

# Welcome & Table of Contents

Welcome everyone! I want to tell you how excited we are about all the hard work and collaboration that has gone into the planning of the 2018 AFTA Annual Meeting. It has most definitely been a concerted effort, and we want to orient you to what is on the horizon for us as a community and what you have to look forward to. Let us also remind you of our exciting theme, *Relational Activism: Supporting Just Relationships in Family Therapy*, which has presented us with the invitation to center relationship in all things at the Annual Meeting.

When you hear the term “relational activism” and read how we are intentionally centering relationship throughout the meeting, you might be asking yourself, what does that mean? How is that different from what we’ve done before? What will it look like? What’s the purpose and the hope of doing this? These are all good questions! We don’t want to answer them completely, but would love for you to hold them close throughout the meeting. But, let’s point to a few ideas that might be useful as you sit with these questions:

Why “relational activism” and what does it mean to us?

- At times our theoretical knowledge can impose rules that shape conversations in ways that get us to rely on our expert knowledge rather than our experience of each other. We see relational activism offering ways to navigate through this tendency, particularly when engaging around challenging conversations and problematic practices. Our experience has been that relational activism allows us to move closer to each other’s experiences and vulnerabilities, inviting different kinds of conversations and practices around systemic racism, positionality and identity, elitism, and capitalistic influences.

How is this different from what we’ve done before, and what will it look like?

- Putting relationship at the center of the Annual Meeting has meant that much of the planning has been keenly attuned to create communal spaces and experiences all throughout the meeting.
  - o We have made an effort to explore an alternative plenary format, where hopefully the lines between presenter and audience member are blurred with hopes of a more conversational and less didactic space. We hope to generate opportunities for presenters, audience members, and discussants to be in conversation throughout the plenary.
  - o We want to forgo separate networking meetings and instead host a “coming together” conversation where the process of relationship will allow us to have conversations that include trust, vulnerability, questioning, struggle, and restoration.

What’s the purpose and the hope in this?

- We have hopes to position conversations both within AFTA and in our broader culture as well as:

- o Our broader world: This might be a big assumption, but let us perhaps assume that many of us recognize that we are living through some difficult days. The current political and social climate, while not entirely new, is exerting a more blatant and pronounced force that is increasingly burdening the most vulnerable and marginalized within communities across the country and even around the world. We also see places where humans continue to resist, to fight back, to demand justice. We are heartened by this, and also see places where these efforts become fractured. Movements that are built around the fight for justice and an end to various forms of oppression, fall into places of critique of others, or groups of others, who are struggling for the same. Movements are critiqued as lacking intersectionality, and some social justice advocates are being storied as not “activist” enough. There is a policing of social justice work that we experience as breaking down relationships, rather than building them up, and it is our belief, that we need each other in order to sustain the work that these times ask of us.
- o For AFTA specifically: We would imagine that each of us understands that there is a cultural backdrop of racial tension, gender inequities, enduring hetero/cisgendered norms, growing class divisions, and a persistent and nagging nationalism that impedes our ability to handle immigration humanely. Even if these have become less peripheral in our discourse and politics, they have never been fully dealt with. It makes sense to us that AFTA would also be experiencing some of these challenges. We are not immune to these larger social processes seeping into our AFTA community. The resulting disparities can be found everywhere we look, and we cannot not be impacted by these. However, there are countless openings for us to address them. Even if these are painful conversations, we have an opportunity to take a stand. So, when we as an organization get captured by racist practices or elitist practices, our desire would be that we do not see these only as failures, but as invitations for more accountability, more reflexivity, and part of the ongoing struggle to become better than we have yet been. In light of this, we believe this is where relational activism holds promise, both for the larger world and for our AFTA family. It allows us to be more mindful of stepping around theoretical critiques of people and movements while continuing to hold one another accountable to doing better. We hope that relational activism offers more space for partnering with each other to stay steadfast in the work of justice.

Justine D'Arrigo-Patrick  
Program Chair

Victoria Dickerson  
President

# Theme and Objectives of the American Family Therapy Academy 2018 Annual Meeting & Open Conference

AFTA's 2018 Annual Meeting and Open Conference gathers AFTA and non-AFTA members who are couple and family therapists, researchers, educators and others dedicated to the advancement of systemic thinking, practices and policies in the world. The theme, *Relational Activism: Supporting Just Relationships in Family Therapy*, will invite reflection on what activism in family therapy means and provide the opportunity to explore this concept from new perspectives. How we advocate for, support and sustain relationships in the contemporary era will be the central theme woven throughout the meeting. For more information on AFTA's core values and positions, please visit [www.afta.org](http://www.afta.org).

## Objectives:

- 1) To understand relational activism from varying perspectives
- 2) To become familiar with post-oppositional tactics and their application
- 3) To discover new ways to step into activist efforts.

## Target audience:

AFTA's Annual Meeting and Open Conference provides an opportunity for mental health professionals, including marriage and family therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, professional counselors, and social workers, to share the latest knowledge about relevant research, clinical best practices, and cutting-edge information in service of social justice and improving the work of mental health practitioners.

# AFTA BOARD AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Hines	-07	Wynne	87
Lois	2003	Kitty La	1984-
Braverman	-05	Perriere	85
Janine	2001-	James Framo	1982-
Roberts	03		83
Celia Falicov	1999-	Murray	1977-
	01	Bowen	81

### **2018 Conference Committee**

Jane Ariel, Sarah Berland, Beth D'Arrigo-Patrick, Chris Hoff, Lana Kim, Lindsey Nice, Laurel Salmon, Monica Sesma, Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson

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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.
- Avoid disrupting speakers or other participants and audience members with any form of electronic communication that is distracting.

# AFTA's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & 7<sup>th</sup> Open Conference

## RELATIONAL ACTIVISM *Supporting Just Relationships in Family Therapy*

Thursday, June 21: Day at a Glance

8:00 – 9:00 AM Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 12:30 PM Board Meeting

12:00 – 5:00 PM Registration and Committee Meetings

3:30 – 4:30 PM Exhibition Setup

5:00 – 6:30 PM Opening Keynote

6:30 – 9:30 PM Opening Reception and Exhibition of Collected Works

*Thursday, June 21*  
*Schedule of Events and Sessions*

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**WELCOME and OPENING KEYNOTE**  
*by Springer*  
5:00 – 6:30 PM

**Sponsored**

**Welcoming Remarks:** Victoria Dickerson, President  
Justine D'Arrigo-Patrick, 2018 Program Chair

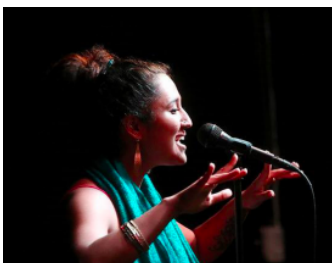


Victoria Dickerson, PhD, is currently in private practice in Los Gatos and Aptos, CA. She has been active in AFTA for over 25 years as President, Board member, officer, program chair and committee chair. In 2012 Vicki received AFTA's Lifetime Achievement Award. She currently is the Social Media/Communications Strategist for the Family Process Institute and also organizes and moderates a Webinar Series for Family Process in partnership with Ackerman. Vicki recently edited a special section on narrative and poststructural ideas for the journal *Family Process* and also an *AFTA Springer Brief* on the same topic. She has been the director of two training centers, a founder of one of the first mental health websites, and a professor in various universities.



