

# Honoring Fiercely Every Human Journey



**Dr. Rita Sinorita Fierro**  
*Intellectual Artist, Researcher,  
Author, Speaker*

Dr. Rita Fierro is an intellectual artist who combines creative and intellectual arenas that may seem far apart. She has a warm, engaging, and inspiring speaking style that bridges storytelling with innovative insights. She will leave any audience thinking more critically and inspired about what to do next.

photo: Ra Hall



**Audiences:** Healing and helping professionals, activists, students, anti-racists, public servants, researchers, community workers, program evaluators, social science scholars

*“Dr. Rita Fierro will challenge you and won’t let you escape reality. She won’t violate her principals to placate you or your organization. That’s why you’ve hired her.”*

— **Steven Cofrancesco,**  
**the Help Institute**

**Contact Information:**  
**DrRita@ritafierro.com, 215 893 0579,**  
**DrRitawrites.com**

## **Some topics:**

- Honoring fiercely: the molecular structure of trauma and how to transform it in systems
- Healing activism: the new frontier for civil rights
- White privilege: The wounds of white folk
- What would systems that reflect the love we have for our children look like?
- How program evaluation and social research can help shape our sustainable future
- Who are we accountable to? Using program evaluation to transform power



photo: Christopher Kadish

*“I found Dr. Fierro to be a visionary in her approach. Her mix of technical knowledge and humanity transformed a conference session into a genuine learning community.”*

**—Mimi McClure,  
National Science Foundation**

*“Dr. Rita shows compassion and empathy for the mothers she has worked with. I know of no one more qualified to tell these stories.”*

**—Lawanda Connelly, Birth Mother, PA Diversity Project Board member & DHS Survivor**

*“A book on this topic should have been published long ago, but people who have the heart, intellect, and tenacity to do this kind of work well are rare. This book forces us to confront that the most revered systems can end up breaking the very people they were supposed to help mend.”*

**—Sonja Peterson-Lewis,  
Associate Professor,  
Department of African-  
American Studies,  
Temple University**

## **The Book:**

### ***Give Me Back My Child!***

*How the USA System Kidnaps Children*

An indictment of systems that claim to care for children. Six Black mothers take us to the frontlines of helping systems (welfare, child welfare, housing, juvenile justice, and mental health) that don't really help, but exploit trauma to maintain punitive social control, especially of people of color.

Dr. Fierro's own story exposes how “helpers” must confront their own pain and condescension, before anything can change. A social and economic justice movement is growing that is transforming trauma. We can replace punishment with healing, for the sake of all children.

Client List: Institute for Sustainable Peace, Houston, TX; GirlHub, Ethiopia; Center of Peace, Philadelphia PA, USA; American Evaluation Association, USA; Dimension Training Institute, Philadelphia PA, USA; Equal Justice USA (EJUSA), New York, NY, USA; Temple University, Philadelphia PA, USA; Community Organization for Mental Health and Retardation (COMHAR), Philadelphia PA, USA; Coalition Against Youth Drugs and Alcohol (CAYAD), New Zealand; Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro NC, USA, UN Women, Department for International Development (DFID).

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