How to Gain Entry and Work With Older Adults in Culturally Grounded and Respectful Approaches

How to Gain Entry and Work With Older Adults in Culturally Grounded and Respectful Approaches, will focus on Dr. Lewis’s research experiences with tribal communities in rural Alaska and urban Seattle. This presentation will discuss culturally grounded approaches to research with tribal communities, with an emphasis on community-based participatory research, and will outline recommendations for working respectfully and collaboratively with older adults in tribal communities across the United States. The webinar will highlight the steps of beginning a research study with American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) older adults, from developing research questions to disseminating findings.

**Dr. Jordan Lewis** is an assistant professor with the University of Washington School of Social Work and the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute. Dr. Lewis’s research explores the role of culture in the aging process and how it affects whether individuals in rural Alaska are able to age successfully despite sociocultural challenges. As a researcher interested in the mental health and well-being of indigenous elders, he sheds light on these issues and brings much-needed awareness directly from the perspective of those with first-hand experience. As a social worker, community psychologist, and gerontologist, Dr. Lewis uses a holistic or ecological systems approach to his research, incorporating the family, community, and environment in exploring health behaviors and health disparities among AIAN populations. Dr. Lewis received his doctoral degree in cross-cultural community psychology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he did his research with Alaska Native elders in Bristol Bay (SW) Alaska to establish an Alaska Native model of successful aging.

**Sarah Llanque**, RN, PhD, is currently a postdoctoral fellow in cancer, aging, and end-of-life care at the University of Utah College of Nursing. Dr. Llanque’s research involves community-based caregiving interventions targeted for caregivers of individuals with dementia. She has partnered with an urban Native American community center’s senior services program in Portland, Oregon, to collaborate with native elders, their caregivers, and stakeholders. Dr. Llanque’s current study focuses on using community-based participatory research methods in culturally tailoring chronic disease interventions for the AIAN population. Dr. Llanque’s indigenous heritage is Aymara South American Indian from the Andes mountains of Peru and Bolivia.

This webinar was supported by The Mentoring Effect, a special project of the GSA Innovation Fund. - See more at: [https://www.geron.org/programs-services/gsa-webinars](https://www.geron.org/programs-services/gsa-webinars)