

**CURRICULUM VITA****M. Laurie Leitch, Ph.D.**

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**CAREER BRIEF**

In her five years as a research associate at the Urban Institute in Washington, DC (1978-1983), as a clinical faculty member in the University of Maryland's Department of Family and Community Development (1983-1986), as Executive Director and Senior Clinical Supervisor at the Family Therapy Practice Center in Washington, DC (1981-1993), as evaluation consultant (1986-2004) to such organizations as Catholic Charities U.S.A. (CCUSA) and The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), and currently as Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Trauma Resource Institute (TRI) Laurie Leitch has studied trauma in individuals and families and related research, social policies and programs. Dr. Leitch's research endeavors have given her extensive experience with grantsmanship, survey design, implementation and data analysis as well as substantive knowledge of the theoretical, empirical and clinical literature on complex trauma.

Dr. Leitch is also experienced in the use of current trauma assessment instruments and their use with such populations as natural and terrorist disaster survivors, genocide survivors, combat veterans, and sex-trafficked children. Her research and evaluation experience have focused on cross-cultural programs and clinical treatment for "at risk" populations. Projects have included the study of trauma in Latina immigrant pregnant and parenting adolescents (funded by The Ford and Kellogg Foundations), adjustment processes of newly arrived Central Americans suffering from war trauma (funded by The Ford Foundation), and assessing and treatment of family stressors on Seminole Indian Reservations (funded by the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy). She treated survivors of the 9/11 terror attack, the tsunami in Southern Thailand, and Hurricanes Katrina/Rita. She provided training in 2007 to Rwandan counselors who work with genocide survivors and was Project Coordinator for the China Earthquake Relief Project (CHERP). The CHERP was co-sponsored by the World Health Organization, and sent clinical teams into Sichuan Province following the May 12, 2008 earthquake. In July 2009 TRI provided TRM training in Kenya to counselors, female prisoners, and at an IDP (Internally-Displaced Persons) camp. Her non-profit, TRI, is currently providing training in the states of California and New Mexico to disaster preparedness workers and will be in Haiti in 2010 to treat earthquake survivors and to provide training in TRM. She is particularly interested in the biological approach to trauma, the design and implementation of culturally sensitive, resiliency-oriented approaches to "at risk" populations, and the development of cross-cultural research tools for evaluating trauma treatments with survivors of complex trauma.

One current project includes training counselors working with OIF/OEF veterans that focuses on affect management and stabilization using a biological model developed by TRI, the

Trauma Resiliency Model-Veteran (TRM-V). TRI has recently developed the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) a training program for communities that want to establish a network of trauma-informed organizations.

Dr. Leitch is Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Trauma Resource Institute (TRI, [www.traumaresourceinstitute.com](http://www.traumaresourceinstitute.com)), a non-profit that provides training nationally and internationally in Trauma Resiliency Model (TRM), Trauma Resiliency Model-Veteran (TRM-V), Trauma Resiliency Model-Warrior (TRM-W), and Trauma Resiliency Model-Community (TRM-C).

## **EDUCATION**

- 1983            Ph.D., Social Psychology/Sociology, The George Washington University. Dissertation topic: “The Antecedents of Marital Dissolution Across the Family Life-Cycle”. Doctoral specialization: Human behavior, Quantitative research methods.
- 1983            M.S.W., The Catholic University of America. Thesis Topic: “Spouse Abuse in the Hispanic Community”. Specialization: Family therapy.
- 1965            B.A., Education/Philosophy. The University of Michigan.

## **CERTIFICATION**

- 2003-2005      Training in Somatic Experience. A three year certificate program in body-oriented approach to healing trauma. Completed 9/05.
- 2003            Licensed, State of New Mexico, Independent Clinical Social Worker.
- 1996-97        Level 1 and level 2 training and certification in EMDR. And advanced modules.
- 1997            Level I and level 2 training and certification in TFT (Thought Field Therapy), a technique, which uses the energy fields of the body to address psychological problems.
- 1988            Licensed, District of Columbia. Clinical Social Work.
- 1987            Diplomat in Clinical Social Work.
- 1985            Licensed, State of Maryland. Clinical Social Work.
- 1984            Approved Supervisor for The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

1983-2002 Clinical Member of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

2004 Mind-Body Approach to Trauma. An application of Somatic Experiencing (SE). April 2004. workshop leader: Kathy Kain.

1999 Advanced Training in EMDR. Special topics.

1998 Advanced training in FNS (Flexyx Neurotherapy Systems), an advanced form of biofeedback which utilizes an EEG machine and sensory stimulation to increase the brain's information processing capacities. Used with PTSD, affective disorders, and ADHD.

