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You are here: [Home](#) / [Conference Speakers](#)

CONFERENCE **SPEAKERS**

With a lively combination of **interactive keynotes** and quick and energetic **workshop style breakouts**, you'll be **challenged, engaged, and excited** the WHOLE Conference!

As we are reimagining our conference in the virtual space, please note that speakers courses, and times are subject to change.

keynote speakers



**DR. DARYL CHOW, MA, PHD
(PSYCH)**

**Friday
Keynote Speaker**

*IMAGINE THIS: Tiny Ideas for Focal
Changes in Education, Supervision,
Professional Development*



**DR. HARRY J. APONTE, PHD,
H.C., MSW, LCSW, LMFT**

**Saturday
Keynote Speaker**

*Training Therapists in the Use of
Self and Training the Use of "Self" in
Therapy*



**ANGELA CALDWELL, MA,
LMFT**

**Thursday
Plenary Speaker**

*The Results Are In: You Have No
Personality*



DR. TRAVIS HEATH, PSYD

**Saturday
Plenary Speaker**

*Moving Beyond Multicultural
Counseling: Preferred Mediums of
Healing and Psychotherapy on the
Margins*



KIAUNDR A JACKSON, LMFT

**Friday
Plenary Speaker**

*Beyond the Couch: The Power of
Building a Personal Brand to Impact
the Masses*

[Read Bio](#)



KATIE VERN OY, MS, LMFT

**Thursday
Plenary Speaker**

*Showing Up For Our Clients: The
Modern Therapist's Impact on
Therapy Outcomes*

[Read Bio](#)



**CURT WIDHALM, MA, MS,
LMFT**

**Thursday
Plenary Speaker**

*Irrational Ethics: How Current
Standards Fail to Recognize Culture
and Humanity*

[Read Bio](#)

more fabulous speakers



**LINDSAY BRYAN-PODVIN,
LMSW**

Thursday Workshop

Ways of Doing

*Financial Therapy: Helping Clients
with Money Stress*



**DR. BENJAMIN CALDWELL,
PSYD, LMFT**

**Thursday Panel and Saturday
Moderator**

Business and Technology

*The Evolution of Care: Preparing
Your Practice for the Future of
Therapy*

Ways of Doing

*Deflecting and Navigating Court in
Chaos*



**BECK GEE-COHEN MA
CADC-II**

Friday Panel

*Ways of Being and Ways of Doing
Erasure and Exclusion in Therapy:
Implications for Clients and
Clinicians*



DR. JOY COX, PHD

Friday Panel

*Ways of Being and Ways of Doing
Erasure and Exclusion in Therapy:
Implications for Clients and
Clinicians*



MELISSA DOUGLASS, LCSW

Thursday Panel

Business and Technology

*The Evolution of Care: Preparing
Your Practice for the Future of
Therapy*

[Read Bio](#)



DR. EDITH GONZALEZ, PHD

Friday Breakout

Skeptics and Outliers

Gatekeeping

[Read Bio](#)



JAMES GUAY, LMFT

Saturday Panel

Ways of Being

The Magic of Therapeutic Mistakes

[Read Bio](#)



KELLY HIGDON, LMFT

Saturday Breakout

Business and Tech

*(with Miranda Palmer)
Impacting and Improving Clinical
Outcomes Through Business
Practices*

[Read Bio](#)



DR. MIMI HOANG, PHD

Friday Panel

*Ways of Being and Ways of Doing
Erasure and Exclusion in Therapy:
Implications for Clients and
Clinicians*

[Read Bio](#)



STEVON LEWIS, LMFT

Saturday Panel

*Ways of Being
The Magic of Therapeutic Mistakes*

[Read Bio](#)



DR. SONYA LOTT, PHD

Friday Breakout

*Ways of Being
Cultivating Cultural Humility
Through Self-Compassion*

[Read Bio](#)



DR. EMILY LUND, PHD, CRC

Friday Panel

*Ways of Being and Ways of Doing
Erasure and Exclusion in Therapy:
Implications for Clients and
Clinicians*

[Read Bio](#)



DANA MCNEIL, MA, LMFT

Saturday Breakout

Ways of Doing

Polyamory: How to be an effective therapist when you don't agree with or understand non-monogamous relationships

[Read Bio](#)



WILL MORALES

Saturday Breakout

Business and Technology

Financial Best Practices

[Read Bio](#)



**NEGEEN MOUSSAVIAN,
AMFT**

Saturday

Live Supervision Participant

Training the Use of "Self" in Therapy?

