



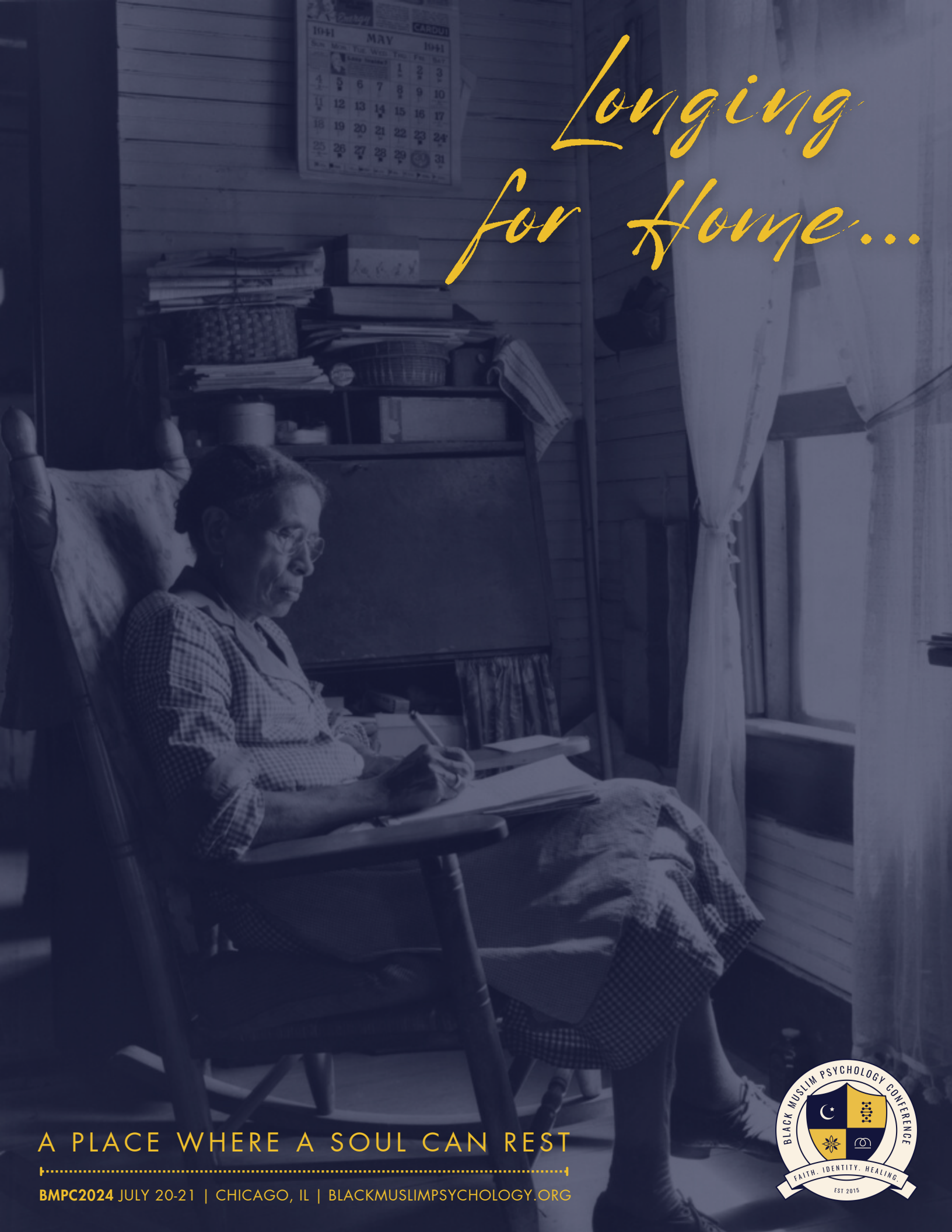
# BMPC2024

*Overview*

*Call for Proposals*

*Proposal Submission Guide*

# Longing for Home...



A PLACE WHERE A SOUL CAN REST



BMPC2024 JULY 20-21 | CHICAGO, IL | BLACKMUSLIMPSYCHOLOGY.ORG





# Conference Overview

## BMPC2024 CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

*"O My believing servants! My earth is truly spacious, so worship Me alone." - Holy Qu'ran 29:56*