Justine D'Arrigo-Patrick, PhD, is a professor at Cal State University, San Bernardino, in the counseling and guidance program. Their teaching rests heavily on postmodern/relational pedagogies and they work clinically from a post-structural, collaborative-relational lens. Justine has a PhD in MFT from Loma Linda University, where they became involved with the School of Public Health, expanding their family systems lens to better understand systemic application in more global and public domains. Their research interests are around how activism is enacted relationally in the counseling conversation, and what kinds of effects this has on the counseling relationship. Justine is particularly interested in how efforts of activism can potentially colonize people's experiences in counter cultural ways, and feels passionately about keeping a critical lens on this aspect of therapeutic work. They are also interested in pedagogical processes and relationship in the classroom, especially when a postmodern, social constructionist approach to teaching is embraced, which privileges post-oppositional engagement.

**Spoken Word Performance:** Edyka Chilomé



**Edyka Chilomé**, is a queer woman of color literary artist, performer, educator, and cultural worker based in North Texas. She is a child of Salvadorean and Mexican immigrant activists with roots in indigenous-led third world liberation movements. Edyka holds a bachelor's in philosophy and social justice and master's in multicultural women's studies from Texas Woman's University. She has been asked to share her poetry and speak on social justice issues on multiple media platforms and in spaces around the country including TEDx, NPR, The Huffington Post, GLAAD, The Tucson Poetry Festival, The Dallas Museum of Art, and The Texas Democratic Convention. Edyka has also published numerous articles, essays, plays, and poems including a collection of poetry that explores queer mestizaje in the diaspora entitled *She Speaks | Poetry*. You can follow her on social media @edykachilome or check out more of her work at EdykaChilome.com.

**KEYNOTE:**  
**by Springer**

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### *An Invitation to Post-Operational Practice*

Presenter Introduction: **Chris Hoff**

Presenter: **AnaLouise Keating**

Post-operationality offers relational approaches to knowledge production, social interactions, alliance-building, and transformation that borrow from but do not become limited by or trapped in oppositional (either/or, us-against-them) thought and action. Post-operationality does not entirely reject oppositional consciousness but instead moves through it, taking what's useful and transforming (rather than negating or denying) the rest. Drawing on U.S. women-of-colors theories (especially those by Gloria Anzaldúa), this presentation offers an overview of post-operationality, exploring its relevance for 21st-century social-justice work (including pedagogy and daily practice). After discussing the current status of oppositional thought and offering a tentative definition of post-operationality, Keating provides several examples of post-operational work, investigates additional possibilities, and offers tentative tactics that practitioners can borrow, modify (based on their specific contexts and needs), and apply. **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to: (1) Reflect on the impact of oppositional thought and actions; (2) Develop additional post-operational tactics; and (3) Apply post-operational practice to their work in family therapy.



**AnaLouise Keating, PhD**, is a professor and director of the Multicultural Women's and Gender Studies doctoral program at Texas Women's University. Her work primarily focuses on transformation studies, U.S. women-of-color theories, Gloria Anzaldúa and pedagogy. AnaLouise is the author of numerous publications, including *Transformation Now: Towards a Post-Optional Politics of Change*, *Teaching Transformation: Transcultural Classroom Dialogues*, *Women*

*Reading Women Writing: Self-Invention in Paul Gunn Allen, Gloria Anzaldúa, and Audre Lorde*,



and *The Gloria Anzaldúa Reader*. She also co-edited *This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation Alongside Gloria Anzaldúa*. AnaLouise will speak with us about what it can mean to inhabit post-oppositional spaces in a variety of relational contexts. We see her work as timely and uniquely situated to inform our roles as educators, supervisors, and clinicians in the current sociopolitical climate.



**Chris Hoff, LMFT, PhD**, currently serves as founder and director of the California Family Institute. The California Family Institute provides low/no cost counseling to the community and serves as a training site for clinicians. Chris' past roles in AFTA include serving as Chair of the Early Career Membership Committee (2013-14) and serving on the Finance Committee (2014-15). Chris has also served as a California state board member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. He has served on several nonprofit boards supporting both the arts and issues of social justice and has presented across the country on the topics of conflict resolution, teaching and learning in MFT, and social entrepreneurship.

## **OPENING RECEPTION, BOOK SIGNING, and EXHIBITION OF COLLECTED WORKS**

Coordinators: **Monica Sesma, Beth D'Arrigo-Patrick**

6:30 – 9:30 PM

Come to meet and mingle during our opening night's reception and view the Exhibition of Collected Works created by talented colleagues. Authors will be present to discuss their books and to sign and sell copies. Generous hors d'oeuvres provided and cash bar will be available. *If you are an Author that wants to bring and sign books at this event, please contact the AFTA Office at [afia@afia.org](mailto:afia@afia.org).*

