



“Treating through the Climate Crisis: The Role of Mental Health Providers in Providing Relief and Support during a Global Existential Threat”

JOSEPH R TALIERCIO, PHD

CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
PSYCHOLOGY AT WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL
COLLEGE



- Thursday, May 8th, 2025
- 12:00pm - 1:00pm



[https://www.eeds.com/sign_in.aspx?](https://www.eeds.com/sign_in.aspx?Sign_in_Code=25tows)
[Sign_in_Code=25tows](https://www.eeds.com/sign_in.aspx?Sign_in_Code=25tows)



1 CE credit available to WCM Department of Psychiatry full time and voluntary faculty Psychologists, Social Workers and LMHCs, who sign in with their full name, attend the entire lecture and complete a survey which will be emailed following the completion of the lecture. Note you can join no later than 10 minutes after the start of time and must stay for the entire duration of the event for CE eligibility. The CE survey must be completed within 30 days of the lecture. Please contact wcmpsychiatryce@med.cornell.edu for additional CE information



Speaker Disclosure: Dr. Taliercio has no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose and DOES NOT INTEND to discuss off-label or investigational use of products or services.

SPEAKER

Joseph Taliercio, PhD, is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry at Weill Cornell Medical College and a clinical psychologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital's Integrated Behavioral Health program. He specializes in cognitive behavioral and dialectical behavioral therapies, drawing from multicultural, systems, and clinical-health psychology perspectives. He earned his MA and PhD in clinical psychology from Hofstra University and completed his predoctoral internship at Mount Sinai's Elmhurst Hospital Center, where he remained active during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Taliercio's clinical and research interests span integrated care, emerging adulthood, serious mental illness, and environmental psychology. His recent work focuses on the psychological impacts of climate change, including the effects of extreme heat and the importance of effective communication in climate psychology. He has been featured by CNN and NPR, published in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at national conferences, including the APA and APA Annual Meetings. He also serves on the joint Outreach and Advocacy Committee of the American Psychological and Psychiatric Associations, regularly engaging in legislative outreach to promote environmental and mental health policy change.

ABSTRACT

As the climate crisis progresses, the related consequences are becoming more pronounced. And yet, resistance remains in even acknowledging the existence of climate change. When climate change is openly discussed, unfortunately, the psychological consequences are often ignored. The current presentation aims to address this theoretical and clinical gap. The presentation will first review the various consequences stemming from climate change on psychological wellbeing, including how extreme heat and pollution exacerbate psychopathology and how climate anxiety arises while witnessing the impacts of such change. Second, the role of climate justice will be considered, examining who is most vulnerable to such environmental stressors. Finally, the presentation will provide clinical guidance in how best to respond to the psychological threats stemming from climate change, including how to encourage pro-environmental change and reduce our vulnerabilities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the complex relationship between climate change and psychiatric health.
2. Explain how racial injustice perpetuates one's vulnerability to climate change and related distress.
3. Identify therapeutic tools that can either directly or indirectly reduce one's psychological vulnerability to climate change.

REFERENCES

1. Lewandowski, R. E., Clayton, S. D., Olbrich, L., Sakshaug, J. W., Wray, B., Schwartz, S. E. O., Augustinavicius, J., Howe, P. D., Parnes, M., Wright, S., Carpenter, C., Wiśniowski, A., Ruiz, D. P., & Van Susteren, L. (2024). Climate emotions, thoughts, and plans among US adolescents and young adults: a cross-sectional descriptive survey and analysis by political party identification and self-reported exposure to severe weather events. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 8(11), e879–e893. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196\(24\)00229-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/s2542-5196(24)00229-8)
2. Sultana, F. (2021). Critical climate justice. *Geographical Journal*, 188(1), 118–124. <https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12417>
3. Taliercio, J. R. (2024). Heat on the brain: The impacts of rising temperatures on psychiatric functioning, potential causes, and related compounding factors. *American Psychologist*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/amp0001464>