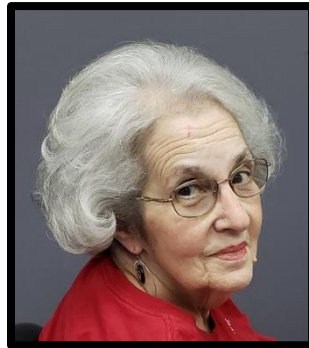




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## Tribute

### *A Legacy of Rituals, Resilience, and the Human Spirit*



**Dr. Evan Imber-Black**

May 19, 1944 – May 29, 2024

Editor-in-Chief, *Family Process* (2004-2011)

Founder and Facilitator, *The Craft of Scholarly Writing Workshop* (2012-2024)

Manijeh Daneshpour, PhD

Family Process Institute, Board President

#### **A tribute to Distinguished Scholar Professor Ivan Imber-Black**

Dr. Evan Imber Black, a beacon of brilliance in the vast tapestry of humanity, has made a permanent mark on the world of family therapy by introducing ideas related to family rituals, larger family systems, and family secrets. Her legacy, a source of inspiration and upliftment, continues to guide us in the family therapy field. As an internationally recognized scholar, Dr. Imber-Black has significantly shaped various practice models, including families and larger systems, family rituals, and family secrets. Her extensive body of work includes over 75 original papers and several influential books, such as *The Secret Life of Families* (Bantam, 1998), *Secrets in Families and Family Therapy* (WW Norton, 1993), *Rituals for Our Times*, co-authored with Janine Roberts (Jason Aronson, 1998), *Rituals in Families and Family Therapy*, co-edited with Janine Roberts and Richard Whiting (WW Norton, 1988, Second edition, 2003), and *Families and Larger Systems* (Guilford Publications, 1988).

Dr. Imber-Black's achievements stand as a testament to her unwavering dedication and profound impact in the field of family therapy. She was a faculty member at the Ackerman Institute and former Director of Ackerman's Center for Families and Health. Her leadership extended beyond the classroom, as she served as the director of training at several prestigious universities. She also held esteemed positions such as the past president of the American Family Therapy Academy, a recognition of her significant contributions to the field. Her influence was further acknowledged with the 1990 American Family Therapy Academy

Award for Distinguished Contribution to Family Therapy Theory and Practice, and the 1999 American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy Cumulative Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy.



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Dr. Imber-Black was the Director of the Family and Group Studies Program, providing systemic training to psychiatric residents, and the Founder and Director of the Urban Institute for Families and Family Therapy at Einstein. This innovative institute provided family systems training for front-line mental health workers called upon to see the most challenging family situations without training. Recently, Dr. Imber-Black was featured in the Family Process special issue on COVID-19 for her article, [Rituals in the Time of COVID-19: Imagination, Responsiveness, and the Human Spirit](#) (Family Process, 2020. 59: 912-921).

Dr. Imber-Black's influence on the field of family therapy extends beyond her own research and teaching. She was the editor of Family Process, the major scholarly journal in family systems research and family therapy, from 2004 to 2011. Her editorial decisions and guidance have shaped the direction of the field and provided a platform for important research and ideas. In addition to her work in family therapy training and practice, Dr. Imber-Black made a significant impact by founding and leading the New Writer's Workshops for the Family Process Institute. From 2012 to 2024, she dedicated herself to guiding family scholars and therapists in publishing their ideas.

As a visionary leader, Dr. Imber-Black possessed the rare gift of foresight, envisioning possibilities beyond the confines of the present moment. She was a trailblazer, fearlessly charting new territories and challenging conventional wisdom with unwavering determination. Yet, amidst her groundbreaking achievements, she remained humble and grounded, guided by a profound empathy and a genuine desire to use her talents to better humanity.

In honoring Dr. Evan Imber Black, we not only pay tribute to a remarkable individual but also reaffirm our shared commitment to building a future guided by compassion, innovation, and the boundless potential of the human spirit. May her legacy inspire generations, illuminating the path toward a brighter tomorrow for all inspired by her unique journey and contributions to the MFT field.

Manijeh Daneshpour