*"I belong every place. I belong no place. I belong to myself." - Maya Angelou*

*"...The idea of place, where we belong, is a constant subject.. we want to know whether it is possible to live on the earth peacefully" and, "African Americans have a long history of struggling to stand as subjects in a place where the dehumanizing impact of racism works continually to make us objects." - bell hooks*

The 2024 Black Muslim Psychology Conference (BMPC2024): **Longing For Home - A Place Where A Soul Can Rest** will explore the multifaceted intersections of belonging, home, migration [voluntary or forced], and identity. It will center the diverse narratives that shape individuals and communities in an ever-evolving landscape from past, present and into the future.

A fundamental psychological human need is for **safety and belonging - deep connection, acceptance and support**. This need is undoubtedly more urgent and necessary for Black Muslims who are under constant threat of white supremacy, violence and systemic discrimination. Yet, history reminds us that we have sought and created deep wells of belonging and freedom - from the resistance of maroonage and efforts towards establishing autonomy and self-determination. In bell hooks' **Belonging: A Culture of Place** (2009), she writes,

*"...The idea of place, where we belong, is a constant subject.. we want to know whether it is possible to live on the earth peacefully" and, "African Americans have a long history of struggling to stand as subjects in a place where the dehumanizing impact of racism works continually to make us objects."*

In the chapter titled '**A Place Where A Soul Can Rest**', hooks uses the metaphor of the porch as a place or site of resistance to this dehumanization. At MWF and BMPC, we argue that these places - porches or otherwise resistant and nourishing spaces - are keys to mitigating the harm caused by the violence of anti-black racism as well as religious marginalization. Black Muslims cultivate "places where our souls can rest" and this cultivation leads to collective well-being and fortification. **Longing for Home** delves into the concept of home as a physical space, a cultural anchor, and an emotional sanctuary. **Longing for Home** invites critical examination and appreciation of intentional African American communities in the US and West Africa (for example Medina Baye in Senegal) to migration of African descended people to Europe and North America (countries of former colonizers). **Longing for Home** acknowledges feelings of grief and nostalgia associated with the dispossession of Black/African people due to climate crises, gentrification, political instability (often fueled by interests of former colonizers, etc).





**Keynote Speaker**



# Husain Abdullah

**Husain Abdullah** has been recognized for his quiet and focused leadership being named “Captain” of the team in High School, College and NFL. Carrying a Bachelors in Sociology and a Masters in Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management, Husain uses his education to leave a positive mark on society. During his seven year NFL career (Minnesota Vikings/Kansas City Chiefs), Husain used his status and platform to speak on issues such as concussions/traumatic brain injuries, mental health, social injustices and educating worldwide audiences on Islam. NFL Films, ABC, ESPN, Sports Illustrated, Players Tribune, and more have documented his life’s journey and shared his young wisdom with the world. Husain is an Executive Coach and Career Coach. Conflict Resolution specialist. Author. International speaker. And Owner of Luminous Logistics LLC.



**Keynote Speaker**

# Warsan *Shire*

**Warsan Shire** is a Somali-British writer and poet. Her full-length debut collection *Bless the Daughter Raised by a Voice in Her Head* (2022) was Shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize, Griffin Poetry Prize, Forward Prize, and Dylan Thomas Prize and her chapbook *Teaching My Mother How to Give Birth* (2011) was a poetry bestseller. Her limited edition chapbook, *Her Blue Body* (2015) sold out overnight. Shire is a member of the Royal Society of Literature and served as the first Young Poet Laureate of London in (2013). Shire wrote the poetry for the Peabody Award-winning visual album *Lemonade* as well as *Black Is King* in collaboration with Beyoncé Knowles-Carter (2016, 2020). She also wrote the short film *Brave Girl Rising* (2019), highlighting the voices and faces of Somali girls in Africa's largest refugee camp.



