



Systemic Family Therapy E-News

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Editor: Daniel Stillwell

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Interviews

Dr. Nika Alakbarova

Narrative Informed Collaborative Care (NICC): A Systemic and Narrative Framework



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Nika Alakbarova, PhD, is a medical family therapist and developer of the Narrative Informed Collaborative Care (NICC) framework, an innovative model integrating narrative and systemic practices into medical care. Her work focuses on addressing narrative disruptions within healthcare systems and strengthening collaboration between patients, families, and physicians. With clinical and academic experience across the United States, Switzerland, and Azerbaijan, she works to transform healthcare systems by integrating patient narratives into clinical care.

Dr. Carlos Augusto Lopez

Artificial Intelligence in Psychotherapy Training: Transcription, Analysis, and Supervised Learning



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Dr. Carlos Augusto López Acevo is a physician and psychotherapist with over 15 years of experience specializing in couples and family therapy. He is a professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León and is certified in multiple evidence-based approaches, including the Gottman Method, Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT), and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). His work focuses on helping individuals and couples build healthier, more meaningful relationships through scientifically grounded interventions.

Interviews Continued on Page 3



**2027
World
Family
Therapy
Congress**

**ADELAIDE,
AUSTRALIA
MARCH 10 - 13**

The 2027 World Family Therapy Congress of the International Family Therapy Association will be held in Adelaide, Australia. We invite you to join colleagues from around the world at the Amora Hotel.

Like all IFTA Congresses, it will feature many approaches to a variety of problems and ways of coping with them. The Congress aims to help heal hurting couples and families in various cultures.

Calls For Proposals

Open May 15, 2026 until September 30, 2026
Proposals sought in the following categories:
Brief Presentation (20 minutes)
Lectures/workshops (45 minutes)
Poster session

Proposal Information:

<https://www.ifta-congress.org/guidelines.php>

Follow this link to submit a proposal:

<https://www.ifta-conference.org/>



Important Information

The Official Language of the meeting is **English**. All abstract submissions must be in English.

Students must send a scan of your student ID to info@ifta-congress.org to receive a Promo code in order to register as a student.

Interviews Continued

Fostering Inclusivity for Clients with Disabilities: Universal Design in Family Therapy

Dr. Kristel Scoresby



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Kristel Scoresby, PhD, LCSW, MSW, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky. Her research focuses on three intersecting areas: (1) integrating social work into audiology and hearing healthcare to address the mental health needs of people with hearing loss, (2) advancing accessibility and universal design in clinical, educational, and professional spaces for people with disabilities, and (3) developing ethical and responsible uses of artificial intelligence as a pedagogical tool in social work education. Drawing on two decades of clinical practice and interdisciplinary collaboration, her work includes community-engaged research, intervention development, statewide systems advising, and accessible teaching practices.

Dr. Priscilla Llamosa



Priscilla Llamosa, DSW, LCSW, is a licensed clinical social worker, supervisor, author, and speaker. She is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky College of Social Work. Her scholarship centers on integrating neuroscience into social work practice and education through a holistic, social justice-informed lens; advancing epistemic justice for minoritized students and practitioners; and developing identity-conscious approaches to psychotherapy and supervision.

Dr. Keri Grant

From Clinic to Classroom: Are MFT Doctoral Graduates Ready to Teach?



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Keri Grant, PhD, LMFT is a professor of Marriage and Family Therapy in the US. She is dedicated to preparing graduate students for ethical, systemic clinical practice, and leadership in the field. She is also engaged in research exploring doctoral-level preparation for teaching in higher education, with an emphasis on equipping the next generation of systemic educators.

Interviews Continued

Alexandra Cintron-Quendo

Giving Passion a Field to Practice: The Uses of Artistic Creation in Therapy and Supervision



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Alexandra Cintrón Oquendo is a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology at The University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras, where she also earned a BA in Psychology. As a therapist in clinical training, she has worked in diverse settings, including a university clinic, community centers, and employee assistance programs. Throughout these experiences, she has been supervised under narrative, social constructionist, and systemic approaches. Currently, Alexandra is working on her doctoral dissertation, which examines the relationship between mistreatment during childbirth and postpartum depression among Puerto Rican mothers. Her academic and professional interests focus on maternal mental health, community service, and the use of creative resources in therapeutic work. Outside academia, she enjoys the arts, especially drawing with dry media such as charcoal.