1989-1993 Practicum in "Applications of Ego-State Theory in Hypnotherapy".

### **PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

November 2005-present: Founder and Co-Director, Trauma Resource Institute (TRI). Provides training and research nationally and internationally in Trauma Resiliency Model (TRM) and Veterans Resiliency Model (VRM).

December 2008-present: Faculty, Upaya Zen Center, Chaplaincy Training Program, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

May 2005-2008: Director of Research, The Foundation for Human Enrichment (FHE), Colorado. FHE is a training center for the treatment of trauma with national and international projects.

1985-Present Research and evaluation consultant (see pp.4, Research)

1981-1993 Research Director (1981-1985), Executive Director (1986-1988) and Senior Clinical Supervisor (1986-1993). The Family Therapy Practice Center (FTPC), Washington, DC.

*As Research Director* at The Family Therapy Practice Center, responsibilities included the design and implementation of clinical research in conjunction with the FTPC's demonstration projects including a project targeted at avoiding lengthy out-of-home placements in foster-care for minority teenagers. Research focused on assessing the effectiveness of a highly structured therapeutic protocol with multi-family groups at a runaway youth shelter. The project was funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Other FTPC research focused on: 1) assessing the impact of a competency-based approach to families in need of emergency housing; 2) evaluating agency-level and client-centered change in a pilot program for eligibility workers in state agencies; 3) evaluating a

training protocol for family-based practice in a state-wide DSS training grant, and 4) designing and evaluating a group-based approach for the chronically unemployed.

As *Executive Director* responsibilities included implementation and monitoring of all in-house and external family therapy training and research, coordination of staff, supervision of administrative personnel, conference coordination and primary interfacing between agency staff and Advisory Board.

As *Senior Clinical Supervisor* responsibilities included conducting onsite training at such sites as Fairfax County Department of Social Services: Child and Adult Protective Services Division, Sheppard-Pratt Psychiatric Hospital, The Washington Hospital Center, the Child Welfare League of America, and The Georgetown University Hospital. Out-of-state training was also conducted at State Departments of Social Services in Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Carolina, Florida, Delaware, Kentucky, and Louisiana.

1985-1990      Research Associate, The Life Cycle Institute, The Catholic University of America. Washington, D.C.. Responsibilities included design and implementation of the evaluation of demonstration projects on teenage pregnancy being funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The evaluation assessed programmatic outcome as well as implementation issues (process evaluation). Also was co-principal investigator of a federal grant to assess the family involvement component of 70 Demonstration Projects across the U.S. for pregnant teenagers.

1983-1986      Clinical Faculty member. The Department of Family and Community Development. The University of Maryland. Responsibilities included development of a clinical data base for clients, coordination of extra-mural training and research efforts, and supervision of graduate interns in family therapy (video and live supervision). Part-time after 1985.

1978-1983      Research Associate. The Urban Institute: Minorities and Social Policy Division.

Responsibilities at the UI included the design, implementation and analysis of research on the contemporary family. Examples of projects on which Dr. Leitch was a principal investigator or co-principal are:

- *Living Costs in Rural Areas* -- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- *The Changing Structure of Black Families* -- U.S. Department of Labor
- *The Social and Economic Status of Widows* -- U.S. Social Security Admin.
- *Minority Youth Unemployment* -- The Rockefeller Foundation
- *Minority Youth in the Military* -- The Mellon Foundation
- *Minority Families and the Schools* -- The National Institute of Education

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **A. Research**

Designed a training evaluation instrument, the Training Relevance, Use, and Satisfaction Scale (TRUSS) for use in international trainings.

Design and implement evaluation of biologically-based, somatic training in Sichuan Province, China for physicians, teachers and other earthquake responders. Design and implement assessment of earthquake survivors in Mianyang and jianyou, China. July 2008- May 2009. Findings accepted for publication in *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health*.

Design and implement study of “Post-Deployment Needs and Experiences of Iraqi and Afghan Veterans” for Foundation for Human Enrichment. Phase 1 (telephone interviews and/or focus groups with post-deployment vets) completed in four sites in the U.S.. 2008.

Design and implement treatment evaluation tools for use with tsunami disaster survivors in southern Thailand. January 2005. Design one-year follow-up 2/06. Findings published in *Traumatology*, September 2007.

