



APRIL 19 - 21, 2024

THERAPEUTIC + APPLIED GEEK + GAMING SUMMIT

TAGGS is a yearly **virtual summit** celebrating the benefits of expressing ourselves and sharing our interests through professional work. Professionals in attendance are therapists, educators, doctors, nonprofits, entrepreneurs, and those in the healing arts. This year's TAGGS will feature 36 panels for 1.5 CEs.

THREE TRACKS

This year's TAGGS will contain three "tracks" with 4 sessions each. **See the entire schedule:** <https://taggs.geektherapy.org/schedule/>

Applied TTRPG



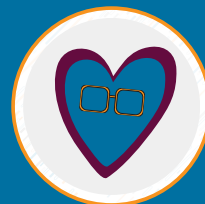
Explore the intersection of fantasy and therapy in our Applied Tabletop Role-Playing Games (TTRPG) track. Discover how TTRPGs like Dungeons & Dragons can foster social skills, emotional resilience, and therapeutic breakthroughs. Experts share innovative ways to blend role-playing with mental health interventions.

Media Matters



Dive into the impact of pop culture on mental health with the Media Matters track. This series examines how movies, TV shows, and video games influence therapy and understanding. Learn to use media narratives as tools for empathy, advocacy, and engagement in therapeutic settings, enriching mental wellness through the stories we love.

Geek Out. Do Good.



Geek Out. Do Good. merges geek passions with social impact and wellness. Sessions highlight self-care, inclusive communities, and geek-themed mental health strategies. Perfect for anyone looking to leverage their geek interests for advocacy, education, and creating supportive spaces in mental health.

REGISTER

<https://taggs.geektherapy.org/>

PRICING

Regular Pricing:

- \$125 All Access Live + Media Pass
- \$175 Deluxe Bundle 2024 Live + Media + TAGGS 2023 Recording

STUDENT/PRELICENSED

Qualified individuals can request **50% off** listed prices by filling out this form for a discount code: <https://rb.gy/jlq7fp>

- *Active students
- Individuals not fully licensed

**Please register using your .edu email*

Event details, including schedule & presenter lineup, are subject to change. Stay updated by checking our website taggs.geektherapy.org



Geek Therapy has been approved by NBCC as an Approved Continuing Education Provider, ACEP No. 7507. Programs that do not qualify for NBCC credit are clearly identified. Geek Therapy is solely responsible for all aspects of the programs.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



TTRPG Track Friday, April 19, 2024 at 12:30 PM - 1:20 pm PST:
Jack Berkenstock, Jr, Executive Director of The Bodhana Group, will speak on the origins of The Bodhana Group, the current state of the therapeutic and applied use of TTRPGs, and what we have to look forward to in this space.



Geek out. Do Good. Track Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 12:30 PM - 1:20 pm PST:
Lawrence Rubin, Ph.D., tells the origin stories of being a pioneer in writing about pop culture-based approaches to diagnosis and treatment planning skills and using superheroes and villains in counseling and psychotherapy.



Media Matters Track Sunday, April 21, 2024 at 12:30 PM - 1:20 pm PST:
Keisha Howard is best known as the creator of Sugar Gamers, the world's longest-running gaming & tech community geared toward inclusivity. She shows us how to use video games, VR, and other popular media to engage communities through education and tech/media literacy.

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EVENT SCHEDULE

TTRPG Track



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19

Friday

20

Saturday

21

Sunday

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM PST

FACING FEARS: THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF HORROR RPGS FOR ANXIETY MANAGEMENT

with Dr. Adam Baldowski. Explores a unique and innovative approach to managing anxiety.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM PST

THERAPEUTIC CHARACTER BUILDING IN COUPLES' AND INDIVIDUAL WORK

with Mel Gomez-Erickson LMHC in bridging the gap between gaming and couples' therapy.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM PST

D&DBT

with Justen Sanchez Arvizu MSW. Learn to merge the worlds of therapy and tabletop gaming with DBT skills.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

