



GLOBAL ECOLOGIES

*Connections Among
Self, Families,
Communities,
and Cultures*

AFTA

**AMERICAN FAMILY THERAPY ACADEMY
37TH ANNUAL MEETING & 4TH OPEN CONFERENCE**

June 3-6, 2015, Vancouver, WA

Couple & Family Therapy Ph.D. Program

Feminist · Social Justice · LGBT Affirmative



The Ph.D. Program at NDSU is committed to developing the next generation of scholars in the field of family therapy through a dedicated mentoring process that includes:

- Active involvement in collaborative research teams where students and faculty engage in a research process that includes the creation, design, implementation, analysis, and submission of a manuscript for publication each semester while in the program.
- An outcomes-based portfolio option, in lieu of comprehensive exams, that are designed to help students develop a job-ready academic portfolio that includes presentations, publications, and other professional development activities.
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- Innovative course work on grant writing, research methods, and pedagogy

Dr. Kristen Benson

Research Interests: Gender identity and family/partner relationships, internalized homophobia and couple stability, family therapy education and training, and feminist qualitative methodology.

Dr. Christi McGeorge

Research Interests: Influence of heterosexism and homophobia on clinical practice and training, gender equity in therapy, gender equity in higher education, feminist theories, and societal perceptions of single parents.

Dr. Tom Stone Carlson

Research Interests: Narrative pedagogy, Client experiences and outcomes of the relational accountability approach to couples therapy, LGBT affirmative therapy, Spirituality in training and therapy.

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AFTA MEETING & OPEN CONFERENCE

JUNE 3–6, 2015

Wednesday, June 3	Thursday, June 4	Friday, June 5	Saturday, June 6
<p>8:00 am–1:00 pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>7:00–7:30 am Centering Practices</p>	<p>7:00–7:30 am Centering Practices</p>	<p>7:00–7:30 am Centering Practices</p>
<p>2:30–4:30 pm People of Color/ White Privilege/ LGBTQI Networks</p>	<p>7:00–8:00 am New Members Breakfast/ Continental Breakfast</p>	<p>7:30–8:30 am Continental Breakfast</p>	<p>7:15–8:15 am Breakfast Meeting of the Presidents</p>
<p>5:00–5:40 pm Honoring Don Bloch & Carol Anderson</p>	<p>8:15–10:15 am Welcome & Plenary I</p>	<p>8:30–10:30 am Plenary III</p>	<p>7:30–8:30 am Continental Breakfast/ Committee Meetings</p>
<p>5:45–8:15 pm Pearls of Wisdom</p>	<p>10:15–10:30 am Refreshment Break</p>	<p>10:30–11:00 am Refreshment Break</p>	<p>8:30–10:30 am Plenary IV</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 12:00 – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>10:30–12:00 pm Interest Groups</p>	<p>11:00–12:20 pm Dialogues</p>	<p>10:30–11:00 am Refreshment Break</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>12:15–1:15 pm AFTA Members Meeting/ Lunch Break</p>	<p>12:30–1:50 pm Award Ceremony Lunch/ Lunch Break</p>	<p>11:00–12:30 pm Interest Groups/Men’s Institute</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>1:30–3:00 pm Paper Presentations</p>	<p>2:00–3:00 pm Paper Presentations</p>	<p>12:30–2:00 pm Student/ECM Lunch/ Facilitated Listening Circle/Women’s Institute/ Lunch Break</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>3:30–5:30 pm Plenary II</p>	<p>3:30–4:00 pm Refreshment Break</p>	<p>2:15–3:0 pm New Wilderness Project</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>4:00–6:00 pm Joint Forum</p>	<p>4:00–6:00 pm Joint Forum</p>	<p>3:00–4:30 pm Plenary V</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>5:30–6:30 pm Free Time/Catch Bus to Special Event</p>	<p>6:00–8:00 pm Poster Reception Book Signing</p>	<p>4:30–5:30 pm Feedback Session/ Closure</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>6:30 pm (Boarding); 7:00 pm (Departure) Special Event I: Boat Cruise</p>	<p>6:30–7:30 pm Spiritual Services</p>	<p>5:30 pm Free Time in Portland</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>	<p>8:00–10:00 pm Special Event II: Storytelling & Poetry Night</p>	<p>8:00–10:00 pm Special Event II: Storytelling & Poetry Night</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Registration 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</p>

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AFTA Social Media Guidelines

Creating Sustainable and Respectful Social Spaces at AFTA Events

To ensure the sustainability of the safe and respectful environment that is a hallmark of AFTA Meetings, we ask participants to preserve the confidentiality of the clinical and personal material that is presented by doing the following:

- ◆ Freely tell others about AFTA events and your experience at them, but preserve the confidentiality of any clinical or personal sharing taking place during sessions, whether you are communicating with others electronically or in person.
- ◆ Use electronic media (like Twitter, texting, blogs, and other social media) to help AFTA build a socially just community by appropriately sharing with others your impressions of AFTA events. Twitter: #AFTA15
- ◆ Avoid disrupting speakers or other participants and audience members with any form of electronic communication that is distracting.

WELCOME

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 37th Annual Meeting and 4th Open Conference of the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA), a gathering of scholars, clinicians, educators, policy makers, researchers, and social scientists committed to systems thinking and social justice.

We have gathered an excellent group of speakers and presentations to help us examine how global ecologies affect our connections with families, community and cultures. Over 100 colleagues will showcase cutting edge work, discuss new ideas, and give voice to people across the generations. The Plenaries will explore how we create and maintain connections within ourselves, with nature, across families, and communities around the world, as well as challenge us to look at ourselves at the intersection of our personal and professional lives. The Joint Forum will discuss the interface between race, social policy, the criminal justice system, and family interventions.

We also want to embrace or own wellbeing and that of our ecology as we build an environment of respect, support, and friendship. We have planned a new Special Event for Friday night. Attendees will have the opportunity to reflect on and share stories and poems that build connections with others from the heart and the mind. On Saturday the New Wildness Project: “Borderless” will invoke voices of the community while focusing on creativity, compassion, courage, stewardship, and practice.

Many colleagues volunteered their time to make this conference happen. Please give them your appreciation. Finally, in warm and deep gratitude, we owe the continued success of the Annual AFTA Meeting and Open Conference to all presenters, planners, and attendees.

Warmly,

Kiran Arora & Volker Thomas,
Program Co-Chairs

Gonzalo Bacigalupe,
President

THEME AND OBJECTIVES: AMERICAN FAMILY THERAPY ACADEMY 2015 ANNUAL MEETING & OPEN CONFERENCE



Painting by Joellyn Ross, AFTA Member. This painting will be auctioned off at the AFTA Conference. Proceeds will be donated to AFTA.

The process of becoming sensitive requires that we examine our relationships to different systems we connect with. The quality of the relationships amongst ourselves, families, communities, and cultures are indicative of the quality of work we provide in clinical practice, research, or teaching practices. Deep introspection and critical self-reflection is fundamental to our development as practitioners across global ecologies. Continuing AFTA's tradition for advancing cutting edge knowledge and practices that promote relational wellbeing, the theme for the 2015 AFTA 37th Annual Meeting is Global Ecologies: Connections Among Self, Families, Communities, and Cultures.

The program this year aims to answer the following questions:

1. What are the global ecologies in relation to family centered practices and policies?
2. What are our relationships and responsibilities to the various global ecologies?
3. How do we integrate a global ecological perspective into responsible clinical practice?

Objectives

The overarching objectives of the AFTA 2015 Conference are to:

1. Explore the interrelationships between self, families, communities, and cultures.
2. Engage in a gentle self-interrogation and reflection in relation to our values, beliefs, and clinical practices.
3. Understand the relationship and healing practices between suffering and healing at the individual, family, and community level.
4. Create a conference community, which is inclusive, increases diversity, and respects the sharing of all voices.

Target Audience

The Annual Meeting and Open Conference invites couple and family therapists, researchers, educators, and others dedicated to the advancement of systemic thinking, practices and policies worldwide.

AFTA BOARD MEMBERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS & 2015 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

2015 AFTA Program Committee

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Volker Thomas, Program Co-Chair
Gonzalo Bacigalupe, President
Christiana Awosan, Paper Presentations
Shruti Singh Poulsen, Paper Presentations
David Landsman-Wohlsifer, Interest Groups
Jeffrey Landsman-Wohlsifer, Interest Groups
Armeda Wojciak, Posters
Jacob Priest, Posters
Volker Thomas, Dialogues
Carmen Knudson-Martin, AFTA Springer Briefs
Corky Becker, Women's Institute
James Verser, Men's Institute
Blanca Lugo, People of Color Network
Jane Ariel, Marsha Mirkin White, Privilege & Accountability Network
Sheila Addison, LGBTQI Network
Martha Edwards, Membership
Aimee Galick, Early Career Membership, Pearls of Wisdom
Lindsey Lawson, Pearls of Wisdom
Froma Walsh, Awards
Jacqueline Hudak, Marketing
Saliha Bava, Marketing, Web Site, AFTA Blog
Ramón Rojano, Joint Forum, Diversity
Larry Levner, Joint Forum, Family Policy & Human Rights
Liz Brenner, Centering Practices

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Gonzalo Bacigalupe, Jerry Gale, Ivan Inger, Jeri Inger, Roxana Llerena-Quinn

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A. John Sargent, 2009-11
John Rolland, 2007-09
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Lois Braverman, 2003-05
Janine Roberts, 2001-03
Celia Falicov, 1999-01
Donald Bloch, 1997-99
Evan Imber-Black, 1995-97

Committee Chairs

Karni Kissil, AFTA Update
David Wohlsifer, AFTA Year Around
Froma Walsh, Awards
David Trimble, Bylaws
Ramon Rojano, Cultural & Economic Diversity
Aimee Galick, Early Career Membership
Saliha Bava, Electronic Information
Larry Levner, Family Policy & Human Rights
Michael Ungar, Finance
Paulette Hines, Futures Implementation
Jacqueline Hudak, Marketing
Martha Edwards, Membership
Jodie Kliman, Nominations

A GUIDE TO MEETING EVENTS

AFTA Town Hall Members Meeting is an AFTA Members-Only Meeting in which the AFTA Futures Committee and AFTA Board will share the work that has been happening to help AFTA move into the future. We will engage in a discussion about what the AFTA Futures Committee and the AFTA Board have been working on.

Book-Signing, Poster Festival: The Book-Signing is a time to meet AFTA authors. Come to peruse the publications and to celebrate the work of members. The Poster Festival features researchers and other individuals using poster illustrations to present their work in an informal setting conducive to in-depth discussion. Types of posters will include research, larger systems and training.

Paper Presentations provide a forum for members to gather and deliver a 30-minute presentation in a small group setting with other presenters. The sessions offer researchers, clinicians, and teachers an opportunity to formally share completed or work in progress close to completion in a more formal way. They will give participants the opportunity to deepen their knowledge in specific areas and discuss them critically with the presenters. The session topics may focus on research, clinical interventions, theory, family therapy training, social policy, and/or social justice.

Centering Practices are an early morning gathering for meditation, yoga, and/or stretching that will help us to begin the day with energy, equanimity, and connectedness. Come breathe, stretch, and flow with your AFTA colleagues!

Dialogues are sessions in which two experts will present their perspectives on a common topic. They will follow up with questions for each other. The moderator will then facilitate a conversation between the presenters, and between the presenters and the audience.

Early Career/Student Member Luncheon: The Early Career Member and Student Committees will host the sixth annual Early Career/Student Member Luncheon this year. As in previous years, this will be a great opportunity for Early Career and Student Members to meet and get to know AFTA's Senior Members. The opportunity to connect with Senior Members of AFTA has been a highlight of the event, so we hope you will join us! Box Lunches are available on the registration form.