Design and implement evaluation plan for use with hurricane Katrina survivors. September 2005. Findings published in *Social Work*, January 2009.

Design and pilot-test a brief, multi-modal evaluation instrument for use in assessing EMDR treatment outcomes. The instrument was piloted at a maximum security facility for youth in Michigan. 2000-2001.

Principal Investigator and Program Evaluator, Children of Children Project, Catholic Charities USA. Five-year, multi-site project funded by The Kellogg and Ford Foundations to pilot and evaluate a comprehensive daycare program for “at-risk” teens and their infants. It was piloted in Illinois, Kansas, and New Mexico. 1993-1998.

Program Evaluator. AAMFT-Head Start Training Partnership. Three-year national project funded by The Prudential Foundation to The American Association for Marriage and Family therapy. The project linked marriage and family therapy training (MFT) programs to local (across 11 national sites including 5 Seminole Indian reservations) Head Start programs to 1.) improve Head Start’s capacity to work with families and 2.) to improve MFT trainee’s capacity to work with economically disadvantaged populations. 1994-1997.

### **B. Clinical/Supervisory**

### **Scheduled Conference Presentations from 2009:**

- January 7, 2009. Presentation “Treating Complex Trauma in Children: TRM, A Biological Approach”. National Conference of the Children’s Law Institute, Albuquerque, NM.
- January 9, 2009. Presentation to State of NM Department of Health on “TRM: A Biological Model for Treating Trauma in Children and Adults.” Albuquerque, NM.
- March 26, 2009. Day-long presentation at Psychotherapy Networker Symposium on “When Talk Isn’t Enough: The Veterans Resiliency Model (VRM): A Biological Model for Treating Combat-zone Trauma.” Washington, DC.
- April 14, 2009. Pre-conference Institute at the State of NM Head to Toe Conference on Children’s Health. Presentation on “Trauma Resiliency Model: A Biological Model for the Treatment of Trauma in Children and Families.” Albuquerque, NM.
- August 2009. TRM1 training in Nairobi, Kenya for the Kenyan Association of Professional Counselors.
- See TRI website for list of clinical trainings in TRM, CRM, and VRM, [www.traumaresourceinstitute.com](http://www.traumaresourceinstitute.com).

### **Conference Presentations: 2008:**

- March 13-15, 2008. Psychotherapy Networker Conference, Washington, DC. Presentation on “Therapists as Global Activists”. And, invited presentation on “Working with Complex Trauma using Trauma resiliency Model (TRM)”.
- June 18-21, 2008. APSAC Annual Conference. Presentation on “Children and Trauma”.
- July 23-26. U.S. Association for Body Psychotherapy, Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Presentation on “Restoring the Body’s Resiliency”.
- Fall 2008. Invited presentation on “Treating Trauma Globally”, Lillian Maguire Forum, Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California.
- September 15, 2008. Keynote address “Treating Trauma in Domestically sex-Trafficked Children.” Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Training Conference. Dallas, Texas.
- January 2007. Grass Roots Conference to End Female Genital Mutilation, the Gambia, Africa.
- November 13-15, 2008. Pre-conference Institute: “Somatic Intervention: Using the Trauma Resiliency Model (TRM).” ISTSS annual Conference. Chicago, Illinois.
- December 8-14, 2008. Invited presentation on “Biologically-based Intervention with Complex Trauma: The Trauma resiliency Model (TRM). National Institute for the Clinical Application of Behavioral Medicine (NICBAM), Hilton Head, North Carolina.

### **Other Clinical Projects and Presentations:**

Co-Director of the Haiti Earthquake Relief Project (HERP), March 2010-September 2010.  
Design and implement all aspects of treatment, training, and evaluation. Sponsored by

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC).

Co-Director of China Earthquake Relief Project (CHERP), July 2008-May12, 2009.  
Coordinate all aspects of project implementation. Team Leader of Phases 1, 3, and 6, 7.

Co-Director of Kenya Project, August 2009. Provided TRM1 training to counselors, taught stabilization skills in the women's prison, Nairobi, provided training at orphanages and schools in Ngong, Kenya.

Director of Rwanda Training Project in Post-Genocide Recovery, October, 2007.  
Provided TRM1 training to counselors and taught stabilization skills in Kigali Prison.  
Sponsored by WeACTx in Kigali Rwanda.