# Call for Proposals





“...The idea of place, where we belong, is a constant subject.. we want to know whether it is possible to live on the earth peacefully... African Americans have a long history of struggling to stand as subjects in a place where the dehumanizing impact of racism works continually to make us objects.”

*-bell hooks*



# CALL FOR PROPOSALS



For the **2024 Black Muslim Psychology Conference [BMPC]** in Chicago, IL, July 20-21, 2024. This year's theme is **Longing for Home: A Place Where A Soul Can Rest.**

## OVERVIEW

This is a **CALL FOR PROPOSALS** for scholarly presentations, interactive workshops, panel discussions, posters, or artistic/creative performances that explore the multifaceted intersections of belonging, home, migration [voluntary or forced], and identity. It will center the diverse narratives that shape individuals and communities in an ever-evolving landscape from past, present and into the future. In bell hooks' **Belonging: A Culture of Place** (2009), she uses the metaphor of the porch as a place or site of resistance to dehumanization. At BMPC, we argue that these places - porches or otherwise resistant and nourishing spaces - are keys to mitigating the harm caused by the violence of anti-black racism and religious marginalization. **Black Muslims cultivate "places where our souls can rest" and this cultivation leads to collective well-being and fortification.** **Please note:** At BMPC, we use and understand the term "psychology" in a broad sense - a term that includes overall mental health, emotional wellness, and spiritual soundness. **Therefore, we welcome and encourage submissions from participants with a range of backgrounds:** psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and other mental health clinicians, but also artists, writers, historians, sociologists, Imams, chaplains and spiritual leaders, community workers and activists. **Proposals must include a 500-word abstract** or summary of the content you would like to present, and must directly address at least one aspect of the conference theme in order to be eligible for inclusion in the program. Please review the **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDE** for detailed suggestions on how to submit a winning proposal. Questions, requests for additional information, and other inquiries should be sent to [info@blackmuslimpsychology.org](mailto:info@blackmuslimpsychology.org).

## IMPORTANT DATES

APRIL 26, 2024

Proposal submission  
deadline

MAY 6, 2024

Acceptance  
notification

MAY 13, 2024

Confirmation and early  
bird registration

JUNE 3, 2024

Regular registration

JULY 20-21, 2024

BMPC2024 kicks  
off in Chicago!

## SUBMISSION LINK

[bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp](https://bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp)

## SUBMISSION GUIDE

[blackmuslimpsychology.org/cfp](https://blackmuslimpsychology.org/cfp)

## QUESTIONS?

[info@blackmuslimpsychology.org](mailto:info@blackmuslimpsychology.org)

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

This is a **CALL FOR PROPOSALS** for scholarly presentations, interactive workshops, panel discussions, posters, or artistic/creative performances that explore the multifaceted intersections of belonging, home, migration [voluntary or forced], and identity. It will center the diverse narratives that shape individuals and communities in an ever-evolving landscape from past, present and into the future. In bell hooks' **Belonging: A Culture of Place** (2009), she uses the metaphor of the porch as a place or site of resistance to dehumanization. At BMPC, we argue that these places - porches or otherwise resistant and nourishing spaces - are keys to mitigating the harm caused by the violence of anti-black racism and religious marginalization. **Black Muslims cultivate "places where our souls can rest" and this cultivation leads to collective well-being and fortification.**

**At BMPC2024, we will consider the following general questions:**

- In our pursuit of knowledge of the past - how do we gather, preserve and embrace our personal and collective stories of migration, identity, belonging, and rootedness?
- How do we challenge ourselves to think deeply about who we are, who we are becoming, the wounds we are carrying, the spiritual fortitude we possess, and the values we are striving towards to imagine and cultivate a healthy future?
- Sankofa comes from the Akan/West African proverb: **Se wo were fi na wosan kofa a yenkyiri** - It is not wrong to go back for what you have forgotten (or left behind). As we look forward towards an uncertain, yet potentially abundant future - what must remember and bring with us in order to thrive?