[Read Bio](#)



SHIRA MYROW, MA, LMFT

Friday Breakout

Ways of Doing

The Problem with Spiritual Bypass: Therapy and Spiritual Perspectives as Dual Healing

[Read Bio](#)



MIRANDA PALMER, LMFT

Saturday Breakout
Business and Technology
(with Kelly Higdon)
*Impacting and Improving Clinical
Outcomes Through Business
Practices*

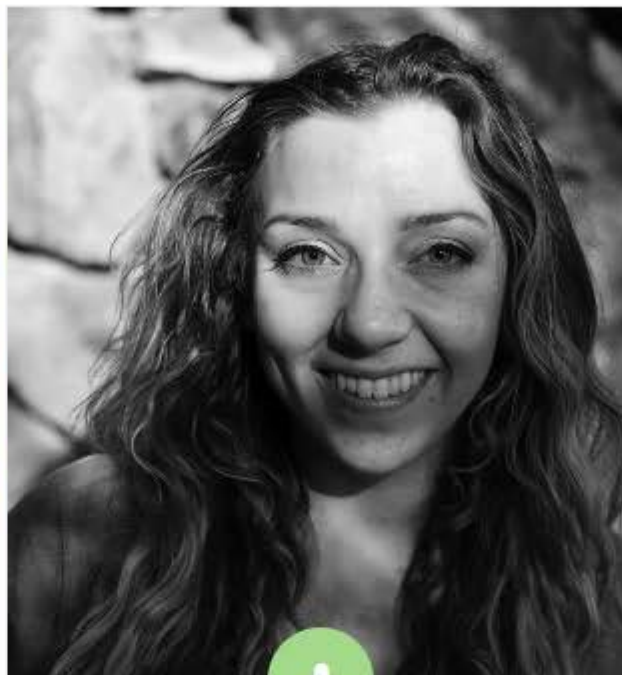
[Read Bio](#)



**SUSAN PEASE GADOUA,
MSW, LCSW**

Friday Breakout
Skeptics and Outliers
*Is Marriage Becoming Extinct? The
Changing Nature of Couples and
Family*

[Read Bio](#)



LAURA PIGNATO, MS

Friday Breakout
Skeptics and Outliers
Gatekeeping

[Read Bio](#)



KATIE READ, LMFT

**Thursday Workshop and Friday
Breakout**
Business and Technology
Clinician to Coach
*Creating a YOU filled website (with
Jessica Tappana)*

[Read Bio](#)



NAM RINDANI, LMFT

Friday Panel Facilitator

*Ways of Being and Ways of Doing
Erasure and Exclusion in Therapy:
Implications for Clients and
Clinicians*

[Read Bio](#)



DR. LORI ROBERTO, PHD

Thursday Panel

*Business and Technology
The Evolution of Care: Preparing
Your Practice for the Future of
Therapy*

[Read Bio](#)



**ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ, MA,
LMFT**

Saturday Panel

*Ways of Being
The Magic of Therapeutic Mistakes*

[Read Bio](#)



**JOE SANOK, MA, LLP, LPC,
NCC**

Friday Breakout

*Business and Technology
From Clinical Work to Taking on the
World: How to build a passive
income through podcasting*

[Read Bio](#)



**ROBERT SCHOLZ, MA, LMFT,
PCC**

Saturday Panel

Ways of Being

The Magic of Therapeutic Mistakes

[Read Bio](#)



HOWARD SPECTOR, MA

Thursday Panel

Business and Technology

*The Evolution of Care: Preparing
Your Practice for the Future of
Therapy*

[Read Bio](#)



**NICOL STOLAR-PETERSON,
MSW, LCSW, BCD**

Saturday Breakout

Ways of Doing

*Deflecting and Navigating Court in
Chaos*

[Read Bio](#)



PAMELA SURACI, LMFT

Friday Breakout

Business and Technology

Practical Telehealth Best Practices

[Read Bio](#)



JESSICA TAPPANA, LCSW

Friday Breakout
Business and Tech
(with Katie Read)

*Creating a YOU filled Website to
better serve your clients*

[Read Bio](#)



DR. MELVIN VARGHESE, PHD

Thursday Interviewer
*Ways of Being and Business and
Technology*

*Showing Up For Our Clients: The
Modern Therapist's Impact on
Therapy Outcomes*

[Read Bio](#)

meet our **speakers**



**DR. HARRY J. APONTE, PHD, H.C.,
MSW, LCSW, LMFT**

DR. HARRY J. APONTE, PHD, H.C., MSW, LCSW, LMFT

Dr. Aponte has a private practice in Philadelphia. He also is a clinical associate professor in Drexel University's Couple & Family Therapy Department.

He has publications on family therapy, training and supervision in therapy, working with disadvantaged families, and spirituality in therapy.

He has lectured and conducted workshops throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Latin America, Europe and Asia.

He received postgraduate training at the Menninger Clinic, and worked there in a variety of capacities, including as a supervisor and teacher. From Topeka, he came to Philadelphia to work at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic of which he eventually became the director.

Dr. Aponte is a Fellow of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, and a Board Certified Diplomate in Clinical Social Work.

Among other honors, he received the award for Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy and Practice from the American Family Therapy Academy in 1992, and the award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Marriage and Family Therapy from the Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in 2001. He also received the I. Arthur Marshall Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Menninger Clinic in 1997.

Dr. Aponte received the Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters (honoris causa) from Drexel University in 2004, and the Degree of Doctor of Public Service (honoris causa) from the University of Maryland in 2006.



