

GUILLERMO BERNAL'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

CONTRIBUCIONES DE GUILLERMO BERNAL A LA ASOCIACIÓN AMERICANA DE PSICOLOGÍA

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55611/rep.3601.13>

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Multicultural psychology has lost a significant paladin, defender, and guardian. Guillermo Bernal, a clinical psychologist, was a superb researcher, leader, clinician, teacher, collaborator, and mentor. As an immigrant, Latinx, and internationalist, Dr. Bernal infused his psychological work with a commitment to excellence. He provided superb contributions in his multiple roles. He was a friend, teacher, companion, professional, and leader. His leadership style was energetic, collaborative, and empowering. In fact, Dr. Bernal's contributions helped to change psychology's paradigm.

I am very familiar with Dr. Bernal's work. I collaborated with him in various groups of the American Psychological Association. During his presidency of the APA Division 12 (Clinical Psychology) section on ethnic minorities, Dr. Bernal promoted multiculturalism as a significant area of psychological study. He valiantly fought against the clinical psychology leadership's opposition to the establishment of an ethnic minority psychology section. He coalesced a group of like-minded ethnic minority psychologists against the opposing conservative establishment. In other words, Dr. Bernal was a fierce warrior on behalf of multicultural and ethnic minority psychology.

Dr. Bernal was a visionary leader. As President of the APA Division 45- Psychological Study Culture, Ethnicity and Race, he promoted the establishment of the Division's official journal by obtaining Wiley's journal *Cultural Diversity and Mental Health* (1995-1998) and under his presidency, it was renamed *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*.

Dr. Bernal used the pen as a powerful sword. He was a prolific psychology researcher and author. To illustrate, his book *Cultural Adaptation: Tools for evidence-based practice with diverse populations*; (co-authored with Dr. Melanie Rodríguez Domenech) became a classic. He contributed to the development of innovative psychological approaches including cultural aspects in the diagnoses and treatment of mental and health illnesses. Dr. Bernal's psychological research has been replicated and adopted. Moreover, as a mentor, he directed 21 dissertations and 5 Master theses. Many of his students became prolific psychologists.

Finally, Dr. Guillermo Bernal's memory will continue to live in those individuals he touched with his teaching, research, collaboration, and caring.