Trauma Outreach Program, New Orleans and Baton Rouge Louisiana team leader and Evaluator, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. October, 2005- November 2006. Ten on-site trips to LA for treatment, training, and research.

Trauma Outreach Program, Thailand tsunami team member, January-February 2005, February 2006. Provided treatment and training post-tsunami. Designed and implemented the research phase of the project.

“Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome in Tsunami Disaster Relief.” Day-long workshop presented to The Thai Red Cross. Bangkok, Thailand. February 2005.

“Mind-Body Approaches to Trauma”, day-long, post-tsunami workshop presented to Nursing faculty of SRU, Bangkok, Thailand. February 2005.

“Customizing Therapy: The Multisensory Learning Model.” Day-long intensive presented at the Psychotherapy Networker Symposium annual conference in Washington, DC, March 2003.

“Using Multisensory Learning in the EMDR Treatment Process.” Presented at The EMDR International Association annual meeting in Toronto, Canada. September, 2000

“Disenfranchised Families.” Presented to The National Press Foundation's conference of editors, editorial writers, producers, and reporters from media across the country. September 1995.

**Hospital consultation:**

Georgetown University Hospital, 1992-1998

The George Washington University Hospital. 1991-1996

Alexandria Hospital. 1994-1998

National Institutes of Health, 1998

Led weekly case consultations on medical trauma and family response. Case consultation included organ transplant departments, neo-natal intensive care, oncology, and adult intensive care.

## **C. SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

*Information Gathering After Trauma: Considerations for Human Rights Work, Peacebuilding, and Interviews After Traumatic Events.* Submitted for publication in *Africa Peace and Conflict Journal*, January 2010.

*What Have We Done to Our Soldiers?* With E. Miller-Karas. Submitted for publication in *Psychotherapy Networker*, a clinical magazine. January 2010.

*A Case for Using Biologically-Based Mental-Health Intervention in Post-Earthquake China: Evaluation of Training in the Trauma Resiliency Model (TRM).* With E. Miller-Karas. Accepted for publication, *International Journal of Emergency Mental Health (IJEMH)*, February 2010.

*The Truth Is Not Simple.* Published November/December 2008, *Psychotherapy Networker*. An account of training and treatment in Rwanda, Africa with post-genocide counselors and imprisoned genocide perpetrators using the Trauma Resiliency Model (TRM). Also published in *Therapy Today*, a clinical journal in England, February 2009 as *Journey to Rwanda*.

*What's Under the Hood? Using What We Know From Brain Research to Design Creative, Clinical Mind-Body Interventions.* U.S. *Applied Body Psychotherapy Journal*, Vol.7, No.2, 2008: 66-68.

*Somatic Experiencing Treatment with Survivors of Hurricanes Katrina/Rita: An Outcome Study of Brief, Integrative Treatment.* With Vanslyke & Allen. *Journal of Social Work*, Vol. 54, No.1: January 2009: 9-18.

*Somatic Experiencing Treatment with Tsunami Survivors in Thailand: Broadening the Scope of Early Intervention.* *Traumatology*, Vol.13, No.3, September 2007: 11-20.  
*A Post-Tsunami Diary.* *Psychotherapy Networker*, Vol.29, No.6, Nov/Dec. 2005.  
Description of somatic intervention training and treatment with Thailand tsunami responders and survivors.

*Just Like Bodies, Psyches Can Drown in Disasters.* Invited Essay. *The New York Times*, Science Section. May 31, 2005: D5.

*Bridging the Gap: What Are We Doing? How Well Are We Doing It?* Outcome Evaluation Manual. Catholic Charities USA. Consultant/editor. CCUSA, Alexandria, Virginia. 2001.

“The AAMFT-Head Start Training Partnership Project: Enhancing MFT Capacities Beyond the Family System.” With V. Thomas. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*,

No. 2, Vol. 25. April 1999: 141-155.

Contextual Issues In Teen Pregnancy and Parenting: Refining Our Scope of Inquiry.”  
*Journal of Family Relations*, Vol. 47, No. 2, 1998: 145-148.

“Involving the young unwed father in teen pregnancy programs and adoption counseling”. With Gonzalez and Ooms. In RI. Lerman and T.J. Corns (eds.). *Young Unwed Fathers: Changing Roles and Emerging Policies*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. 1993.

“A demographic profile of recent Central American immigrants: Clinical and service implications.” With L.A. Leslie. *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences*. No. 4. Vol. 11, November 1989: 315-329