

PPA is honored to welcome our PPA2019 keynote speaker

## Dr. Kevin Nadal



**Dr. Kevin Nadal** is a Professor of Psychology at John Jay College and The Graduate Center at the City University of New York. He is the past President of the Asian American Psychological Association, a cofounder of the LGBTQ Scholars of Color Network, the former Executive Director of the Center for LGBTQ Studies, and a Filipino American National Historical Society trustee. He has written nine books and 100+ publications, including *Filipino American Psychology and Microaggressions and Traumatic Stress*. He has written for the *New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, and *Buzzfeed*, and he has been featured on NBC, CBS, ABC, PBS, and more. He received the American Psychological Association's Distinguished Contributions Award to Psychology in the Public Interest in 2017, and he was named one of NBC's #Pride30 in 2018.

### “Let’s get in formation”: On Becoming a Psychologist-Activist in the 21st Century

*Kevin Nadal, Ph.D.*

**T**hroughout the history of the United States, there have been many social movements that have resulted in an array of historic societal outcomes – ranging from the end of racial segregation to women’s voting rights to the legalization of same-sex marriages. Despite the positive outcomes derived from political activism, many psychologists have struggled with how to advocate for social justice, while maintaining their professional responsibilities and ethical boundaries. The current presentation will review the historical ways that psychologists have participated in political movements – from the use of psychological research in landmark U.S. Supreme Court cases to psychologist-led pushes for policy changes in psychology, medicine, and other mental health related fields.

Next, a critical review will be provided of some of the major controversies or dilemmas regarding psychology, social justice, and political participation – including: (a) ethical concerns and professional boundaries; (b) the utility of political neutrality in psychology; (c) psychologists’ balance

and self-care; (d) psychologists’ lack of advocacy training; and (e) beliefs of the role of social justice advocacy in psychology.

Finally, the presentation will conclude by discussing the concept of “psychologist-activist” – highlighting the many ways that psychologists across various subfields and institutions can combat oppression on individual, interpersonal, group, and institutional levels.

#### **Objectives:**

- Participants will be able to identify historical examples of how psychologists have advocated for social justice.
- Participants will be able to describe ethical dilemmas involving social justice and psychology.
- Participants will be able to highlight ways that psychologists can advocate for social justice in their professional work.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kevin Nadal to PPA2019 on Wednesday, June 19, at 10:45 a.m.