

Deborah Coolhart, Ph.D., LMFT

Associate Professor -Department of Marriage and Family Therapy

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Education

- September 2001-May 2006, Syracuse University, Marriage and Family Therapy, Degree Obtained: Ph.D.
- September 1998-May 2001, Syracuse University, Marriage and Family Therapy, Degree Obtained: M.A.
- September 1993-May 1997, Central Michigan University, Psychology and Family Studies, Degree Obtained: B.S.

Employment

May 2018-Present, Associate Professor, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, The David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Syracuse University.

February 2001-Present, Couple and Family Therapy Private Practice, Fayetteville, NY.

August 2012-May 2018, Assistant Professor, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, The David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Syracuse University.

August 2008-August 2012, Adjunct Professor, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, The David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Syracuse University.

July 2007-August 2012, Assistant Professor, Community and Human Services, SUNY Empire State College, Syracuse, NY.

September 2005-July 2007, Research Health Science Specialist, Center for Integrated Healthcare, VA Medical Center, Syracuse, NY.

March 2001-August 2005, Co-Facilitator and Individual Therapist, LGBTQ Youth Group, AIDS Community Resources, Syracuse, NY.

May 2003-January 2005, Family Therapist, Foster Care and Adoption Department, The Salvation Army, Syracuse, NY.

August 1998-May 2003, Graduate Assistant/Lecturer for Professors Ken Hardy, Linda Stone Fish, and Joseph Fanelli, Syracuse University.

May 1997-August 1998, Learning Enhancement Program Clinician/Supervisor, Maple Tree Counseling Center, Livonia, MI.

May 1997-August 1998, Mental Health Child Care Worker, Safestay Emergency Nursery and Family Respite Center, Westland, MI.

Courses Taught in MFT

MFT 661: Introduction to Family Therapy Practice

MFT 684: Diversity in MFT

MFT 643: Couple and Family Therapy with LGBTQ Relationships

MFT 688: Family Life Cycles

MFT 625: Family Systems and Therapy

MFT 862: Advanced Couple Therapy

MFT 885: Qualitative Research Methods in Family Therapy

Formal Training

August 2000-December 2002, Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, Goldberg Couple and Family Therapy Clinic, Syracuse University.

July 1999-June 2000, Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, Elmcrest Children's Center, Syracuse, NY.

July 1999-June 2000, Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, AIDS Community Resources, Syracuse, NY.

Publications

Brown, M. T., & **Coolhart, D.** (under review). A Grounded Theory Exploration of LGBTQ Homeless Youth's Experiences and Risks. *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Coolhart, D. (in press). Please Stop Calling My Daughter 'He': Advocating for Teens and Pre-Teens in the School Setting. In A. I. Lev & A. Gottlieb's (Eds.), *Families in Transition: Parent Perspectives on Raising the Gender Nonconforming or Trans Child*. New York, NY: Harrington Park Press.

Coolhart, D. (2018). Helping Families Move From Distress to Attunement. In C. Meier & D. Ehrendaft's (Eds.), *The Gender Affirmative Model: A New Approach to Supporting Gender Non-Conforming and Transgender Children*.

Coolhart, D., Torres Bernal, A., & Le, K. (2018). Transgender resiliency: A comparison of transgender and cisgender therapy clients' family functioning and psychological symptomology. *Counseling and Family Therapy Scholarship Review*, 1(1), Article 2.

Coolhart, D., Ritenour, K., & Grodzinski, A. (2018). Experiences of loss and ambiguous loss for parents of transgender male youth: A phenomenological exploration. *Contemporary Family Therapy*.

Coolhart, D., & Brown, M. T. (2017). The Need for Safe Spaces: Exploring the Experiences of Homeless LGBTQ Youth in Shelters. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 82, 230-238.

Addison, S., & **Coolhart, D.** (2017). Therapy with same-sex couples: Considerations for self-supervision. In J. Fitzgerald's (Ed.) *Foundations for Couple Therapy: Research for the Real World*. Taylor & Francis.

Coolhart, D., & Mason, B. (2017). Gender dysphoria and systemic meaning. In J. Russo, K. Cocker, & J. King's (Eds.) *DSM V and Family Systems*. Springer Publishing.

Coolhart, D., & Stone Fish, L. (2017). Transgender people in couple and family therapy. In J. L. Lebow, A. L. Chambers, & and D. C. Breunlin's (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Couple and Family Therapy*.

Coolhart, D., & Shipman, D. L. (2017). Working towards family attunement: Family therapy with transgender and gender nonconforming children and adolescents. *Psychiatric Clinics of North America*, 40, 113-125.

Testa, R. J., **Coolhart, D.,** & Peta, J. (2015). *The Gender Quest Workbook: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults Exploring Gender Identity*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger.

Addison, S., & **Coolhart, D.** (2015). Expanding the Therapy Paradigm with Queer Couples: A Relational Intersectional Lens. *Family Process*, 54(3), 435-453.