The Facilitated Listening Circle is a witnessing circle. It provides an opportunity for people who wish to share an experience during the Meeting for which they would like support, recognition, or empathy. At AFTA we are committed to respectful and inclusive participation with one another. We hold ourselves to a high standard. Sometimes someone feels hurt or excluded by the actions or attitudes of others. We wish to be accountable for any

ways we hurt or exclude others and to be open to experiences that may be invisible to us. In the Circle, these difficult moments can be rendered visible, and we can increase our awareness and learn more about relating in respectful and inclusive ways.

Feedback Session provides an opportunity to give direct feedback to the Program Chairs, Program Committee, and AFTA Board, on your experience at this year's AFTA Annual Meeting & Open Conference.

Institutes were initiated in the early 1990s to provide a setting where men and women meet separately to discuss issues particular to their gender within AFTA and in their profession. Institutes also provide an informal opportunity to get to know each other more fully.

Interest Groups provide an ongoing opportunity for conference attendees to gather to discuss a particular area of interest, generate new ideas and to form a community. The purpose of Interest Groups is more to generate conversation than it is to provide rigorous academic presentations. Interest groups sometimes have conversations that go on through the year and build on previous year's discussions. New Interest Groups need to be submitted by an AFTA member with 8 signatures for support. The chairperson usually designates the specific sub-topic and format for the Interest Group session.

The Joint Forum provides an opportunity to discuss significant issues related to social policy, cultural and economic diversity, social justice, and larger systems. This year the Joint Forum has a particular topic area on which a presentation is given, followed by ample time devoted to discussion by forum participants.

Networking Conversations have been developed for mutual support and to assist people who are marginalized to connect with one another and to discuss issues of common interest.

New Member Breakfast is a meeting where New Members are introduced and will have an opportunity to meet Board Members and Committee Chairs. Early Career Members and Students are also encouraged to attend.

Pearls of Wisdom provides an opportunity for Early Career and Student members to hear from pioneers in the field and (1) promotes cross-generational transmission of ideas and discoveries in the field of family therapy; (2) increases knowledge of critical moments of the history of the field of family therapy; and (3) connects the history of family therapy with the history of the pioneers who have shaped the field.

Plenary Sessions consist of invited presentations that feature the themes of the Annual Meeting and Open Conference and discuss current and/or controversial issues in the field.

Wednesday, June 3

Schedule of Events and Sessions

NETWORK CONVERSATIONS

2:30 – 4:30 PM

People of Color

Facilitators: Blanca Lugo, Narumi Taniguchi

The People of Color Network is a place for inspiration, connection, support and dialogue for people of color. It serves as a catalyst for moving forward issues of societal justice and change within AFTA. Members have rich ideas and talents and can share and receive support for how issues of multiculturalism, race and inequality are addressed in our various work environments. A primary goal is to facilitate continuity of networking throughout the year.

White Privilege and Accountability

Facilitators: Jane Ariel, Marsha Mirkin

This ongoing conversation provides a setting for AFTA members who are interested in exploring their White racial privilege, as it operates in the world and in the AFTA organization. We cooperate to sustain a supportive, nonjudgmental environment for honest exploration of difficult experiences. Meeting among ourselves helps create that environment, and is consistent with the message we get from many colleagues of Color, to “Do the work among yourselves.” We invite people with all levels of experience in dealing with race. We are committed to the principle that each of us can learn something new from every other participant.

LGBTQI Network Conversation

Facilitator: Sheila Addison

Please join the networking meeting for LGBTQI clinicians. The meeting provides an opportunity for members to meet, learn about each other’s work, and share goals for future AFTA initiatives. This meeting sets the stage for valuable social and professional collaborations throughout the conference and beyond.

AFTA MEMORIAL: HONORING PAST PRESIDENTS CAROL ANDERSON AND DON BLOCH

5:00 – 5:40 PM

Introduction: Gonzalo Bacigalupe

Presenters: Monica McGoldrick, Carlos Sluzki



Carol Anderson and Don Bloch

In 2014 we lost two of our very dear members and Past Presidents, Carol Anderson and Don Bloch. We would like to take some time to honor their lives and memories, and how much they meant to AFTA and family therapy.

PEARLS OF WISDOM

5:45 – 8:15 PM (with Musical Introduction)

Coordinator: Aimee Galick

Presenters: Victoria Dickerson, Paulette Hines, Kaethe Weingarten

Moderator: Lindsey Lawson

The sixth annual Pearls of Wisdom panel event will feature three esteemed pioneers in the field, Victoria Dickerson, Paulette Hines, and Kaethe Weingarten. The panelists will share about the personal and professional influences that have led them to think, write, and work with couples and families, and they will share “pearls,” “nuggets,” and “tid-bits” of their experiences and knowledge.

The Pearls event provides an opportunity for early career and student members to hear from pioneers in the field and (1) promotes cross-generational transmission of ideas and discoveries in the field of family therapy; (2) increases knowledge of critical moments of the history of the field of family therapy; and (3) connects the history of family therapy with the history of the pioneers who have shaped the field.



Victoria C. Dickerson is a clinician, an author of numerous articles, book chapters, and two books, a teacher of narrative ideas and practice, and previously a director of two training centers. She has been active in AFTA for over 20 years, as vice president, board member, and chair of several committees. Victoria received the Lifetime Achievement Award from

AFTA in 2012. She teaches in various universities: Santa Clara University, San Jose State University, Johns Hopkins, and Mercy College in New York. Victoria also offers workshops nationally and internationally. She is currently the associate editor for technology and new media for *Family Process* and recently created a webinar series for the Family Process Institute. Her publications include several recent articles on poststructuralism and narrative theory in *Family Process*; her most recent one is “The Advance of Poststructuralism and its Influence on Family Therapy” (2014, 53, 401-414).



Paulette Hines is executive director emerita of the Center for Healthy Schools, Families & Communities at the University of Medicine & Dentistry of NJ. She has extensive experience in family therapy practice, training, and supervision; prevention-oriented program administration, design, implementation, and research. Paulette has served as the principal or

co-investigator on numerous grants. She is the author of numerous publications and has presented widely on African American families, families living in poverty, and hope. Paulette's portfolio of social innovations includes SANKOFA—an evidence-based, culturally centered youth violence prevention program. She was one of the founding faculty of the Multicultural Family Institute of New Jersey and served as co-director of the Cultural Competence Training Center of Central New Jersey. Paulette received AFTA's Distinguished Contributions to Cultural & Economic Diversity Award in 2001 and the American Psychological Association's Carolyn Attneave Award for Distinguished Services to Diverse Families in 2008. Paulette served as President of AFTA from 2005 to 2007.



Kaethe Weingarten is a clinical psychologist, peace psychologist, and family therapist, who has recently moved from Boston to Berkeley. She was an associate clinical professor of psychology in the Harvard Medical School Department of Psychiatry (1981-2013) and a faculty member of the Family Institute of Cambridge from 1982 until its close in 2009. There, Kaethe founded and directed the Program in Families, Trauma and

Resilience. She is founder and director of The Witnessing Project, a nonprofit organization that consults to individuals, families, and communities locally, nationally, and internationally to transform passive witnessing of violence and violation into effective action. Kaethe's current research critiques the discourse of grandmothers; one part of the research focuses on the role of grandmothers in the transmission of risk and resilience in the context of political violence.



Lindsey Lawson finished her PhD in Marital and Family Therapy at Loma Linda University in December of 2013 and now works as an Assistant Professor at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. She loves living in the Pacific Northwest, teaching, directing PLU's on-site Couple and Family Therapy Center, and is especially interested in

issues of gender and power, mentorship and co-therapy supervision, and medical family therapy.

OPENING RECEPTION

8:15 – 9:30 PM

Murray Bowen

“The level of stability, cohesiveness, and cooperation in a group is affected by the interplay of individuality and togetherness. The capacity of groups of people to be closely and cooperatively involved is influenced both by the capacity of individuals to follow their own directives and by the degree to which individuals are oriented by the directives of the group. Individuality is analogous to the individual half of the individual-team dichotomy, and togetherness is analogous to the team half. Within a family or other group, people are participating in both processes simultaneously.”

Bowen, M., and Kerr, M., Individuality and Togetherness. *Family Evaluation*, Norton and Company, New York, 1988, page 65.

Thursday, June 4

Schedule of Events and Sessions

CENTERING PRACTICE

7:00 – 7:30 AM

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST

7:00 – 8:00 AM

Facilitators: Martha Edwards, Aimee Galick

New Member Breakfast is a meeting where new members are introduced and have an opportunity to meet Board Members and Committee Chairs. Early Career Members and Student Members are encouraged to attend.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

7:00 – 8:00 AM (open to all attendees)

WELCOME & PLENARY I

8:15 – 10:15 AM

PLENARY I

Transnational Relationships in Family Therapy: Tensions, Harmony, And Collaboration Between Family Therapy Models

Welcome: Gonzalo Bacigalupe, President; Kiran Arora & Volker Thomas, 2015 Program Co-Chairs



Gonzalo Bacigalupe, professor in the Department of Counseling and School Psychology, and director of the Family Therapy Program in the College of Education & Human Development at the University of Massachusetts Boston. He is President of AFTA (2013-2015) and co-principal investigator of a patient-centered outcomes research institute pilot: “Influence and evidence: Understanding consumer choices in preventive care.” Gonzalo is research faculty in the Health Equity Scholars program of the UMass Center for Health Equity Intervention Research funded by NIMHHD. With the Basque Institute for Healthcare Innovation and the Population Health Management Research team, he carries on research on the role of social networks in supporting patients with multiple chronic illnesses. Gonzalo is also member of the Basque Prescribe Healthy Life research team, a practice outcome-based research project to instill a population health model in primary care. He is an LMFT in Massachusetts, AAMFT Approved Supervisor, a registered psychologist in Chile, and an APA Fellow of the Society of Family Psychology and the International Psychology Division. Gonzalo was recently elected as a member of the APA Committee on International Relations in Psychology. He is member of several editorial boards including *Family Process*, *The Counseling Psychologist*, *Couple and Family Psychology: Research & Practice*, and *Qualitative Research in Psychology*.



Kiran Arora is associate professor of marriage and family therapy at Long Island University Brooklyn. Her publications and research interests include exploring the impact of the historical genocide of Sikhs in India, including its impact on the Sikh diaspora. Currently, Kiran is researching the relationship between 9/11 and Sikh

families and their relationships. She continues to present nationally and internationally on trauma and South Asian families. Kiran is serving on the editorial board of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy* and is a member of the AFTA Board of Directors.



Volker Thomas is professor and coordinator of the couple and family therapy doctoral program at the University of Iowa. He received a BS in Economics from the University of Goettingen, Germany in 1972, a master's degrees in clinical social work from the University of Kassel, Germany, and a PhD in family social science with a specialization in

marriage and family therapy from the University of Minnesota in 1990. Volker taught at the University of Iowa from 1990 to 1993, at Purdue University from 1993 to 2011 and returned to the University of Iowa in 2011 to develop a doctoral CFT program that focuses on social justice research, teaching, and clinical practice. His main research interests are in the area of interventions with at-risk families with young children, multicultural couple therapy, and LGBTQ issues, specifically family support of transgender persons during their transition.

