
Event Agenda

ASERVIC 2025 Conference

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Registration Check-in

7:00 AM – 7:50 AM

Findings of a Survey of School Counselors' Spiritual and Religious Competence: Implications for Ethical Practice

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

School counselors' preparedness to effectively respond to students' spiritual and religious identities is critical for ethical practice. School counselors frequently encounter students' spiritual and religious issues; yet, many school counselors report confusion about how to respond to students' spiritual and religious concerns in ethical, culturally responsive ways. We will present new findings of research with school counselors and provide implications for ethical school counseling practice.

Speaker



Jennifer Niles

Assistant Professor | University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Co-speakers



Jesse Fox

Associate Professor | Stetson University



Evan Copello

Doctoral Candidate | Baylor University

Beyond Borders: Navigating Transnational Experiences of International Counseling Students - A Phenomenological Study of Spiritual, Religious, and Cultural Dimensions in Professional Identity Formation

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

International counseling students (ICS) face systemic oppression that impacts their educational experiences and professional relationships. This presentation explores the lived experiences through the lens of transnationalism, incorporating spiritual and religious dimensions central to their worldviews. It integrates MSJCC and ASERVIC competencies using an ethical model, to address power dynamics, privilege, and spiritual-religious aspects, aiming to foster culturally responsive practices.

Speaker



Malvika Behl

Assistant Professor | The University of Texas at San Antonio

Co-speaker



John Harrichand

Assistant Professor | The University of Texas at San Antonio

Wait....Anger Can Be Good?! Creative Interventions to Promote Functional Anger

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Illustrator

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Dysfunctional anger has risen as a national problem. As leaders in our society, counselors need help to model ways to navigate these environmental stresses – especially for marginalized clients. There is a paucity of research on functional anger despite a recent emphasis in our profession for positive psychology and wellness models. Participants will learn how to empower client wellness and growth through the processing of anger in a positive way.

Speaker



Carol McGinnis, Ph.D., SIP, BC-TMH, NCC, LCPC

Associate Professor, Admission and Retention Chair | Messiah University

Navigating Ethical and Religious Considerations in the Use of AI in Counselor Education and Counseling Practice

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Latitude

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to expand potential applications in counselor education and counseling practice, this session explores the ethical implications of integrating AI tools in counseling, particularly addressing the concerns of clients and practitioners with religious or spiritual objections to its use. Participants will gain insights into balancing technological innovation with respect for diverse values, fostering an inclusive and ethically sound approaches.

Speaker



Jennifer Young

Associate Professor | University of the Cumberland

Barriers to Mental Health Literacy in American Faith Communities

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Amphitheater

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

Studies have identified stigma as an overarching barrier to help-seeking and psychoeducation in faith communities globally. The presenter will discuss historical, theological, cultural, and religious beliefs that reinforce mental health stigma in American faith communities and discuss how counselors can use psychoeducation to attend to their clients' spiritual values and mental health needs.

Speaker



Joshalyn McHargue

Keynote Address: Dr. Thema Bryant

9:10 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom IV

Technology and Tradition: Implementing AI Tools in Counseling Skills Development

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

This experimental session explores the innovative integration of artificial intelligence tools within traditional counseling skills development. Participants will examine practical applications, ethical considerations, and implementation strategies for incorporating AI technology while maintaining the essential human elements of counselor training. Join us we utilize emerging practices and collaborate on best ethics in shaping the future of counseling.

Speaker



Mary Whiting

Doctoral Candidate, LPC | University of Texas at San Antonio and Every Good Gift Counseling PLLC

Advocating for Equity: Addressing Mental Health and Spiritual Care Challenges for the Deaf Community

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

Effective mental health services for Deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals require a deep understanding of linguistic, cultural, and accessibility considerations. This presentation will explore best practices for providing ethically and spiritually informed counseling to this population. Participants will gain insight into the unique challenges Deaf clients face in mental health settings, including communication barriers, cultural considerations, and the role of spirituality in their well-being.