Reyna Kot

The Psychological and Relational Impacts of Colorism: A Quantitative Study of Latino Adults



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Reyna Kot is a trauma-informed relational therapist and a second-year PhD student in the Systems, Families, and Couples program at Loma Linda University. She work with individuals, couples, and families in both private practice and community settings, often integrating EMDR within an attachment- and neurobiology-informed approach. Her current work includes research on the psychological and relational impacts of colorism among Latino adults and on the utilization of EMDR in couples therapy.

Dylann Lowery

Echoes of Childhood: A Qualitative Study on ACEs and Co-Parenting Dynamics



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Dylann Lowery is a doctoral candidate and licensed Marriage and Family therapist at Florida State University. Both her clinical and research focus on trauma-informed therapeutic intervention and interpersonal trauma in individuals, families, and couples through a systemic lens. Dylann, through her work, often prioritizes amplifying the voices of those with marginalized identities. When she isn't supervising, teaching, or conducting research, you can find her snuggled up with a cozy book, binging the latest reality TV show, or taking her dog on a walk.

Bergen Congress



Norway Congress – Largest in the Last 15 years

350 attendees were welcomed to the 2026 World Family Therapy Congress by IFTA President Jake Johnson. Held in the Scandic City Hotel in Bergen, Norway, the Congress opened with a Plenary Panel on Thursday morning, March 25th and concluded on Saturday, March 27th.

The Opening Plenary Panel was comprised of four Scandinavian family therapists and chaired by Han Christian Michelsen (Norway). After providing a brief history of the development of family therapy in Scandinavia, he also provided series of humorous comments about Scandinavians.

Featured panelists include Terhi Kotilainen (Finland), Halvor De Flon (Norway) and Lotta Beskow (Sweden). Dr. Kotilainen is on the editorial board of the Family and Couple Therapy Journal of Finland. Dr. De Flon is an associate professor and Director of the Master's program in family therapy at VID Specialized University, while Dr. Beskow is a child and adolescent psychiatrist in the child adolescent unit of Valad Hospital.

Among the people present were individuals from 38 different countries. According to John Lawless, Congress Program Chair, "this was a congress with one of the largest number of workshops ever—a total of 168!" Among the attendees were also 50 students from a variety of countries.

In addition to many workshops and many comments received at the registration desk about the fine workshops, Doug Tschopp, Congress Manager, commented "we have received more comments about the quality of the noon lunches than ever before. It's hard to beat North Sea Salmon."

Next year's IFTA Congress will take place in Adelaide, Australia from March 10 -14. The Call for Proposals and the Congress web site will open now. With the economic pressures around the globe, Fred Jefferson, Congress CFO, said, "we do our best to keep prices down but food and airfare have certainly increased world-wide."

During the congress, Daniel Stillwell, Systemic Therapy E-News editor, was recorded interviews which you will be able to hear in future issues of the upcoming editions.



Journal Editor: Todd M. Edwards, PhD, LMFT

Recent Articles

[Negotiating Preferred Futures in Solution-Focused Couple Therapy](#)

Leoš Zatloukal

[Supervision with Salvador Minuchin and the Exploration of Parallel Supervisory Experiences](#)

Elizabeth V. David, Juan O. Turón, & Secquay Gordon

[Master's Students' Perceptions of Their Marriage and Family Therapy Training: Findings from a U.S. Nationwide Survey Exploring Core Competencies](#)

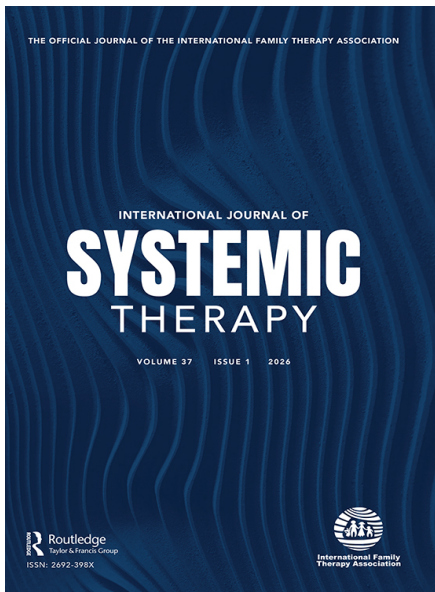
Sofia Georgiadou, Ashley A. Hicks, Caleb L. Cuthbertson, & Jane Cooper

[Guidelines for Integrating Technology in Clinical Practice](#)

Nathan C. Taylor, Paul R. Springer, & Richard J. Bischoff

[From Apprentice to Presidency: A Narrative Hermeneutic Analysis of Donald Trump's Journey Through The Apprentice](#)

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