**A Black Feminist Approach to Narrative Therapy**

Presenter: **Montinique McEachern**

**A Global Family Therapy to Heal Cultural Divides**

Presenter: **Lucas Volini**

**An Ethical Dilemma: The Ins and Outs of Self-Disclosure in Teaching**

Presenter: **Gita Seshadri**

**Artistic Forms of Data on The Coming Out Process**

Presenter: **Hoa Nguyen**

**Challenging Times for Teaching Family Psychology and Therapy:**

**Imperatives for Human Compassion, Social Justice, and Relational Bridging**

**Presenter: Matthew Mock**

**Ego Dissolution, Racial Wounds, and the Female Body:  
Stories from a Black Woman's Cellular Membrane**

**Presenter: Sara Reed**

**Fair Games: Initiating Fairness Talks in Therapy**

**Presenter: Tatiana Glebova**

**Family Relational Activism in Addiction Treatment**

**Presenters: Sebastian Perumbilly, Brian Reeves**

**Family Therapists with Trauma Histories Working with Couples and Families:  
Seeking to Destigmatize**

**Presenter: Sarah Wolf-Stanton**

**Family Therapy with an Incarcerated Mother and Daughter**

**Presenter: Eman Tadros**

**Gun Policy and SMI: Distraction and Detraction**

**Presenters: Varsha Narasimhan, Catherine Lee, Joseph Battaglia**

**How Social Media Increases Racial Trauma in African American Families**

**Presenter: Ashley Gillmore**

**Innovations for Disadvantaged Youth**

**Presenters: Shelley Haddock, Toni Zimmerman, Lindsey Weiler**

**Integrating Music Therapy into MFT**

**Presenter: Kevin Smith**

**Integration of SFT and DBT**

**Presenters: Eman Tadros, Natasha Finney**

**Intersectionality and the Working Alliance**

**Presenter: Evan Valdes**

**Learnings from Multilingual Clinical Practitioners**

**Presenter: Wonyoung L. Cho**

**Low Sexual Desire and Unfreedom**

**Presenter: Andrea Farnham**

**Medical Family Therapy in Mexico City**

**Presenter: Terry Fidel**

**Muslim-American Youth: Resilience and the Marathon Bombing**

**Presenter: Elizabeth Hughes**

**Navigating Identities: Faith and Orientation**

**Presenters: Katelyn Coburn, Ellory Bishop, Jennifer Lambert-Shute**

**Navigating Trust Issues within the Therapeutic Context**

**Presenters: Catherine Lee, Varsha Narasimhan**

**Police Brutality: Implications for Black Men**

**Presenter: Sade Callwood**

**Reflexive Questions and Constructive Interventions: A Discursive Perspective**

**Presenter: Joaquin Gaete, Shari Couture, Olga Smoliak**

**Restoration Therapy: A Quantitative Analysis of its Impact on Relationship Quality**

**Presenter: Jeffrey White**

**Second-Generation Armenian American College Students**

**Presenter: Jessica Vartanyan**

**Solution-Focused Therapy for Adolescents with Suicidal Ideation**

**Presenter: Eman Tadros**

**Teaching Asian American Family Therapy and Social Justice:**

**Cultural Context, Community Immersion and Reliving History**

**Presenter: Matthew Mock**

**Teaching in Challenging Times:**

**Nourishing Hearts and Spirits in Family Psychology and Therapy**

**Presenter: Matthew Mock**

**The Biobehavioral Family Model: Testing Eudaimonic Well-Being as an Additional Mediator**

**Presenter: Jennifer Kendall**

**The Forest of Hope: Narrative Therapy and Families**

**Presenter: Rosy De Prado**

**The Intersection of Spiritual Trauma and Sexual Identity**

**Presenter: Daniel Stillwell, Emily Stone**

**The Marginalization of African Americans through a Cybernetic Lens**  
Presenter: **Brandon Hollie**

**Treating Addiction through Family Therapy: Strategies**  
Presenter: **Sebastian Perumbilly, Carolina Bunta, Janel Davis**

**Using a Social Practice Model to Conceptualize Addictive Behaviours in Family Therapy**  
Presenter: **Tanya Mudry**

**View from the Ground: Retaining Humanity and Meaning in Times That Are a Changin'**  
Presenter: **Sonal Harneja**

**Wellness in Counseling Training: Promoting Individual Well-Being with Hypnosis in an Increasingly Diverse Mexican Context**  
Presenter: **Alejandra Elizalde**

**Women out of Prison Challenging Community Stigma**  
Presenter: **Barbara Pickering**

# AFTA's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & 7<sup>th</sup> Open Conference

## RELATIONAL ACTIVISM *Supporting Just Relationships in Family Therapy*

Friday, June 22: Day at a Glance

7:00 – 8:00 AM New Member and Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 4:00 PM Registration and Exhibits

8:00 – 10:00 AM Contemporary Issues Plenary

10:00 – 10:30 AM Refreshment Break

10:30 – 12:00 PM Brief Presentations 1– 6

12:00 – 1:30 PM Community Lunch and Pearls of Wisdom (Hosted by the ECM Committee)

1:30 – 3:00 PM Brief Presentations 7 – 12

3:00 – 3:30 PM Refreshment Break

3:30 – 5:00 PM Interest Groups 1 – 6

5:00 – 5:30 PM Break

5:30 – 7:00 PM Coming Together Conversation

7:00 – 9:30 PM AFTA Social

*Friday, June 22*  
*Schedule of Events and Sessions*

**NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST**

Coordinator: **Jane Ariel**

7:00 – 8:00 AM

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 Students are also encouraged to attend.

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Open to all attendees)**

7:00 – 8:00 AM

**CONTEMPORARY ISSUES PLENARY**

*Sponsored by Amy Garrett, Los*

*Gatos, CA*

Presenters: **Ruben Parra-Cardona, Jean Malpas**

Discussants: **Amy Tuttle, Shawn Giammattei**

8:00 – 10:00 AM

*The Urgent Need to Embrace Advocacy in Family Therapy Practice and Prevention:*

*Lessons Learned in Parenting Prevention Research with Low-income Latino/a Immigrants*

Presenter: **Ruben Parra-Cardona, PhD**

The United States is witnessing a tumultuous time in which issues of diversity, power, and privilege have become highly contentious and controversial. For example, rather than addressing historical immigration as a human rights issue, conservative movements have increasingly disseminated narratives identifying immigrants as a threat to the U.S. on several levels. Where should we stand as family therapists in our daily practice in the midst of this reality? Ruben will reflect on lessons learned from a 10-year program of applied prevention research informed by family therapy theories, evidence-based and cultural adaptation models, and social justice and advocacy principles. In addition to describing the positive effects of culturally adapted interventions, he will reflect on the critical role of advocacy throughout the implementation of this program of prevention research, as well as the urgent need for family therapists to adopt this stance not only in clinical and prevention settings, but also in the larger socio-political context. **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to: (1) Reflect about the needs of Latino/a immigrant populations in the U.S.; (2) Examine the need to critically analyze intervention frameworks for working with Latino/a immigrant populations; and (3) Reflect about

required adaptations to current family therapy frameworks to more effectively serve this population.



**Ruben Parra-Cardona, PhD**, is an associate professor in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work (SHSSW) at the University of Texas at Austin. At the SHSSW, he also serves as coordinator for Mexico and Latin American initiatives and co-director of the Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Ruben earned his master's in couple and family therapy at Syracuse University and his doctorate in couple and family therapy at Texas Tech University. His research is focused on the cultural adaptation of evidence-based parenting interventions for low-income Latino/a populations. This program of research has been

funded by NIMH and NIDA. Ruben also conducts research focused on examining the cultural relevance of services for Latina survivors and Latino men who batter. He has used the experience gained in these U.S.-based studies to collaborate with Mexican institutions and state governments in the implementation of prevention programs of research. Ruben serves on the editorial boards of three leading journals in the fields of family therapy and family studies (*Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, *Family Process*, and *Family Relations*). He is also the vice-president of the Family Process Institute.