A JOURNEY OF BELONGING: AUTISTIC ADULTS ENGAGEMENT WITH TRPGS

with Tanwen Ward, PhD Candidate. Discover TTRPGs' impact on the Autistic community.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

HOW TO ENGAGE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN RPGS- FROM TEEN DMS WHO KNOW!

with Maryanne Cullinan, and Students master the art of engaging middle schoolers in the magical world of RPGs.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

LUNA UNI - CREATING A CLASSROOM-READY RPG

with Michael Low, Tyler Pelletier, and Rebecca Freeman. Discover how to use Luna Uni, to enhance classroom learning.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

THE FICTIONAL FRAME: STORYTELLING AND ROLE-PLAY IN THE THERAPEUTIC PROCESS

with therapist Daniel Hand & Erika Walker, LCSW, LCSW, LICSW, RPT-S. Unlock the healing power of TTRPGs.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

GAME ON: USING THERAPEUTIC ROLE PLAYING GAMES IN ADOLESCENT GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

with Kailey Bradley. Explore RPGs as tools for grieving teens, offering innovative, resonant therapy methods.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

SO YOU WANT TO USE EDUCATIONAL TTRPGS! NOW WHAT?

with Jennifer Genova. This session offers a roadmap to getting your applied TTRPG proposal off the ground.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

MORAL WOUNDS - HEALING WITH GAMES

with Josh Heath IPCR and Dr. David Perlman. Learn an innovative approach to assist veterans in processing moral injuries.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

GRIEF AND DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

with Erika Walker LCSW, LCSW, LICSW, RPT-S and Jacob Dreiling APC, NCC, MS using Adlerian conceptualization and treatment planning with D&D to process grief.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

(SOCIAL) SKILLS QUEST - USING D&D TO FACILITATE SOCIAL CONNECTION: LONG-TERM FORMAT AND OUTCOMES

with Meagan Henry and Dr. William Nation. This presentation delves into the mechanics of using D&D in long-term therapy groups.

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COZY GAMING AS A THERAPEUTIC TOOL: INTEGRATING GENTLE PLAY INTO THERAPY AND SELF-CARE

with Ariel Landrum, LMFT, ATR. The principles of cozy gaming, safety, comfort, & satisfaction are integrated into therapy & self care.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM PST

NAVIGATING TOXIC MASCULINITY AND HETERNORMATIVITY IN GEEK CULTURE

with Jordan Kocon MA, Maria Laquerre-Diego LMFT, RPT-S, & Zac Egan LCSW. Learn how to confront & dismantle toxic masculinity & heteronormativity in geek culture.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM PST

INTEGRATING VIDEO GAME THEMES INTO EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

with Matt Huycke, Associate Professor at New Mexico State University Wiley Stem, Jordan Kocon MA, and Dr. Yuxuan Zhao M.Ed. Explore video game & therapy themes of resilience, trauma recovery, & values.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

GAME ON: LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX!

with Robin Newman and Carly Kalish MA. Learn how to engage teens in meaningful conversations about sexual health, breaking down taboos and fears.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

CONNECTING PERSONAL NARRATIVES AND VIDEOGAMES

with Hilary Andreff OTR/L. Uncover the profound impact of video games on personal narratives, self-concept, and societal views.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP: MENTAL HEALTH PROTECTIVE FACTORS IN ANIME & MANGA

with Jermaine Wall LICSW-S. Examine how friendship & personal ambition act as protective factors for mental health from manga anime narratives.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

EARNING AN XP BOOST: EXPLORING AND ADVOCATING FOR THE GAMER COMMUNITY

with Dr. Stephen Kuniak. The core principles that make up active game engagement lend themselves to the classroom setting.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

EVIL'S INSIGHT: LEVERAGING VILLAINOUS NARRATIVES FOR THERAPY

with Maria Laquerre-Diego LMFT, RPT-S. This session invites participants to explore the complex psychologies of villains in storytelling, offering a new perspective on their role in understanding human behavior.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

WHAT IF HARLEY QUINN AND HUGO STRANGE WERE ETHICAL?