Connection or Colonization? Toward Internationally Just Collaborations in Family Therapy

Moderator: John Lawless

Presenters: Teresa McDowell, Paschal Kabura

If we want to connect internationally, how do we do so without compromising equity and fairness? How do we share family therapy knowledge and counseling practices without engaging in colonization? Presenters center these questions as they share their experiences working together for the past decade in cross-training counselors and family therapists from Uganda and the United States. They examine their journeys as professionals working across the Global North and Global South. They explore themes of connecting within themselves and with their shared global histories in order to connect with each other. They highlight the need to disconnect with what we think we know to be able to engage in authentic cross-cultural relationships. They share experiences of reconnecting when power imbalances rupture relationships and when global awareness threatens to sever relationships “back home.” Finally, presenters argue that ongoing processes of connecting, disconnecting, and reconnecting are necessary on personal, interpersonal, societal and global levels to engage in socially just international work. Plenary attendees will

increase their understanding of: (1) The nature of connecting, disconnecting, and reconnecting with self and others in international work; (2) Dynamics of colonization inherent to sharing Western family therapy knowledge in non-Western settings; and (3) Complexities relative to what is socially just and unjust in collaborations between the Global North and Global South.



Teresa McDowell's scholarship centers the integration of critical social theory in the practice of family therapy. She has written about race, social class, gender, sexual orientation, and national identity using critical race, neo-Marxist, feminist, queer and decolonizing frameworks. Much of her work focuses on international family therapy in our contemporary world where economic, political and social systems routinely contribute to increasing global inequity. As an educator and clinical supervisor, Teresa encourages recognizing and challenging power inequities that are foundational to mental health and relational problems.



Paschal Kabura is a counselling psychologist who has been working in western Uganda. Most of his clinical work has been with families whose problems are embedded in culture, and with roots in economic deprivations and political turmoil. Paschal's pre-doctoral internship at the Danielsen Institute of Boston University exposed him to the integration

of psychology and spirituality. This experience has sparked an interest in investigating witchcraft-related conflicts in families in Uganda. His recent presentations have examined social and political systems, challenging tribal based inequities. For the last 10 years he has hosted a radio talk show and conducted seminars advocating for mental healthcare, and the end to gender-based domestic violence.

Therapy with Global Families? The Babel, the Baby, and the Bathwater

Presenter: Reenee Singh

Reenee will begin by deconstructing notions of "the family" and "therapy" and exploring how transnational couples, families, and clinicians, coming from different worldviews and epistemological positions, may draw on different discourses about "the family" and "therapy." Professionals, from a position of power, run the risk of imposing their own ideas on families from different cultural backgrounds. Reenee will provide an overview of some of the models of family therapy that have originated in the Western world and their applicability to other cultural contexts. Through the use of media podcasts, research findings, and clinical vignettes, she will examine how current political and economic contexts and contemporary discourses about migration and the privatization of health services, impact on our ways of working with transnational couples and families. Reenee will

conclude by making a case for having to reinvent family therapy whilst retaining "old" systemic ideas and principles that cut across the different models. In doing so, we retain creativity and polyphony in our work.

Participants will learn to: (1) highlight that when professionals and families meet, they might be relying on different constructions of "family" and "therapy." As professionals in positions of power, we run the risk of imposing our own Eurocentric notions of "the family" and "therapy" on our clients; (2) provide an overview of historical models of family therapy, originating in different cultural contexts and a critique of their applicability to contemporary political and social contexts; and (3) illustrate how we can draw on a few enduring systemic principles to create polyphony in our work with transnational couples and families.



Reenee Singh is a consultant systemic psychotherapist, currently working independently as a clinician at the Child and Family Practice in London and as a researcher and teacher/trainer. She is the editor of the Journal of Family Therapy, which is the Association of Family Therapy's academic, peer-reviewed journal, published by Wiley. Reenee is the co-director of the Tavistock and University of East London Family

Therapy and Systemic Research Centre. She teaches and supervises master's and doctoral research at the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, the Institute of Family Therapy, the Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Anna Freud Centre, and the Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships. Reenee also presents her work at national and international conferences. She is the author of two books and numerous papers in the areas of 'race' and culture and qualitative research.



John J. Lawless is associate professor at Empire State College where he is the director of outcomes assessment. He has served many roles in AFTA but most recently he has served as co-chair of the Futures Committee and the Executive Director Search Committee. John is also the treasurer of the Family Process Institute and program chair for the International Family Therapy Association's World Congress. He has committed his academic, clinical, and research career to examining intersectionality of power and privilege.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:15 – 10:30 AM

INTEREST GROUPS

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Coordinators: David Landsman-Wohlsifer & Jeffrey Landsman-Wohlsifer

1. Family Therapy Research

Chair: Sandra Stith

Presenter: Maria Borcsa

The Research Interest Group will focus on international systemic research. Maria Borcsa, President of the European Family Therapy Association (EFTA) and professor of clinical psychology in Nordhausen, Germany, will begin the conversation. She will give an overview of the research studies coordinated through the Research Committee of EFTA. Further, being a founding member of the European Family Therapy Research Group (EFTRG), Maria will outline the main features of an ongoing European research project named “Relational Mind” (Principal Investigator: Jaakko Seikkula). Participants will: (1) learn about the process of developing international systemic research collaboration; (2) examine and discuss their own ideas of developing collaboration; (3) discuss what they regard as “systemic research;” and (4) learn more about the EFTA and the work of EFTRG.

2. The Narrative of the Therapist: Significant Stories

Chairs: Robert Carroll, Judith Landau

We will share our significant stories in which our personal experience with illness, death, and dying have changed us. In the course of our personal lives we have all encountered illness situations, which have required us to stretch ourselves and go through our own developmental changes. As clinicians, we all have a dual relationship to the work we do, both professional and personal. There are times when this dual relationship can break down and the professional becomes personal and visa versa. These are our significant stories. Judith and Robert will present examples of our personal experiences with illness in ourselves and our families. Then, we will discuss how these experiences informed our significant stories through commitment and resilience. Participants will be invited to share their own significant stories and to participate in the subsequent discussions. Participants will learn: (1) that we have dual relationships to illness, death, and dying—personal and professional; (2) to apply this knowledge to clinical situations; and (3) how to use this knowledge in their teaching and supervisory roles.

3. Racial Domination and Privilege

Chairs: Lisa Bibuld, Jay T. King, David Trimble

The premise of this ongoing interracial conversation is that the discourse of White supremacy permeates experience and action, and that its operations depend on one’s social location. In this conversation, we explore racial domination and privilege in our own lives, and in our conversation with you and with each other. In an atmosphere of respect, honesty, humility, and compassion, we agree to take on the risk of exploring manifestations of racial domination and privilege as they emerge in the conversation. Participants will: (1) recognize how the dominant discourse of

White racial superiority influences experience and action; (2) learn how to manage distressing emotions and stay in difficult conversation; and (3) develop new understandings of self and others when the unspoken is named and explored.

4. Integrating Body & Mind in Family/Couple Therapy: It’s All in the Connection

Chairs: Martha Edwards, Linda Lockspeiser

In this interest group, we will explore the connections among the body, mind, and spirit and how to integrate these into family/couple therapy. Through a brief presentation, experiential exercises, and group discussion we will focus on intuitive knowing, as compared with rational knowing, examining how the body knows and how to help our clients pay attention to and make use of that knowledge. We will also look at how therapists can use seven channels of experience (auditory, visual, emotional, sensation, imaginal, energetic and movement) to heighten their attunement with family members and family members’ connections with one another. At the close of this interest group, participants will be able to: (1) recognize the connections among the body, mind, and spirit; (2) discuss how these connection can inform couples/family therapy; and (3) distinguish between intuitive knowing and rational knowing.

5. Murray Bowen: Bowen Theory as the Basis for Therapy

Chairs: Carolyn Moynihan-Bradt, Sally Eisen Miller

Presenter: Patricia Meyer

Research indicates that much of the factual depth and diversity of Bowen theory has been lost and distorted over time. This interest group was established to deal with these challenges. The group began with Dr. Bowen’s niece, Dr. Judy Bowen, as guest presenter. Each year, the focus is to: (1) have Dr. Bowen speak for himself about the theory or in a clinical interview on DVD; (2) have a distinguished clinician, who studied with Dr. Bowen, present related to the conference theme; and (3) discuss the ideas presented. Patricia Meyer, director of systemic training under Dr. Bowen, will be the guest presenter this year. Participants will be able to: (1) demonstrate the unique uses of Bowen theory in practice; (2) recognize Bowen’s theory from the original source; and (3) translate theory into practice techniques.

6. Evaluating Poststructural Therapies

Chairs: Victoria Dickerson, Michael Ungar

How can we develop an evidence base for poststructural, narrative and other types of family therapy in ways that are congruent with the nature of the therapy being done? This interest group invites participants to join in a conversation between the co-chairs about Michael’s recent work sharing promising practices in contexts where there is either suspicion of, or resistance to, conventional approaches to evidence-based practice. The conversation will focus on ways to evaluate programs and the nature of evidence when examining therapies with marginalized populations in community settings.

7. Breaking the Male Code: The Changing Role of Fatherhood Today

Chairs: David Landsman-Wohlsifer and Robert Garfield

We will examine how rapidly changing views of masculinity that call for greater emotional connectedness and less distance in their relationships are reshaping men's roles and expectations as fathers. We will consider a variety of forms of fatherhood (in biological nuclear and stepfamilies, straight, gay and multi-cultural adoptive families), discussing personal reflections and our clinical experience. Rob Garfield will share ideas from his new book, *Breaking the Male Code: Unlocking the Power of Friendship*. Participants will share their experience as well as new research findings on fatherhood and its impact on family life. Participants will: (1) analyze fatherhood from a multicultural perspective; (2) discuss fatherhood in relationship to other family roles; and (3) apply the concepts of fatherhood as an evolving dynamic to practice.

8. Teaching Oppression Theory and Dynamics

Chair: Laurel Salmon

We do not have to go any further than watching the nightly news to see that issues of oppression are coming to a fervent boil. We all agree that learning how to understand racism, sexism, heterosexism/homophobia, classism and other oppressions is essential to the work we do, but we tend to struggle to effectively understand it ourselves and teach it to others. Participants will be able to: (1) discuss innovative techniques for teaching oppression theory; (2) adapt teaching methods with regard to oppression theory depending on the level of expertise of their students and supervisees (i.e. graduate students vs. early career therapists); and (3) apply Laurel Salmon's LMFT's method for discussing oppression as it relates to practice.