LINDSAY BRYAN-PODVIN, LMSW

LINDSAY BRYAN-PODVIN, LMSW

Lindsay Bryan-Podvin, owner and founder of Mind Money Balance, is a financial therapist who started her career in the field of mental health treatment and advocacy.

As the first financial therapist in Michigan, she combines financial literacy with the emotional and psychological side of money. She always had an interest in mental health and found an even greater love working at the intersection of mental health and money, especially when it comes to romantic relationships.

In addition to being a published author of the book “The Financial Anxiety Solution,” she has a degree in sociology from Michigan State University, and her Master’s in Social Work from the University of Michigan. She lives with her husband and their dog in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



[Back to Top](#)



ANGELA CALDWELL, MA, LMFT

ANGELA CALDWELL, MA, LMFT

Angela Caldwell is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Family Coach. She is the Founder and Director of the Self-Injury Institute, where her practice focuses on the treatment of self-injury from a family systems perspective, as well as the Caldwell Family Institute, where she offers out-of-the-box coaching for families that are looking for something other than therapy to help them reach their growth potential.

Angela is currently on the adjunct faculty for the MFT graduate program at California State University Northridge, where she teaches family systems theories and couples therapy. She has been teaching graduate students for over a decade at four different universities, and previously taught assessment for a large majority of her teaching career. She was selected by Antioch University to design a curriculum for a new Counselor Assessment class, and has offered consultation on assessments for the last eight years.

Angela has served in MFT leadership for much of her career, including holding executive offices in CAMFT and AAMFT. She has worked side by side with Ben Caldwell and other leaders on various advocacy efforts in California, most notably on the passage of SB 1172, which banned reparative therapy for minors in 2012.



[Back to Top](#)



**DR. BENJAMIN CALDWELL, PSYD,
LMFT**

DR. BENJAMIN CALDWELL, PSYD, LMFT

Dr. Benjamin Caldwell, PsyD is a California Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (#42723) and the Education and Director for SimplePractice Learning. He currently serves as adjunct faculty for California State University Northridge in Los Angeles. He has taught at the graduate level for more than 15 years, primarily in Law and Ethics, and has written and trained extensively on ethical applications in mental health care. In addition to serving a three-year term on the AAMFT Ethics Committee, Dr. Caldwell served as the Chair of the Legislative and Advocacy Committee for AAMFT-California for 10 years. He served as Editor for the Users Guide to the 2015 AAMFT Code of Ethics and is the author for several books, including Saving Psychotherapy and Basics of California Law for LMFTs, LPCCs, and LCSWs.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



**DR. DARYL CHOW, MA, PHD
(PSYCH)**

DR. DARYL CHOW, MA, PHD (PSYCH)

Daryl Chow, MA, PhD (Psych) is a practicing psychologist and trainer. He is a senior associate of the International Center for Clinical Excellence (ICCE). He devotes his time to workshops, consultations and researches the development of expertise and highly effective psychotherapists, helping practitioners to achieve better results.

Daryl is the author of [*The First Kiss: Undoing the Intake Model*](#) and *Igniting First Sessions in Psychotherapy*. His work has also appeared in edited books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and he is a co-editor of [*The Write to Recovery: Personal Stories & Lessons about Recovery from Mental Health Concerns*](#).

Daryl's blog, [*Frontiers of Psychotherapist Development*](#) is aimed at inspiring and sustaining practitioners' individualized professional development. His highly personalized in-depth online course for supervisors, [*Reigniting Clinical Supervision*](#), serves as a leading light to help raise the bar of effectiveness in psychotherapy.

Currently, Daryl maintains a private practice with a vibrant team at Henry Street Centre, Fremantle, and continues to serve as a senior psychologist at the Institute of Mental Health, Singapore.

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BECK GEE-COHEN MA CADC-II

Director of LGBTQ+ Programming

BECK GEE-COHEN MA CADC-II

Director of LGBTQ+ Programming

Beck is a master's level clinician with an undergraduate degree in Sociology with an emphasis on Gender & Sexuality and a master's degree in Addiction Counseling. Beck has worked in the mental health & substance use field for over 10 years in various capacities. The main focus of his work has been invested in the LGBTQ+ community, adolescents, and families. Over this decade, Beck has trained numerous facilities on LGBTQ+ best practices, has been a keynote and presenter at many conferences, and has facilitated workshops about LGBTQ+, trauma, adolescents, gender and sexuality.

Beck is the Director of LGBTQ+ Programming at Visions Adolescent Treatment Center. This program is for young people at Visions who identify in the community, those who are questioning, and their families. It includes process groups, psychoeducation, and family programming with professionals specifically trained and experienced in the LGBTQ+ population and best practices. Alongside the already dynamic team at Visions Mental Health and Wellness Center in Los Angeles, young LGBTQ+ people and their families will find a space that serves their specific needs in regards to healing and thriving.



