

# 41<sup>ST</sup> Annual Spring Conference



**Hilton Atlanta/Marietta  
Hotel and Conference Center**  
**Marietta, GA**  
**April 24–26, 2020**



Consider this your formal invitation to join us for the 41st annual GAMFT Spring Conference, April 24-26th, at the Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel and Conference Center in beautiful Marietta, GA!

Due to a strong and committed membership in Georgia, the GAMFT spring conference has historically been one of the most successful of the AAMFT geographical programs. Each year, Conference Volunteers (both seasoned members and MFT Students) help make our vision a reality by committing their time and efforts in both planning and implementing this conference. Pulling together large state-wide events are no small feat. Additionally, many of these folks continue to build on the vital work done by seasoned GAMFT members. From ensuring parity with other mental health professions, promoting MFT to potential employers, and elevating and expanding our work across the state—their efforts are the only reason GAMFT exists. We are incredibly grateful every day to have an organization we can be proud of, and I personally want to thank you for the bottom of our hearts.

This is our first year in the Greater Atlanta Area, and we are excited to offer this rotation on a renewal licensure year. Additionally, we tightened up the conference by holding it for three days instead of four. This way you will not lose all your Thursday workday, and still have the opportunity to make the full conference! There will also be opportunity to enjoy a night out in Marietta and Greater Atlanta, while still learning, connecting, and reconnecting with fellow passionate professionals. My hope is that you leave the conference inspired and reinvigorated about systemic family therapy and our place within the field of mental health!

Can't wait to see you in Marietta!

## **The 2020 Conference Planning Committee:**

Adam Albrite, GAMFT VP and Chair, Jennifer Vann, Edna Abney, Jennifer Lambert-Shute, and outgoing VP, Michael Cook

## **CONFERENCE OVERVIEW**



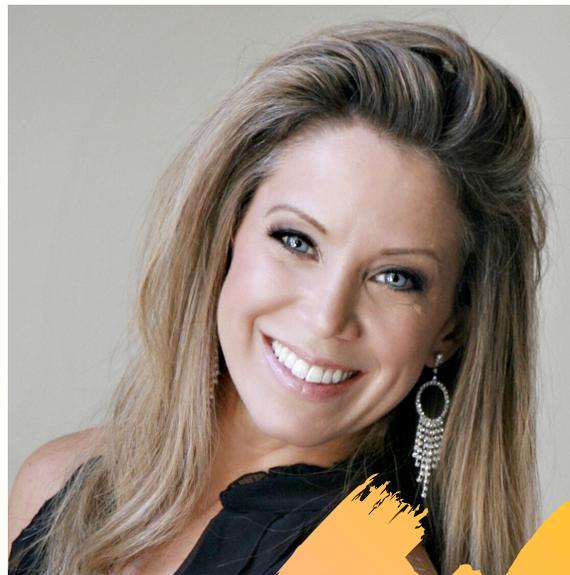
- **Main Plenary Speaker**
- **Pre-Conference Institutes**
- **Sunday Ethics Workshop**
- **Conference Program**
- **Hotel Information**

# LIVING TOGETHER IN A CHANGING WORLD

## A SYSTEMIC & RELATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

The problems that bring people to therapy never exist in isolation, rather, they are embedded in multiple overlapping contexts that influence how we experience reality. As systemic therapists, it is imperative that we understand how power intersects these contexts, and be prepared to work clinically with the ways in which the family, the wider social contexts (race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, class, religion, nationality etc), and the ecological planetary context influence all our lives, the struggles that clients present with in therapy, and even the process of therapy itself.

This workshop will clarify what constitutes a systemic framework and will examine why it is ever more pressing that we think and act systemically. The hidden wounds of oppression associated with having membership in socially marginalized and devalued groups will be examined as will the impact of ecological factors on the concerns and stressors that clients (and we) experience. Participants will learn specific clinical interventions and strategies grounded in systemic principles that can be used to treat clients within the context of their relationships at the familial, sociocultural and ecological levels.



**Dr. Tracey Laszloffy**

10 CEs

### After attending this workshop participants will be able to:

- Define what constitutes a systemic, relational framework.
- Identify how to apply this framework to clinical practice.
- Explain the significance of context and how it intersects with power.
- Identify and treat the wounds of oppression.
- Explain the relationship between healthy functioning and ecological factors.
- Explain how to assess and address the impact of ecological factors in therapy.