**PLEASE NOTE:** At BMPC, we use and understand the term "psychology" in a broad sense - a term that includes overall mental health, emotional wellness, and spiritual soundness. **Therefore, we welcome and encourage submissions from participants with a range of backgrounds:** psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and other mental health clinicians, but also artists, writers, historians, sociologists, Imams, chaplains and spiritual leaders, community workers and activists. We are particularly interested in proposals which fall in one (1) of four (4) broad categories: **Religious Leadership and Development**, **Youth and Emerging Adulthood**, **Health and Healing** and **Art, Culture & Activism**. **Proposals must include a 500-word abstract** or summary of the content you would like to present, and must directly address at least one aspect of the conference theme in order to be eligible for inclusion in the program. Please review this **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDE** for detailed suggestions on how to submit a winning proposal.



**QUESTIONS?**

[info@blackmuslimpsychology.org](mailto:info@blackmuslimpsychology.org)



**SUBMISSION LINK**

[bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp](https://bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp)

I belong every place.  
I belong no place.  
I belong to myself.

-MAYA ANGELOU





# What is Black Muslim Psychology?



## BLACK MUSLIM PSYCHOLOGY

Black/African Americans represent 25% of the American Muslim population, the single largest racial group in this religious community. Black Muslims experience intersectional or “acute” invisibility as they are not perceived as typical members of the American Muslim community, (with Arab and South Asian Muslims viewed as the norm); or of the Black community, in which Christianity is the dominant religion. Black Muslims also experience marginalization due to anti-Black racism within the Muslim community. The perceived homogenization of American Muslims and phenomenon of intersectional invisibility has resulted in sustained attempts to erase Black Muslim experiences and perspectives, specifically as viewed from the lens of psychology, counseling and emotional well-being. Black Muslims often find themselves navigating and negotiating the subtle and overt manifestations of marginalization and microaggressions on a daily basis. The unique vulnerabilities of being Black and Muslim in the United States are significant. **However**, in the face of anti-Black racism and anti-Muslim bigotry, Black Muslims often draw upon faith and deeply rooted spirituality, ancestral knowledge and cultural identities to strive towards wellness.

**The emerging field of Black Muslim psychology** is grounded in the experiences, strengths, perspective, racial and sociocultural identity and spiritual orientation of those who identify as Muslim and of Black/African descent. Black Muslim Psychology

- **Acknowledges the rich ethnic, cultural, sectarian and linguistic diversity of the Black Muslim community;**
- Seeks to understand and enhance protective factors, mitigate systemic stressors and promote psychological well being within the Black Muslim community.
- **Explores the unique and divergent experiences of Black Muslims** and how these experiences influence their mental health, spiritual and identity development.
- Highlights ways in which the community draws on **spiritual and cultural resilience** to resist oppression and integrate religious and racial identity.

Black Muslim Psychology’s approach is informed by the model of **Appreciative Inquiry (AI)**, which is rooted in positive psychology. It is premised on the underlying assumption that people, communities and organizations are **full of assets, capabilities, resources, and strengths that can be located, affirmed, leveraged, and encouraged**. The Appreciative Inquiry model is structured on four stages or processes:

- 1) **Discovery:** What gives life? Appreciating the best of what is
- 2) **Dream:** What might be? Envisioning what the world is calling for
- 3) **Design:** What should be? Co-creating the ideal strategies and pathways to build the dream
- 4) **Destiny:** What will be? Collective purpose to sustain the vision for the future

## BLACK MUSLIM APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY

While all ideas are welcome at BMPC, **we in particular seek proposals on topics guided by a BLACK MUSLIM Appreciative Inquiry perspective.** This perspective asks potential presenters to consider (though not limited to) the following:

### DISCOVERY: What gives life?

*What are Black Muslim communities doing well? What's working?*

- How do we continue to build “places where our souls can rest” despite the barrage of violence and discrimination?
- What are the under-explored histories of innovation and genius in Black Muslim communities with respect to placemaking, belonging and identity?
- What are Black Muslim creative expressions (Arts, Fashion, Cuisine, etc.) which signal rootedness and identity?
- In what ways have our religious teachings and spiritual practices inspired movement towards freedom, sovereignty and justice in our communities?

