

# Luciana C. Silva, PhD, LMFT

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## **EDUCATION** PhD in Child and Family Development, Marriage and Family Therapy Specialization

2009, University of Georgia

Dissertation: "What's Different Becomes Normal: A Phenomenological Investigation of Relational Identity and Cultural Negotiation in Intercultural Relationships"

Major Professor: David Wright

## **M.S. in Child and Family Development**

2007, University of Georgia

Thesis: "Safety Rituals: How Women Cope With the Fear of Sexual Violence"

Major Professor: David Wright

## **B.S. in Psychology and B.A. in Sociology**

2004, University of Georgia

## **CREDENTIALS AND AFFILIATIONS**

**Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, State of Alabama, License # 401**

Jun. 2014 – Present

**Licensed Marital and Family Therapist, State of Tennessee, License # 0869**

2011-2015

**Approved Supervisor for the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy**

2013 – Present

**Clinical Fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy**

2012-present

Member since 2004 in National Association;

Member of GA state subdivision 2004-2009; of TN state subdivision 2009-2014; of AL state subdivision

2014-present

**Board Certified TeleMental Health Provider (BC-TMH), #522**

2015-present

Center for Credentialing & Education

## **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

**Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Solo Private Practice**

*Southeast Systemic Therapy and Consulting*

Oct. 2022 – Present

Full time private practice focused on couples and families. Serving client in Alabama and Tennessee.

**Clinical Director**

*Oasis Counseling for Women and Children*

Dec. 2019 – Oct. 2022

Duties include: designing and implementing strategies to assist agency to realize goals; overseeing compliance with legal policies, guidelines and standards; recruiting, hiring and supervising clinical staff of 8 therapists plus clinical interns; designing, implementing, and managing client care services and programs; conducting regular quality assurance reviews; ensuring all clinical records are current and within state and federal laws; performing ongoing employee reviews and providing feedback on their performance to help motivate their dedication to professional goals; planning and managing professional training and continuing education activities; acting as a liaison between clinical team and administrative and leadership teams; fostering relationships and partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders; assisting Director of Development with grants and funding applications and reports by tracking and reporting on clinical program utilization and outcomes; ongoing reporting and collaboration with Board of Directors on state of clinical programs.

**Clinical Counselor**

*Student Counseling Services, University of Alabama at Birmingham*

Sept. 2014 – Nov. 2019, Birmingham, AL

Provided 20-25 clinical hours per week of individual, couple, family, group therapy, and crisis intervention to university students. Clinical specialization in addiction, trauma, and systems. For three years, developed, implemented, and managed Collegiate Recovery Community project through Wellness Promotion department. Additional program development and outreach responsibilities related to supporting international students.

Development and management of department's clinical internship program, including serving as clinical site supervisor to master's level interns.

#### **Contract Counselor**

Employee Assistance Counseling Center, *University of Alabama at Birmingham*

October 2014 – Present, Birmingham, AL

Provided brief mental health counseling to couples and families.

#### **Mental Health Services and Federal Project Manager**

*Renewal House*

Jan. 2010 – June 2014, Nashville, TN

Coordinated clinical services and project implementation; oversaw evaluation projects funded by two federal multi-million dollar grants from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau; provided family, individual and group therapy focused on family recovery from addiction; managed all family services to agency's residential and outpatient families; supervised three clinicians and two master's level clinical interns; assisted Chief Clinical Officer in strategic planning, managing clinical team systemically, creating and implementing therapeutic interventions for residential community.

#### **Staff Therapist**

*The Pastoral Center for Healing (group private practice)*

Aug. 2009 – Dec. 2011, Nashville, TN

Provided spirituality-integrated psychotherapy to individuals, couples, and families. Specialized in substance use disorders, trauma, and family systems. Worked primarily with Spanish-speaking community.

#### **Bilingual Contract Therapist**

*Sexual Assault Center*

Oct. 2009 – Aug. 2010, Nashville, TN

Provided psychotherapy (in Spanish and English) for trauma recovery to adults and children affected by sexual assault.

#### **Doctoral Clinical Intern in Marriage and Family Therapy**

*Samaritan Counseling Center*

July 2008 – July 2009, Athens, GA

Provided individual, couple, and family therapy to clients living in Athens-Clarke County and surrounding areas; provided spirituality-based counseling; participated in weekly clinical staffing and community awareness events; served monolingual Spanish-speaking families.

#### **Options Counselor (Clinical Internship)**

*Feminist Women's Health Center*

Aug. 2008 – May 2009, Atlanta, GA

Served as reproductive options counselor; provided crisis intervention; provided health-related psycho-education and helped meet patient needs in fast-paced environment requiring multitasking and prioritization of goals.