## BIO:

Tracey Laszloffy, PhD maintains a private practice in individual, couple and family therapy in Norwich, Connecticut where she also directs her group practice, The Center for Relationship Healing. Dr. Tracey (as her clients affectionately refer to her) received her Master's and Doctoral degrees in Marriage and Family Therapy from Syracuse University in New York. She has over 17 years of experience as a therapist and has been a Professor of Family Therapy within accredited MFT graduate programs at: Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York; the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut; Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pennsylvania; and Alliant International University in San Diego, California. She also has served as the Clinical Training Coordinator for the Marriage and Family Therapy Master's and Doctoral programs at Northcentral University. In addition to being a prominent relationship therapist, Dr. Tracey has extensive experience as a trainer, consultant, faculty coach and clinical supervisor, and she has presented family therapy workshops and seminars both nationally and internationally on healing the wounds of trauma and oppression, working with troubled adolescents and their families, and promoting culturally sensitive approaches to therapy. She also has published extensively in academic journals and has co-authored three books including *Teens Who Hurt*, *Raising Biracial Children*, and *The Black Academic's Guide to Winning Tenure—without Losing Your Soul*. She recently co-edited and authored several chapters in *Eco-Informed Practice: Family Therapy in an Age of Ecological Peril*. This book reflects her deep belief that the field of family therapy must resist the temptation to conform with the individualistic bias endemic to mainstream mental health and instead must remain true to its systemic roots by addressing the relationship between our health and well-being and that of the planetary ecological system. Dr. Tracey is a Licensed MFT in Connecticut, Arizona and North Carolina, and she is a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

**GROWING THROUGH GRIEF**

*PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LESSONS AFTER LOSS*

This workshop highlights a family systems perspective on the grief process, including internal experiences and multigenerational aspects. The presenter will discuss the loss of family members and its impact on health and wellness, professional responsibilities, life satisfaction and family relationships. Infusing spirituality, bereavement and resilience resources, and creative writing, the presenter recounts personal narratives and summarizes clients' stories. Additional concepts examined within various contexts include self of the therapist, family of origin, boundaries, fit, self-disclosure, and cultural sensitivity. *\*For all interested therapists*

- Explore the meaning of grief and related concepts from a family systems perspective
- Discuss self of the therapist factors and other clinical considerations relevant during bereavement
- Examine risk factors and resilience resources beneficial for therapists and clients in need



1

**Dr. Shatavia Thomas**

**FROM STUDENT TO CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL**

*PREPARING FOR THE LICENSURE EXAM PROCESS*

One of the most stressful times in the developmental process of becoming a therapist is the transition from student to licensed clinical professional. In this workshop, students and new professionals are invited to explore helpful hints and common pitfalls that occur as they work towards licensure in Georgia. The workshop will focus in particular on the licensure paperwork for LAMFT and LMFT, as well as suggestions to prepare for the AMFTRB national licensure exam.

*\*Particularly MFT students, post-graduates, and new supervisors unfamiliar with GA licensure preparation*

- Explain the required components of the LAMFT and LMFT licensure paperwork for Georgia.
- Discuss the main components of the AMFTRB national licensure exam.
- Summarize multiple methods to prepare for both the content and process of taking the AMFTRB national licensure exam.



2

**Dr. Andrea Meyer Stinson**

**ETHICS OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN FAMILY THERAPY**

There is a growing awareness in the mental health field that social justice issues come to the attention of family therapists and counselors in a variety of ways and often present complex ethical issues and dilemmas. This interactive workshop is intended to prepare practitioners to understand and appreciate the intersection of ethics and social justice in the practice of family therapy and counseling. *\*For all interested therapists*

- Explain the concept of social justice and its implications for family counseling
- Discuss the ethical issues and implications of addressing social justice concerns for therapists and clients
- Consider practical ways to ethically and competently manage social justice dilemmas in clinical practice



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**Ethics Hours!**

**Dr. Michael Cook**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)**

**SUNDAY ETHICS WORKSHOP**

**SUNDAY, 4/26, 9AM-NOON**

**3 CEs**

**ETHICAL DILEMMAS OF INADEQUATE TRAINING AND SUPERVISION FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE** *For all interested therapists*

SAMHSA describes Trauma-informed care (TIC) as follows: An "approach to the delivery of behavioral health services [that] includes an understanding of trauma and an awareness of the impact it can have across settings, services, and populations. It involves viewing trauma through an ecological and cultural lens and recognizing that context plays a significant role in how individuals perceive and process traumatic events. TIC involves vigilance in anticipating and avoiding institutional processes and individual practices that are likely to retraumatize individuals who already have histories of trauma, and it upholds the importance of consumer participation in the development, delivery, and evaluation of services."