### DREAM: What might be?

*What could be the vision for the future of Black Muslim communities?*

- In this exciting future, how are believers engaged in community life and actively cultivating a healthy sense of home and belonging?
- Calls for liberation and freedom dreams in Black Muslim communities
- How can the inheritance and legacies of our Black/Muslim predecessors inspire positive change?
- How can we imagine inclusive models of community building and change?

### DESIGN: What should be?

*What are our plans to realize the vision for our communities based on the most innovative practices?*

- Spotighting existing artistic expressions, organizations, communities, and individuals who are engaged in "freedom dreams" and identifying their paths for success
- Organizational models that encourage creativity and imagination
- Exploring the role of technology in realizing aspirations for individual and communal uplift
- Each one, teach one: crafting systems of mentorship, apprenticeship, and intergenerational growth

**BLACK MUSLIM APPRECIATIVE INQUIRY**

**DESTINY: What will be?**

*What will make this vision for home, safety, and belonging sustainable? What changes can we make now to produce the future we want to achieve?*

- Creating sanctuary in our religious spaces
- Leadership development and succession planning
- Cultivating healthy families
- Confronting climate change and the development of environmentally sound spiritual practices





"O My believing  
servants!  
My earth is truly  
spacious, so worship  
Me alone."

HOLY QURAN 29:56





# Proposal Submission Guide

## SUBMISSION TIPS & GUIDELINES

### PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDE

The following tips and recommendations are designed to provide information which will enable you to submit the most effective, winning proposal\*.

Proposals must include a **500-word abstract or summary** of the content you would like to present, and must directly address at least one aspect of the conference theme in order to be eligible for inclusion in the program.



### WHAT IS AN ABSTRACT?

An abstract is a brief summary of the presentation you would like to offer at BMPC2024. It is designed to inform the BMPC Programming Committee about your presentation in a concise manner. Abstracts must include a TITLE and be 500 words or less. It should provide a brief description of what to expect in your presentation and should indicate clearly how it relates to the theme of conference (Longing for Home: A Place Where A Soul Can Rest). This abstract should also include at least **three (3) learning objectives** (see below for a definition of learning objectives).



### WHAT ARE LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

The following guidelines are provided to assist in the development of appropriate learning objectives for a proposed presentation. In order to develop appropriate Learning Objectives you **MUST** follow the format shown in the Example of Learning Objectives below.

Step 1. Describe the information, skills, behaviors, or perspectives participants in the presentation will acquire through attendance and participation.

Step 2. Clearly identify the outcomes or actions participants can expect to demonstrate as a result of attending your presentation. See the action words below.

Step 3. Write the learning objectives that relate to these outcomes and that reflect the content of the session.

- Objectives describe the behavior of the participant, and:
  - are stated clearly
  - define or describe an action
  - are measurable, in terms of time, space, amount, and/or frequency
    - Example of Action Words: Explain, Demonstrate, Analyze, Formulate, Discuss, Compare, Describe, Name, Assess, Evaluate, Identify, Define, List

\*Information adapted from following sources: <https://sph.umich.edu/cbphcaucus/pdf/Resources/2012CBPHAbstractWritingGuide.pdf>  
[healthyteennetwork.org](http://healthyteennetwork.org)

## SUBMISSION TIPS & GUIDELINES



### TYPES OF PROPOSALS

Four types of proposals may be submitted for BMPC2024: workshops, panels, posters, artist-facilitator and artistic performance.