Back to Top



DR. JOY COX, PHD

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Dr. Joy Cox is a body justice advocate using her skill set in research and leadership to foster social change through the promotion of fat acceptance and diversity and inclusion. With 36 years living as a fat, Black cisgendered woman and 7+ years of professional experience under her belt, Dr. Cox draws on her own experiences and skillset to amplify the voices of those most marginalized in society, bringing attention to matters of intersectionality addressing race, body size, accessibility, and “health.”

Joy has been featured on several podcasts and media productions such as Food Pysch with Christy Harrison, Nalgona Positivity Pride with Gloria Lucas, Fat Women of Color with Ivy Felicia, and Huffington Post’s piece, “Everything You Know About Obesity is Wrong.” She is the voice of an overcomer, looking to propel others into a place of freedom designed by their desires.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



MELISSA DOUGLASS, LCSW

MELISSA DOUGLASS, LCSW

Melissa is the founder of Goal Driven Counseling; an online group private practice where the team supports individuals navigating challenging education, career, life transitions, and mental health concerns through secure video conferencing with diverse skills in a variety of speciality areas. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Distance Credentialed Counselor (DCC) who has several collective years of volunteer and work experience with youth and adults in juvenile detention, community, education, and in-patient psychiatric hospital settings. Melissa is also the founder of Goal Driven Coaching, a virtual wellness platform designed to support overworked and busy professionals with prioritizing their personal wellness goals.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



DR. EDITH GONZALEZ, PHD

DR. EDITH GONZALEZ, PHD

Dr. Edith Gonzalez is an Assistant Professor of Counseling at Texas A&M University-Commerce. Her education includes a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Houston, a Master of Education in Couples, Marriage and Family Counseling from William and Mary, and a PhD in Counselor Education and Supervision from William and Mary. Dr. Gonzalez's primary research interests include (a) Issues in Marriage and Family Counseling, (b) Social Advocacy for Underrepresented Populations, (c) Implications of Bilingual Counseling and Supervision, and (d) Working with Latinx immigrant families. Dr. Gonzalez is an active member of the American Counseling Association (ACA), International Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (IAMFC), Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES), and Texas Counseling Association (TCA). Her clinical background included work with couples and families in community agencies.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



JAMES GUAY, LMFT

JAMES GUAY, LMFT

James Guay is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (#39252) inspired by seeing his clients transform from being perfectionistic, constantly on the go, feeling empty despite their successes to a place where they can finally truly relax and pursue excellence from a greater place of self-compassion.

He's also a social justice activist with a mission to help bring more compassion into the world — especially for oppressed minorities. To advance this cause, he's testified against conversion therapy at California's State Capital, appeared on Lisa Ling's Our America show, appeared on various documentaries including VICE, and has been interviewed and/or written articles for Time, NY Times, LA Times, Huffington Post, Rage Magazine and the Advocate. www.livingmorefully.com



Back to Top



DR. TRAVIS HEATH, PSYD

DR. TRAVIS HEATH, PSYD

Travis Heath is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He has worked in Los Angeles, California and is currently a licensed psychologist practicing in Denver, Colorado.

The work he has been focused on includes shifting from a multicultural approach to counseling to one of cultural democracy that invites people to heal in mediums that are culturally near. Writing he has contributed to has focused on the use of rap music in narrative therapy, working with persons entangled in the criminal justice system in ways that maintain their dignity, narrative practice stories as pedagogy, a co-created questioning practice called reunion questions, and community healing strategies.

He is currently co-authoring the first book on Contemporary Narrative Therapy with David Epston. His practice has been apprenticed by David Epston, substantially influenced by the work of Makungu Akinyela, and inspired by collaborators such as marcela polanco, Tom Carlson, Sasha Pilkington, and Kay Ingamells.

He has been fortunate enough to run workshops and speak about his work in Australia, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom, and the United States. He is scheduled to teach at multiple sites throughout Denmark in June 2020, and in Sweden in August 2020.



KELLY HIGDON, LMFT

KELLY HIGDON, LMFT

Kelly Higdon, LMFT believes that private practice is one of the solutions to increasing access to quality mental health in our communities. Her passion lies in empowering private practice owners to serve at their highest and best, improving clinical outcomes through their business planning and to break the statistic that mental health clinicians are the worst paid Masters' degree. She has helped thousands through training, education and coaching.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



DR. MIMI HOANG, PHD

(she/her/hers), Psychologist, Author, and
Activist

DR. MIMI HOANG, PHD

Dr. Mimi Hoang is a nationally-recognized psychologist, educator, author, and grassroots activist specializing in the LGBTQ+ and Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities. Licensed as a psychologist in California since 2008, Dr. Mimi has worked primarily in community mental health and university counseling center settings due to her passion to serve the young and underserved. Since the 1990s, she has co-founded three organizations in Los Angeles for bisexual, pansexual, fluid, and other nonmonosexual (AKA “bi+”) individuals – the Los Angeles Bi Task Force, amBi (LA’s Bisexual Social Community), and Fluid at UCLA – authored multiple publications, and earned a seat at the landmark 2013 White House Bisexual Community Roundtable. Dr. Mimi also served as a Board Member of the South Bay LGBT Center in Torrance and has co-founded, advised, or volunteered with numerous API organizations such as API Equality, and ‘Ohana House/Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights. Her steadfast leadership has earned her multiple awards, a feature in Jan Dee Gordon’s LGBTQ of Steel photography book, and being named “One of the Most Significant Women in the Bisexual Movement.” Dr. Mimi currently works as a Staff Psychologist at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) Student Psychological Services, Adjunct Professor at Antioch University Los Angeles, and consultant/trainer on issues of diversity and intersectionality.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