TOWN HALL – MEMBERS MEETING

12:15 – 1:15 PM (members only)

LUNCH

12:15 – 1:15 PM (on your own; Box lunches available, sign up on the registration form)

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

1:30 – 3:00 PM

Coordinators: Shruti Poulsen & Christiana Awosan

1. The Contextual Worlds of Trans, Gay and Bisexual Youth

Moderator: Robert-Jay Green

The Power of the Family: Parents, Gay and Bisexual Youth, and HIV Risk

Michael LaSala

Empowering Trans Youth in Multi-Family Interventions

Jean Malpas, Randi Kaufman, Astin Brown, Rebecca Ross

2. Voices of Clients in Therapy: Experiences of Social Location and Identity Matter

Moderator: Norma Scarborough

Racial Discrimination, Relational Support, and Marital Stability in African American Newlyweds

Aimee Galick, Brian Distelberg*

CFT Trainees' Responses to Clients' Disclosure of Social Identity and Issues of Power and Privilege

Olga Sutherland, Andrea LaMarre, Crystal Kwan, Laura Hardt, Carla Rice

3. Socially Just Connections in Family Therapy Training

Moderator: Hinda Winawer

Wonder, Humility, Equity, and Play in International Training

Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe, Vicki Acevedo, Caitlin Clark, Michelle Hyman

Critical Ecology in Family Therapy: Space, Place, and Just Practice

*Teresa McDowell**

4. Integrating Self of the Therapist Work in Family Therapy Training

Moderator: Charles Etta Sutton

Training for Connection: Effects of the Person of the Therapist Training (POTT) on the Therapeutic Relationship

Alba Nino

Resolving Conflicts in Families and Beyond

Jay Uhler

5. Strengthening the Ecology of Relational Resilience

Moderator: Karen Skerrett

The Varied Patterns of Family Resilience in Challenging Contexts

Michael Ungar

Systemic Perspectives on Shame and Humiliation

Carlos Sluzki

6. Attending to the Relational and Emotional Needs of Military Families

Moderator: John Lawless

The Impact of Parental Deployment: Experiences of National Guard Kids

Amanda Reedy

Development and Delivery of a Relationship and Parenting Education Program for Student Veterans

Frank Sories, Christine Skow, Michael Hall

7. Healing Trauma from a Systemic and Relational Perspective

Moderator: Jane Ariel

Healing Trauma: Connecting Self, Family, Communities,

and Culture

Linda Stone-Fish, Mary Jo Barrett

Prepped to Change: A Model for Promoting Change in Public Systems Service Delivery

Ken Epstein, Kaytie Speziale

8. Strengthening Relational Connections within Stepfamilies

Moderator: Richard Chasin

Becoming a Stepfamily: How we Help
Patricia Papernow

Strengthening Stepfamilies: One Subsystem at a Time
Scott Browning

9. Understanding the Contextual Worlds of Youth

Moderator: Monique Willis

Understanding Sibling Relationships for Youth in Foster Care

Armeda Wojciak, Nathan Hough, Jenna Benoit, Bryan Range

Has Minority become a Risk Factor? Client-Centered Approaches towards Empowering Black Male Youth
Danielle Moye

10. Supervising from a Multicultural Perspective

Moderator: Jodie Kliman

How does Oppression Training for Therapists Impact Clinical Interactions for Clients?
Laurel Salmon

Experiences & Perceptions of Supervisees and Supervisors: Diverse Perspectives on Diversity Conversations
Shruti Poulsen, Robert Allan, Diane Estrada, Alan McLuckie

11. Multiverse: Cultural Responsive Practices in Family Therapy

Moderator: Lana Kim

Cultural Sensibility in Medical Family Therapy
Kyle Horst, Elise Cole

Creating Spaces for Counter-Practices with Families: Honoring “Local Knowledge” vs. Reifying “Expert Language”
Monica Sesma-Vazquez, Barbara Pickering, Tom Strong, Shari Couture

*These presenters have published in the AFTA Springer Briefs Series.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

3:00 – 3:30 PM

PLENARY II

3:30 – 5:30 PM

A Nation in Denial: Coming to Terms with Our Racial Biography

Presenters: Kenneth V. Hardy, Kiran Arora

Moderator: Mudita Rastogi

The Enduring, Invisible, and Ubiquitous Centrality of Whiteness

Presenter: Kenneth V. Hardy

We are indeed a nation in denial, especially when taking a critical look at our racial biography is at task. We see what we look for and thus are only capable of seeing what we want to see. Invariably, the ‘what’ we see is so often dictated by the ‘who’ that is looking. The myriad of racially based heart warming, feel good slogans and clichés that we have historically relied upon, only serve to nurture our sense of collective denial. “We are a land of immigrants,” “we are a melting pot,” and “we want to celebrate and honor diversity” are all notions that engender feelings of oneness, inclusion, and a sense of belongingness. The latest declaration that we, as a nation, are at the dawning of a new day of post-racialism is the expression of our affinity for inclusive language that masks our ongoing practices and denial. While each of us can undoubtedly point to obvious signs of racial progress in terms of both the optics and demographics, yet the enduring and invisible force that stifles global change with regards to race remains unscathed and unacknowledged. That force is... the centrality of whiteness. The objectives of the keynote address are to provide participants with: (1) a comprehensive overview of the subtle but pervasive ways in which the centrality of whiteness permeates our lives; (2) a deconstruction of how the centrality of whiteness undermines our quest for racial and social justice; and (3) strategies for de-centering whiteness as an act of social justice.



Kenneth V. Hardy is professor of family therapy at Drexel University in Philadelphia, and is director of The Eikenberg Institute for Relationships in NYC, where he facilitates the “Many Complexities of Race Series,” which sponsors monthly workshops designed to foster meaningful and progressive conversations about race. He is a former member of the AFTA Board of Directors and is a past recipient of the AFTA Social Justice Award. Kenneth is co-author of *Revisioning Family Therapy: Race, Class, and Gender* (with Monica McGoldrick); *Teens Who Hurt: Clinical Interventions for Breaking the Cycle of Violence* (with Tracey Laszloffy); and *Minorities and Family Therapy* (with Betty MacKune-Karrer, George Saba).

The Racialization of Religion: Being Brown in a Post-9/11 World

Presenter: Kiran S.K. Arora

The attacks on 9/11 have forever changed life for many people. While this tragedy and subsequent political events are often thought of as markers for the “war on terror,” the everyday grind of being Brown in America has gone largely unnoticed. There has been an increase in xenophobic rhetoric for religious

communities such as Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, and Jains. Arabs and South Asians have become targets of hate crimes, including physical assault and murder, because of their perceived association with the enemy, or “terrorists.” The racialization of religion occurs when specific religions become identified by racial characteristics such as skin color and hair. Religious markers such as the Hijab or Turban further exacerbate the “othering” of people. Arabs and South Asians have become identified not because of their values and beliefs, but because of the color of their skin and what this represents to the Eurocentric norm. Today to be Brown in America, lends itself to being identified with the “foreign enemy,” and to be impacted by a national disease, Islamaphobia. Those who have experienced this prejudice have suffered deeply. Daily lives are too often marked with emotional and physical assaults due to their appearance and profiling. Participants will be able to: (1) examine the racialization of religion as it pertains to Arab and South Asian communities; (2) understand the lived experience by examining evidence of ongoing assaults and the impact this has had on well-being; and (3) employ strategies for working with these communities in an effort to promote resiliency and empowerment.



Mudita Rastogi is professor at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology, Argosy University, Schaumburg, IL. She is also program director for the SAMHSA-funded minority fellowship program at AAMFT, and maintains a clinical practice in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Mudita earned her Ph.D. in MFT from Texas Tech University, and a master’s in

psychology from University of Bombay. She has published and presented extensively in the areas of multicultural couple and family therapy, South Asian clients, parenting, gender, trauma, and training. A former Associate Editor for the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, she is currently on the Board of several journals, and has edited *Multicultural Couple Therapy* (2009) and *Voices of Color* (2005). Mudita has amassed clinical experience in both India and the U.S. with highly diverse clients.

Please see **Kiran Arora’s** bio on page 9.

CATCH THE BUS TO SPECIAL EVENT!

5:30 – 6:30 PM

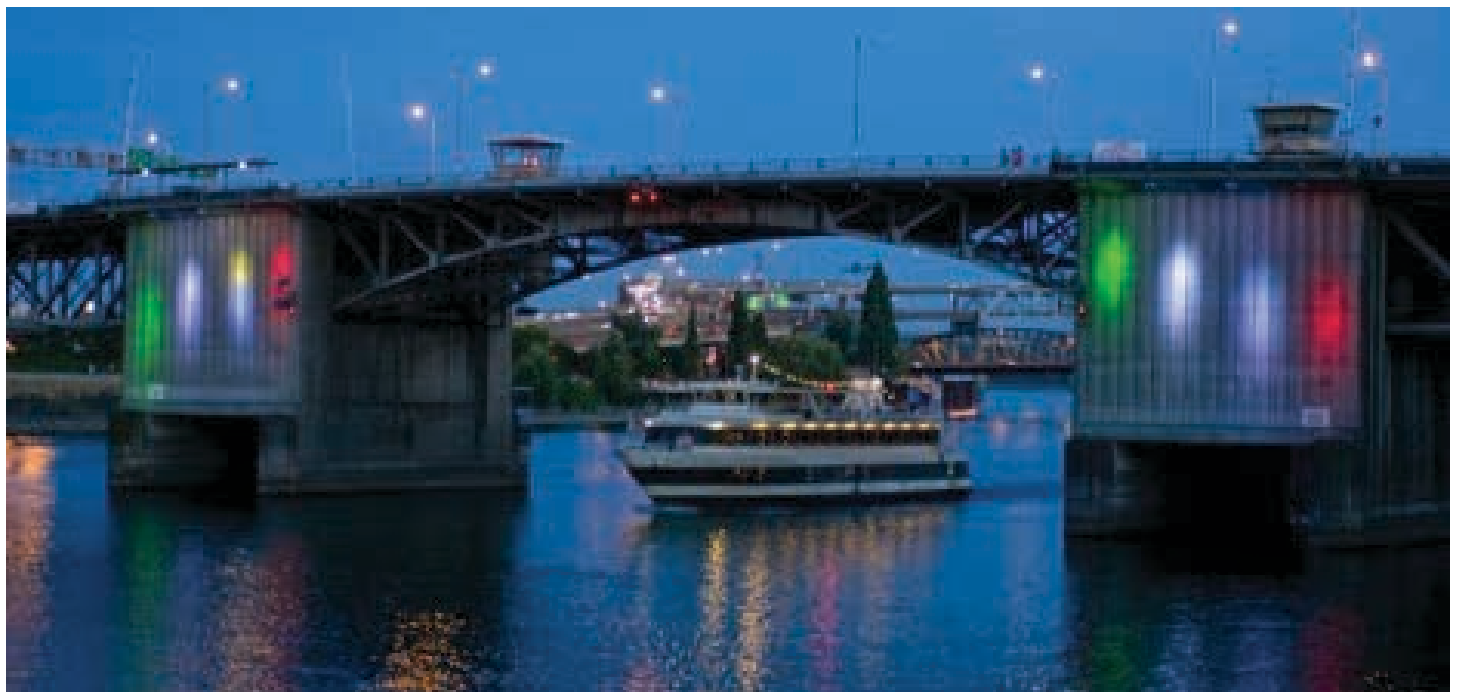
Meet in the lobby of the hotel and we will board buses to take us down to the Portland Spirit dock.

SPECIAL EVENT

6:30 – 10:00 PM (Boarding is from 6:30 to 7:00 PM)

Join us for an evening on the Portland Spirit for a Dinner Cruise! A vibrant setting enhanced by dazzling city sights and city lights. An evening filled to the brim with festive cuisine, locally sourced and prepared fresh on board, entertainment, and live performances. This is the ultimate Portland experience.

Tickets can be purchased on the registration form and **cannot be purchased last minute**. Directions will be provided in on-site materials.



The Portland Spirit

Friday, June 5

Schedule of Events and Sessions

CENTERING PRACTICE

7:00 – 7:30 AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

7:30 – 8:30 AM (open to all attendees)

Served with Plenary

PLENARY III – RESEARCH

8:30 – 10:30 AM

Mindfulness, Research, and Practice

Presenters: Diane Gehart, Eric McCollum

Moderator: Liz Brenner

Diane Gehart will present a definition of mindfulness-based interventions (MBI's), review the associated evidence base, and provide an overview of their use in individual, couple, family and group therapy contexts.

Eric McCollum will explore issues of concern about mindfulness-based interventions including:

- ◆ Are there negative outcomes for MBI's?
- ◆ Are there contraindications for MBI's?
- ◆ What are the implications of treating a spiritual practice as a psychotherapeutic technique?
- ◆ What have we lost in leaving out the other aspects of Buddha's eight-fold path – wisdom and ethics?
- ◆ Does it only matter if it shows up on an fMRI?
- ◆ Do MBI's represent the "upper middle way" – that is, a practice only accessible to upper class non-minority practitioners?
- ◆ What are the qualifications for providing MBI's to clients?

