

# 2020 Educational Series Presenters



## **Ivette Acevedo-Weatherholtz, MA, LPC, RPT**

Ivette Acevedo-Weatherholtz is a bilingual and bicultural therapist. She received her B.Soc.Sc. in Psychology in Mexico and Master of Arts in Counseling in St. Louis Missouri. Ivette has taught and provided counseling services nationally and abroad to children, adolescents, and young adults.



## **Jeff Ashby, PhD, RPT-S**

Dr. Jeff Ashby is a professor of Counseling Psychology in the Department of Counseling and Psychological Services at Georgia State University, where he is the Co-Director for the Center for the Study of Stress, Trauma, and Resilience.



## **Ann Beckley-Forest, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**

Ann Beckley-Forest is in private practice in Buffalo, New York. She is an EMDR Approved Consultant as well as an Approved Provider of play therapy continuing education. She is co-editor of EMDR with Children in the Play Therapy Room: An Integrated Approach (anticipated 2020).



## **Mary Bennett, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S, CCPT-S, CPRT-S**

Dr. Mary Morrison Bennett is in private practice in Austin, Texas and is a former Associate Professor of Professional Counseling. Dr. Bennett has published on trauma, Child Parent Relationship Therapy and play therapy supervision.



## **Peggy Ceballos, PhD, NCC**

Dr. Peggy Ceballos is an Associate Professor at the University of North Texas. Her research area is on multicultural issues in play therapy, including the effectiveness of child-centered play therapy and child parent relationship therapy interventions with Latino families in school settings.



## **Nicole Chavez, PsyD, Licensed Psychologist, RPT-S**

Dr. Nicole Chavez is a clinical psychologist and Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor in private practice in Southern California. She specializes in perinatal mood disorders, adolescents, attachment, and highly sensitive children, and training and supervising diagnostic/therapy doctoral students. She is also an adjunct professor in psychological assessment.

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## **Rebeca Chow, PhD, LPC, LCPC, RPT-S**

Dr. Rebeca Chow is the Vice President of Program Administration at The Children's Place. She is a 2011 Leadership Academy graduate and author of the first Ipad Play Therapy book. Her interests are play therapy, early childhood, supervision, multicultural issues, and technology.



## **Sunkyung Chung, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Sunkyung Chung was born and grew up in South Korea. She has worked with immigrant population and sexual violence survivors since 2012. Sunkyung is an assistant professor in the Counseling department at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor.



## **Katherine Conner, MSW, LCSW, IMHE®-I**

Katherine Conner is a site director and therapist at a mental health agency. She provides consultation for the Oklahoma Child Care Warmline. Previously, Katherine was employed by Early Head Start as a Home Based and Mentoring Specialist and an educator.



## **Rebecca Dickinson, PhD, LISW, RPT-S**

Dr. Rebecca Dickinson is an assistant professor in social work at the University of Northern Iowa. Trained by Terry Kottman in Adlerian play therapy, Dr. Dickinson has conducted research on group Adlerian play therapy. She has multiple play therapy related publications.



## **Erin Dugan, PhD, NCC, CRC, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Erin Dugan is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Supervisor and a Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor specializing in children (ages 2-12), attachment disorders, and child-parent relationship therapy including filial therapy and family play therapy. Dr. Dugan currently serves on the APT Board of Directors.



## **Pam Dyson, MA, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Pam Dyson has extensive experience working with children facilitating individual, family and group therapy and provides play therapy training, consultation and supervision services. She is a published author, keynote speaker and serves on the APT Board of Directors.

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## **Parie Faridnia, PsyD, Licensed Psychologist, RPT-S**

Dr. Parie Faridnia is a licensed psychologist, Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor, registered yoga teacher, and president-elect of the California Association for Play Therapy. She works in private practice, training and supervising pre-licensed professionals. She specializes in treating highly sensitive children, perinatal mood/anxiety disorders, and crisis assessment/intervention.



## **Yolanda Fountain, PhD, LPC, ACS, NCC, RPT-S**

Dr. Yolanda Fountain is the owner of Play Wellness LLC in Roswell, Georgia and the founder of the Child Loss Center Inc. She enjoys supervising, facilitating workshops, teaching graduate level courses, and providing professional counseling, play therapy, and sand therapy services.



