

Deborah Coolhart, PhD, LMFT

Associate Professor, Department of Marriage and Family Therapy

The David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics, Peck Hall, 601 East Genesee, Peck Hall,
Syracuse, NY 13202, (315) 443-1232, dcoole@syr.edu

Education

May 2006, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, Marriage and Family Therapy Program, Degree
Obtained: Ph.D.

May 2001, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, Marriage and Family Therapy Program, Degree
Obtained: M.A.

May 1997, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI, Psychology and Family Studies,
Degree Obtained: B.S., Magna Cum Laude.

Professional Affiliations

New York State Education Department, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, License
#000523.

American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Clinical Fellow, Approved Supervisor.

Professional Experience

August 2012– present, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Adjunct Faculty, Syracuse
University, Marriage and Family Therapy Program, Syracuse, NY.

Responsibilities: Designing and teaching graduate courses, engaging in research and
scholarship, supervising the clinical work of Master's students, mentoring Doctoral
students, developing and supervising the Gender Expansive Support Team, academic
advising, thesis mentoring, serving on Dissertation Committees, engaging in University
and Department service.

Courses Taught: Introduction to Family Therapy Practice, Systems Dynamics in a Group Setting, Diversity in MFT, Relationship Therapy with LGBTQ Clients, Family Life Cycles, Qualitative Research Methods in Family Therapy, Advanced Couple Therapy, Family Therapy Theory.

February 2001 – present, Individual, Couple, and Family Therapist, Private Practice, Specialization: Trans/Gender Expansive people and their families, Fayetteville, NY.

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

Responsibilities: Mentoring adult learners, advising students in the development of individualized learning programs, developing and instructing individual and group studies. Selected: Counseling Skills, Family Therapy Theory, Diversity, Human

Courses Taught: Services Ethics, Social Science Research Methods, Play Therapy, GLBT Human Services, Working with LGBT Youth, Substance Abuse and LGBTQ, Trans and Intersex Identities, Family Violence, Human Sexuality, Substance Abuse in Families, Child Development, Intro to Psychology, Homophobia, Race, and Gender, Intro to Human Services, Adolescents and Addictions.

September 2005 – July 2007, Research Health Science Specialist, Principal Investigator: Dr. Paige Ouimette, Center for Integrated Healthcare, VA Medical Center, Syracuse, NY.

Responsibilities: Reviewing literature, preparing and editing grant proposals and manuscripts, and collecting and analyzing data for multiple quantitative and qualitative research projects on topics pertaining to PTSD, the integration of behavioral health and primary care, and substance abuse/dependence.

March 2001 – August 2005, Co-Facilitator and Individual Therapist, Gay, Straight, and Questioning Youth Group, Aids Community Resources, Syracuse, NY.

Responsibilities: Facilitating interactions between youth in the group, creating activities for the group, providing pro bono individual therapy.

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

Responsibilities: Providing in-home and office therapy for individuals, couples, and families, facilitating groups for children and parents, working as part of a team in a research-based

intervention program (Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care), providing training to both staff and parents.

August 1998 – May 2003, Graduate Assistant/Lecturer, Professors Assisted: Ken Hardy, Linda Stone Fish, Joseph Fanelli, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.

Courses Taught: Undergraduate: Peers Eliminating Oppression and Prejudice by Learning and Educating, Introduction to Human Sexuality; Graduate: Introduction to Cultural Diversity in MFT.

August 2000 – December 2002, Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, Goldberg Couple and Family Therapy Clinic, Syracuse, NY.

Responsibilities: Providing therapy for individuals, couples, and families.

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

Responsibilities: Providing in-home and office therapy for individuals, couples, and families, facilitating family groups, providing case management.

July 1999 – June 2000, Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, Aids Community Resources, Syracuse, NY.

Responsibilities: Providing therapy for gay and questioning men and couples.

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

Responsibilities: Testing and treatment with children, training and supervising clinicians, communicating with parents, presenting the program, and organizing components of the program.

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

Responsibilities: Intervening therapeutically and caring directly for children, providing referrals for parents, and completing intake and discharge procedures

Publications

McEachern, M., Coolhart, D., & Watson, D. (in press). Therapy with Queer Women Couples: Multiracial Feminist Therapy Considerations. In R. Harvey & M. Murphy's (Eds.) Handbook of LGBT-Affirmative Couple and Family Therapy (Second Edition). New York: Routledge Press.

Coolhart, D., & Martin, T. K. (in press). Gender Affirmative Therapy with Trans and Gender Expansive Youth: Listening to Youth and Thoughtfully Following Their Lead. In R. Harvey & M. Murphy's (Eds.) Handbook of LGBT-Affirmative Couple and Family Therapy (Second Edition). New York: Routledge Press.

Hollie, B., & Coolhart, D. (2020). "A larger system is placing people in this predicament": A qualitative exploration of living amongst urban violence and the impact on mental health and relationships in the Black community. *Contemporary Family Therapy*.

Martin, T. K., & Coolhart, D. (2019). "Because Your Dysphoria Gets in the Way of You...it Affects Everything." *The Mental, Physical, and Relational Aspects of Navigating Dysphoria and Sex for Trans Masculine People*. *Sexual and Relationship Therapy*.

Coolhart, D. (2019). 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 Funded

Internal Grant Program, Syracuse University, 2015-2016, A Pilot Clinical Outcome Study on Effectiveness of Family Systems Therapy, Amount: \$500.

David B. Falk College Seed Grant 2014-2015, Housing and LGBTQ Youth: A Mixed-Methods Community Needs Assessment, Amount: \$5,000.

David B. Falk College Seed Grant 2013-2014, Exploring the Experiences of Children with Transgender Parents: Family Dynamics, Challenges, and Protective Factors, Amount: \$6,000.

Fahs-Beck Fund, Impacts of Family and Social Support on Transgender Mental Health, Amount: \$20,000.

Conference 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.

Coolhart, C., Coppola, J., & Martin, T. "Transgender inclusive training issues and experiences in MFT programs. Workshop presented at the national AAMFT conference, Louisville, KY, 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.

Ad Hoc Reviewer

Journals:

Journal of Marital and Family Therapy
Family Process
Children and Youth Services Review
Youth & Society
Traumatology
Journal of Homosexuality
International Journal of Transgenderism
Practice Innovations
Health Expectations
Michigan Family Review

Text

Counseling 21st Century Constellations, Pearson Publishing

Conference Proposals:

AAMFT Annual Conference

Professional Development

November 2016 – present, PESI Speaker, Traveling workshops on LGBTQ Youth.

October 2004 – present, Gender Expansive Support Team Founder, Trainer, and Supervisor, Syracuse University, Couple and Family Therapy Clinic.

September 2015 – December 2016, Rescue Mission LGBTQ Advisory Group, Syracuse, NY

January 2004 – November 2008, SUNY Upstate Medical University Gender Dysphoria Team, Therapist and Coordinator, Syracuse, NY.

August 2002 – December 2002, Senate Subcommittee Member for LGBT Concerns, Syracuse University

Professional Honors/Awards

2016: Early Career Award, American Family Therapy Academy

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

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

2013: 99 Top Professors in Counseling, Psychology, & Therapy, Featured on list by MastersinCounseling.org.

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

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

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