Speaker



Alandra Tordoff

PhD Student | Regent University

Co-speaker



Ashley Jamison

Assistant Professor | Regent University

The Church as a Trauma-Informed Mental Health Partner: Implications for Counselors

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM | Location: Illustrator

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

This presentation will help clinicians navigate the complex attitudes, structures, and resistance within different faith communities. Recent research found that when churches maintain a relational stance towards those suffering with mental illness, promote stigma-reducing messaging, and provide mental health programming, these behaviors promote positive help-seeking behaviors in the congregation, increase member retention, and improve the overall mental health of clergy.

Speaker



Devlyn McCreight

Program Coordinator & Associate Teaching Professor | East Carolina University

Co-speaker



Shanita Brown

Teaching Assistant Professor | East Carolina University

Religious and Spiritual Competencies for Secular Students

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM | Location: Latitude

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

Research shows that students acknowledge the importance of religion and spirituality (RS) as an important part of identity, but lack the skills and confidence to integrate RS into their counseling work with clients. We will review formal and informal strategies that educators and supervisors can use to equip students for this important work. Leave this presentation with ideas to use in your classrooms next week!

Speaker



Anita Neuer Colburn

Clinical Professor/Director of University Supervision | The Family Institute at Northwestern University

Co-speakers



Robert Jury

Core Faculty | The Family Institute at Northwestern University



David Walther

Affiliate Faculty | The Family Institute at Northwestern University

The Impact of Faculty and Student Religious Deconstruction on Counselor Education

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM | Location: Amphitheater

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

This session invites participants to discuss and process the impact of religious deconstruction on counselor educators' professional identity and educational practices. The concepts of religious deconstruction will be defined and related research will be presented. The session will then invite a discussion on the impact of shifting religious identities and their impact on counselor education processes.

Speaker



Angie OGieblyn

Co-speaker



Jonathon Roy

Assistant Director of Counseling Services | Trevecca Nazarene University

Something to Believe In: Loss of Faith in a Higher Power, God, Self, and Others in Military Moral Injury

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

This presentation discusses supporting veterans through spiritual and existential crises following moral injury. Drawing on the frameworks of key moral injury researchers, we will explore how breaches in moral expectations can undermine faith in higher powers, self-worth, and trust. Emphasizing meaning-making and moral reappraisals, this session provides clinicians with approachable conceptualizations and practical strategies to help veterans address their moral and spiritual identities.

Speaker



Michelle Weed

Tailwinds Ranch, William & Mary

Addressing Racial Based Traumatic Stress through Religious/Spirituality Integration in Trauma-Informed Practices

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Racism and discrimination are unfortunately still a part of our society and can cause significant mental health and life challenges. Race based traumatic stress (RBTs) is a potential negative product of racism and discrimination and requires counselors to work in culturally responsive ways. This presentation offers an exploration of RBTs and will provide guidance for integrating spirituality and religion into

trauma-informed counseling approaches with clients from diverse racial backgrounds.

Speaker



Tylon Crook

School Counseling Program Director/Field Experience Coordinator | Sacred Heart University

Co-speaker



Kimberly Mills

Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program Coordinator | Bowie State University

Ethical Considerations Regarding Counselor-Client Discussions of Political Views and Religion

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Illustrator

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Religion and politics are central components of an individual's culture and worldview. When conflicts arise between differing worldviews, relationships can be fractured. Counselors need to know how to effectively and ethically navigate these worldview conflicts with their clients. In this presentation, we will discuss and practice how to ethically hold space for differing values and worldviews in order to facilitate client autonomy and growth.