## **Paris Goodyear-Brown, MSSW, LCSW, RPT-S**

Paris Goodyear-Brown, creator of the TraumaPlay model, Clinical Director of Nurture House, recent Ted Talk speaker, past Executive Director of the Lipscomb Play Therapy and Expressive Arts Center, and founder of the TraumaPlay Institute, is a world renowned speaker, prolific writer, and loves to play.



## **Tara Gray, PhD, LPC, RPT**

Dr. Tara M. Gray is a Registered Play Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Professional School Counselor. She co-coordinates the Prescott College MEd in School Counseling Program and provides group and individual play therapy in the schools as an elementary school counselor in Telluride, Colorado.



## **Josh Hawkins, MS, LPC, RPT**

Josh Hawkins is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Registered Play Therapist, and Certified Humanistic Sandtray Therapist. He is currently in the Counseling doctoral program at Texas A&M Commerce, and has received specialty training in Play Therapy, Group Therapy, Sandtray Therapy, and Marriage and Family Counseling.



## **Linda Homeyer, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Linda Homeyer is Director, Door of Hope Counseling Center, New Braunfels, Texas and Professor Emerita of Texas State University. She travels the world teaching play therapy and sandtray therapy. Linda was named APT Director Emerita and received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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## **Laurie Hightower, PhD, LMFT-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Laurie Hightower is currently in private practice and also works as an adjunct professor for Northcentral University. She has previously held a position as an Assistant Professor of Counseling in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in San Antonio, Texas.



## **Edward Hudspeth, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Edward Hudspeth is a Program Director and editor of two journals. He serves on numerous committees for APT and is a Foundation for Play Therapy Board member. His research interests include Play Therapy applications to Disruptive Behavior and Attachment Disorders.



## **Kimberly Jayne, PhD, LPC, RPT-S**

Dr. Kimberly Jayne is an Assistant Professor at Portland State University and has extensive experience practicing, supervising, and researching play therapy in agency, private practice, and school settings. Dr. Jayne has published numerous book chapters, articles, and presented on play therapy nationally and internationally.



## **Sueann Kenney-Noziska, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**

Sueann Kenney-Noziska specializes in using play therapy in clinical practice with abused & traumatized children. She has developed trauma-informed interventions, is a contributing author to several publications, and has testified as an expert witness in the areas of child abuse and trauma and currently serves on the Foundation Board of Directors.



## **Terry Kottman, PhD, LMHC, RPT-S**

Dr. Terry Kottman is the Founder and Director of the League of Extraordinary Adlerian Play Therapists. She developed Adlerian play therapy, a seminal approach to play therapy.



## **Teri Krull, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**

Teri V. Krull is licensed in Arizona and Maryland; has a 35-year play therapy private practice; was the first president of AZAPT and served on the APT Board of Directors (Chair 2000); is on the APT Foundation Board and received the 2010 AZ/NASW Lifetime Achievement Award.

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## **Teresa Libios, MA, LPC-I**

Teresa Libios is a Licensed Professional Counselor-Intern and doctoral student at Walden University. She works with clients and families, diagnosed with dementia, adolescents, and women with attachment disorders. She is a Alzheimer's community volunteer educator and adolescent mentor with Austin ISD.



## **Dennis Lin, PhD**

Dr. Dennis Lin is an Associate Professor at New Jersey City University, with areas of expertise in play therapy, child/adolescent counseling and assessment, suicide prevention/intervention, quantitative research, and metaanalysis. He is also a certified master trainer of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST; Trainer ID: n26778).



## **Natalya Lindo, PhD, LPC**

Dr. Natalya Lindo, Associate Professor and Chair at UNT, works with children, families, diverse and at-risk populations. She regularly conducts action-research projects in public schools related to CPRT and Teacher Child Relationship Building. Focused on capacity building, Dr. Lindo collaborates with administrators and school counselors to develop school-wide mental health initiatives targeting children who are at risk for school failure.



## **Ariel Marrero, PsyD**

Dr. Ariel Marrero is a recent graduate of the Combined-Integrated Clinical & School Psychology doctoral program at James Madison University. She completed her APA- accredited internship at Milton Hershey School and is completing her post-doctoral fellowship at Morrissey-Compton Educational Center.