#### **Therapist**

*Project Safe*

Jan. 2006 - May 2008, Athens, GA

Individual and family therapist at the local battered women's shelter; participated in team treatment planning.

#### **Education and Support Group Co-Facilitator**

*The Tree House*

Spring 2006, Winder, GA

Presented educational material on parenting (part of "Nurturing Georgia's Families" Program) and moderated discussion among group members, who were families at risk of child abuse.

#### **Student Therapist**

*McPhaul Family Therapy Clinic, University of Georgia*

Aug. 2004 – July 2008, Athens, GA

Served as individual, couple, and family therapist to students and members of larger community; participated in treatment planning and case consultation with student therapists and AAMFT- approved supervisors.

#### **Clinical Intern and Community Education Volunteer**

*Sexual Assault Center of Northeast Georgia*

Jan. 2003 – Oct. 2004, Athens, GA

Operated crisis hotline; accompanied clients to medical exams; served as English-Spanish interpreter and translator; presented at community education meetings and fairs; monitored and recorded forensic interviews.

#### **Social Service Aid, Women's Program for Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation,**

*Advantage Behavioral Health System*

Oct. 2000 - Sept. 2001, Athens, GA

Transported and supervised clients; monitored medication; documented client behavior; provided support and counsel when staff therapists not available; performed various clerical tasks.

## ADVANCED CLINICAL TRAINING

**The Gottman Institute Certification Track (to become a Certified Gottman Method Couple Therapist)**

November 15, 2023 – November 15, 2025 (projected)

Bimonthly consultations with Michael Brown, LMFT and Certified GMCT throughout this time, in preparation for submitting clinical work for review by board.

**The Gottman Institute Level 3 Training for the Gottman Method of Couples Therapy  
Couples Therapy: A New Research Based Approach, with Michael Brown, LMFT**

July 2023, Boca Raton, FL

**The Gottman Institute Level 2 Training for the Gottman Method of Couples Therapy  
Couples Therapy: A New Research Based Approach, with Drs. John Gottman & Julie Schwartz-Gottman**

January 2023, virtual training (pre-recorded)

**Certified Choice Coaching, Academy of Choice**

June 2017, Birmingham, AL

5-day training on coaching and how licensed therapists can integrate this service within their existing psychotherapy practices.

**Board Certified TeleMental Health Provider (BC-TMH)**

Center for Credentialing & Education

June 2015, Birmingham, AL

**Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), with Jean Hawks**

May – Oct. 2015, Birmingham, AL (UAB)

Currently completing training as first step in EMDR certification process.

**Sexuality Education Training Series, Planned Parenthood**

Feb. 2014, Nashville, TN

4-day training holistic sexuality education for children, adolescents, and adults in a variety of community settings.

Learned strategies and techniques for assessing needs and values to target trainings appropriately.

**Bowen Family Systems Theory in Family Therapy, Bowen Theory Education Center**

2011-2012, Chattanooga, TN

9-month advanced clinical training on using Bowen Family Systems Theory in professional practice and personal self-of-the-therapist work.

**Dialectical Behavior Therapy 10-Day Intensive Training, with Michael Maslar, Psy.D.**

2012, Nashville, TN; and with Sharla Mize, MS, 2020-2021, virtual training.

Basic training required for therapists to provide this therapy modality for people with Borderline Personality Disorder.

**Parent-Child Interaction Therapy**

with Dr. John-Paul Abner, Program Administrator, PCIT International Certified Master Trainer

2013-2014, Nashville, TN

Completed basic training (5 full days, 16 CEUs) and one year of biweekly consultation with trainer; completed two full cases necessary before testing. Now pursuing testing necessary for full certification.

**Treating Children with Sexual Behavior Problems, with Patti van Eys**

2010, Nashville, TN

3-day training and monthly consultation focused on therapeutic treatment for children with sexual behavior problems.

**The Gottman Institute Level 1 Training for the Gottman Method of Couples Therapy  
Couples Therapy: A New Research Based Approach, with Drs. John Gottman & Julie Schwartz-Gottman**

Nov. 2008, San Francisco, CA

**Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies Certificate from The University of Georgia**

Qualified to teach specialized courses on qualitative research; extensive training and experience in qualitative research.