### *From Otherness to Alliance: How Families and Clinicians Embrace Gender Expansiveness*

Presenter: **Jean Malpas, LMHC, LMFT**

*What are the effective ingredients to cultivate optimal parenting and allyship in cisgender-identified caregivers of gender diverse youth? How do we support the family's relational transition? How do our social locations as clinician, trainer or supervisor inform and impact the driving and restraining forces in our work?* Pulling from the work developed by the Gender & Family Project's team at The Ackerman Institute for the Family, this plenary highlights the dilemmas faced by youth, parents, family members, and clinicians embarking in a journey through gender diversity. The first part of the plenary emphasizes the multiple levels of family engagement (family therapy, community groups and organizing) developed to support cisgender parents raising gender expansive children and transgender adolescents. The second part of the plenary expands into a conversation with discussants Amy Tuttle and Shawn Giammattei to reflect on the complexities and opportunities brought forth by the social locations of the clinicians and program leaders. **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participants will be able to: (1) Identify and differentiate question of gender identity, expression and sexual orientation; (2) Acquire skills to support couples and families with gender expansive and transgender family members; and (3) Identify and begin dismantling cisnormativity and transphobia in their own work and clinical experience.



**Jean Malpas, LMHC, LMFT**, is the founder and director of the Gender & Family Project at The Ackerman Institute for the Family ([www.ackerman.org/GFP](http://www.ackerman.org/GFP)), director of International Training, and a

psychotherapist in private practice in New York City. He has presented nationally and internationally on issues of gender, sexuality, addiction, and couple and family therapy. Jean's work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals, couples, and families has been published in numerous books and journals. Media appearances include a TEDx Talk, "The Gift of Gender Authenticity," National Geographic's "Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric," and PBS Frontline: "Growing Up Trans." Jean's leadership has been recognized by the American Family Therapy Academy's first Early Career Award (2011) and the Social Justice Award (2018).



**Amy Tuttle, PhD, LMFT**, is an associate professor of psychology at Pepperdine University, clinical supervisor, and couple and family therapist. She joined AFTA in 2008 as an Early Career Member and transitioned to regular member in 2012. Amy's service in AFTA has included vice president and several committees (e.g., ECM, membership, nominating, program, diversity, and governance). Amy's professional interests include relational, systemic, and social constructionist informed family therapy theories, cultural, contextual, and diversity issues, intervention with marginalized, under resourced families and communities, and intergenerational processes around issues of trauma and injustice. She is currently working on the Family Legacy Project, an ongoing qualitative research study examining relational and interactional processes around issues of trauma and injustice. Amy has published research on families in Child Protective Service Systems, the larger social context and relational orientations, recovery from sexual abuse, and parenting as relationship. Amy was the recipient of AFTA's 2012 ECM Award.



**Shawn V. Giammattei, PhD**, is a clinical psychologist in private practice; faculty at California School of Professional Psychology, Coordinator of Training for the Rockway Institute, Treasurer of the Association of Family Therapists of Northern California, clinical/research member of Mind the Gap/Child and Adolescent Gender Clinic at UCSF, and research consultant Kaiser Permanente, NCA. AFTA: Member since 2006, board member, Marketing, Governance, Early Career, and Nominations committees, Men's Institute and LGBT Networking co-leader, 2013 Brief Presentation co-coordinator. Publications and interests: Trans youth, LGBT couples and families; family formation, functioning, and resilience; family focused research; social justice and intersectionality; family therapy training; and distance learning.

## **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:00 – 10:30 AM

## **BRIEF PRESENTATIONS**

Coordinators: **Beth D'Arrigo-Patrick, Lindsey Nice, Jane Ariel, Chris Hoff**



10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**1. Religion, Spirituality, and Clinical Practice**

Moderator: Froma Walsh

**Spiritual Leaders' Perspectives on Mental Illness**

Presenters: Mai-Han N. Dinh, Hao-Min Chen

**Spirituality and Family Therapy: A Coming Synthesis**

Presenter: Larry Freeman

**Socially Just Religious and Spiritual Interventions: Ethical Uses of Therapeutic Power**

Presenters: Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson, Lindsey Nice, Lana Kim, Sarah Samman

**2. Clinical Practice with LGBTQ+ Couples and Families**

Moderator: David Landsman-Wohlisfer

**Emotionally-Focused Couples Therapy (EFT) with Trans\*/Cis Couples**

Presenter: Nickolas Summa

**Affirming Transgender Women of Color**

Presenters: Cherry Tolbert, Latryce Sharp

**Relational Competence and Alternate Relationship Paradigms**

Presenters: Melissa Bridges, Paul Maione

**3. White Accountability**

Moderator: Chris Hoff

**Training White Therapists About Being White**

Presenters: Tim Baima, Michael Sude

**White Privilege: What can a White Family Therapist do with it Beyond Feeling Guilty?**

Presenter: Gene Combs

**Learning to Socioculturally Attune from Inside and Out**

Presenters: Gregory Robillard, Gracie Dilley-Bucciarelli, Andrew Decker, Lana Kim, Carmen Knudson-Martin, Vyshika Willis

**4. Training, Education, and Supervision**

Moderator: Lisa Lavelle

**Intersectional Identity in Practice, Research and Teaching**  
Presenters: Jodie Kliman, Otavia de Moura Propper

**Power, Privilege, and Just Relationships in Family Therapy Training**  
Presenters: Michael Morar, Bryan Doster, Amy Tuttle

**Relational Activism in Family Therapy Training Supervision**  
Presenter: Chaya Possick

## **5. Clinical Practice with Asian-American Couples and Families**

Moderator: Jessica ChenFeng

**Korean-Americans in a Different Pathway**  
Presenters: Jane Un-Na, Hao-Min Chen

**Resentment in Asian-American Couples: Female Viewpoints**  
Presenters: Karen Quek, Jaclyn Chung, Sarah Smith

**Characteristics of Children of North Korean Defectors**  
Presenter: Jeehee Sung

## **6. Innovations in Collaborative Therapeutic Practice**

Moderator: Saliha Bava

**Collaborative Therapeutic Conversations with Latino/Immigrant Families**  
Presenter: Silvia Espinal

**Pursuing Relational Activism through Relational Preferences in Family Therapy:  
Some "TIPs"**  
Presenters: Joaquin Gaete, Ines Sametband, Dan Wulff, Sally St. George, Karl  
Tomm

**Moving Beyond Cultural Stereotypes through Conversation**  
Presenter: Ines Sametband

**EARLY CAREER MEMBER LUNCHEON &  
PEARLS OF WISDOM**

***Institute***

Coordinator: Laurel M. Salmon

Moderator: Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson

Panelists: Pearls: Dick Chasin, Nydia Garcia-Preto, Lois Braverman; ECMs: Lisa  
Bibuld, Mariana Juras, DeAnna Harris-McKoy

12:00 – 1:30 PM

***Sponsored by Family Process***

The ninth annual Pearls of Wisdom panel event will feature Pearls: **Dick Chasin, Nydia Garcia-Preto, and Lois Braverman**; and Early Career Members: **Lisa Bibuld, Mariana Juras, and DeAnna Harris-McKoy**. 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.