1. **Workshop** feature 1-2 individuals offering specific skills, research or training on a particular conference theme.
  - Workshop Structure: All workshops are 75 minutes long and must be interactive and provide attendees with new knowledge, tools, resources, and strategies related to the conference theme.
2. **Panel sessions** feature a maximum of three (3) presenters engaged in an open discussion with the audience of attendees
  - Panel Structure: All panels are 75 minutes long. We recommend presenters allow at least 20 minutes for question and answer session.
3. **Poster sessions**: provides the opportunity for viewers and presenters to engage in discussion and to have one-on-one interactions with one another. Posters should be eye-catching and include graphics, images, charts, tables, and/or text.
  - If your poster is accepted, you are required to be present by your poster at this time. You will be required to submit an electronic proof of your poster for review prior to printing and a final electronic version of the final poster 1 week before the conference (July 17, 2024).
4. **Artist-Facilitator**: Poets, writers and other creatives will be offered an opportunity to facilitate a 75 minute conversation on the value of art and other forms of creative expression to offer space for healing, identity and belonging. Artist-Facilitators may do this through poetry, song, or other artistic expression.
5. **Performance/Artistic expression**: Zora Neale Hurston, renown anthropologist and novelist famously remarked: "Art...makes us take a journey beyond price, beyond cost, into bearing witness to the world as it is and as it should be... Art invites us to know beauty and to solicit it, summon it, from even the most tragic of circumstances." AND "If you are silent about your pain, they'll kill you and say you enjoyed it."
  - Poets, writers and artist will be offered an opportunity to facilitate a 75 minute conversation on the value of art, creativity and spoken word to create space for healing, identity and belonging. Artist-Facilitators may do this through poetry, song, or other artistic expression.

**SUBMISSION TIPS & GUIDELINES****ROOM SETUP + AV**

By default, workshop rooms will be arranged in a theatre or classroom-style setting. If you anticipate needing a different room setup, please indicate so on the submission form under “additional information”. We will do our best to accommodate requests, but we cannot guarantee them. An LCD projector, speakers, podium (in rooms with adequate space), and microphone (in rooms large enough to warrant one) are provided in each room. Laptops are NOT provided to presenters. You must bring a laptop if you intend to display a presentation on the projection screen. Those presenters using Apple computers must use their own adapter to connect to the LCD projector.



## SUBMISSION TIPS & GUIDELINES



### PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

All abstracts are reviewed by at least 3 members of the BMPC Planning & Programming Committees. Proposals will be considered for workshop, panel, poster or performance sessions. Abstracts are evaluated for their quality and the degree to which their content is consistent with the theme of the conference. If your abstract is accepted for presentation, you are **REQUIRED** to present material as stated in your proposal; in other words, you are not allowed to present material that you have not submitted for review by BMPC.

### When writing your proposal, keep these points in mind:

- The description should be concise and coherent.
- Use a clear and direct style with an active voice.
- Include a statement on how you plan to engage the audience.
- Describe who will benefit from attending this session.
- Include a clear statement of what attendees will learn.
- Write so that conference reviewers and attendees will become instantly engaged in your presentation, knowing it will be valuable, interesting, relevant and unique.
- Make sure your proposed presentation will fit within the allotted time.

### Each proposal will be rated on a scale of 1-5:

Does the abstract capture the interest of a potential attendee/participant of the presentation?  
 Is the abstract well written in terms of language, grammar, etc.?

- Are the presenter(s) knowledgeable in the topic area?
- Does the abstract engage the reader by clearly stating what the paper is about and why they should read it?
- How well do the title, abstract, and learning objectives align with each other?
- How likely is it that the format and delivery methods selected will allow participants to achieve the stated learning objectives, including audience engagement appropriate to the objectives?

## IMPORTANT DATES



### APRIL 26, 2024 - ABSTRACT/PROPOSAL DEADLINE

- Please complete the required information on the submission form and submit no later than April 26, 2024 | 11:59PM CST, to be considered for this year's conference. Abstracts will be reviewed on a rolling basis so we encourage you to submit your proposal as early as possible. You will be notified via email if your proposal has been accepted or not. Please make sure the email address you provide is correct and up-to-date.

### MAY 6, 2024 - ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION

- You will be notified via email if your proposal has been accepted or not. Please make sure the email address you provide is correct and up-to-date.
- Please note: **honoraria or stipends are not offered for selected presenters**; all presenters must pay for [reduced] registration and will be responsible for their own travel and hotel expenses.

### MAY 13, 2024 - CONFIRMATION & EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

- All presenters are expected to confirm attendance at the conference and register by this date. Accepted presenters will receive a 15% discount off the registration fee.