STEVON LEWIS, LMFT

STEVON LEWIS, LMFT

Stevon is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, speaker, and corporate consultant. He earned Bachelors of Arts degrees in Psychology and Afro-Ethnic Studies from California State University, Fullerton, and has a Master's of Science degree in Counseling, with an emphasis in Marriage and Family Therapy, from California State University, Long Beach. He began his therapy career in 2007 as a therapist at a community mental health agency in Long Beach, working with the families of adolescents involved with the juvenile justice system. After transitioning out of community mental health he became the Director of Counseling Services at Woodbury University, a small private university in Burbank, CA. In addition, he is a Past President of the Long Beach-South Bay Chapter of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

In his private practice, Stevon specializes in working with adults struggling with Impostor Syndrome. He has been a featured expert for various major television and media platforms, including the Oprah Winfrey Network, Bustle Magazine, Thrive Global, and Entrepreneur Magazine. As a corporate consultant, he has facilitated training about race in the workplace for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) and Tory Burch. In addition, he has hosted a series of workshops for A New Direction, a London-based non-profit, that provides support and development to individuals that are underrepresented in the creative and digital industries.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



DR. SONYA LOTT, PHD

DR. SONYA LOTT, PHD

Dr. Sonya Lott is the founder and CEO of CEMPSYCH, LLC, which offers continuing education in multicultural competence and is approved as a sponsor by the APA to provide continuing education to psychologists. The vision of CEMPSYCH, LLC is to transform the way that mental health professionals conceptualize, seek, and provide training in multicultural competence, as well as to be a catalyst for others to become more heart-centered, connected, and aware that we are all emanations of the same Source.

She is also the host of the Reflections on Multicultural Competence podcast.

She earned a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Temple University and has been licensed as a psychologist in PA since 1991 and more recently in Florida for online psychotherapy. She has advanced training in Complicated Grief Therapy (CGT) from the Center at Columbia University, where she remains an associate. Sonya also maintains a private clinical practice in Philadelphia, PA, specializing in CGT.

Currently she serves on the advisory board of Whites Confronting Racism, an organization based in Philadelphia that facilitates workshops for White people throughout the United States “who want to challenge the racism around them — and in their own heads and hearts.”

[↑ Back to Top](#)



DR. EMILY LUND, PHD, CRC

DR. EMILY LUND, PHD, CRC

Emily M. Lund, PhD, CRC, is an Assistant Professor of Counselor Education in the department of Educational Studies in Psychology, Research Methodology, and Counseling at the University of Alabama. She holds a PhD in rehabilitation counseling from Utah State University, a masters degree in educational psychology from Texas A&M University, and bachelors degrees in psychology and social work from the University of Montana. Her primary research interests include interpersonal violence and trauma in people with disabilities; suicide and non-suicidal self-injury in people with disabilities; the experiences of graduate students with disabilities; and LGBTQ+ issues, particularly as they intersect with disability. Dr. Lund has published 80 peer-reviewed publications and also co-edited the books, *Religion, Disability, and Interpersonal Violence* (2017) and *Violence against LGBTQ+ Persons: Research, Practice, and Advocacy* (forthcoming, October 2020), both published by Springer. Her work has been highly cited in scholarly literature and has received national media attention in both popular and trade outlets.



[Back to Top](#)



DANA MCNEIL, MA, LMFT

DANA MCNEIL, MA, LMFT

Dana McNeil is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and is the founder of a group practice called The Relationship Place located in San Diego, California. Dana's practice specializes in couples' therapy and utilizes an evidence-based type of couples' therapy which is known as the Gottman Method. Dana is a certified Gottman Method therapist and Bringing Home Baby instructor. Dana's practice works with all types of relationship issues from pre-marital counseling, dealing with the aftermath of extra marital affairs, partners working through addiction recovery, military deployed families, parents of special needs children, LGBTQ, and polyamorous clients. Dana has been featured on many relationship podcasts and in publications such as the Business Insider, Authority Magazine, Eat This-Not That, Parade, Oprah Living, Martha Stewart Living, Ladders, AARP, and is the resident relationship expert on the Cox Communications show "I Do."

You can connect with Dana on her group website www.sdrelationshipplace.com, her personal site www.danamcneil.com, or on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/sdrelationshipplace/>

↑ Back to Top



WILL MORALES

WILL MORALES

Will Morales is the Senior Product Manager, and resident insurance guru at SimplePractice. Will has a passion for guiding our customers through the often complex world of insurance billing.