**Richard (Dick) Chasin, MD**, is a charter member of AFTA, former president (1993-1995), and recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. As chair of AFTA’s Publications Committee he performed editing and desktop publishing tasks for the Newsletter during most of the 1990s. Dick co-directed the Family Institute of Cambridge during 1980-93 and 1996-1998. In the 1980s he gave workshops at annual Congresses of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. This group was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985. His major academic position was Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard (1985-2010). With Rick Lee, PhD, in 1984, Dick designed the psychological component of the Negotiation Workshop, a curriculum that is still in use. Dick served on several boards including 12 years as president of a politically progressive philanthropic foundation. As a child of immigrants, he feels fortunate to have received in 1952 a scholarship to Yale, a major early step in a long career. He is a Founding Associate of the Public Conversations Project, now called Essential Partners, in Cambridge, MA. This organization was founded in 1989 by his wife (and AFTA member), Laura Chasin. It is devoted to fostering dialogue and mutual understanding on hotly polarized political, social, economic and religious controversies. This group received the AFTA Award for Innovative Contributions in 1999. Laura Chasin died suddenly in 2015, leaving Dick as the eldest of a sprawling family, including 11 grandchildren. He still maintains a small private practice in Cambridge.



**Nydia Garcia-Preto, MSW, LCSW**, is the associate director at the Multicultural Family Institute, a nonprofit educational institution, where she has developed many training programs to promote the importance of social justice and the understanding of multiculturalism in clinical work. She has been a visiting professor at the Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work (where she received her master’s in 1971), and was the director of the Adolescent Day Hospital, at the UMDNJ. A noted family therapist, author, teacher, and lecturer, she has co-edited, with Monica McGoldrick and Betty Carter, *The Expanding Family Life Cycle: Individual, Family, and Social Perspectives*, and with McGoldrick

and Giordano, *Ethnicity and Family Therapy*, as well as other publications. Nydia was presented with the Frantz Fanon, MD Award by the Postgraduate Center for Mental Health in recognition of her work with Latino families and received the Social Justice Award from AFTA.



**Lois Braverman, MSW**, is the president of The Ackerman Institute for the Family and maintains a private practice specializing in couple and family therapy. She serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including *Family Process*, *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*, and the *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*. Lois' many publications and international presentations challenge the assumptions implicit in major schools of family therapy about women's role in the family, in the workplace, and in the psychotherapeutic setting. Her special areas of interest are women's friendships and marital relationships, depression and marital dynamics, couple therapy with marginalized couples, and issues of power in couple therapy. Lois is founding editor of the *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy* and author of *Women, Feminism and Family Therapy*. Joining AFTA in 1984, she has served AFTA as president (2003-2005), program chair (1994, 2001), membership chair (1997-99), secretary, (1995-97), Board member, (1992-95), and Nominations committee chair (1990-91). She was the recipient of AFTA's Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy Award in 1994.



**Lisa Bibuld, PsyD**, is director of Student and Family Support at a charter school in Boston and has worked with children and families in a clinical capacity for the past 12 years. An AFTA member since 2011, she presented early findings of her dissertation on Narratives of Resilience and Resistance that year, and subsequently served as a co-facilitator on the Racial Domination/White Privilege Interest Group for three years (2013- 2015). At the Brookline Community Mental Health Center, Lisa was a clinician on the Family Team and coordinated a homeless prevention program for teens (2012-2015). She also co-facilitated the Diversity Team series (2012-2015) and was a member of the Clinicians of Color group at the Center.



**Mariana Martins Juras, PhD, MSc, MFT**, holds master's and doctoral degrees in clinical psychology and culture and specialization in marriage and family therapy. She is currently in the position of Visiting Research Scholar of the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in Saint Louis. Mariana joined AFTA in 2017 and is currently an Early Career Member.



**DeAnna Harris-McKoy, MFT, PhD**, is currently an assistant professor at Texas A&M University Central Texas in the Department of Counseling and Psychology, program coordinator for the Marriage and Family Therapy program, and a licensed marriage and family therapist. She has presented research at various local, regional, national, and international conferences. DeAnna's current research focuses on adolescents, Black mental health, and social justice within the field of marriage and family therapy. She has won numerous awards for her leadership ability and commitment to the various communities in which she resides. These awards include Ivan Boszormenyi-Nagy, MD Social Justice Award from Drexel University, University Academic Leadership Award from The Florida State University, and American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Minority Fellowship.

## **BRIEF PRESENTATIONS**

**Coordinators: Beth D'Arrigo-Patrick, Lindsey Nice, Jane Ariel, Chris Hoff**  
**1:30 – 3:00 PM**

### **7. Socially-Just Connections in Communities**

**Moderator: Peter Fraenkel**

**Moving Families from Homelessness to Self-Sufficiency**

**Presenters: Elsie Lobo and Brian Distelberg**

**Parental and Professional Value Mismatch in Child Risk and Protection**

**Presenter: Yochay Nadan**

**The Diagnosis Disclaimer\***

**Presenters: Joshua Mark, Suzanne Don Grazzolo, Jill Freedman**

### **8. Bio-Psycho-Social Practice**

**Moderator: Lindsey Nice**

**Neurocognitive Impairment: Addressing Couple and Family Challenges**

**Presenter: John Rolland**

**The Psychoneuroimmunological Effects of Mindfulness-Based Dyadic Therapy**

**Presenter: Dallas M. Ducar**

**Multidisciplinary Approach to the Treatment of Conversion Disorders in Children**

**Presenters: Scott Hirose, Frances Shin, Pooja Vekaria**

## **9. Innovative Pathways towards Relational Activism**

Moderator: Martha Edwards

**Play: A Pathway of/for Relational Activism**

Presenter: Saliha Bava

**The Radical Roundtable: Relational Activism through Podcasting**

Presenters: Chris Hoff, Veronica Kuhn

**Films, Families, and Families in Therapy: Relational Bridging and Social Justice**

Presenter: Matthew R. Mock

## **10. Racially and Culturally Responsive Practice**

Moderator: Sarah Berland

**I Don't Have Time for That: Black Women, Depression, and Self-Care**

Presenters: DeAnna Harris-McKoy, Taimyr Strachan, Shaundrea Trussell

**Multiracial Families: Ways Therapists Can Support Just Relationships**

Presenter: Kyle D. Killian

**Therapeutic Activism: Countering the Essentialization of Arabs, Muslims, and Middle Easterners**

Presenter: Sarah K. Samman

## **11. Couple and Family Practice:**

**Considering Trauma from a Relational and Systemic Perspective**

Moderator: Jane Ariel

**Family Therapy with Traumatized Communities**

Presenters: Linda Stone Fish, Mary Jo Barrett

**Historical Trauma and African American Couples**

Presenters: Christine Beliard, Porshia Cunningham, DeAnna Harris-McKoy, Monique Willis

**A Relational Model of the Psychological and Physiological Trauma Response**

Presenters: Sarah Wolf-Stanton

## **12. Research Innovation**

Moderator: Beth D'Arrigo Patrick

**Social Network Analysis: a method to analyze relationships**

Presenter: **Mariana Martins Juras**

**Culturally adapted psychoeducational curriculum for Latino couples**

Presenters: **Corina Ratz, Theresa Segura-Herrera, Kimberly Chivers**

**Core Elements of Family Therapy for Adolescent Substance Use: An Empirical Derivation**

Presenter: **Molly Bobek**

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

Coordinator: **Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson**

3:30 – 5:00 PM

### **1. Spirituality and Family Therapy**

Chair: **Larry Freeman**; Presenter: **David Trimble**

Consider the nature of the “sacred” and its presence in family therapy. Bakhtin and Bateson, while approaching it differently, both refer to the “space between” in dialogue as where deeper meaning is generated and thrives. Both recognize that exploration of ambiguity begets spiritual resonance. The sacred includes moments when we experience altered states, intense and unnamable: We are transported beyond everyday “conscious” waking awareness.