Speaker



Michelle Dobson

Clinical Assistant Professor | University of Louisiana Monroe

Co-speaker



Hannah Bayne

Associate Professor | Virginia Tech

Supervising Post Graduate Supervisees: Spiritual Integration in Counseling

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Latitude

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Supervisors support their supervisees in implementing theories and interventions. However, spiritual integration can seem foreign and daunting to supervisors and supervisees. Clients are seeking counselors for spiritual integration. Thus, supervisors must ensure that supervisees are prepared to recognize and apply spiritual interventions. This presentation focuses on teaching supervisors how to teach supervisees to include spirituality effectively and ethically in their counseling work.

Speaker



Brittany Hill-Morales

Licensed Professional Counselor | Liberty University

Co-speaker



Keaghan Strasshofer

Licensed Professional Counselor | Collaborative Health Partners

Lunch Break- ASERVIC Business Meeting

1:10 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: General Session

Expanding beyond the norm: A glimpse into the use of crystals, tarot, and Akashic Records for healing.

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Amphitheater

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

As practicing clinicians and educators, it is critical to not discount any spiritual practice that aligns with a client when developing a treatment plan. The ASERVIC promotes the diversity of values, beliefs, and practices of clinicians and their clients. This presentation will help participants understand clients' use of crystals, tarot, and Akashic Records to promote personal healing and expand awareness beyond traditional religious practices and beliefs.

Speaker



Rosanne Nunnery

Associate Clinical Professor | Mississippi State University

Co-speaker



Meagan Higginbotham

Therapist | The Crossings Residential Treatment Center

The Double-Edged Sword: Understanding Religious Trauma and Its Impact on Suicidality

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Historically, counselors have considered religiosity a protective factor in preventing suicide. But what happens when religious experiences are traumatic? Discussions of suicide prevention and assessment have not included understanding of religious trauma. This program will provide clinicians with an overview of the current literature on religious trauma, discuss the ethical importance of assessing religiosity, and provide examples of how to consider religious trauma when assessing suicidality.

Speaker



Lizy Humphrey

Therapist, Phd Student | University of Arkansas

Sustainable Advocacy for Professional Counselors in Turbulent Times

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Given turbulent times, counseling professionals benefit from having advocacy strategies for their work settings and larger systemic challenges. The ACA Code of Ethics (2014) includes advocacy as a core role of professional counselors, and this presentation focuses on operationalizing ethics utilizing legislative advocacy and entering public office. Self-care strategies will be addressed to balance advocacy with other work and family responsibilities to strive for advocacy sustainability!

Speaker



Simone Lambert

Private Practice | Dr. Simone Lambert

Co-speaker



Michele Kielty

James Madison University

Addressing Mental Health Needs in Rural Communities: Leveraging the Role of Black Pastors and Churches in Counseling and Advocacy

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Illustrator

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

This session will explore strategies for building effective partnerships with Black pastors and faith-based organizations to enhance mental health support in rural underserved communities. Participants will learn how to engage Black pastors as advocates for mental health awareness, empowering them to lend their voices to efforts aimed at increasing access to services and addressing the unique needs of rural and marginalized populations.

Speaker



Loni Crumb

Associate Professor | East Carolina University

Co-speaker



Shanita Brown

Teaching Assistant Professor | East Carolina University

Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) with Religious abuse: A Preliminary Qualitative Investigation

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Amphitheater

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

This original research study was timely with the growing rates of cases of religious/spiritual abuse in the United States and more clients are coming to counseling to work on this. Additionally, many counselors use EMDR to treat traumatic memories and reduce symptoms, but little was known about how counselors use this model to treat religious/spiritual abuse. This topic is well-aligned with ASERVIC's focus on religion, spirituality, and values in counseling.

Speaker



Mitchell Waters

Assistant Professor | Belmont University

Co-speakers



Olivia Bentley

Assistant Professor | Belmont University



Jenel Cassidy
Assistant Professor | Belmont University

Accessing the spiritual realm: Addressing client belief systems through the addiction and recovery lens

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

One area of preparing counselors to be multiculturally competent that often is less explored involves client belief systems, particularly in the area of religion and spirituality (R/S). Through the clinical lens of addiction and recovery, this interactive presentation provides attendees with activities designed to foster increased clinician awareness, knowledge, and skills related to working with client R/S belief systems.

