



Family Process Institute, Inc.

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2018 New Writers Fellowship

Biographies

Leslie A. Anderson, MS, LMFT



Leslie A. Anderson is a second-year doctoral student studying human development and family science with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy at the University of Georgia. Leslie earned her B.A. in psychology from Tougaloo College and her M.S. in marriage and family therapy from the University of Southern Mississippi. Earning her full licensure in 2014, Leslie has worked in various capacities as a clinician providing home-based and school-based therapy to predominantly underserved and underrepresented children and families in Mississippi. Leslie's research interests broadly center around African American familial processes, ethnic-racial socialization, and positive racial identity formation in African Americans. Leslie works earnestly to operate from a strengths-based perspective with her clients and fights for social justice both in her work with clients and in the community through her involvement with numerous service organizations. As a Minority Fellow with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Leslie consistently works towards developing as a budding scholar and researcher in the field of marriage and family therapy. Leslie has presented on regional, national, and international platforms on issues related to the importance of practices that best meet the needs of multicultural clients and the significance of self-reflexivity on the part of the clinician. Leslie considers her selection as a New Writers Fellow by the Family Process Institute to be an esteemed honor that will undoubtedly further equip her to become an influential scholar in the field affecting positive change and forward movement.

Liwei Zhang, MSW



Liwei Zhang is a social work PhD student at the New York University. Liwei's research focuses on social welfare policy with an emphasis on the role of multi-dimensional poverty in shaping children's socioemotional well-being, particularly for children in immigrant families. The ultimate goal of Liwei's research is to inform policy makers and clinical professionals in devising culturally competent policies and programs to eliminate socioemotional disparities attributed to poverty and immigration. To facilitate her academic inquiries, Liwei has equipped herself with advanced quantitative skills such as longitudinal modeling (e.g., growth-curve modeling), structural equation modeling, and causal inferences. Liwei's research has been published in *Asian American Journal of Psychology* and *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*.



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Maggie O'Reilly Treter



Maggie O'Reilly Treter got her BA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 2014, where she studied Psychology and Gender & Health. After graduation, she worked in the Centers for Behavioral and Preventive Medicine in Providence, RI as a full-time Senior Research Assistant before starting graduate school in 2016. She is currently working toward her PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Denver where she studies under the mentorship of Drs. Howard Markman, Galena Rhoades, and Scott Stanley in the Center for Marital and Family Studies lab. She is developing her program of scholarship focusing on romantic relationship development and the impact of life transitions on relationships. To this end, she is excited to attend the Craft of Scholarly Writing workshop at the Family Process Institute where she hopes to improve her paper on evaluating predictors of relationship stability among unmarried individuals who are having a baby.

Jacqueline Posada, MD



Jacqueline Posada is a third year resident in Psychiatry at the George Washington University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. She completed a bachelor's degree at the George Washington University. For 2 years after her undergraduate education, she worked at the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases studying HIV pathogenesis. Jacqueline Posada completed her medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. There she worked at St. Vincent's Student Run Free Clinic which inspired her passion for social justice and also health care policy. After her residency, she plans to pursue a fellowship in Consult Liaison psychiatry as the specialty focuses on the overlap of medical and psychiatric illness as well as distress that occurs in the face of illness or changes in one's body. Her other interests include humanism in medicine, health care policy, and health disparities. She also enjoys writing and has channeled this interest into writing pieces for Clinical Psychiatry News.



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Elsie Lobo, MS



Elsie Lobo is a PhD candidate in the Systems, Families, and Couples program at Loma Linda University, specializing in Couple and Family Therapy. She currently holds licensure as a Registered Psychologist in Alberta, Canada and as a Registered Associate Marriage and Family Therapist in California. Elsie is passionate about working with marginalized populations, using socioculturally-attuned interventions in clinical work and using research to engage with larger social systems, advocating for improved policies and programs for families.

Michelle Washburn-Busk, MS



Michelle Washburn-Busk, M.S., is a doctoral student in the Couple and Family Therapy Program at Kansas State University and was a fellow of the AAMFT Minority Fellowship Program from 2016-2017. She is passionate about expanding on what we know about power differentials perpetuated by “isms” in society and institutions. Michelle’s research and clinical passions are squarely faced toward social justice issues of power, specifically with regards to male-dominated gender dynamics, and she aspires to continue to contribute to the applied clinical research in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy to enhance clinicians’ abilities to use their social positioning and platforms of power to address issues of social justice inside and out of the therapy room. Michelle works predominantly with couples and at-risk youth in her clinical work.



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Kylee Probert



Kylee Probert is currently completing her Masters in Human Development and Family Sciences at Oregon State University, after completing a Bachelors in Psychology from Whitworth University. Specifically, her research interest includes mental health and placement disruptions for youth in foster care, as well as needs and motivations of foster caregivers. Currently, she is involved in Supporting Siblings in Foster Care (SIBS), an intervention designed to enhance sibling relationship quality for youth in foster care. She is also involved in research related to evaluation of Live and Learn, a community-based preschool and toddler program for children and parents. Finally, she is also a part of the Oregon Parenting Educators Collaborative (OPEC), in which she assists with development of best practices for culturally responsive parenting education for professionals working with families.

Taylor Pettway, MS



Taylor Pettway is a graduating therapist-in-training at The Family Institute at Northwestern University where she has engaged as a member of the Community Program, teaching assistant, and group therapy consultant. Previously an English Language Arts educator from Montgomery, Alabama, she seeks to promote the healing of diverse populations, such as people of color, committed and unmarried couples, co-parents, and children. Currently, Taylor's clinical interests include working with intergenerational trauma, couple conflict, and mindfulness somatic practices. She seeks to explore from a systemic, culturally sensitive lens and is currently researching the impact of intergenerational trauma on African American couples and families.

Reihonna Frost



Reihonna Frost is a third-year doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at Clark University. She received her undergraduate degree in Psychology from Oberlin College. Reihonna's research interests are united by the basic question, "What works in adoption?" She is curious about what it means to be an adoptive family and how adoption experiences differ for diverse families. She is particularly interested in questions around adoptive siblinghood and sibling groups in foster care and adoption. She has co-authored several papers on diverse adoptive families and their experiences with friends, family, communities, and schools.



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Katherine Lenger, MA



Katie Lenger is a clinical psychology doctoral student at the University of Tennessee where she works with Dr. Kristina Gordon. Her research interests involve identifying mechanisms (e.g. mindfulness, gratitude, humility, etc.) related to achieving and maintaining individual and relationship health, particularly among aging and underserved populations. To date, her research has largely identified specific aspects of mindfulness most relevant to one's own, and his or her partner's, relationship health. To extend this work, she is currently in the process of developing and disseminating a brief, couple-based, mindfulness intervention, that will be delivered in homes of low-income couples. This project is supported by the Francisco J. Varela Award from the Mind and Life Institute. The intervention seeks to make this portable, low-cost, strategy more accessible to this population to help improve and maintain their individual and relationship health. Upon completing her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, she intends to pursue a tenure-track position at a university where she can continue conducting intrinsically driven research and mentor students in the development of their own research passions.