M. Haas, Ph.D., is a National Research Service Award (NIH) Fellow in the School of Medicine and adjunct assistant professor of anthropology at Case Western Reserve University. Her work explores the emotional, psychological, and social effects of immigration policies on refugees and asylum seekers in the United States.

Monday October 21, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm
Social Sciences Building 107 – Dean's Conference Room