Being a Senior Product Manager at SimplePractice, means you work proactively to drive projects from concept to launch and bring high standards to developing product requirements that are informed by a combination of research, data and product intuition.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



NEGEEN MOUSSAVIAN, AMFT

NEGEEN MOUSSAVIAN, AMFT

Negeen Moussavian is a Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist (#107771) working under the supervision of Curt Widhalm LMFT (#47333) in Encino, CA. She received her Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy from Pepperdine University. She works with clients dealing with relationships, dating, infidelity, and trauma. Additionally, she works with Iranian-American clients on issues surrounding identity, generational trauma, and other culture specific topics. She implements a combination of holistic and traditional therapy practices, including EMDR therapy.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



SHIRA MYROW, MA, LMFT

SHIRA MYROW, MA, LMFT

Shira Myrow is a licensed marriage and family therapist, mindfulness educator and founder of the mindfulness based Yale St. Therapy Group based in Santa Monica, CA where she works in private practice.

With advanced training in Emotionally Focused Therapy and the Gottman Method, Shira specializes in treating couples with a focus on rebuilding attunement, repairing attachment, and creating emotional literacy. Shira also has a special focus on treating attachment injuries in adult children of severely mentally ill parents (parents with borderline personality disorder, bi-polar and schizophrenia).

Shira is a contributing writer for publications including Goop, Thrive Global and Mind Body Green. In addition to a TED x talk, Shira has been featured as a guest on multiple outlets and podcasts. She has presented at the TED Women Leadership Conference, The Claremont Mckenna Wellness Conference and Therapy Reimagined, created curriculum, workshops and meditation content for Evenflow Meditation.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



MIRANDA PALMER, LMFT

MIRANDA PALMER, LMFT

Miranda Palmer, LMFT loves helping therapists bridge the gap between what it takes to be a great therapist who gets great clinical outcomes and what it takes to run a successful therapy practice. She has helped thousands of therapists from around the world make the mindset shifts that allow a more effortless application of marketing strategies that grow a private practice that is not just financially sustainable, but that gets great clinical outcomes.



[Back to Top](#)



**SUSAN PEASE GADOUA, MSW,
LCSW**

SUSAN PEASE GADOUA, MSW, LCSW

Susan Pease Gadoua, L.C.S.W., is the author of San Francisco best-seller, *Contemplating Divorce, A Step-by-Step Guide to Deciding Whether to Stay or Go* (August 2008), and *Stronger Day by Day: Reflections for Healing and Rebuilding After Divorce* (July 2010). She is also the co-author with journalist, Vicki Larson, of *The New I Do, Reshaping Marriage for Skeptics, Realists and Rebels*, (Seal Press, September 2014). In addition, Susan authored *The Parenting Marriage Workbook: A Beginner's Guide to Transitioning from a Traditional Marriage to a Parenting Marriage* (2017) as well as an eBook entitled, *The Top Ten Misguided Reasons to Stay in a Bad Marriage* (2011).

Susan is a licensed therapist based in the northern San Francisco Bay Area with an expertise in marriage and divorce. She counsels clients via phone or Skype all over the world as well as running workshops and retreats in northern California. Susan is a sought-out speaker on marriage and divorce. She has appeared on television, radio and print, including *The CBS Early Show* and publications such as *The Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Thrive Global*, *Huffington Post*, *Psychology Today*, and *Divorce Magazine*.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



LAURA PIGNATO, MS

LAURA PIGNATO, MS

Laura Pignato provides community-based services through a strength-based perspective for families in Richmond, VA, while enrolled in a Counselor Education and Supervision PhD program with a concentration in Social Justice for Marginalized Families at the College of William & Mary. Laura attained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Louisiana State University in 2012. In 2016, she attained a Master's of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Loyola University New Orleans. Her clinical background includes group counseling for children and adults to enhance family well-being, family counseling for single mothers in transitional housing, domestic violence counseling services in New Orleans, and structural family therapy supervision and training.

Laura's primary research interests include community-based interventions for marginalized families, disaster resilience and family therapy, structural issues affecting women of color and counseling implications, and RCT pedagogy for counselors-in-training. Laura currently serves as the ACA Governing Council Student Representative and has advocated in leadership roles at the state and regional level.

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KATIE READ, LMFT

KATIE READ, LMFT

Katie Read, LMFT takes lessons from her nearly-20 successful years in the field to help clinicians grow...then OUTgrow...their practices.

Immediately upon licensure Katie was made Director of a large Transitional Aged Youth program in Oakland, CA. Later she was recruited to Direct one of Sacramento's largest Wraparound Programs, and from there she moved into the role of Director of Clinical Supervision, personally supervising 40+ interns towards licensure.

Concurrently, Katie had private practices in multiple cities, taught graduate psychology students, and wrote and created therapist training materials.

Now Katie focuses on helping clinicians grow their practices and their LIVES by serving as a top-shelf online marketing consultant.

Her flagship course, Clinician to Coach, gives therapists a complete website and marketing funnel to launch their Coaching, Consulting, or Course businesses to massive success!