Coolhart, D., & MacKnight, V. (2015). Working with Transgender Youth and Their Families: Counselors and Therapists as Advocates for Trans-Affirmative School Environments. *Journal of Counselor Leadership and Advocacy*, 2, 51-64.

Coolhart, D., Baker, A., Farmer, S., Malaney, M., & Shipman, D. (2013). Therapy with Transsexual Youth and Their Families: A Clinical Tool for Assessing Youth's Readiness for Gender Transition. *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, 39(2), 223-243.

Coolhart, D. (2012). Supporting Transgender Youth and Their Families in Therapy: Facing Challenges and Harnessing Strengths. In J. Bigner & J. Wetchler's (Eds.), *Handbook of LGBT-Affirmative Couple and Family Therapy*. New York: Routledge Press.

Torres Bernal, A., & **Coolhart, D.** (2012). Treatment and Ethical Considerations with Transgender Children and Youth in Family Therapy. *Journal of Family Psychotherapy*, 23, 287-303.

Funderburk, J. S., Sugarman, D. E., Maisto, S. A., Ouimette, P., Schohn, M., Lantinga, L., Wray, L., Batki, S., Nelson, B., **Coolhart, D.**, & Strutynski, K. (2010). The description and evaluation of the implementation of an Integrated Healthcare Model. *Families, Systems, and Health*, 28(2), 146-160.

Ouimette, P., Wade, M., **Coolhart, D.**, Tirone, V., Goodwin, E., & Semene, S. (2010). Measuring PTSD course among substance use disorder patients: A pilot study of interrater reliability and validity of the Longitudinal Interval Follow-up Evaluation (LIFE). *Traumatology*, 16(3), 19-26.

Addison, S., & **Coolhart, D.** (2008). Integrating socially segregated identities: Queer couples and the question of race. In M. Rastogi & V. Thomas (Eds.), *Couple therapy with ethnic minorities*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications. (Invited chapter.)

Coolhart, D., Provancher, N., Hager, A., & Wang, M. (2008). Recommending transsexual clients for gender transition: A therapeutic tool for assessing readiness. *Journal of GLBT Family Studies*, 4(3), 301-324.

Ouimette, P., **Coolhart, D.**, Funderburk, J., & Sugarman, D. (2008). A pilot study of posttraumatic stress and associated functioning of Army National Guard following exposure to Iraq warzone trauma. *Traumatology*, 14(3), 51-56.

Coolhart, D. (2008). Book review: Helping abused and traumatized children (Gil, E.). *Journal of Psychological Trauma*, 7(3) 198-201. (Invited review.)

Coolhart, D., & Torres Bernal, A. (2007). Clinical update: Transgender issues in family therapy. *Family Therapy Magazine*, 6(3), 36-42. (Invited paper.)

Ouimette, P., **Coolhart, D.**, Funderburk, J. Wade, M., & Brown, P. (2007). Precipitants of first substance use in recently abstinent substance use disorder patients with PTSD. *Addictive Behaviors*, 32, 1719-1727.

Coolhart, D. (2006). Out of the closet and into the therapy room: Therapist self-disclosure of sexual identity. *Guidance and Counselling*, 21(1), 3-13.

Torres Bernal, A., & **Coolhart, D.** (2005). Learning from sexual minorities: Adolescents and the coming out process. *Guidance and Counselling*, 20(3/4), 128-138.

Grants

Coolhart, D. Housing and LGBTQ Youth: A Mixed-Methods Community Needs Assessment. Funded by the David Falk College Seed Grant. 2014, \$5,000

Coolhart, D. Exploring the Experiences of Children with Transgender Parents: Family Dynamics, Challenges, and Protective Factors. Funded by the David Falk College Seed Grant. 2013, \$6,000.

Grants Submitted

Coolhart, D. Impacts of Family and Social Support on Transgender Mental Health. Submitted to the Fahs-Beck Fund. 2016, \$20,000.

Presentations

Coolhart, D. “Acknowledge Me!: A Grounded Theory Exploration of Transgender Experiences of Family and Social Support and Rejection.” Workshop presented at the Euro Mental Health Conference. Paris, France, 2018.

Torres Bernal, A., & **Coolhart, D.** “Transgender Resiliency: A Comparison of Transgender and Cisgender CFT Clients.” Poster presented at the International Family Therapy Association’s World Family Therapy Congress. Kona, HI, 2016.

Coppola, J., Gangamma, R., **Coolhart, D.**, & Watson, D. “Gender as a moderator of relational ethics and romantic attachment orientation.” Poster presented at the International Family Therapy Association’s World Family Therapy Congress. Kona, HI, 2016.

Coolhart, D., & Brown, M. T. “Homelessness and Unmet Service Needs of LGBTQ Youth in Central New York.” Panel presentation at the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention. Toronto, Ontario, 2015.

Coolhart, D., & Brown, M. T. “LGBTQ Runaway and Homeless Youth: A Grounded Theory Exploration of Youths’ Experiences and Providers’ Perception of Services.” Workshop presented at the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research Conference (EQRC). Las Vegas, NV, 2015.