Participants will learn: (1) The definition of MBI's; (2) The evidence base for regular mindfulness practice, including psychological, physical health, and relational benefits; (3) Neurological changes and benefits related to mindfulness practice; and (4) Issues of concern and developing issues concerning MBI's.



Diane Gehart is a professor in the marriage and family therapy program at California State University, Northridge and has a private practice in Agoura Hills, California. She has authored several books including *Mindfulness and Acceptance in Couple and Family Therapy*, *Mastering Competencies in Family Therapy*, and *The Complete MFT Core Competency*

Assessment System, and co-edited *Collaborative Therapy: Relationships and Conversations that Make a Difference*. You can learn more about her at www.dianegehart.com and YouTube. Diane has

written on postmodern therapies, mindfulness, mental health recovery, sexual abuse treatment, gender issues, children and adolescents, client advocacy, qualitative research, and education in family therapy. She speaks internationally, having given workshops to professional and general audiences in the United States, Canada, Europe, and Mexico. Diane's work has been featured in newspapers, radio shows, and television worldwide. She is an associate faculty member at three international post-graduate training institutes: the Taos Institute, Houston Galveston Institute, and the Marburg Institute for Collaborative Studies in Germany. Additionally, Diane is an active leader in state and national professional organizations. She maintains a private practice in Agoura Hills, California, specializing in couples, families, trauma, life transitions, and difficult to treat cases.



Eric McCollum is delighted to be presenting a morning on mindfulness with Diane Gehart at the 2015 AFTA Annual Conference. One of his beliefs—as well as his experience—about mindfulness practice for therapists is that it provides a solid foundation for our work. At the same time, there are a number of questions that are arising in the field

about how best to integrate this traditional practice. Eric hopes to tackle some of those questions. He has had a meditation practice for more than 30 years in the vipassana tradition, including several meditation retreats and study retreats. Professionally, Eric is professor and program director of the marriage and family therapy program at Virginia Tech's Northern Virginia Center in the greater Washington, DC area. He previously taught in the MFT doctoral program at Purdue University and worked for 12 years as a staff member at The Menninger Clinic in Topeka, KS. Eric has introduced a focus on mindfulness into the master's level graduate program that he directs and he has a particular interest in the application of mindfulness practices to mental health treatment and the training of therapists.



Liz Brenner is the director of Therapy Training Boston, which provides continuing education that refuels and inspires mental health professionals in the tradition of the Family Institute of Cambridge. She is the co-chair of the Mindfulness and Family Therapy Interest Group for the American Family Therapy

Academy. In her role as a teaching associate for Harvard Medical School, Liz provides training for child psychiatrists in the couple and family therapy program at Cambridge Health Alliance. She has 30 years of experience working in child psychiatric inpatient, home-based, and private practice settings. Liz's clinical work and teaching integrates family systems, mindfulness, attachment, trauma, and recovery orientations. She holds specialized training as a Level 2 LifeForce Yoga, IFS, and EMDR practitioner. The passion that Liz has about working effectively with difficult problems is rooted in holding the complexity of her family experience growing up with a father affected by Bipolar Disorder.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:30 – 11:00 AM

INTEREST GROUP

11:00 AM – 12:20 PM

Coordinators: David Landsman-Wohlsifer, Jeffrey Landsman-Wohlsifer

Mindfulness and Family Therapy

Chair: Liz Brenner

Presenters: Eric McCollum, Diane Gehart

This discussion will extend the learning from Eric McCollum and Diane Gehart's keynotes through conversation, collegial support, connection and consultation related to integrating mindfulness practices in our work. We will break into groups to reflect on the presentations, developing themes and questions for discussion with Diane and Eric. Participants will ponder and share what moved them, piqued their curiosity as well as what they are most excited about in their own relevant work. In addition to discussion, we will be led in and reflect on two mindfulness exercises that can be used with families and couples. Participants will learn to: (1) practice and reflect on two brief mindfulness practices that can be used with couples and families; (2) share their own and learn new strategies from one another for incorporating mindful awareness practices with couples and families; and (3) describe two ways of integrating mindfulness awareness practices that they learned from the discussion and practice in the meeting.

DIALOGUES

11:00 AM – 12:20 PM

Coordinator: Volker Thomas

Two or more experts will present their perspectives on various topics. They will follow up with questions for each other. The moderator will facilitate a conversation between the presenters and between the presenters and the audience.

1. Be the Change: Nurturing Connections and Directions for the Future

Moderator: Yajaira Curiel

Participants: André Brown, Paulette Hines, Naveen Jonathan, Lana Kim, Jay King, David Landsman-Wohlsifer, Monique Walker, Froma Walsh, Hinda Winawer

The purpose of this dialogue is to create an interchange of perspectives within and between student/early career professionals and seasoned career professionals. Utilizing a fishbowl design, a group of student/early career professionals will share ideas and directions for the field of couple and family therapy with seasoned career professionals to promote connection and create a cross-generational dialogue about the way forward.

André Brown: Every generation is faced with its own unique challenges. Oftentimes, it becomes difficult for like-minded people to develop a vision and to understand each other because there is no forum for dialogue and opportunity to share strategies

of resistance and resilience. In order to move forward, there must be some consideration of the past. I hope to be a bridge builder and connect what was, what's right now, and what is to come.

Paulette Hines: This intergenerational dialogue about directions for the field couldn't be better timed! AFTA recently revised our vision and mission statements and, under the leadership of our new Executive Director, will be actively working to formulate a multi-year strategic plan to expand our organization's visibility and influence on the field and the general public. Conversations between members about how we, as family therapy educators, therapists, researchers, and larger system interventionists believe we can utilize our expertise, resources, linkages, interests, and creativity to make a difference promises to be a rich and invaluable process.

Naveen Jonathan: As a professional who is early in his career, I find that it is of vital importance to have opportunities to dialogue with others in the field who are further in their career as well as those that are also in a similar place as myself. I believe dialogue on any level is transforming as it allows the opportunity to exchange ideas, share one's experience and also gain perspective. I look forward to this dialogue to share my thoughts and experiences in my early career stage as well as gain knowledge and insight from seasoned career professionals in the field.

Lana Kim: As an early career member, MFT professor, and clinician, I believe that a cross-generational dialogue is important because it can lead to creative exchange of insights and ideas amongst professionals with varying backgrounds of experience. I believe the future of the field is shaped in part by dialogues happening in the present, and the more diverse the voices are, the greater potential there is for continuity as well as innovation and change. I hope to contribute my viewpoints and learn from colleagues in my generation as well as those from more seasoned clinicians and scholars that have already helped lay the groundwork for current directions in our field.

Jay King: As a Taoist we believe that "the teacher is the (a) student" (they are one) and the process works best when there is harmonious exchange between the two and they are both committed to learning from each other. The one only exist in the context of the other. The same is true about the past and the present. They are best understood in the context of each other. The past makes sense only in the context of the future and the future is best understood in the context of the past. Wisdom requires the harmonious interaction and balancing of the two, teacher and student, present and past.

David Landsman-Wohlsifer: It is very exciting to have the opportunity to learn from colleagues in a cross-generational context. I am curious to see what lies in the space between the generations: how we overlap, how we differ, and where we meet.

Monique Walker: I believe this dialogue is important because, as student/early career members, we are well aware of the wisdom that we can and glean from leaders and seasoned scholars in our field. As family therapy scholars, practitioners, and educators, we

also believe in reciprocity, collaboration, and inter-generational transmission of knowledge and experiences. This dialogue will allow student/early career members and seasoned career professionals to engage in a bi-directional exchange of experience, insight, wisdom, hopes, and ideas about the future and sustainability of the family therapy field.

Froma Walsh: I care deeply about the future of our field. I'm most interested in listening to the perspectives, aims, and creative ideas of students and early career professionals and engaging in a fruitful dialogue to nurture our connections and support positive future directions.

Hinda Winawer: I am honored to participate in the intergenerational dialogue. It is vital to the future of AFTA, for the field, and for the families with whom we are in consultation. I am particularly interested in the continued integration of social justice with critical systemic thinking and practice. We are not a political action organization, but what is the meaning of our clinical work in the political context?



Yajaira S. Curiel is a doctoral candidate at Drexel University in Couple and Family Therapy. She is adjunct faculty at Palo Alto University and is Alum of the SAMHSA/AAMFT Minority Fellowship program. Yajaira is passionate about working with marginalized individuals and families from a social justice paradigm and training future generations of

family therapists.

2. Publication in Couple and Family Therapy

Moderator: Jay Lebow

Participants: Russ Crane, Fred Piercy, Reenee Singh, Volker Thomas

This dialogue features the editors of several of the most of the prominent English language journals in couple and family therapy: *Family Process*, *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy*, *Journal of Family Therapy*, and *Contemporary Family Therapy*. The various editors will respond to a series of questions about the publication process, how papers are submitted and reviewed, emerging trends in publication, and about the state of publication in couple and family therapy.

Russ Crane is a professor of marriage and family therapy at Brigham Young University. Editor of *Contemporary Family Therapy*, author or coeditor of five books including: *Medical Family Therapy: Advanced Applications*; *Handbook of Families and Work*; *Handbook of Families and Poverty*; *Handbook of Families and Health and Fundamentals of Marital Therapy*. His work has been published in Portuguese, German, and Czech. Russ received the 2007 AAMFT Cumulative Contributions to Marriage and Family Therapy Research Award. He is also a Fellow, an Approved Supervisor, and Clinical Fellow in AAMFT. Russ is a former Chair of

the AAMFT's Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education.

Fred Piercy is professor of family therapy at Virginia Tech and is the editor of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, the flagship journal of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). He has written over 170 published journal articles and book chapters, five books, and 43 funded grants. Fred has won national, university, and college teaching awards, as well as college awards for administration, outreach, and graduate student advising. He is the recipient of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award of AFTA, AAMFT's 2007 Outstanding Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy Award, and NCFR's 2013 Kathleen Briggs Graduate Student Advising Award.

Reenee Singh, editor of the *Journal of Family Therapy*, is a consultant systemic psychotherapist, currently working independently as a clinician, trainer and researcher. She is the co-director of the Family Therapy and Systemic Research Centre at the Tavistock Centre and University of East London. Reenee teaches and supervises research at the Tavistock, the Institute of Family Therapy, the Anna Freud Centre, and the Tavistock Centre for Couple Relationships. She presents her work at national and international conferences and has published two books and numerous papers in the areas of 'race,' culture, and qualitative research.

Volker Thomas is professor and coordinator of the couple and family therapy doctoral program at the University of Iowa. Originally from Germany, he coordinates a doctoral CFT program that focuses on social justice research, teaching, and clinical practice. Volker's main research interests are in the area of interventions with at-risk families with young children, multicultural couple therapy, and LGBTQ issues, specifically family support of transgender persons during their transition. From 1998-2002, he was Editor-in-Chief of the *AFTA Newsletter* and currently serves as Editor of the *Journal of Couple and Relationship Therapy*. He is the President-Elect of AFTA.



Jay Lebow is clinical professor of psychology and a senior therapist at the Family Institute at Northwestern and Northwestern University. He is editor in chief of the journal *Family Process*. Jay is author or editor of 9 books including the recent *Couple and Family Therapy* and the forthcoming *Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy* and *Handbook of Family Therapy*. He has engaged in clinical practice, supervision, and research on couple and family therapy for over 30 years. Jay served for many years on AFTA's Board of Directors and last year received AFTA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

He has engaged in clinical practice, supervision, and research on couple and family therapy for over 30 years. Jay served for many years on AFTA's Board of Directors and last year received AFTA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

AFTA AWARDS LUNCHEON

12:30 – 1:50 PM

Join us for the celebration of the AFTA 2015 Awardees, which

includes a lunch buffet. One event ticket is included with every full registration. Please RSVP by checking the box on the registration form. Also sign up for any additional lunch tickets on the registration form.