### JUNE 13, 2024 - REGULAR REGISTRATION

- If accepted speakers do not register prior to this date, regular registration costs will apply.

### JULY 20-21, 2024 - BMPC2024 KICKS OFF IN CHICAGO!

- We are thrilled to have so many wonderful folks joining us once again for this special gathering!

## PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST



### SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- 500 word abstract submitted via submission form: [bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp](https://bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp)
- Be sure to include the following supplemental materials:
  - Resume or Curriculum Vitae (CV)
  - Headshot - High resolution, professional picture
  - Biography (limit 500 words)



### QUESTIONS?

[info@blackmuslimpsychology.org](mailto:info@blackmuslimpsychology.org)



### SUBMISSION LINK

[bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp](https://bit.ly/bmpc2024cfp)

## 2024 Black Muslim Psychology Conference | Longing for Home - A Place Where A Soul Can Rest

July 20-21, 2024 | Chicago, IL

### Follow us!

Twitter: @BlackMuslimPsyc | @MWFNational

Facebook: @BlackMuslimPsychology | @MuslimWellness

IG: BlackMuslimPsyc | MWFNational

#BMPC2024

#LongingforHome

#CommunityHealing

#BeingBlackandMuslim

**More info:** [www.blackmuslimpsychology.org](http://www.blackmuslimpsychology.org)

**Questions:** [info@blackmuslimpsychology.org](mailto:info@blackmuslimpsychology.org)





Homesick blues, Lawd,  
'S a terrible thing to have.  
Homesick blues is  
A terrible thing to have.  
To keep from cryin'  
I opens my mouth an' laughs.

*-Langston Hughes*



# BLACK MUSLIM PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE (BMPC)



BMPC was established in 2015 by Muslim Wellness Foundation and is the only conference in the country to center the voices and experiences of Black Muslims with respect to race, religion, trauma and healing. The conference gathers grassroots activists, youth leaders, community organizers, community members, religious scholars and multidisciplinary experts in conversation about the effect of continued systemic racism on the psychological well-being of Black Muslims and strategies to facilitate community healing. This conference is also dedicated to exploring strategies and opportunities for solidarity and authentic allyship with other marginalized as well as privileged communities. BMPC intentionally and unapologetically centers the narratives, voices, and strengths of Black Muslims with a special emphasis on healing and collective well-being. This unique gathering is dedicated to expanding the conversation on self-love, self-acceptance and self-determination. We engage in honest dialogue through didactic workshops, small group discussions, interactive group learning exercises and creative expression. We invite and welcome ALL members of the community to this dialogue - laypersons and professionals alike. BMPC is open to nonBlack Muslims, nonMuslim allies and people of all faiths (or none) and backgrounds are encouraged to attend and engage in a spirit of humility, curiosity and respect.

\*Please note: Our use of the term Black Muslim is inclusive of all those who identify as Muslim and of African descent:

Black African

Black American/Descendant of Enslaved Africans in the United States

Afro/Black Arab

AfroLatinx

AfroCaribbean/West Indian, etc.



[blackmuslimpsychology.org](https://blackmuslimpsychology.org)



[info@blackmuslimpsychology.org](mailto:info@blackmuslimpsychology.org)



[blackmuslimpsych](https://www.instagram.com/blackmuslimpsych)



[@blackmuslimpsych](https://twitter.com/blackmuslimpsych)



[black muslim psychology](https://www.facebook.com/blackmuslimpsychology)

*Muslim Wellness Foundation is the foremost pioneer in the formal establishment of Black Muslim Psychology as a legitimate and necessary field of inquiry. Black Muslim Psychology is grounded in the experiences, strengths, perspective, racial/sociocultural identity and spiritual orientation of those who identify as Muslim and of Black/African descent, living in the diaspora. It acknowledges the rich ethnic, cultural, sectarian and linguistic diversity of the Black Muslim community. It seeks to understand and enhance protective factors, mitigate systemic stressors and promote psychological well-being within the Black Muslim community. BMPC is a featured initiative within MWF's Omar ibn Said Institute for Black Muslim Studies & Research*