### **2. International: Gender in the Family and in Society East and West**

Chairs: **Monica McGoldrick, Takeshi Tamura**; Presenters: **Takeshi Tamura, Froma Walsh, David McGill, Monica McGoldrick, Tim Baima, Chiajou Lu**

This year we will explore experiences of gender in cultures “east” and “west.” We will then explore the gender issues as they may differ in various parts of the world, the part gender roles have played in our own families, our rapidly changing societies, and in the families we see clinically. The presenters will discuss their own experiences of gender issues. We hope to have a small group and rather free discussion after a number of personal 5-minute presentations by the participants listed above and others.

### **3. Man-Not: Black Males and Practice**

Chairs: **Kilian Fritsch, Andrea Farnham**

In the spirit of our conference theme of relationships within an activist family therapy, we will explore how our work might be challenged and changed by a new approach to the location and concept of the Black male. This draws upon “The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre and the Dilemmas of Black Manhood,” by Dr. Tommy Curry. We should come prepared to discuss the meaning of these concepts as they relate to how we think about, respond to, and interact with Black males in our work, our lives, and our private worlds.

#### **4. I Wish I had Known: Training for Contextual Responsiveness**

**Chairs: Jodie Kliman, Marsha Mirkin, Roxana Llerena-Quinn**

We often hear that students need more preparation for a systemic, contextualized, inclusive, culturally responsive practice of family therapy. Through exercises and discussion, students and practitioners will explore what is needed to address this need. The group will share some ways that we work with students toward developing a contextually responsive approach to practice and we will engage the group in an “I Wish I Had Known” exercise that can lead to training and practice ideas.

#### **5. Relationship as Socially Just Practice**

**Chairs: Jessica ChenFeng, Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson**

This interest group hopes to be a place where we can share and listen to each other and do so from a place of curiosity and deep appreciation for one another’s experiences and questions. Consider how a relational orientation to social justice teaching and practice may in and of itself be somewhat countercultural—how do we remain socially engaged, speak “truth to power” while at the same time honor the humanity and lived experience of others?

#### **6. Creating Teaching and Learning Practices: Sharing Post-Operational Pedagogical Practices**

**Chair: Saliha Bava**

What are your practices for post-operational teaching? How do you create space for divergent, polarizing viewpoints in the classroom (or online teaching)? How do you create awareness of positionality and social justice/change work? What are your invitational practices in teaching/learning that help bridge differences? We will create a shared space where we can share best practices from our teaching/learning experiences. Bring your ideas of creativity, technology, experiential learning, discussion, and activities as ways to engage and promote change for our students and trainees.

#### **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

**5:00 – 5:30 PM**

#### **COMING TOGETHER CONVERSATION**

**Facilitators: Jane Ariel, Sarah Berland, Lisa Bibuld, Justine D’Arrigo-Patrick, Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe**

**5:30 – 7:00 PM**

#### **AFTA SOCIAL**

**Coordinators: Lana Kim, Beth D’Arrigo-Patrick, Mathis Kennington**

**7:00 – 9:30 PM**



# AFTA's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & 7<sup>th</sup> Open Conference

## RELATIONAL ACTIVISM

### *Supporting Just Relationships in Family Therapy*

Saturday, June 23: Day at a Glance

7:00 – 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast

8:00 – 4:00 PM Registration

8:00 – 10:00 AM Relational Activism Plenary

10:00 – 10:30 AM Refreshment Break

10:30 – 12:00 PM Brief Presentations 13-18

12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch Break

1:30 – 3:00 PM Brief Presentations 19-24

3:00 – 3:30 PM Refreshment Break

3:30 – 5:00 PM Interest Groups 13-17

5:00 – 6:00 PM Facilitated Listening Circle

6:00 – 6:30 PM Break

6:30 - 10:30 PM 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Dinner, & Awards Ceremony

*Saturday, June 23*  
*Schedule of Events and Sessions*

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST** (Open to all attendees)  
7:00 – 8:00 AM

**RELATIONAL ACTIVISM PLENARY**

Presenters: **marcela polanco** and **Kameelah Mu'Min Rashad**

Discussants: **Jill Freedman** and **CharlesEtta Sutton**

8:00 – 10:00 AM

*Family Therapy Activism from Latin American Decolonial Perspectives:  
Inter-Cultural and Inter-Linguistic Solidarity*

Presenter: **marcela polanco, PhD**

An activist vocation in family therapy ought to include the revision of the very same theories and practices from where personal, social, political, historical, etc. transformation is engaged. Supporting the development of just relationships from perspectives that are predominantly centered in single, Western, European cultures and language, may inadvertently undo some of the well-intended efforts of justice. marcela situates activism from the perspective of knowledge production and dissemination. As a mestiza (coexistence of her Africana, Indigenous and European influences), she borrows from the work of Latin American activists on decolonial perspectives to reflect critically upon neocolonial structures that support knowledge development. marcela discusses a knowledge fair trade proposal for family therapy based on an inter-cultural and inter-linguistic ethics of solidarity to redistribute the current social order of knowledge production of a center and a periphery. She emphasizes a need to construct new terms of dialog across cultures their languages, aesthetics, and ethics.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** Participant will be able to:



**marcela polanco, PhD**, Mestiza (Indigenous, Africana and European) from Colombia, immigrant in the U.S., is a family and narrative therapist, in English. She is part of the team of graduate faculty members at Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, TX. marcela leads their family therapy master's program and bilingual training certificate, the Psychological Services for Spanish Speaking Populations. In Spanish, her work borrows from decolonial practices and ethics of solidarity. marcela is currently studying Aymara's decolonial thinking and anti-racist feminism with GLEFAS, Grupo Latinoamericano de Estudio, Formación y Acción Feminista.