with Benjamin Taitz Registered Psychological Associate, Psychology Doctoral Student Jordan Kocon MA, and Dr. Sara Roldan. Discover how geek culture can inform and enhance forensic practice.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

LEVEL UP YOUR WELL-BEING: THE ART OF SELF-CARE THROUGH GAMING - A CLIENT'S JOURNEY

with Momma FoxFire. Dive into a candid exploration of how gaming transcends being a pastime to become a sanctuary for resilience and joy.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

BATMAN VS JUST US

with Karl Custer, LMSW. This semi-comedic lecture looks at poverty's relationship to national recidivism statistics within the justice system through the imaginary gaze of Gotham City.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

FROM THE AZTECS TO NOW: FINDING YOUR COMMUNITY (AS A GEEK)

with Dr. Elizabeth Sánchez Arvizu and Edward De. Journey through time from the ancient Maya and Aztec perspectives on mental health to today's geek culture as a source of community and support.

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IDENTITY THROUGH THE LENS OF MY CHARACTER: UTILIZING GEEK CULTURE IN PSYCHOTHERAPY TO EXPLORE GENDER AND SEXUALITY FORMATION

with Lance Madow, APC, NCC. LGBTQIA+ identity & geek culture.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM PST

THE POWER OF POP CULTURE: INTEGRATING MEDIA WITH SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

with Lorrann Garrison School Psychologist, PPS, Dr. Elizabeth Han PsyD, CCTP-II, ASDCS, and Jessica Medina LMFT. Learn how pop culture combines with a student's SEL and IEP.

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM PST

INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATION IN VIDEO GAMES

with Dr. Sara Roldan. Learn about Indigenous representation in gaming and how video games shape our understanding of Indigenous cultures.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

FROM FINAL GIRLS TO SOFT GIRLS: EXPLORING THE BLACK FEMALE IDENTITY IN FILM AND TV

with Dr. Mercedes Samudio. Explore Black female (femme) characters in 90s/00s film & tv for clinical work and treatment.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

DEWEAPONIZING POLITICAL PANIC USING 'V FOR VENDETTA'

with Charlene MacPherson LCSW-C, Karl Custer LMSW, Dr. Nicole Hassler, Dr. Yonatan Sobin, and Benjamin Taitz. Discuss trauma, community, and the power of narratives

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM PST

CASE STUDIES FOR THERAPISTS OF MEDICAL TRAUMA IN TELEVISION

with Dr. Victoria Rodriguez, LPC, NCC. This interactive presentation provides an intro to medical trauma and reviews case study examples from our favorite medical dramas.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

AUTISTIC MINDS ARE MAGICAL, BUT MISUNDERSTOOD: A HARRY POTTER THEMED BUSTING OF MYTHS ABOUT AUTISM

with Dr. Stacy Greeter, Charnell Widnall, Jessica Hogan, and Joshua Ingle. Explore the wizarding world and Autism.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

ON A SCALE OF 1-900 KOROKS, HOW PERFECTIONISTIC ARE YOU?

with Dr. Adam Baldowski. Learn to balance the positive and challenging aspects of striving for excellence with Zelda: Breath of the Wild.

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM PST

WHAT IF DARTH VADER PRACTICED POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

with Josh Lockhart MC, RCC, CCC. Explore how the galaxy's most feared villain could have been different with an intervention of positive psychology.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

SPIDER-MAN'S SEARCH FOR MEANING

with Josué Cardona, MA, and Founder of Geek Therapy. Spider-Man's narrative mirrors Viktor Frankl's work and is leveraged for psychotherapy treatment.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

MY HERO THERAPY

with Dr. Nicole Hassler Psy.D., Benjamin Taitz Registered Psychological Associate, PsyD Candidate, Dr. Isaac Taitz, and Brent Lyles. Blend of My Hero Academia anime with becoming a real-life hero.

3:15 PM - 4:45 PM PST

BUILDING HEALTHY TECH HABITS: SELF-AWARENESS AND INTENTIONAL CHANGE

with Psychologist Joaquin Contreras and Rodrigo Vargas Usach. Dive into the science of tech habits and learn how to create a balanced relationship with technology.

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