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Coordinators: *Christiana Awosan & Shruti Poulsen*

12. A Systemic Look at the Relational Lives of LGBT and Interracial Couples and Families

Moderator: *Jean Malpas*

Therapy with Gay Father Families: A Focus on Prejudice, Couple Dynamics, and Parenting

Robert-Jay Green, Ritchie Rubio, Kim Bergman, Katie Katuzny

How does Forgiveness Help LGBT and Interracial Couple Relationships and their Families Integrate Meaning?

Gita Seshadri, Nancy Deatrick

13. Discourse on Power and Privilege in Social and Relational Contexts

Moderator: *Mary Jo Barrett*

Empowering Couples to Counter Societal Discourses: Power, Context, and the Social Construction of Emotion
Carmen Knudson-Martin, Melissa Wells*, Sarah Samman**

DSM-5 and Social Justice Conversations

Olga Sutherland, Shari Couture, Tom Strong, Andrea Lamarre, Laura Hardt

14. Living in Two Worlds: Impact on Mental and Relational Well-being

Moderator: *Melissa Elliott*

Latino Skin Color: The Role of Discrimination, Racial Identity, and Parental Racial Socialization on Self-Esteem and Depression

Ana Hernandez

Family Therapy: The East-West Blend

Karen Quek, Hao-Min Chen

15. Ability and Physical Health in Family Therapy

Moderator: *Robert Carroll*

Integrating Fat Studies into Mental Health Training Programs

Sheila Addison

16. The Need for Context: Healing Couples' Relational Dynamics

Moderator: *Shruti Poulsen*

The Sequencing of Interventions in Comprehensive Couple Therapy

Arthur Nielsen

Building Health Connection: Unmasking Racial Trauma in Heterosexual Black Couples

Christiana Awosan

17. Container of Hope: Meaningful Practices in Healing Complex Social Trauma

Moderator: *Kaethe Weingarten*

Bridging Culture and Theory: Adapting Restoration

Therapy with Cambodian Refugee Clients

Miyoung Hammer, Pisey Sok

Helping Palestinian and Israeli Youth Connect through Reflective Dialogue and Art: An Outcome Study of the Artsbridge Institute

Jodie Kliman

18. Bridging Gaps: Research and Meditation in Family Therapy

Moderator: *Anibal Torres Bernal*

Research as Daily Practice

Dan Wulff, Sally St. George, Karl Tomm

Meditation as a Relational Practice

Jerry Gale

19. We are All Affected: Placing Trauma within Social-Relational Context

Moderator: *John Sargent*

Poverty as Collective Trauma

Michal Shamai

When Therapists Work as Agents of Social Control: Working with Court-Ordered Clients from a Social Justice Perspective

Marcie Lechtenberg

20. Collective Trauma: Healing Invisible Wounds in our Relational Lives

Moderator: *Rebecca Ross*

Educated Children of Immigrants: Their Reality of Confusion, Marginalization, and Marginality on a Continuum

Patricia Murillo, Martha Morgan, Narumi Taniguchi

Systemic Constellations: Making Invisible Connections Visible

Linda Longo-Lockspeiser

21. Understanding the Experiences of Transgender Clients in Mental Health

Moderator: *Naveen Jonathan*

Bridging the Gap: Standards of Care and the Therapeutic Relationship when Working with Transgender Clients

Allen Mallory, Jenny Brown

Research Ethics and the Development of Trans-Affirmative Research Practices Guided by the Feminist Decision-Making Model: An Examination of Gender Minorities and the Transgender Experience in Mental Health

Jenna Benoit, Frank Sories

22. Creating Healing Connections: Experiential Interventions in working with Families and Couples

Moderator: Patricia Papernow

Voice of Anger vs. Voice of Pain: A Couple's Journey to Discover their Voices, Heal Affairs, and Restore Safety
Dorimar Morales

Cultural Competence and Same-Sex Couple Therapy Interventions
Janie Long, Daniel Kort

*These presenters have published in the AFTA Springer Briefs Series.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

3:30 – 4:00 PM

JOINT FORUM

4:00 – 6:00 PM

The Interface Between Race, Social Policy, The Criminal Justice System, and Family Intervention

Chairs: Larry Levner, Ramón Rojano

Presenters: Dustin Washington, Deborah Peterson Small, Laurel Salmon

Moderator: CharlesEtta T. Sutton

At this moment of history, we find large populations of families of color either with a member in prison, a previously incarcerated member at home or living in fear of family members being unjustly incarcerated. Overwhelming disparities; the increase in mass incarceration beginning during the war on drugs, mass incarceration as a continuation of the Jim Crow mentality woven through the fabric of our society, inferior education and the use of suspension and expulsion oppress people of color as well as the economically disadvantaged. Such structural racism has had a huge impact on children and families, only to be tragically compounded by draconian punishments. Statistically speaking, we are talking about an “epidemic” of millions of people that requires immediate attention. The criminal justice system as unjust and the emotional sequela are matters that have already invaded family life and clinical practice.

The Joint Forum will examine the role of structural racism in law enforcement/legal/prison systems as well as the effects on children, families and communities from clinical, human rights and social policy perspectives. Policy concerns and social justice efforts to counter the trend toward funneling children of color into juvenile and criminal justice systems as well as policy issues related to the incarceration of adults of color. Panelists will speak about direct service and therapy both for families directly

involved in these systems and for families whose lives are contextualized by them.

Forum Goals: (1) Understand the implications of racism for family therapy and interventions and highlight the importance of serving disenfranchised populations; (2) Understand racism as the backdrop for enforcement and imprisonment; (3) Learn about the implications of social policy and its effect on these populations and interventions; and (4) Explore potential opportunities for AFTA's involvement.'



Laurel Salmon is a licensed marriage and family therapist at Steinway Child and Family Services in New York City, where she runs a weekly oppression supervision group for interns. She received her master's in marriage and family therapy from Mercy College and is an adjunct professor in their behavioral science

department. Laurel is an experienced public speaker and trainer on topics of oppression. She is a facilitator in the New York Model Batterer Program. Laurel's passion is teaching about oppression and specifically focusing on how it relates to the helping professions. She is committed to furthering the integration of oppression theory into mainstream clinical practice. Laurel will present two vignettes and will discuss how the complicated relationships that people of color have with the justice system play a very large role in the clinical work we do. She will focus on the questions we need to ask ourselves as clinicians to make sure we have a thorough understanding of the complexities of this dynamic as well as any other oppressions impacting our clients.



Dustin Washington is director of the Community Justice program with the American Friends Service Committee, associate professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health, interim manager of the City of Seattle's Race and Social Justice Initiative, and an international core-trainer with the Peoples Institute Northwest. He coordinates the Tyree Scott Freedom School Project, Youth Undoing

Institutional Racism, and a juvenile justice transformation project, End the Prison Industrial Complex. Dustin provides training to schools, incarcerated men, health/mental health professionals, non-profit organizations, and religious communities. He has been a featured speaker at numerous universities and world forums, including the World Social Forum in Brazil and the Nobel Laureate Summit in Warsaw. Dustin will discuss: (1) the School to Prison Pipeline focusing on Black youth, within the context of the Prison Industrial Complex; (2) the Tyree Scott Freedom School Project that trains youth in the analysis and undoing of structural racism; and (3) a juvenile justice transformation project that engages youth in activism against racist government and corporative policies and initiatives.



Deborah Peterson Small has dedicated her professional life to advocacy for social justice and human rights. She founded Break the Chains: Communities of Color and the War on Drugs, a public policy research and advocacy organization committed to addressing the disproportionate impact of punitive

drug policies on poor communities of color: its goal to replace failed drug polices with alternatives based in science, compassion, public health and human rights. Deborah studied alternative legal education at the City College of New York and obtained a dual degree in law and public education from Harvard University. Deborah will talk about how the American culture of punishment and the repercussions impact the way we frame problems. She will discuss the negative consequences of the “illusion” of white privilege on white America and how this “illusion” reinforces the culture of punishment. Deborah will address the need to reframe these issues by embracing a culture of love.



CharlesEtta T. Sutton is a facilitator, trainer, consultant, program developer and author who applies her expertise with a focus on prevention, spiritual well being, health promotion and social justice. She is most noted for her mastery in Train the Trainer work and facilitation. Having retired as director of training at the New Jersey University of

Medicine and Dentistry Office of Prevention Services and Research, CharlesEtta is principal of CTS Group Sutton & Associates, faculty and clinical supervisor at Center For Family Community and Social Justice, founding faculty of the MultiCultural Family Institute, faculty of Turtle Island Project and master facilitator with the International Black Summit. She brings an irrepressible “joie de vivre” to her work that is infectious to all who are fortunate enough to experience it.



Lawrence Levner has been a social worker for 40 years. His experience includes community organizing, community mental health, family and individual therapy. Larry was a supervisor, clinical director and executive director of the Family Therapy Practice

Center (1984-2006). He continues to consult to community and mental health organizations and has a private therapy practice. Larry has worked with families, trained and consulted to staff at Sasha Bruce Youthwork since 1984. He is co-chair of AFTA’s Family Policy/Human Rights Committee. Larry has authored “A ‘Dysfunctional Triangle’ or Love in all the Right Places: a Family Living with AIDS,” in Working with the Dying and Bereaved and “The Three Career Family,” in Couple Therapy in the New Age. Larry’s interests include the social context of family life, feminism, and social/political issues affecting families.



Ramón Rojano, chair of the Cultural and Economic Diversity Committee, is the former director of health and human services in Wake County, NC. He is an adjunct professor of public health at the University of North Carolina, professor of family therapy at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Cali, Colombia, and a certified professional coach. Ramón is the

creator of the Community Family Therapy and the Middle Class Express concepts. He has been an AFTA member since 1997. Ramón primarily works on developing integrated health, mental health and social systems to facilitate the transformation and development of low-income populations.

POSTER RECEPTION AND BOOK SIGNING

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Coordinators: Armeda Wojciak & Jacob Priest (Posters), Kim Cox (Books)

Authors will be present to discuss their books and to sign and sell copies. In the same space, the Poster Reception will gather posters featuring clinical work and research on couples and family therapy, larger systems, training and supervision from AFTA members and non-AFTA members from around the world.

If you are an Author that wants to bring and sign books at this event, please contact Kim Cox at the AFTA Office, afta@afta.org.

Posters:

Facilitating Conversations on Multiculturalism and Social Justice

Fatin Alhadi, Sarah Tannenbaum

The Dynamic Family Functioning Instrument: A Preliminary Exploration

Cathleen Morey, Beth Turner

Decolonizing the Psychiatric Ethos: Family Therapists’ Responses to Self-Diagnosed Clients

Monica Sesma-Vazquez, Sally St. George, Dan Wulff

Relational Therapy and Aesthetics: Interaction & Engagement

Shruti Poulsen, Priya Wittman

The Challenges of Transition: A New Home for the Elder

Naveen Jonathan, Farhat Chaudhry

The Impact of Childhood Abuse on Family Obligation in Middle-Adulthood

Elizabeth Parker, Candice Maier, Armeda Wojciak

Integrating a Social Justice Perspective into CBFT: A Critical Look at Family Schema Formation

Elizabeth Parker, Teresa McDowell

Stories Bridging the Past to the Present in the Lives of the Elderly

Farhat Chaudhry, Dorothy O'Neill

Are Recent Directions in Couple Therapy Development Appropriate for African American Couples?

