

# Cultural Humility: Using Forum Theater as an Intervention

Sylvia Botros-Brey, MD, MSCI  
Associate Professor  
Department of Urology  
Department of Medical Education

Barbara Taylor, MD, MS  
Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases  
Assistant Dean for the MD/MPH Program



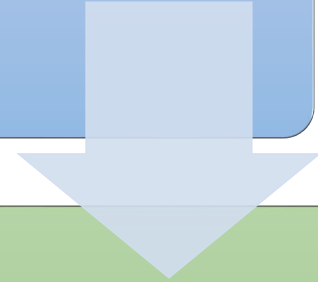
UT Health  
San Antonio

# Objectives

- Introduce a definition of cultural humility and why it is important in healthcare
- Become familiar with Forum Theater as a tool to discuss difficult issues
- Observe and develop one strategy to increase cultural humility

Cultural humility

Cultural  
competency



# Cultural training in medical education

- **Cultural competency (mid-80's)**
  - Improve physician-patient communication by acknowledging differences in patients' ethnic or cultural backgrounds
  - Identification of cultural factors to allow tailoring the interaction to a patient's identity
  - Factors based on cultural stereotypes, could lead to false confidence
- **Cultural humility (1998 – current)**
  - Allows the patient to define their own identity through physician-patient dialogue
  - Physicians acknowledge patients and their socio-cultural environment
- **Structural competency**

# Tenets of cultural humility

- A lifelong commitment to self-evaluation and self-critique
- A desire to fix power imbalances where none ought to exist
- An aspiration to develop partnerships with people and groups who advocate for others



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Tervalon M, Murray-García J. *J Health Care Poor Underserved*. 1998 May;9(2):117-25.

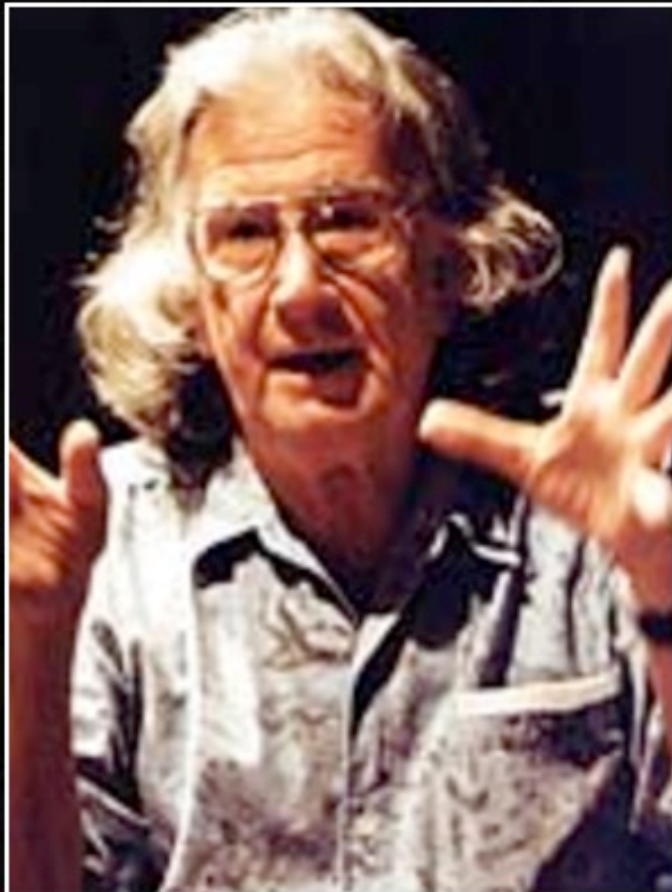
# Why teach cultural humility?

- Improve patient-provider communication
- Reduced medical errors
- Reduce health disparities









Theatre is a form of knowledge; it should and can also be a means of transforming society. Theatre can help us build our future, rather than just waiting for it.

— *Augusto Boal* —

**AZ QUOTES**

# Forum Theater

- Augusto Boal's "Theater of the oppressed"
- Behavioral and social change
- Audience direct participation
- Scenes reflect real world situations

# Forum Theater

- Power in participatory nature
- Interaction with emotionally charged, difficult topics

Where your interaction may go  
something like this....

How did the student do?

How did the faculty member do?

Your turn...

Thank You!