How Emotion, Culture Shape Relationships to be Topic of May 16 Talk at Cal Poly

SAN LUIS OBISPO — Belinda Campos, UC Irvine assistant professor, will present “Attuned to the Positive: The Role of Emotion and Culture in Shaping Relationships” from 11 a.m. to noon Thursday, May 16, in Room 286 in Cal Poly’s Fisher Science Hall (No 33).

Campos’ research is in the area of culture and health. Specifically, she is interested in the role of culture and positive emotions in shaping close relationships and health outcomes. In her current projects, she is investigating the cultural shaping of social support, stress and maternal health outcomes.

Social relationships can enhance the quality of life by creating a sense of well-being, giving people a greater resilience against adverse circumstances, and improving health.

To obtain health benefits from our social relationships, research shows that being “other-focused” (rather than self-focused) is important. We communicate an other-focus through positive emotions, like warmth and kindness. All of these processes are influenced by our cultural background.

In her talk, Campos will present a series of studies that show how other interests and their relational rewards are communicated by positive emotions and influenced by cultural values.

Campos is an assistant professor in the Chicano/Latino Studies Department and School of Medicine at UC Irvine.

The free public talk is sponsored by Cal Poly’s Psychology and Child Development Department, College of Liberal Arts Lottery Speakers Fund, and the Chicana/Latino Faculty/Staff Association.

For more information, contact Julie Rodgers at jsrodger@calpoly.edu or 805-756-2914.

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