Cherelle Carrington

Intimate Partner Violence: Barriers to Help – Seeking among Older Women

Cherelle Carrington, Richard Beaulaurier

Nationality: Unexplored Factor in Family Therapy Practice

Asmaa Alotaiby

Siblings in Foster Care: A Protective Factor

Armeda Wojciak

Family Functioning and Treatment Completion in the African American Population

Taimyr Strachan, Jacob Priest

Gender in CFT in Classrooms: Female Perspectives

Karen Quek, Martha Morgan, Christie Eppler

Resilient Cultural Competency

Christie Eppler, Martha Morgan

Using Creative Assessments to Promote Social Justice

Christie Eppler

Social Exchange Theory: Negotiation of Visibility among Gay Couples Living with HIV

Sohei Fujita

Addressing the Needs of Military Children through Family-Based Play Therapy

Frank Sories, Candice Maier, Andrew Beer, Volker Thomas

Intergenerational Connections in Context: Chinese American Christians in Family and Community

Jessica ChenFeng*

Multicultural Supervision: Creating Conversations Regarding Diversity

Nilou Tohidian, Karen Quek

Case Study Analysis of Emotionally Focused Therapy in the Context of Substance Abuse

Kara Fletcher, Heather MacIntosh

Learning from Supervisee and Supervisors' Experiences in MFT Supervision

Jenna Scott, Armeda Wojciak, Cassandra Lettenberger-Klein, Amy Claridge

Adolescent Substance Use: A Phenomenological Study of Caregivers' Experience

Jenna Scott

Diversity and Common Humanity: Finding the Balance in Training and Clinical Work

Alba Nino

Exploring Gender Disparities in COAMFTE Programs: Women Funnel In, Men Funnel Up

Anibal Torres Bernal, Kimdy Le, Joan Poulsen

Outreach to Undergraduates: Building a Future

Janie Long, Daniel Kort

Current Trends in the Development of Family Therapy in Israel: The Dilemmas of Over-Professionalization and Under-Professionalization

Chaya Possick

Familial Influences on Developing a Biracial Identity

Dana Stone

Feminist Informed EFT: How Insecure Attachment can be seen as a Way of Coping with Systemic Oppression

Elisabeth Wilson*, Gemma Stille

“What you Workin’ with:” Sexting and the Self-Production of Pornography

Andraé Brown, Tierra Ellis, Darryl Harding

Parenting Transgender Children: Experiences with Extended Family

Kristen Benson, Dawn Baldwin

Child Maltreatment and Risk Behaviors: The Roles of Callous/Unemotional Traits and Conscientiousness

Matthew Carlson, Assaf Oshri

Clinical Implications for Nurturing Attunement in Couples Suffering from Infidelity

Kirstee Williams*, Dana Daugherty

Transforming Frustration into Possibility: A Model for Understanding and Navigating Complex Systems in a Changing Landscape

Madeleine Abrams, Daniel Patterson

Empowering Couples to Counter Societal Discourses: The Neurobiology of Re-Positioning

Elsie Lobo*, Carmen Knudson-Martin*

Between Pink & Blue: Supporting Families of Gender Expansive Youth

Jean Malpas, Randi Kaufman, Astin Brown, Rebecca Ross

Shame, Gender Role, and Alexithymia in Men in Positions of Spiritual Authority: Empirical Findings and Clinical Implications

Doug Shirley

The Biobehavioral Model: Expanding the Model's Applicability with Adults by Incorporating Social Support and Allostatic Load as Additional Variables

Sarah Woods, Jacob Priest

Parent-Child Bonding and its Relationship with Suicidal Ideation and Suicide Attempts for Individuals Diagnosed with Body Dysmorphic Disorder

Jenna Benoit, Heather Morgan-Miller, Armeda Wojciak

Marital Dilemmas and Individual Desire in Secondary Infertility

Helena Prado Lopes

Couples on the Brink: Evolving Practices in Intensive Couples Therapy

Paul Maione, Melissa Bridges

Alternate Relationship Paradigms: How Couples Therapists can be Inclusivity-Informed

Melissa Bridges, Paul Maione

*These presenters have published in the AFTA Springer Briefs Series.

SPIRITUAL SERVICES

6:30 – 7:30 PM

We invite those attending the conference to take time and join with others for spiritual reflection. Others are welcome to arrange a different spiritual service gathering if desired.

Shabbat Service Conveners: Marsha Mirkin, Mona Fishbane, David Wohlsifer

SPECIAL EVENT II: STORYTELLING & POETRY NIGHT

8:00 – 10:00 PM

This year we will add another special event on Friday night that has the goal to be as inclusive as possible (at no extra cost) and provide opportunities for attendees to be creative, connect, converse, entertain and be entertained. Everybody is invited to think about personal or professional stories, poems, anecdotes that are meaningful to them and worthy of sharing with others. The stories and poems may be based on real events, life changing experiences, or mundane everyday occurrences. Over dessert and coffee/tea they can be shared sitting with a small group around a table. For courageous attendees we will have an open mic to tell stories or read poems to everybody in the audience. The goal of this special night is to get to know each other on a different level and have fun. If you would like to share your story or poem via the open mic please contact Volker Thomas, who will coordinate and host the event.

Saturday, June 6

Schedule of Events and Sessions

CENTERING PRACTICE

7:00 – 7:30 AM

BREAKFAST MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS

7:15 – 8:15 AM

Invited presidents from related organizations as well as past presidents of AFTA will be gathering for a breakfast meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7:30 – 8:30 AM

AFTA Committees that have requested meeting time will be meeting over breakfast.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

7:30 – 8:30 AM (open to all attendees)

PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY IV

8:30 – 10:30 AM

An Ecology of Mind: A Daughter's Portrait of Gregory Bateson

Presenter: Nora Bateson

Moderator: Gonzalo Bacigalupe

The ways in which we see the complexity of our world's intermingled systems impacts the way we interact and respond to the situations we find ourselves in. As observers we are part of the frame through which we make sense of the world; what we see informs what we do. How much complexity is perceivable? Can we see the interrelationships that integrate the components of a system? How do we synchronize with the processes of mutual learning and co-evolution within living systems so that we might make better decisions? When we look to make change, what questions might we ask that will deepen our understanding of what may appear as polarity? How is activism in complexity broadened to address pattern? This session will be a discussion that reflects upon some of Gregory Bateson's seminal concepts in the context of some of the issues we face currently as individuals, professionals, and concerned human beings.

Participants will learn:

1. To explore a practical application of Bateson's ideas in today's world.
2. To apply a "complexity" approach to thinking about activism.
3. To evaluate afresh the concept of the double bind and its usefulness as an analytical tool for getting unstuck.



Nora Bateson is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and educator. She wrote, directed and produced the award-winning documentary, “An Ecology of Mind,” a portrait of her father, Gregory Bateson. Nora’s work brings the fields of biology, cognition, art, anthropology, psychology, and information technology together into a study of the patterns in

ecology of living systems. She is also president of the Swedish based International Bateson Institute (IBI). Nora’s work there asks, “How can we improve our perception of the complexity we live within, so we may improve our interaction with the world?” and “How can we create a context in which to study the contexts?” The IBI integrates the sciences, arts, and professional knowledge to create a qualitative inquiry of the integration of life. A team of international thinkers, scientists and artists have been brought together to generate an innovative form of inquiry, which Nora coined “Transcontextual Research.” Her speaking engagements include a wide range of topics: anti-fascism, ecology, education, the arts, family therapy, leadership, and many more aspects of advocacy for living systems—she travels between conversations in different fields bringing multiple perspectives into view to reveal larger patterns.

Please see **Gonzalo Bacigalupe’s** bio on page 9.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:30 – 11:00 AM

MEN’S INSTITUTE

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Chairs: Jim Verser, Rob Garfield, Roger Lake

This year’s Men’s Institute again invites participation by all men attending the conference, member or not, who wishes to join those of us who are committed to a more personal and intimate way of talking with each other. We continue our efforts to create an open space where we can sit together and engage in the sharing of our lives that has become the tradition of this Institute. We are inviting men of all ages, young and old, from diverse cultural backgrounds and sexual orientations, to deepen our connections and understanding of each other. This year there will NOT be a dinner during the Institute. Since the conference concludes Saturday afternoon, the co-chairs have decided to organize an On the Town in Vancouver or Portland event on Saturday night if there is sufficient interest. More about this at the Conference.

INTEREST GROUPS

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Coordinators: David Landsman-Wohlsifer, Jeffrey Landsman-Wohlsifer

9. Film, Families, and Family Therapy

Chair: Gonzalo Bacigalupe

Nora Bateson, director of “An Ecology of Mind: A Daughter’s Portrait of Gregory Bateson” directed this film to inspire audiences to see our lives within a larger system—glistening with symmetry, play, and metaphor. She sets out to show that Bateson’s ideas are not just fodder for academic theory but can help instruct a way of life. Nora presents his thinking using a richly personal perspective, focusing on the stories reminding us of writings by family therapists exploring their own family of origin. Bateson used to present his ideas on how the beauty of life itself provided the framework of his life’s pursuits. Nora’s rediscovery of her father’s work documents the vast—and continuing—influence of Bateson’s thinking on the work of a wide range of disciplines. We hope the interest group expands on this conversation as it relates to our relational practices, training, research, as well as the intimate connection between our own family stories and our professional, scholarly, and political pursuits. Participants will learn to: (1) understand the use of metaphor in further understanding of relational and ecological thinking; (2) reflect on the value of contextual and relational ideas across disciplines; and (3) analyze the use of personal, creative, and archives, in the design of documentary film.

10. Men of Color: The Influence of Power and Intersectionality

Chairs: Jay King, Matthew Mock

By using a power lens to address challenges that emerge in our lives and in our conversations, we are hoping to deconstruct operations of “power over” in our relationships, to build “power with” each other to nurture our individual “power to” address issue of justice in our respective interconnections, personal and professional. As important work in continuous development, we aspire to develop ethical sensitivity to our process. We are men of diversity, men of color. We seek to enable all voices to be heard, and to recognize and to respond to the process of silencing, marginalizing, and idealizing as they emerge in our relationships. We aspire to respect the need to include relational connection, historical intersectionality, the insidiousness of social divisiveness, and power in our analysis, in our practice and in our relationships. Participants will: (1) Gain an increase in understanding of the manifestation of power in our personal and professional lives; (2) Heighten their awareness of power dynamics between groups and in interracial interactions; (3) Identify our intersectionality and impact on group interactions; and (4) Identify strategies among men of color and their families as well as communities to achieve equity, social justice, increased safety and abilities to thrive.

11. Couples Therapy

Chair: Mona Fishbane, Corky Becker, Martha Edwards

This year we will feature brief presentations from authors of chapters from the new edition of the Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy (Al Gurman, Jay Lebow, Doug Snyder, Eds.). Presenters: Jill Freedman, Gene Combs (narrative couple therapy); Patricia

Papernow (remarriage/stepfamily dynamics); Mona Fishbane (interpersonal neurobiology). Editors Doug Snyder and Jay Lebow will offer commentary, opening to a wider discussion about recent developments in couple therapy. We dedicate this year's interest group to the memory of Al Gurman, who pioneered an openness to multiple approaches to couple therapy through his many editions of this handbook. Participants will identify: (1) core principles of narrative therapy with couples; (2) key issues in working with stepfamilies; and (3) effective ways to integrate interpersonal neurobiology in couple therapy.

