

MORAL INJURY

Special Interest Group Newsletter



UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRS

By Amanda Khan, PhD and Bart Buechner, PhD

Dear ISTSS Moral Injury SIG Community,

Welcome to the Fall 2022 edition of our MI SIG newsletter. This fall brings with it the hope of continued change, as the world continues to evolve and shift through cycles of rebirth and death. Moral injury continues to be a contemporary topic in COVID-19 discourse. We've also seen an incredible boom of moral injury research published this year (see bibliography at the end of newsletter), branching out into ever more populations, related sequelae, and further evidence of the role of social and spiritual communities in the healing process. We share the excitement that ISTSS is returning to an "in-person" annual meeting in Atlanta this November. Our SIG Meeting will be on Saturday, November 12, 2022 12:45pm-1:45pm. These meetings are great opportunities to meet people from diverse professional and geographical backgrounds who care about moral injury. We look forward to seeing you there!

Our team did not receive any original submissions or spotlights this round so this edition will be parsed down. We truly encourage SIG members to participate in the newsletters as it adds richness to the experience of community we have built! In this edition, you'll find the "research highlights" section, which gives further perspective on the wide-ranging interdisciplinary literature around moral injury. For students, we have a "training opportunities" section which includes available postdocs, externships, and fellowships with connection to the moral injury field.

Lastly, we are excited to announce that one of the SIG Chair positions will be opening in 2023. Stay tuned for a larger announcement and invitation for application coming soon!

As a reminder, if you have not already done so, please check out our podcast on the ISTSS website, "The Systems That Betray Us: How Failures to Protect Can Lead to Complex PTSD



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and Moral Injury.” The podcast features commentary by Dr. Julian Ford on systemic betrayal and Complex PTSD (CPTSD) and Dr. Valentina Stoycheva on systemic betrayal and Moral Injury (MI), with Dr. Amanda Khan, as moderator. You can access the podcast [here](#).

As always, we welcome your thoughts about what is presented here, and want to hear about your work and ideas about what our next steps may be.

Amanda Khan & Bart Buechner
Moral Injury SIG Co-Chairs

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2022 ANNUAL MEETING

The 38th Annual Meeting for the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies will be held November 9-12, 2022 (Wednesday - Saturday) at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. This year's theme is "Trauma as a Transdiagnostic Risk Factor Across Lifespan."

MISSION STATEMENT

The Moral Injury Special Interest Group (SIG) aims to bring together clinicians and researchers from across healing disciplines and related fields including philosophy and ethics, military culture and history, and religious/spiritual studies in order to provide a professional home for moral injury discourse and development. In gathering ISTSS members from across these disciplines and the world, this SIG will facilitate a rich scientific conversation and will advance the state of the science in conceptualization, assessment, and intervention for moral injury. Though the concept of moral injury has recently regained a great deal of popular interest, the field is in its infancy. At present, essential conceptual distinctions need refinement and the potential paths to moral healing require paving. Addressing these areas will be the primary objectives of the Moral Injury SIG, and will be approached in the following ways:

- Advocate for rigorous clinical and scholarly work that attends to cultural and contextual factors in this field
- Disseminate high quality scholarship in the moral injury field to ISTSS members and to the broader international community
- Support collaborative exploration of moral injury between members of the SIG, facilitating submission of proposals on moral injury and related topics to ISTSS Annual Meetings and other appropriate venues and nurturing research on moral injury and healing
- Establish and maintain an active SIG listserv to facilitate direct and wide-spread sharing of new and upcoming literature, training, etc. of interest to SIG membership

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

We invite SIG members to submit relevant articles of no more than 2000 words. Submissions may be data-driven, descriptive, theoretical, clinically oriented, etc. provided that they are relevant to the field of moral injury. Consistent with our mission to bring together clinicians and researchers from across healing disciplines and related fields, we hope to consider a range of submissions.

Articles should be no more than 2000 words (including references, tables, and figures). At least one SIG member should be an author on all submissions, though non-members may contribute in any role. As always, collaborations among members are highly encouraged. Submissions should be addressed to the SIG Chairs.

JOINING THE SIG

1. Login to the ISTSS website as a member
2. Click "Edit Your Profile" on the right side of the page
3. Click the "SIG Choices" tab
4. Check "44 - Moral Injury"
5. Click "Save" – You're a member!

SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS

The Moral Injury SIG welcomes nominations for students, researchers, and clinicians, and anyone advancing the moral injury field to be "spotlighted" in an upcoming newsletter.

Nominations should include a brief nominating statement and the CV of the nominee. Self-nominations are encouraged. Nomination materials should be addressed to the SIG Chairs.

SIG CHAIRS

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[ISTSS Moral Injury SIG Facebook group](#)

TRAINEE SECTION

Welcome to the trainee section! This corner covers various topics that arise as a trainee working with moral injury across disciplines. Every newsletter includes a spotlight and a list of training opportunities. If you'd like to nominate a trainee or spotlight your training site or if there's anything else you'd like to see covered here, please email Amanda.Khan@ucsf.edu

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The following is an up-to-date list of sites that offer opportunities in moral injury (clinical, research, or otherwise) within the U.S. for trainees.

If you would like your site listed here, please email Amanda.Khan@ucsf.edu

Site	Location	Training Level Offered
Boston VA Health Care System	Boston, MA	Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow **More opportunities available working in Dr. Brett Litz's laboratory
Road Home Program: Center for Veterans and Their Families (Rush University Medical Center)	Chicago, IL	Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow **Email Dr. Brian Klassen for information about clinical & research opportunities (brian_klassen@rush.edu)
Rocky Mountain Regional VA Medical Center	Denver, CO	Psychology Intern & Postdoctoral Fellow **Email Dr. Jacob Farnsworth for more information (jacob.farnsworth@va.gov)
Loma Linda VA Medical Center	Loma Linda, CA	Psychology Postdoctoral Fellows via Holistic Mental Health focus area
San Francisco VA Health Care System	San Francisco, CA	Psychology Intern & Postdoctoral Fellow *Email Dr. Shira Maguen for more information (Shira.Maguen@va.gov)
VISN 17 Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans	Waco, TX	Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow
VA North Texas Health Care System	Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	Psychology Externs, Interns, and Postdoctoral Fellows **Email Dr. Wyatt Evans for more information (wyatt.evans@va.gov)

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