Speaker



W. Bryce Hagedorn
Professor and Program Director | University of Central Florida

Professional Ethics and Spirituality in Somatic Practices: Embodied Awareness as a Path to Radical Self-Love

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

This session will examine how embodied (somatic) practices, such as interoception, not only foster self-compassion but also support our ethical mandate to care for our own well-being as counselors. This session explores the intersection of embodiment, spirituality, and ethics in counseling practice and presents the body as a source of wisdom and strength. These methods can help counselors enhance self-care, reduce burnout, and cultivate ethical, compassionate therapeutic relationships.

Speaker



Nikki Hurless
Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology | Washington College

Spirituality Integration in Training and Practice

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Illustrator

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Results of a nation-wide meta-analysis on the current state of religion and spirituality courses offered in CACREP accredited master's programs will be presented. Participants will be invited into a conversation framed by pragmatic concerns for integrating holistic interventions into clinical practice that align with counseling's wellness-focused origins. Implications for ethics and values in counseling and the integration of religion and spirituality in counselor education will be explored.

Speaker



Timothy Powers
University of Rochester

Co-speaker



Mikaleh McCoy
Warner School of Education & Human Development at the University of Rochester

Exploring the Lived Experiences of Jewish Leaders concerning mental health issues in their congregations: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Latitude

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

This study examines the lived experiences of Jewish leaders who support their communities' well-being. Despite their central role as leaders, and therefore caregivers, little research has explored how they perceive and navigate cultural and emotional needs, particularly in relation to mental health. Gaining insight into their experiences can inform culturally responsive collaboration between religious leaders and mental health professionals.

Speaker



Samantha Turner
Licensed Professional Counselor & Doctoral Student in Counselor Education and Supervision | Adams State University

Co-speakers



Sarah Powers
PK-12 School Counselor, Licensed Associate Professional Counselor, & Doctoral Student | Adams State University



Graduate Student Reception

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Location: Rotunda/Patio



Speaker



Mary Whiting

Doctoral Candidate, LPC | University of Texas at San Antonio and Every Good Gift Counseling PLLC

President's Reception

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM | Location: General Session



Friday, June 13, 2025

Registration Check-in

7:00 AM – 7:50 AM

Family Healing through Forgiveness: The Impact of Substance Use in the Family

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Latitude

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

Families are hidden victims of substance use suffered by a family member. The family is trapped in family survival behavioral and emotional reactions that resemble a *systemic family disease*. Family members must be willing to participate in forgiveness as a critical component of systemic family healing. This presentation aims to address a practical understanding and application of systemic family healing through the act of forgiveness – families impacted by substance use disorder.

Speaker



Tracey Duncan

Associate Professor of Counseling | Messiah University

Strategies for Trauma-Informed Collaboration between Clergy and Counselors

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Illustrator

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Clergy members continue to be the first or second source of assistance for individuals (Ellison et al., 2006) thus putting them in a unique position to have to adapt to the emerging needs of their congregants who could often be in crisis. In this session we will explore the need for developing trauma informed collaboration between clergy and counselors using the SAMHSA (2014) principles as a guide. Additionally, considerations for clinicians in integrating such practices will be provided.

Speaker



Leila Warraich

Assistant Professor | Tarleton State University

Co-speakers



Nicole Hurless

Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology | Washington College



Crystal Hughes

Assistant Professor | Tarleton State University

Ethical and Treatment Issues in Treating Religious Trauma

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

An estimated one-third of U.S. adults have experienced religious trauma (RT). Given the prominent role of spirituality in meaning-making, counselors must develop skills to address RT and navigate its ethical complexities. This interactive presentation equips attendees with a practical RT intervention toolkit and a guide to avoiding ethical pitfalls related to trauma care, increasing their ability to provide safe and effective treatment.