12. Families, Health, and Wellness

Chairs: John Rolland, Laura Sudano, Annie Bao

Groundbreaking advances in genomics pose unprecedented clinical and ethical dilemmas for families and healthcare professionals. Emerging research suggests that environmental interactions (epigenetics), including family processes, can affect the expression and course of genetically-influenced conditions. Using several video clips, facilitators will focus discussion on helping families with core challenges. Participants will be able to: (1) better understand major issues in decision-making about genetic testing, communication with partners and family members, and living with risk information across the life cycle; (2) develop new understandings about key themes related to cultural/belief conflicts, ethical issues and decisions (e.g. privacy vs. right to know by others at risk, fetal information); couples & childbearing; and behavioral genetics; and (3) identify family therapists' role in the "genetics" healthcare team.

13. Aging

Chairs: Randi Cowdery, Norma Scarborough

How do you help your aging clients and their families? We focus on strength-based multicultural approaches to working with elders and their families. First, in what ways are we fostering visibility and giving voice to elders? How is meaning created? Second, we explore what is working for families and caregivers of elders in residential care facilities. What support are families getting? How are multiple family groups being utilized? What else is being explored as we work with caregiver stress? Third, we are interested in education and training of therapists working with an aging population. How are we training new therapists? Participants will be able to: (1) learn ways to foster visibility and give voice to elders, pulling them out of isolation and creating meaning in their lives; (2) learn how family and caregiver support groups increase well-being among elders and their families; and (3) learn about aging and long-term care education and training models.

LUNCH

12:30 – 2:00 PM (on your own; Box lunches available, sign up on the registration form)

EARLY CAREER & STUDENT MEMBER LUNCHEON

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Martha Edwards, Aimee Galick

FACILITATED LISTENING CIRCLE

12:30 – 2:00 PM

David Trimble, Laurel Salmon

The Facilitated Listening Circle is a witnessing circle. It provides an opportunity for people who wish to share an experience during the Meeting for which they would like support, recognition, or empathy. At AFTA we are committed to respectful and inclusive participation with one another. We hold ourselves to a high standard. Sometimes someone feels hurt or excluded by the actions or attitudes of others. We wish to be accountable for any ways we hurt or exclude others and to be open to experiences that may be invisible to us. In the Circle, these difficult moments can be rendered visible, and we can increase our awareness and learn more about relating in respectful and inclusive ways.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Chair: Corky Becker

The Women's Institute has a long tradition at AFTA as a place where women share personal experiences across generations and cultures. This year the conversation will focus on how we see ourselves at this time in our lives, what we consider to be the important aspects of our identity, how family life transitions have transformed our understanding and relationship to families in therapy, and the relationship between personal experience and our role as professionals. Bring a box lunch and join us!

NEW WILDERNESS PROJECT: "BORDERLESS"

2:15 – 3:00 PM



"Borderless" is a live performance of folk and hip-hop storytelling invoking the voices of community members while focusing on the themes of creativity, compassion, courage, stewardship, and justice.

New Wilderness Project is a collaboration between Co-Founder Benjie Howard and Creative Director Wade Colwell-Sandoval who engage in an arts-based restorative process of building connection between people across barriers and borders.

PLENARY V

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Therapists' Awareness and Responsibility to Planetary Suffering: Adopting an Eco-Informed Approach to Clinical Practice

Presenter: Tracey Laszloffy

Moderator: Markie L. C. Blumer

Increasingly we are manifesting the symptoms of our domination over and extreme disconnection from nature. Despite Bateson's prophetic warning about the dangers of chopping up the ecology (literally and metaphorically), humans at large, and the field of family therapy more specifically, remain in a state of

collective denial about the suffering of the planet and the effects this is having on our lives. And yet, we still have an opportunity to do things differently. As systemically trained professionals, family therapists are uniquely situated to understand the perils of separating ourselves from nature and exploiting the earth, and we are uniquely qualified to promote the kind of healing and change that is desperately needed. This address will explore how family therapists can more fully embody our foundational systemic principles by adopting an eco-informed approach to clinical practice that will foster healing and transformation at the individual, familial, cultural and ecological levels. Participants will be able to: (1) Define the dangers of chopping up the ecology, literally and metaphorically; (2) Examine why the field of family therapy, despite its systemic foundations, has not played a more active role in connecting the suffering of the planet with more micro-level suffering; (3) Identify the original trauma and ensuing addictive responses that underpin our destructive ecological behaviors; and (4) Describe how family therapists can adopt an eco-informed approach to clinical practice that focuses on healing the trauma wounds that underpin our abuse of our planet and promoting healthier new ways of being.



Tracey A. Laszloffy is the Director of the Center for Relationship Healing in south-eastern Connecticut where she also maintains a full time private practice and serves as a faculty coach specializing in supporting faculty of color who are on the tenure track. She received her master's and doctoral degrees in marriage and

family therapy from Syracuse University in New York. Tracey has over 17 years of experience as a therapist and has been a professor of family therapy at Syracuse University, the University of Connecticut, Seton Hill University, and Alliant International University at San Diego. She has presented workshops and seminars nationally and internationally on healing the wounds of trauma and oppression, working therapeutically with marginalized populations, and promoting culturally sensitive approaches to therapy. Tracey has published extensively in academic journals and has co-authored three books. She is also a licensed MFT in three states and is an AAMFT Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor.



Markie L. C. Blumer is an associate professor in human development and family studies/marriage and family therapy at Univ. of Wisconsin-Stout, and an affiliate at Wisconsin HOPE (Harvesting Opportunities for Postsecondary Education) Lab at Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. She researches gender, relational and sexual orientation, family and ecological sustainability, and couple and family therapy technology practices. Markie recently co-authored the book, *The Couple and Family Technology Framework: Intimate Relationships in a Digital Age*.

FEEDBACK SESSION/CLOSURE OF CONFERENCE 4:30-5:30 PM

We invite all attendees to join us for the Feedback Session, where you are welcome to share about your experience at this AFTA Meeting. ■



The Center for Family, Community, & Social Justice Inc.

Teaching Healing and Empowerment through Relationships

The Faculty, Staff and Board of the Center for Family Community, & Social Justice, Inc., extend our heartfelt congratulations, love, and respect to

CharlesEtta Sutton

In honor of her award for

Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice

Thank you, Charlee, for all that you do and for how well you do it!!

AFTA CONGRATULATES THE 2015 AWARDEES



Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy
Martha Edwards



Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory & Practice
Cheryl Storm & Thomas Todd



Lifetime Achievement
Fred Piercy



Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research
Michael Rohrbaugh & Varda Shoham



Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice
CharlesEtta Sutton



Early Career
Karni Kissil

Important Program Information

Continuing Education Credits

Psychologists

This course is co-sponsored by Amedco and the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA). Amedco is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Amedco maintains responsibility for this program and its content. 22 hours.

National Association of Social Work

This course has been submitted for review to NASW in Washington, DC.

Professional and National Certified Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists (NBCC)

This program has been submitted to NBCC for review.

Letters Of Attendance

Letters of Attendance are available to meeting participants upon request (cost: \$20.00 U.S. Funds). Please contact the AFTA Office if you would like to purchase one (afta@afta.org).

Cancellation Policy

Before or on April 30, 2015, there is a \$50 processing fee for cancellations. After April 30, 2015 there is a 50% cancellation fee on all registrations.

Therapy Training Boston
in the Tradition of the Family Institute of Cambridge

WORKSHOPS

◆ **Introduction to the
Internal Family Systems Model**
Richard Schwartz, PhD on June 16 & 17

◆ **Living Now, Facing Later:
Conversations with Ourselves and Others
About What Matters**
Kaethe Weingarten, PhD on September 25 & 26

MOVIE + DISCUSSION NIGHTS

- ◆ **June 18: Within the Eye of the Storm**
- ◆ **September 25: States of Grace**

COURSES

◆ **Intensive Certificate Program in
Family Systems Therapy**
Eleven Fridays from September to June
and a weekend retreat
Director: Liz Brenner, LICSW

◆ **Master Series in Couple Therapy:
Seven *More* Approaches to
Interviewing**
The first Wednesday evening
from November to May
Director: Corky Becker, PhD

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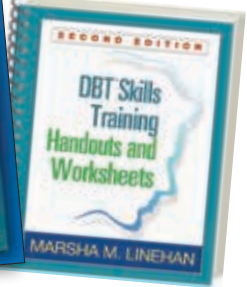
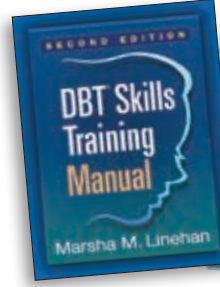
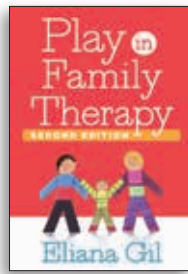
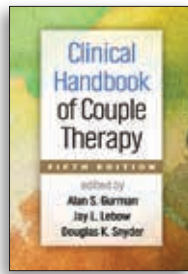
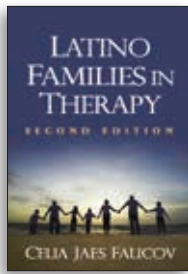
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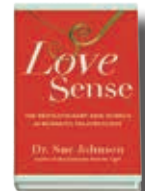
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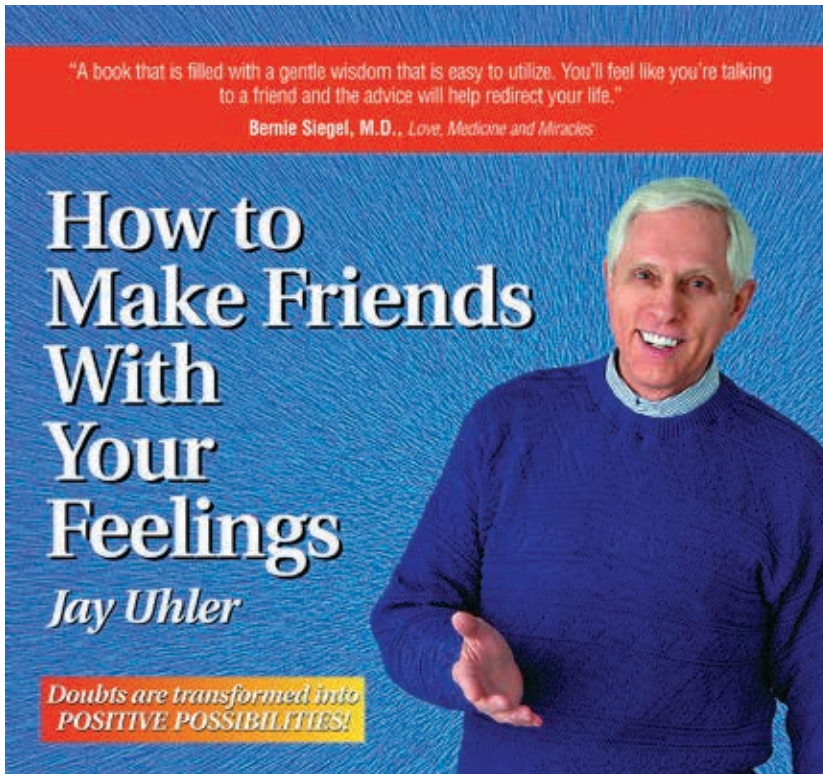
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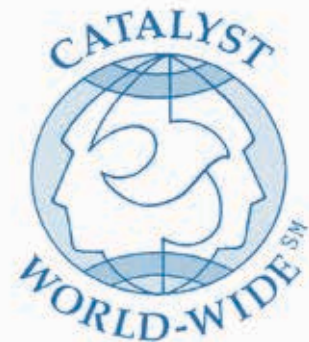
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