Katie is also a special needs mom and loves helping other moms tune into their own intuition and lead their best-possible lives by taking the sometimes-scary leap into following what's best for them, deep down.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



NAM RINDANI, LMFT

NAM RINDANI, LMFT

Nam Rindani is a licensed marriage and family therapist specializing in working with men and therapists in California through her teletherapy practice as well as owner and Relationship Coach at Ebonessence Coaching and Consulting for Men. Her 17 year clinical experience spans two continents and multiple languages as she practiced therapy in India serving the marginalized before moving to the United States. Nam served as Prelicensed Chair of San Diego Camft in 2015 and is also founder and comoderator of large online community, Therapists In Private Practice, where she found her passion for engaging and moderating difficult yet necessary conversations about topics of systemic injustice, marginalization and oppression within and outside the therapy field. Nam believes that by opening up conversations where the marginalized are heard and the unassuming oppressive groups are informed, we can begin to build bridges and close gaps that have plagued communities for generations.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



DR. LORI ROBERTO, PHD

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Dr Lori Roberto has a PhD in Clinical Psychology with extensive experience with health psychology, behavioral medicine, and teaching stress management. My primary therapeutic influences come from relational and psychodynamic work, acceptance & commitment therapy (ACT), and cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT). I continually work to strengthen my knowledge and skills to bring to my clinical practice. I've had specialized training in clinical health psychology, including for chronic pain, chronic illness, and insomnia.



[Back to Top](#)



ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ, MA, LMFT

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ, MA, LMFT

Adriana Rodriguez (She/Her/Ella) is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Sacramento, CA. Adriana obtained a BA in Sociology from Sacramento State and a MA in Counseling Psychology from the University of San Francisco. Adriana is an educator and therapist who has worked in a variety of mental health and education settings since 2004.

Adriana is a Spanish speaking, queer, Salvadorian immigrant who is passionate about destigmatizing mental health. Adriana's lens is intersectional, specializing in addressing the impact on the mental wellness of adult children of immigrants and BIPOC due to cultural barriers, ethnic and racial identity, sexual orientation, the gender binary, and intergenerational trauma. Adriana believes that each person possesses an enormous amount of strengths and inner wisdom. She sees herself as a companion in her client's journey, honoring the pains and gifts found not only in their personal history but also in their family's and the world's context in which they have been brought up in. Adriana believes that we can all learn so much about ourselves through understanding who we are in relation to others, and in her work not only does she focus on individuals, but also in dyads beyond those of a romantic nature.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



JOE SANOK, MA, LLP, LPC, NCC

JOE SANOK, MA, LLP, LPC, NCC

Joe Sanok is a keynote and TEDx speaker, business consultant, and podcaster. Joe has the #1 podcast for counselors, The Practice of the Practice Podcast that gets over 100k listens per month. With interviews with Jamie Masters, Pat Flynn, Lori Gottlieb, Dr. Julie Schwartz Gottman, and Lewis Howes, Joe is a rising star in the speaking world!

Joe built a multi-six figure private pay group practice until he sold it in 2019. He dynamically teaches clinicians how to grow income, innovation, influence, and impact, while still staying true to their values.

Joe is the founder of Podcast Launch School, a training for helping professionals to take their message to the world through podcasting, building e-courses, and membership communities.

Joe is a writer for PsychCentral, has been featured on the Huffington Post, Forbes, GOOD Magazine, Reader's Digest, Entrepreneur on Fire, and Yahoo News. He is author of five books and has been named the Therapist Resource top podcast, consultant, and blogger.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



ROBERT SCHOLZ, MA, LMFT, PCC

ROBERT SCHOLZ, MA, LMFT, PCC

Robert Scholz, M.A. is licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist and Professional Clinical Counselor. Robert has served in many clinical and leadership roles over his twenty plus years working in university mental health departments, community mental health, private practice, and forensic psychology settings. His current psychotherapy, consulting and training company focuses on young adult mental health and addiction, crisis management, and feedback informed treatment (FIT). Robert is a frequent presenter at industry conferences, and has authored publications on the topics of motivational interviewing, counseling men and boys, disaster mental health and effective systemic responses to sexual violence.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



HOWARD SPECTOR, MA

HOWARD SPECTOR, MA

Howard is the CEO and Co-founder of SimplePractice. Howard has over 20 years of experience in the information technology industry. He is proud to have earned his MA in Counseling Psychology with an emphasis in Depth Psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



**NICOL STOLAR-PETERSON, MSW,
LCSW, BCD**

NICOL STOLAR-PETERSON, MSW, LCSW, BCD

www.nicolstolar.com

Nicol Stolar-Peterson, LCSW, BCD has over 20 years of experience working with children and families. She worked for Child Protective Services for over 11.5 years as a child abuse investigator, forensic interviewer and adoptions social worker. Nicol was licensed in 2009 and began her work as a child custody evaluator shortly there after. Nicol became a Board Certified Diplomat of Clinical Social Work in 2015. Nicol is an expert witness and her areas of expertise includes child abuse, sexual abuse, child protective services and child custody. Nicol is retained as an expert witness in California, Washington, Oregon, Arizona and Missouri.