## **Kristin Meany-Walen, PhD, LMHC, RPT-S**

Dr. Kristin Meany-Walen is the Mental Health Coordinator for Waterloo School District and adjunct faculty at the University of Northern Iowa. She co-authored the 3rd edition of *Partners in Play: An Adlerian Approach to Play Therapy and Doing Play Therapy* with Terry Kottman.



## **Mandi Meléndez, MA, LMFT, RPT**

Mandi Meléndez owns Nurture Family Counseling, a child and family focused group practice in Austin, Texas. She is trained in EMDR, CPRT, Trust-Based Relational Intervention, and Sandtray Therapy. Areas of particular interest are attachment, gifted children, and gender creative children.

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## **Clair Mellenthin, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**

Clair Mellenthin is an international speaker, author, and psychotherapist. Clair has published extensively on play therapy and frequently is interviewed on local and national media as an expert on children and family issues.



## **Kristie Opiola, PhD, LPC, RPT**

Dr. Kristie Opiola is an assistant professor at UNC-Charlotte, researcher, licensed professional counselor, and Registered Play Therapist who specializes in play therapy with children and families who have experienced trauma and relational disruptions. She has over 7 years of experience helping parents, teachers, and caregivers.



## **Phyllis Post, PhD, LPCS, RPT**

Dr. Phyllis Post has taught play therapy for 20 years. She created and directs the Multicultural Play Therapy Center and Graduate Certificate in Play Therapy at UNCC. She enjoys writing and conducting research about effectiveness of child-centered play therapy and diversity in play therapy.



## **Dee Ray, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Dee Ray is Distinguished Teaching Professor and Director of the Center for Play Therapy at University of North Texas. She has published over 100 articles, chapters, and books in the field of play therapy, specializing in research specifically examining the process and effects of CCPT. Dr. Ray currently serves on the APT Board of Directors.



## **Rochelle Ritzi, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Rochelle Ritzi services the field through her private practice, Bright Spot Counseling Center, located in Richardson, Texas. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of North Texas, Texas A&M Commerce, and Palo Alto University, and a play therapy supervisor locally, nationally, and internationally.



## **Anne Stewart, PhD, Licensed Psychologist, RPT-S**

Dr. Anne Stewart is a professor and playful supervisor and practitioner of play therapy. She is the APT Board of Directors chair and recipient of the APT "Distinguished Service" Award. She is married to a play therapist and they have two delightful children.

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## **LaKaavia Taylor, PhD, LPC, RPT**

Dr. LaKaavia Taylor is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of North Texas. She has extensive counseling experience with children, adolescents, and families in schools and community mental health settings. Her specialty is multicultural counseling with children and adolescents.



## **Renee Turner, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S**

Dr. Renee Turner is a play therapy author, researcher, and trainer who specializes in trauma, grief and loss, embodied play therapy, and play therapy supervision. She is currently pursuing the Registered Expressive Arts Therapist designation.



## **Kim Vander Dussen, PsyD, Licensed Psychologist, RPT-S**

Dr. Kim Vander Dussen is a professor of Clinical Psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology Irvine, a licensed psychologist, Registered Play Therapist-Supervisor, certified NMT clinician, APT board member, and holds certificates in Infant and Toddler Mental Health and Play Therapy.



## **Christina Villarreal-Davis, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, RPT-S**

Dr. Christina Villarreal-Davis is an Assistant Professor at Liberty University and clinical director of Wellspring of Life Counseling & Play Therapy Center, PLLC where she provides play therapy, CPRT, and play therapy supervision for those seeking the RPT credential.



## **Sharolyn Wallace, PhD, LCSW, IMH-E III, RPT-S**

Dr. Sharolyn Wallace received the C.V. Ramana: Outstanding Contribution to the Mental Health of Oklahoma's Children and NASW-OK Social Worker of the Year. She served as APT Board Member and 2018 Chair. She authored The Adventures of Bruce, Ben & Gerry.



## **Holly Willard MSW, LCSW, RPT-S**

Holly Willard is the owner of Grandview Family Counseling, a private practice in Utah. Holly Willard has extensive background working with children, teens and families. Holly is an adjunct professor, contributor to local television and radio. She presents nationally on play therapy topics.