Speaker



Taylor Patterson

PhD Candidate | Regent University

Co-speaker



Lisa Compton

Associate Professor; CES Program Director | Regent University

Text-Based Faith Integrated Models: Incorporating Ancient Literature in the Modern Delivery of Mental Health Services

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

Faith-based integrated models have been in existence for several years. What has received less attention is the unique and nuanced integration of spiritual or religious texts and literature combined with evidence-based practice in the delivery of mental health services. This presentation draws a sampling from the Orthodox Jewish community, and outlines an adapted model which can be applied across all faiths devoted to text-based belief and practice.

Speaker



Elan Perchik

Doctoral Student | Liberty University

Keynote Address: Dr. Daniel Gutierrez

9:10 AM – 10:40 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom IV

Spirituality and Religiosity as Protective Factors in Suicide Risk Screeners in Schools

10:40 AM – 11:40 AM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Spirituality can be a major protective factor and thus a preventative factor that students adopt to keep from following through with suicide. If such a significant association exists between spirituality and decreased suicidal ideation, implementation of strategies that encourage students to consider spiritual protective factors is a must.

Speaker



Nicole Killian

LPC | Mabank Counseling Solutions

Co-speaker



Ashley Ward

Private Practice Owner | Mabank Counseling Solutions

Review of the Revised 2025 Spiritual/ Religious Competencies

10:50 AM – 11:50 AM | Location: Amphitheater

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

This presentation will share the revised Spiritual and Religious (S/R) Competencies. Changes made from the 2009 S/R Competencies will be reviewed (including resources and reflective processing questions for growth across the revised competencies). Presenters will discuss the revision process and provide time for questions and feedback.

Speaker



Awa Jangha

Associate Professor of Spiritual Integration in Counseling | Seminary of the Southwest

Co-speakers



LeAnn Wills

Doctoral candidate at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville



Craig Cashwell

Professor in the Counselor Education program in the College of Education at Clemson | Clemson University

Political Anxiety: Helping Clients and Clinicians Manage Anxiety in Uncertain Times

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

Political anxiety is an increasing reason people seek counseling. This session will focus on how to conceptualize political anxiety through an ecological development framework and utilize Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to better manage anxiety. Attendees will learn how to understand political anxiety from an ecological framework, maintain compassion when the person you are helping has political views that are different from your own, and utilize ACT to reduce political anxiety.

Speaker



Kimberly Dillard

PhD Student, Integrative Existential Counselor | Belmont University, Tapestries Counseling Center

Co-speakers



Tom Knowles-Bagwell

Professor & Director of Doctoral Studies & Spiritual Integration, Mental Health Counseling | Belmont University



Aerin Williams

PhD student, Admissions Counselor | Belmont University, Cumberland Heights



Charita Upkims

PhD Student, Marriage and Family Therapist, pre-licensed | Belmont University

Resources for Training Spiritual and Religious Competencies

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

For many years practitioners and counselor educators alike voiced a common need for resources to train students and supervisees in Spiritual and Religious Competencies. This presentation will introduce recent efforts to develop such resources, discuss some of the important principles to keep in mind when either developing or implementing trainings, and tryout together resources that are now open source and freely available through the Spiritual and Religious Competencies Project.

Speaker



Jesse Fox

Associate Professor | Stetson University

Crafting Wellness: The Art of Creative Sequencing in Value Exploration

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Illustrator

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

Living in accordance with one's values systems can result in higher life satisfaction, yet clients often have a limited repertoire surrounding values overall. Considering values are ultimately individualized, it is important for counselors to tailor widely-used values exploration tools to enhance client motivation through crafting a unique value-based lifestyle. This session presents an adaptive and innovative creative sequencing of tools that integrates the power of visual stimuli.