Nicol's practice is located in Murrieta, CA. Nicol is also the founder and director of Kids Court & Counseling Center a non-profit that helps children prepare for court testimony and appearances if they are victims of crimes, witnesses to crimes, in foster care and/or going through a litigious custody battle where testimony occurs.

Nicol coaches her fellow colleagues all over the United States on court related matters and consults with attorneys on a regular basis. Nicol loves giving presentations and trainings. She speaks on multiple topics. One of her favorite topics is CYA, Cover Your Assets. Nicol feels strongly that the work that therapists do is important and must be protected. That is why Nicol created www.therapistcourtprep.com. A site that therapists could go to and get help implementing a copy/paste court policy, learn what to write and what not to write in a court related letter and learn what they need to do, in order to have a kick ass day in court if they have to go.



PAMELA SURACI, LMFT

PAMELA SURACI, LMFT

Pamela Suraci, LMFT, serves clients in California and Utah via her online practice. As a Certified Telehealth Provider, she has worked with a variety of clients online for several years, and helps other therapists transition to virtual therapy.

With over 20 years as clinician and practice owner, Pamela brings a unique blend of entrepreneurial expertise and client focused services. With this perspective, she has helped therapists deliver their much-needed services to a wider range of clients, while maintaining sustainable business practices.

Pamela has a passion for supporting and assisting therapists as they grow their practices, and for advocating the value of mental health providers in our increasingly complex world. She is known for her practical, real-world guidance and creative problem-solving approach.



[Back to Top](#)



JESSICA TAPPANA, LCSW

JESSICA TAPPANA, LCSW

Jessica Tappana believes in the power of therapy to transform lives and has spent her professional career trying to offer high quality counseling services and spread the word that counseling works. She started a private practice in 2017. When her practice evolved into a group practice, Jessica taught herself search engine optimization to market her practice. Now, her self pay group practice includes seven clinicians and part time two administrative team members and a more than steady stream of referrals.

In 2018, Jessica began helping friends with their websites and that transitioned into a second business. Simplified SEO Consulting now helps therapists around the world get their website ranking well on Google. Jessica is passionate about helping therapists create websites that not only rank well on Google but also provide useful information to clients.

Jessica balances being a therapist, group practice owner, SEO consultant for mental health professionals, wife and fully present mom to two young children. She has been quoted in numerous media articles including NBC news, Bustle, Live Strong, Bussiness.org and many more. In addition, she's appeared on various podcasts including Practice of the Practice, The Practice of Therapy & The Therapist Experience.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



KATIE VERNOY, MS, LMFT

KATIE VERNOY, MS, LMFT

Katie Vernoy is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, with a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from California State University, Fullerton and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Theater from Occidental College in Los Angeles, California.

Katie has always loved leadership and began stepping into management positions soon after gaining her license in 2005. Katie's experience spans many leadership and management roles in the mental health field: program coordinator, director, clinical supervisor, hiring manager, recruiter, and currently as Past President of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

Now in business for herself, Katie provides therapy, consultation, or business strategy to support leaders, visionaries, and helping professionals in pursuing their mission to help others. Katie is also the co-founder and co-host for the [Therapy Reimagined Conference](#) and the [Modern Therapist's Survival Guide podcast](#). Learn more about Katie's many pursuits at katievernoy.com.

[↑ Back to Top](#)



DR. MELVIN VARGHESE, PHD

DR. MELVIN VARGHESE, PHD

Melvin Varghese, PhD is a licensed psychologist in private practice in Philadelphia, PA where he helps entrepreneurs manage the stress of business growth and influence.

In 2015, Dr. Varghese also founded Selling The Couch, a podcast to help private practitioners grow their impact and income in and beyond the therapy room. The podcast is one of the top Career podcasts in Apple Podcasts, has been downloaded over 1 million times, and is heard in over 125 countries.

Private Practice: melvinvarghese.com

Selling The Couch: sellingthecouch.com

↑ Back to Top



CURT WIDHALM, MA, MS, LMFT

CURT WIDHALM, MA, MS, LMFT

Curt Widhalm is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist with a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology with an emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy from Pepperdine University, a Master's degree in Criminal Justice with an emphasis in Behavior Analysis from Saint Joseph's University and a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Montana State University. He has clinical experience with clients from a variety of different backgrounds, ages, experiences, and reasons for seeking help.

Curt earned his Marriage & Family Therapist License in 2009. During the process of earning his license, he has worked in clinical, school, and community mental health settings. Curt's background work includes work with children, adults, couples, families, and groups.

Curt is also the co-founder of CANDDI, a clinic specializing in assessing and providing psychotherapy to individuals affected by special needs. He has been working in private practice since 2010.

Curt is a CAMFT Certified Supervisor, and he has received numerous awards for his work within the therapeutic community at both the local and state levels.

[↑ Back to Top](#)