## *Bearing Witness to Beauty, Resilience, and Vulnerability: Development of the Voices of Muslim Families Project*

Presenter: Kameelah Mu'Min Rashad, MEd, MRP, MS

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the U.S., with estimates of the Muslim population ranging from 3 to 8 million. The tragedy of the 9/11 terrorist attacks thrust the American Muslim community into the center of the debate on religious diversity and inclusion in the U.S. According to the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding's 2018 poll, 61% of American Muslims report experiencing religious discrimination, while 64% also report experiencing racial discrimination. In this socio-political climate, many parents are voicing concern about their children's emotional well-being and safety. Family therapists can play a pivotal role in helping families cope with the stress and anxiety of living with racism, discrimination, and harassment. However, family therapists and advocates must first bear witness, with compassion and humility, to the stories and voices of American Muslim families. Using personal accounts from her own life and complex stepfamily, Kameelah will share information about who American Muslims are, and how their stories of resilience and vulnerability are shaped by anti-Muslim bigotry, anti-Black racism, oppression and white supremacy. An artist installation created by Kameelah Rasheed will accompany this presentation and offer an immersive experiential opportunity to learn more deeply about American Muslim families. **LEARNING OBJECTIVES: Participant will be able to:**



**Kameelah Mu'Min Rashad, MEd, MRP, MS**, is the founder and president of Muslim Wellness Foundation, which is dedicated to reducing stigma associated with mental illness, addiction, and trauma in the American Muslim community. She is the Fellow for Spirituality, Wellness and Social Justice at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn). Kameelah served three years as the Muslim Chaplain at UPenn and continues to facilitate discussions on religious identity development and challenges faced by American Muslim youth. She graduated from UPenn with a BA in psychology and MEd in psychological services. Kameelah has a second master's in restorative practices & youth counseling from the International Institute for Restorative Practices and a post-master's certificate in family therapy from the Philadelphia Child & Family Therapy Training Center. She is pursuing her doctorate in clinical psychology at Chestnut Hill College.



**Jill Freedman, MSW**, is the director of Evanston Family Therapy Center and the co-author, with Gene Combs, of more than 30 papers and 3 books, including *Narrative Therapy: The Social Construction of Preferred Realities* and *Narrative Therapy with Couples*, and a whole lot more! She teaches internationally including as faculty of the master's program in Narrative Therapy and

Community Work offered by Dulwich Centre and the University of Melbourne.



**CharlesEtta T. Sutton, MSW, LCSW**, most noted for her mastery in Train-the Trainer work and facilitation, this family therapist, author, spiritual well-being, health promotion and social justice advocate provides therapy, supervision, training, consultation and program development. Retired from UMDNJ-OPSR as director of training in 2003, her life transitions find her continuing her work as principal of CTS Group Sutton & Associates, faculty, and clinical supervisor at Center for Family Community and Social Justice, founding faculty of Multicultural Family Institute, faculty and board of the Turtle Island Project, master facilitator, International Black Summit. CharlesEtta brings an irrepressible “joie de vivre” to her work and “walks her talk.”

## **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

10:00 – 10:30 AM

## **BRIEF PRESENTATIONS**

Coordinators: **Beth D'Arrigo-Patrick, Lindsey Nice, Jane Ariel, Chris Hoff**

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

### **13. Clinical Practice with Military and Immigrant Families**

Moderator: **Roger Lake**

**Relational Conflict in Parents of Fallen Soldiers**

Presenters: **Michal Shamai, Yael Geron**

**Family Therapy with Military-Service Members**

Presenter: **Sebastian Perumbilly**

### **14. Training, Education, and Supervision**

Moderator: **Amy Tuttle**

**Just Peer Support: Recovery-Oriented Collaborative Learning Group**  
Presenters: Tanya Mudry, Michael Morar

**Challenging Privilege in MFT Training Programs**  
Presenters: Brent A. Taylor, Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe

**Invitation to Third Order Change**  
Presenter: Carmen Knudson-Martin

### **15. Practice Implications: Intimate Partner Violence**

Moderator: Beth D'Arrigo-Patrick

**Intimate Partner Violence in Iran: Factors Associated with Physical Aggression  
Victimization and Perpetration**  
Presenters: Fatemeh Nikparvar, Sandra Stith

**Intimate Partner Homicide: Understanding Risk Factors for Perpetration and  
Victimization**  
Presenters: Chelsea Spencer, Sandra Stith

**Sexual and Financial Coercion through a Justice Framework**  
Presenter: Andrea Farnham

### **16. Relationally Just Theory and Clinical Practice**

Moderator: Monica Sesma

**Love and Revolution: QWOC Activist Couples**  
Presenter: Montinique McEachern

**Integration of Structural Family Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy**  
Presenters: Eman Tadros, Natasha Finney

**Person First Advocacy Letters**  
Presenter: Mauricio P. Yabar

### **17. Socially-Just Connections in Communities**

Moderator: Khawla Abu-Baker

**Love and Justice: Working with Families and Community**  
Presenters: Angelina Belli, Sueli Petry

**Working with workplace bullying: The mental health of both the victims and the  
perpetrators**

Presenters: Anastasia Gorden, Gita Seshadri

**Squish Squish: Self-Compassion for Fat, Queer Women and Femmes**

Presenter: Michelle Kennedy

### **18. Couples Therapy**

Moderator: Laurel Salmon

**The Place of Politics in Couple Therapy**

Presenter: Peter Fraenkel

**Recoupling in Mid-Life and Beyond: From Love at Last to Not So Fast**

Presenter: Patricia Papernow

**Deconstructing Female Orgasmic Disorder**

Presenters: Yamilka Urquiza-Mendoza, John Patrick Devine

### **LUNCH**

12:00 – 1:30 PM

### **BRIEF PRESENTATIONS**

Coordinators: Beth D'Arrigo-Patrick, Lindsey Nice, Jane Ariel, and Chris Hoff

1:30 – 3:00 PM

### **19. Training, Education, and Supervision**

Moderator: Randi Cowdery

**The "How-To" in Competent Clinical Supervision**

Presenters: Martha L. Morgan, Karen Quek

**A Mixed Method Study of Artsbridge Institute's Training**

Presenters: Lucas Baker-Siroty, Jodie Kliman, Sima Menora

**Optimizing Co-Therapy for Relational Activism**

Presenters: Veronica Kuhn, Mary Hannah Key

### **20. Practice Implications: Intimate Partner Violence**

Moderator: Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson

**Perpetrator Risk Markers for Intimate Terrorism**

Presenters: Heather Love, Sandra Stith, Chelsea Spencer, Scott May

**Motivations for Intimate Partner Homicide: A Qualitative Meta-synthesis**

Presenters: Jacqueline Harden, Sandra Stith, Chelsea Spencer, Jingshau Du

**21. Creating Healing Connections: Experiential Interventions when Working with Couples and Families**

Moderator: Carmen Knudson-Martin

**Moving Fathers Forward: Strategies for Supporting Fathers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Presenters: Walter Vega, Billy Benson

**Restorative Ways of Being for Relational Responsibility**

Presenters: Samira Y. Garcia, Hoa Nguyen

**22. Narrative Practice**

Moderator: Gene Combs

**Redefining Masculinity with Male Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse:  
A Narrative Approach for Couple Therapy**