Speaker



Krista Kirk

Associate Professor of Counseling | Messiah University

Co-speaker



Patricia Kimball

Associate Professor | Liberty University

Interfaith Room Creation. A Case Study of how Counseling Educators Worked with Student Affairs to Address a Systemic Crisis of un-met Student Spiritual Needs on a Pluralistic Campus

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM | Location: Latitude

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

This presentation will cover developing an inter-faith room at the City College of New York. Historic mistrust between Muslim students and campus administration, as well as further tensions in response to events in Gaza and Israel, added to the challenges of developing a single pluralistic ritual space on a campus of more than 14,000 students. Two counselor educators utilized a family systems perspective to help shape cooperation towards a historic commitment to a shared inter-faith space.

Speaker



Waleed Sami

Assistant Professor | City College of New York (CCNY)

Lunch Break- Lunch & Awards

1:10 PM – 2:30 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom IV

Shame, Grace, and Addiction: Helping Clients Forgive Themselves and Break Free from the Past

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

Individuals diagnosed with SUDs often internalize the prejudices and stereotypes of society and experience a deep sense of internalized shame which results in a negative personal identity and decreased help-seeking behaviors. Treatment aimed at breaking the cycle of addiction by focusing on its relationship to shame and treatment through self-forgiveness can help individuals experience long-term recovery, repair relationships, and once again see themselves as responsible, productive citizens.

Speaker



Michael Verona

Assistant Professor | University of the Cumberlands

Doctrinal Versus Experiential Images of God: Working with Highly Religious Clients with A Theistic Belief System.

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

Highly religious clients with a theistic belief system often present in counseling with doctrinal (i.e., external) images of God that do not align with their internal experiences of God. In such cases, religious "beliefs" seem to have minimal positive impact on psychological struggles such as depression, anxiety, and shame. The purpose of this presentation is to distinguish between doctrinal and experiential images of God and how these can be assessed and worked with in the counseling process.

Speaker



Craig Cashwell

Professor | Clemson University

Considerations for integrating spirituality in treatment of neurodivergent clients

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Latitude

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

Awareness of neurodivergence is becoming ubiquitous due to social media, yet gaps remain in understanding key areas relevant to counseling. Clinicians working with neurodivergent clients from a religious perspective must consider their internal spiritual experience. This presentation highlights updated research on neurodivergence and its interaction with religion and spirituality, offering insights on incorporating spirituality into treatment for this population.

Speaker



Ashley Jamison

Assistant Professor of Counseling | Regent University

Co-speaker



Alandra Tordoff

LPC, NCC | Regent University

Faith, gender, and misconceptions: How complementarianism affects rape myth acceptance

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Illustrator

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Complementarianism promotes male authority and female submission and may enable violence. This presentation discusses original research on how complementarianism and gender impact rape myth acceptance (RMA), or beliefs justifying sexual violence. Attendees will learn complementarianism's influence in American Evangelicalism and RMA's effects on sexual violence in faith communities. The session explores ethical, spiritual, and religious considerations in counseling affected clients.

Speaker



Colleen Grunhaus

Associate Professor | University of the Cumberlands

Harmonizing Faith and Academics: Muslim Graduate Counseling Student Experiences

2:40 PM – 3:40 PM | Location: Amphitheater

TEACHING, SUPERVISION, & COUNSELOR EDUCATION

It can be quite an endeavor to balance two crucial values: faith and academics. Muslim graduate students often navigate this balance. The purpose of this study was to explore the understudied experiences of Muslim graduate students in counseling/counselor education programs. The discoveries on strengths, concerns, and needs of Muslim graduate students could be used to improve understanding and create a more inclusive and supportive environment from practitioners, institutes, faculty, and peers.

