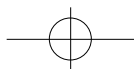
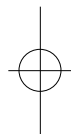


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# African-Centered Psychology

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CULTURE-FOCUSING FOR  
MULTICULTURAL COMPETENCE

Edited by

Daudi Ajani ya Azibo

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
FLORIDA A&M

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# Foreword

## A Renewed Commitment to African Psychology

As the Association of Black Psychologists approached the 30th anniversary of its founding, President Dr. Samella Abdullah (1998–1999) identified a need for an expanded initiative of the founders' commitment to further advance African philosophy and psychology. The initiative demanded a peer review publication containing "cutting edge" scholarship reflecting African thought, clinical applications of African psychology, and espousing the Ethical Standards of the Association of Black Psychologists. It was recognized that the "color" problem of America had extended throughout the 20th century as evidenced by White racism being as prevalent in 1998 as it had been in 1898. The Association of Black Psychologists must aggressively speak the truth, seek justice and righteousness, teach and model the virtues and principles of Ma'at for the liberation of the minds of all African people, indeed for the salvation of all humanity. The vision that through this publication scholars would provide critical analyses of mainstream culturally insensitive, and often racially oppressive social, health, behavioral, and psychological theories and practices has been realized. It remains a vision that this publication might be the beginning of an annual collection of brilliant, articulate, out-spoken African-Centered social, psychological, and behavioral scholarly analyses undertaken under the auspices of the Association of Black Psychologists.

Dr. Daudi Ajani ya Azibo, Professor, Department of Psychology, Florida A&M University, accepted the challenge to serve as the Editor. Dr. Azibo has published extensively, is a leading theorist of African-Centered Psychology, and the creator of the Azibo Nosology of Mental Disorders of People of African Descent (Spring 1989

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*Journal of Black Psychology*). He is recognized and was awarded the Distinguished Psychologists honor by the Association of Black Psychologists.

All praises to the Almighty Creator for our lives and the lives of our courageous ancestors and servant leaders, as Founders, Elders, Past Presidents, and Distinguished Psychologists, upon whose shoulders we stand.

Afi Samella Abdullah, Ph.D.  
Past President (1998–1999)



## Preface

In these days of the global village, multicultural competence is an imperative. This is especially true for countries like the United States with its multiple cultural groups, many of whom exceed the White population in growth. It is now being recognized far and wide that the White or European is no longer the standard. Multicultural competence requires serious knowledge of the functioning of various cultural groups in contrast to mere lip service acknowledgement of the existence of cultural diversity. It is inescapable, therefore, that *culture-focusing* (or *culture-specific knowledge*) is a mandatory precondition for multicultural competence. It is also mandatory for achieving expertise in the cultural group that one might happen to focus on. The material contained in this anthology provides an overall focusing on the psychology of African people. The scope of the coverage is noteworthy. There are *African-Centered* theoretical, empirical, and review chapters on HIV prevention, the media, racial identity development, the history, psychological meaning, and implications of “Negro” to “Nigger” identity, empirical evaluations of transformational (nigrescence) versus formational (African personality construct) approaches to African (Black) racial identity, projective testing, the DSM nosologies (diagnostic manuals used by psychologists and psychiatrists), African-Centered social work, hair behavior, widowhood practices of continental African ethnic groups, and coping with rheumatic conditions. The authors include several prominent as well as newly publishing, budding psychologists and scholars.

Of special note are chapters from nationally recognized persons like Talmadge Anderson (retired founder and former Editor of the *Western Journal of Black Studies*) on African psychology, Duane Schultz on African-American personality (a major “mainstream” psychologist/scholar, Schultz has authored several textbooks on the history of psychology and personality theories), and Imari Obadele on psychological warfare perpetrated on African-U.S. activists. (Dr. Obadele has authored several political science and history books

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about America and Africans therein and was a leading activist of the 1960s–1970s. He was one of the Republic of New Afrika-11.)

I see this book as a “must have” reference and textbook for all mental health professionals (psychiatrists, social workers, psychologists, counselors) with multicultural or African culture-focused interests/concerns. Additionally, it can be a valuable textbook used in the training of mental health students. The book will also be attractive to the professional Black Studies scholar and the general African-U.S. readership.

# Acknowledgments

The *African-Centered Psychology: Culture-Focusing for Multi-cultural Competence* project was initiated under the auspices of the Association of Black Psychologists by Dr. Samella Abdullah during her presidency (1998–1999). I am honored that she selected me to serve as the Editor. She and I saw the need for an avowedly African-Centered academic project. To my knowledge, when we initiated the project the field of African/Black psychology could boast only one explicitly and exclusively African-Centered anthology, my own *African Psychology in Historical Perspective and Related Commentary* (1996). A work of this sort would seem long overdue. It would not have seen the light of day without Dr. Abdullah's initiation and follow through over these past 4 years.

I would also like to gratefully acknowledge the varied assistance of Ms. Tamella Robinson.

Each chapter underwent blind, peer review. The work of the consulting editors listed below was yeoman. Asante sana (thanks very much).

## Consulting Editors

Samella Abdullah, Ph.D.  
(retired)

Faye Belgrave, Ph.D.  
Virginia Commonwealth University

Cheryl Grills, Ph.D.  
private practice

Huberta Jackson-Lowman, Ph.D.  
Florida A&M University

Robert C. Johnson, Ph.D.  
St. Cloud State University

Ola Aroyowan, Ph.D.  
Florida A&M University

John W. Chambers, Ph.D.  
Florida A&M University

Aminifu R. Harvey, DSW  
University of Maryland,  
Baltimore

Robert Jagers, Ph.D.  
Howard University

Delroy M. Loudon, Ph.D.  
Lincoln University

## XII · ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Serge Madhere, Ph.D.  
Howard University

Nanny L. Murrell, RN, Ph.D.  
University of Texas, Galveston

Vetta L. Sanders Thompson, Ph.D.  
University of Missouri, St. Louis

Amani na Uwezo ya Ukombozi  
(aka Michael McMillan)  
private practice

C. Charles Mate-Kole, Ph.D.  
Central Connecticut State  
University

Frederick Phillips, PsyD  
Progressive Life Center

Marcia Sutherland, Ph.D.  
State University of New  
York, Albany

Nsenga Warfield-Coppock,  
Ph.D.  
Baobab Associates

Daudi Ajani ya Azibo, Ph.D.  
Editor  
July, 2001