Trauma-informed care is a focus for institutions, agencies, and practitioners across the US. A multitude of programs and policies are being developed and yet there is a gap in the mental health workforce, particularly those who are skilled in utilizing trauma-informed care with children, adolescents, and families. Clinicians, especially new graduates, must have adequate training and supervision to provide quality trauma-informed care and appropriately manage the potential ethical dilemmas in this field.

**At the completion of this interactive workshop, participants will be able to:**

- provide an overview of trauma-informed care
- describe potential pitfalls for both new and seasoned professionals; and
- discuss practical interventions and available resources for additional training.

**Ethics Hours!**



**Dr. Michele Smith**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Friday, April 24, 2020

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)

8:00 - 12:30 Registration Open

9:00 - 11:00 **Pre-Conference Institutes (2.0 CE) Choose one when registering**

- Growing through Grief: Personal and Professional Lessons After Loss  
Shatavia Thomas, DMFT, LMFT
- From Student to Clinical Professional: Preparing for the Licensure Exam Process  
Andrea Meyer Stinson, PhD, LMFT, CFLE
- Ethics of Social Justice in Family Therapy  
Michael Cook, ThD, LMFT

**Ethics Hours!**

11:00 - 12:30 Lunch on Your Own Off-Site

12:30 - 2:15 **Welcome + Introductions!**  
Andrea Meyer, President  
Adam Albrite, Vice President

**Main Plenary Presentation: Living Together in a Changing World  
Defining Systemic, Relational Framework (10.0 CE)**  
Tracey Lasloffy, PhD, LMFT

2:15 - 2:30 Break

2:30 - 4:15 **Understanding the Significance of Context**

4:45 - 5:45 **Yoga Session (Hosted by Indigo Gypsy Yoga)**  
Open to all Conference Attendees

**Explore the Local Flavors before Day 2! (See page 7)**

5:15 - 6:00 GAMFT Executive Council Meeting + Chapter Chair Meeting

6:00 - 7:00 GAMFT Board Dinner

7:00 - 9:30 GAMFT Board Meeting



# Saturday, April 25, 2020

- 8:00 – 8:30 Annual GAMFT Business Meeting / Coffee /Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 – 10:00 **Main Plenary Presentation, Day 2**  
**Identifying the Wounds of Oppression**  
Tracey Lasloffy, PhD, LMFT
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
- 10:15 – 12:00 **Treating the Wounds of Oppression**
- 12:00 – 1:30 **LUNCHEON (Sponsor Showcase)**  
Included in Full Conference Fee and Saturday Main Plenary Only Fee
- 1:30 – 3:15 **Identifying the Impact of Ecological Factors**
- 3:15 – 3:30 **Mindful Break! (Hosted by Indigo Gypsy Yoga)**
- 3:30 – 5:00 **Addressing the Impact of Ecological Factors**
- 5:30 – 7:00 **Networking Cocktail Party + Student Poster Exhibition**  
(Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar + **Free 1.0 CE** credit available when you attend and vote!)
- 9:00 - 10:00 **Papaya Party: A Relationship and Sexual Wellness Workshop**  
Come learn more about how to speak with clients about sexual health products in a relaxed setting to apply in clinical work (**Free 1.0 CE** credit available when you attend)

## Sunday Ethics Workshop, April 26, 2020

**Ethics  
Hours!**

- 9:00 – 12:00 **Ethical Dilemmas of Inadequate Training and Supervision for Trauma-Informed Care**  
Michele Smith, PhD, LMFT **3.0 CE**

**BOOK YOUR ROOM!**

**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)**

**The Hilton is offering a special GAMFT group rate: \$125 USD per night**

The cut-off date for group reserve is **March 23, 2020 @ Midnight**. Reservations received after that date will be provided on a space-available basis. Check-in time = 4PM, check-out is 11AM. Reservations can also be made online by going to the event's special registration page at: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/A/ATLMAHF-GAMCI-20200424/index.jhtml>

You can also make reservations by calling the Hotel Reservations at 1800-HILTONS (1-800-445-8667). You must identify yourself as being with the group, **Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy**, at the time the reservation in order to receive the special group rate. Also, the Group Code = (GAMCI)