Speaker



Serene Hasan

Listening, Recognizing, and Responding: Developing ASERVIC Communication Competencies in Counseling Using Deliberate Practice

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Illustrator

SPIRITUALITY IN CLINICAL PRACTICE & COUNSELING

Effective counseling requires navigating spirituality, ethics, religion, and values with sensitivity. This workshop enhances ASERVIC Communication Competencies through practice, using role-plays, video stimuli, and exercises to build confidence and responsiveness. You'll refine your ability to integrate ASERVIC communication competencies, honoring clients' perspectives while improving your communication skills and expanding your therapeutic toolkit.

Speaker



Robert Jury

Core Faculty | The Family Institute at Northwestern University

ICMe: Avoiding Values Imposition Through Creative Exploration

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Latitude

IDENTITY & INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

Counselors in training (CIT) represent the future leaders of the counseling profession. To ethically and effectively take their place in the

field, they must avoid imposing personal values by developing of their own beliefs. ICMe, a photovoice-inspired technique, is a creative intervention that empowers CITs—individually and in groups—to explore, question, and challenge their worldviews. This process promotes self-reflection, cultural competence, and a greater respect for diversity in counseling.

Speaker



Patricia Kimball

Associate Professor | Liberty University

Co-speaker



Aziz Ibrahim

Graduate Student | Liberty University

Self-Determination as a Factor in Wellness and Forgiveness: Implication for Counseling

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom III

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Research demonstrates a relationship between wellness and forgiveness, as practices rely on one's autonomy and motivation. Counselor education programs promote students' self-awareness around wellness, yet forgiveness is often absent from these discussions. This presentation focuses on students' perceptions of wellness, the role of forgiveness, and implications for counseling. Anecdotes about wellness, forgiveness, and the link to autonomy, competence, and relatedness will also be shared.

Speaker



Claudette Brown-Smythe

Associate Professor | State University of New York College at Brockport (SUNY) - Brockport, NY

Round Table Discussion

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM | Location: Grand Ballroom V

Light After Darkness: Healing from Religious and Spiritual Abuse

3:50 PM – 3:50 PM

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Religion and spirituality (RS) are vital components of one's identity, often enhancing well-being. Within RS, unique vulnerability towards abuse is present. RS abuse occurs when RS authority figures cause harm through manipulation. This session equips counselors to assess for RS abuse and provide knowledgeable, compassionate support for victims.

Speaker



Chris Conley

Clinical Director at Turning Point Counseling and Consulting | University of the Cumberland

Healing Beyond the Ordinary: Navigating Stigma and Building Trust in Therapy for Individuals with Paranormal and Exceptional Human Experiences.

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Individuals with exceptional human experiences, such as hypersensitivity, psychic abilities, and paranormal phenomena, often face stigma and fear of misdiagnosis, leading to distrust in mental health professionals. This presentation will discuss factors influencing trust in therapy for experiencers and highlight culturally competent counseling approaches to foster inclusivity, harm reduction, and stronger therapeutic connections, ensuring ethical, person-centered, and spiritually sensitive care.

Speaker



Caroline Fernandes

Doctoral Candidate, Licensed Professional Counselor | Mercer University

Exploring Trauma Transcendence: Predictors of Posttraumatic Growth Following Interpersonal Trauma

3:50 PM – 4:50 PM

WELLNESS, HEALING & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Consistent with a strengths-based approach, counselors can foster positive reactions to trauma to increase thriving, transcendence and spirituality. In this session, we will discuss findings from our original research, a large-scale survey study that measured predictors of posttraumatic growth (PTG), such as mindfulness, spiritual bypass, forgiveness, and hope among interpersonal trauma experiencers. Participants will learn about facilitators of PTG and ways to apply PTG concepts to practice.

Speaker



Margaret Poandl

Doctoral Student, Graduate Research Assistant and Counselor | Virginia Commonwealth University

Co-speakers



Daniel Gutierrez

Professor | Virginia Commonwealth University



Emily Kitching

Doctoral Student and Graduate Assistant | Virginia Commonwealth University