Brown, M. T., & **Coolhart, D.** “Homelessness and Unmet Service Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth.” Poster presented at the American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences (AABSS) Annual Conference. Las Vegas, NV, 2015.

Coolhart, D. “Navigating Rough Waters: Impacts of the School Environment on Transgender Youth.” Keynote presentation at the Creating Supportive Schools for Our Transgender Youth: A Review of Best Practices Conference. Syracuse, NY, 2014.

Coolhart, D. “Being Transparent About Having a Trans Parent: Experiences of Children of Transgender Fathers.” Workshop presented at the International Family Therapy Association (IFTA) National Conference, Panama City, Panama, 2014.

Coolhart, D. “Therapy with the Families of Transgender Youth: Supporting Family Members’ Complex Emotional Processes and Experiences of Loss.” Workshop presented at the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA) Conference, Athens, GA, 2014.

Coolhart, D., & Shipman, D. “Working with Transgender Youth and Their Families: Expanding Family Attunement and Exploring Gender Transition Options.” Workshop presented at National American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA) Conference, Chicago, IL, 2013.

Coolhart, D. "Therapy with transgender clients: Assessment of readiness for gender transition treatments." Workshop presented at conference, Having the Conversation: Clinical Practice with LGBTQ Clients, Syracuse University, August 2012.

Coolhart, D., & Torres Bernal, A. "Ethical Considerations with Transgender Youth." Workshop presented at the National AAMFT Conference, Memphis, TN, 2008.

Coolhart, D. "Update on PTSD." Invited lecture at National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Syracuse Educational Conference, Syracuse, NY, 2008.

Maisto, S., Funderburk, J., Ouimette, P., Schohn, M., Lantinga, L., Batki, S., Wray, L., Sugarman, D., **Coolhart, D.,** & Strutynski, K. "Primary Care Providers' Familiarity and Use of Mental Health Clinical Guidelines." Poster presented at the VA Mental Health Best Practices Conference, Washington, DC, 2008.

Coolhart, D., Ouimette, P., Strutynski, K., Swezey, A., Schohn, M., Lantinga, L., Wade, M., & Prins, A. "PTSD Veterans in Primary Care: Specialty Mental (MH) and Integrated Behavioral Health Care (IBH) Use." Poster presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Baltimore, MD, 2007.

Ouimette, P., **Coolhart, D.,** Funderburk, J., Maisto, S., Sugarman, D., & Strutynski, K. "Primary care (PC) and behavioral health (BH) providers' perceptions of evidence-based PTSD practices." Poster presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Baltimore, MD, 2007.

Coolhart, D., Hager, A., Provancher, N., & Wang, M. "Transgender in Family Therapy: Towards Sensitive Treatment." Workshop presented at the National AAMFT Conference, Long Beach, CA, 2007.

Coolhart, D., Ouimette, P., Schohn, M., Lantinga, L., Batki, S., Wray, L., Funderburk, J., & Maisto, S. "Integrated Healthcare: Use of Clinical Guidelines." Poster presented at the Transforming VHA Mental Health Care Conference, Washington, DC, 2007.

Funderburk, J., Maisto, S., Ouimette, P., Wray, L., Schohn, M., Lantinga, L., Sugarman, D., Strutynski, K., **Coolhart, D.,** & Batki, S. "What do Providers Think?" Presentation at the Transforming VHA Mental Health Care Conference, Washington DC, 2007.

Ouimette, P., **Coolhart, D.,** Funderburk, J., Sugarman, D., Strutynski, K., Dornau, C., Zelman, R., & Prins, A. "Evaluating the Validity of the PTSD Primary Care Screening Measure Among National Guard Soldiers." Poster at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies Conference, Hollywood, CA, 2006.

Stone Fish, L. & **Coole, D.** "Difficult Dialogues: Coming Out In Family Therapy." Workshop presented at the National AAMFT Conference, Cincinnati, OH, 2002.

Coole, D. & Sweeney, M. "Interracial Couples: Developing Therapeutic Sensitivity." Workshop presented at the National AAMFT Conference, Nashville, TN, 2001.

Coole, D. "Interracial Couples: Family and Broader Community Networks." Poster presented at the National AAMFT Conference, Chicago, IL, 1999.

Professional Honors and Awards

Early Career Award, American Family Therapy Academy, 2016.

Awareness Recognition Award, Syracuse University, LGBT Resource Center, 2015.

Chancellor's Award for Public Engagement and Scholarship, Academic Legacy Honors, Syracuse University, Transgender Treatment Team, 2014.

Outstanding Citizen Award, Syracuse University, LGBT Resource Center, 2011.

Chancellor's Award for Public Service, Syracuse University, Transgender Treatment Team, 2006.

Social Justice Award, Syracuse University, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy, 2004.

License

Marriage and Family Therapist, New York State, License Number: 000523