Presenters: Valerie A. Maxey, Ashley Walsdorf

**Narrative Family Therapy with Students Encountering School Nonattendance  
Problem**

Presenter: Yuk King Lau

**Performing the Colors of Social Justice and Dignity in the Therapy Room: Brush  
Strokes of an Art-Narrative Partnership**

Presenter: Jacqueline Sigg

**23. Collective Trauma: Healing Invisible Wounds in Our Relational Lives**

Moderator: Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe

**The Utilization of Hope with Families in Crisis**

Presenter: Jameson E. Natwick

**Solidarity as a Therapeutic Tool: The Transformative Power of Becoming an Ally**

Presenters: Monica Sesma-Vazquez, Lorien S. Jordan, Barbara Pickering

**Solidarity and the Facilitative Power of Discomfort**

Presenters: Lorien S. Jordan, Ashley Walsdorf

**24. Brief Presentations by Awardees**

Moderator: Evan Imber-Black

**What have We Learned from Efforts to Encourage Marriage Among Low-Income  
Couples?**

**Andrew Cherlin, *Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research***

Dialogical Practice and Research for Cultural Changes  
**Jaakko Seikkula, Tom Erik Arnkil**, *Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy  
Theory and Practice*

Conceptualizing Intimac(ies) for Couples Therapy  
**Michelle Scheinkman**, *Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy*

## **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

3:00 – 3:30 PM

## **INTEREST GROUPS**

Coordinator: **Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson**

3:30 – 5:00 PM

### **7. Ecoinformed Therapy, Systems Thinking, Equity, and Our Relations with Non-Human Beings and The Earth We Live Upon**

Chairs: **Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe, Peter Fraenkel, Monica Sesma, Larry Freeman**

An eco-centric contribution to family therapy affirms the fluidity and continuity of life with other species and the natural world; humans are considered as living in, and being a part of the wider biophysical environment, and as members of a "biotic community." Together we will create community, explore collaboration, refine ideas, and engender hope to address how family therapy practices and AFTA can contribute to integrate ecology, sustainability and meaningful relationships with non-human beings and the land and water we live upon in our practices. This exploration will also address how the oppression of the environment is connected to structural violence based on race, gender, class, and other aspects of diversity that afford privilege or oppression.

### **8. Bowen Theory**

Chair: **James B. Smith**; Presenter: **Victoria Harrison**

The cornerstone concept of Bowen theory is differentiation of self, bringing logical thinking to the effort to chart a course for oneself in one's personal and professional relationships. Bowen's NIMH research led to his conclusion that the most influential and often least visible legacy is the impact of unresolved tension of past family relationships. His "ahead of his time" observations led him beyond dyadic thinking into a lived reality that the web of these past relationships is biological and triangular in nature, and upon which a psychology of human relationships has evolved over countless millennia. If Bowen was accurate, his is a theory of human functioning, as applicable now and the future as well as it was in the past.

### **9. The Very Elderly: A Quagmire of Complexity and Confusion for**



## **Families, Caregivers and Professionals**

**Chair: Ann Itzkowitz**

Given the expansion of the aging population, this interest group offers an opportunity for family/systems professionals to explore the "old old" as a developmental stage with increasing prominence and impact on their families, on our clinical practices and on our own personal experience. Relevant issues touch upon various disciplines and contexts and cross multicultural and societal dimensions. We may share our experiences with aging, both personal and professional, and how these intersect with other disciplines and various contexts. We can then explore how we would like to proceed in the interest group, what we see specifically as the need for further conversation and direction in our field.

## **10. Go Along to Get Along Masculinities**

**Chairs: Roger Lake and Mike Brendler**

The #MeToo movement is consistently expanding calls for accountability among men of power in a paradigm shift that remains in constant play as the (at this writing) President of the U.S. continues to add daily tweets that beg the question: are men like this more stupid or more evil? Is he just a narcissist? Does he have dementia? There has been plenty of discussion along the lines of "what could he be thinking?" As systemic thinkers, it is clear the perpetrator is not acting alone, he is rather, enacting "privilege." How do we, as men and therapists, work with that systemic issue.

## **11. Research**

**Chair: Elisabeth Esmiol Wilson**

The purpose of the Research Interest Group is to create a space where researchers can gather and share our family therapy research. We understand family therapy research to include all data driven studies utilizing qualitative and/or quantitative research methods to investigate couple, family and community problems. Our Interest Group welcomes all family therapy researchers and those interested in family therapy research. We welcome presentations from researchers about current research studies and offer a space for dialogue and collaboration regarding proposed and ongoing family research projects. Our hope is to build and support ongoing collaboration among family researchers and research organizations and to explore how we are advancing social justice perspectives through our research design and research methods.

## **12. Detecting Moral Agency in Children**

## **13. Couples: Monogamy and its Discontents**

### **FACILITATED LISTENING CIRCLE**

**Facilitators:**

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

**BREAK**

6:00 – 6:30 PM

**Closing Reception, Dinner, & Awards Ceremony**  
*Ackerman Institute*

6:30 PM – 10:30 PM

*Awards Sponsored by The*

# The Awardees

Distinguished Contribution to Family Systems Research  
**Andrew Cherlin, PhD**

Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory and Practice  
**Jaakko Seikkula, PhD and Tom Erik Arnkil, PhD**

Innovative Contribution to Family Therapy  
**Michele Scheinkman, PhD**

Distinguished Contribution to Social Justice  
**Jean Malpas, LMHC, LMFT and Ben Davis MA, STR-BC, LCAT**

Early Career Award  
**Laurel Salmon, LMFT**

Lifetime Achievement Award  
**Paulette Hines, PhD**

# AFTA's 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting & 7th Open Conference

## RELATIONAL ACTIVISM: *SUPPORTING JUST RELATIONSHIPS IN FAMILY THERAPY*

*On the Ground in Austin: Moments of Hope & Solidarity  
Community Workers with Families—in Partnership with AFTA  
Melanie Domenech Rodriguez & Ruben Parra-Cardona*

Sunday, June 24

8:00 – 8:30 AM Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 AM Opening: An invitation from **Melanie Domenech Rodriguez** and **Ruben Parra-Cardona**, introducing the presenters and the work being done by local community workers in Austin.

9:30 – 11:30 AM Highlights of Local Work

Presenter: **Jodi Berger Cardoso**, University of Houston

Jodi Berger Cardoso's research examines how exposure to trauma and psychosocial stress before, during, and post-migration affects the mental health of immigrants and their children.

Presenter: **Deliana Garcia** with the Migrant Clinicians Network. Deliana and her organization work with undocumented immigrants in the Austin area.

11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Partnerships with AFTA members Networking between presenters, local community workers, and AFTA members for current and future working partnerships.

*Pre-registration required. Breakfast & Box lunch provided.*

*Workshop subsidized by a \$5,000 grant (\$2,500 AFTA Donor (Dick Chasin); \$1,000 Austin Family Institute; \$1,500 AFTA Board & Committee Chairs (or \$500 Minuchin Center for the Family and Jay Lappin).*