**Additional training and experience in grant writing and evidence-based practices such as Motivational Interviewing, Seeking Safety, and Celebrating Families!**

## TEACHING **Clinical Supervision**

Nashville, TN and Birmingham, AL; Jan. 2010 - Present

Served in capacity of AAMFT-approved clinical supervisor for Master's level students completing practicum and internship, and to post-Master's clinicians pursuing license in Marriage and Family Therapy. Have supervised 4 clinicians towards full license to date.

**Adjunct Professor in Counseling, University of Alabama at Birmingham**

Counselor Education Program, Jan. 2016 - Present

Teach 'Sociocultural Diversity', 'Diagnosis and Treatment' and 'Clinical Supervision for Internship'

Full responsibility for all aspects of designing curriculum and teaching courses, including preparing lectures, grading and evaluating student work, writing letters of recommendation, and securing guest speakers. Student evaluations available upon request.

**Adjunct Professor in Marriage and Family Therapy, Trevecca Nazarene University**

Graduate Counseling Department, Jan. 2010 – Aug. 2014, Nashville, TN

Provided clinical supervision to master's level MFT students; taught courses in MFT Theories, Addiction Treatment, and Research Methods.

**Instructor of Record, CHFD 4870 Human Sexuality Across the Lifespan, University of Georgia**

Spring 2007 (Jan. 2007 – May 2007)

Fall 2007 (Aug. 2007 – Dec. 2007)

June 2008 (Short Summer Session I)

Full responsibility for all aspects of designing curriculum and teaching course, including preparing lectures, grading and evaluating student work, writing letters of recommendation, and securing guest speakers. Student evaluations available.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia**

Aug. 2007 – May 2008; Supervising Instructor: Dr. Patricia Bell-Scott

Helped design new course entitled "Family and The Media."

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia**

May 2005; Supervising Instructor: Dr. Stephanie Burwell

Graded student work, selected and evaluated materials for classroom instruction, monitored students' group activities, and guest lectured on four occasions.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia**

May 2005; Supervising Instructor: Ms. Nicole Childs

Responsible for grading student's work, selecting and evaluating materials for classroom instruction, monitoring students' group activities, and guest lecturing on two occasions.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Georgia**

Aug. 2004 – Dec. 2005; Supervising Professor: Dr. Lynda Walters

Taught two sections per semester of an introduction to child development laboratory class (45 students per class); mostly positive student evaluations on a quantitative measure. Students reported appreciating instructor's sensitivity, flexibility, level of knowledge about the subject, and humor. Student evaluations available.

**Guest Lectures, University of Georgia, Athens Technical College, and Mercy Health Center**

2005-2008; Athens, GA

Twelve invited presentations for various course instructors in child development, psychology, and education, as well as a community health center. Presentations on topics such as sexuality education, trauma and young children, chronic illness and mental health, and diverse parenting practices and experiences. Detailed list of presentation titles and locations available upon request.

**Teaching Portfolio**

2009; Approved by The University of Georgia Graduate School

## RESEARCH **Publications**

- Bermúdez, J.M., Zak-Hunter, L., Silva, L. (2011). Experiences of parenting classes for Mexican American mothers parenting alone: Offering culturally responsive approaches. *American Journal of Family Therapy*, 39, 360-374.
- Christie, J., Smith, G. R., Williamson, G. M., Lance, C. E., Shovali, T. E., & Silva, L. C. (2009). Quality of informal elder care is multidimensional. *Rehabilitation Psychology*, 54, 173-181.
- Silva, L., Wright, D. (2009). Safety rituals: How women cope with the fear of sexual violence. *The Qualitative Report*, 14(4), 747-773.
- Silva, L., Campbell, K., & Wright, D. W. (2012). Intercultural relationships: Entry, adjustment, and cultural negotiation. *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*, 43(6).
- Campbell, K., Silva, L., & Wright, D. W. (2011) Rituals in Unmarried Couple Relationships: An Exploratory Study. *Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal*, 40(1), 45–57. doi: 10.1111/j.1552-3934.2011.02087.x

### **Scholarly Presentations**

- Silva, L.C., Oestreich, L.A., Williams-Glass, T., Milam, P.T., & Ager, S.E. (2017). Collaboration and Integration in Building University of Alabama at Birmingham's CRC. Workshop presentation at the Association for Recovery in Higher Education Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
- Silva, L.C., Oestreich, L.A., Parente, M.N., & Milam, P.T. (2017). Building Strong Collegiate Recovery Communities: Integration and Synergy Between Counseling Services, Health Services and Health Promotion. Workshop presentation at the American College Health Association Annual Conference. Austin, TX.
- Silva, L.C. (2017). Trauma-Informed Student Services: Supporting Student Mental Health. Workshop presentation at the UAB Student Affairs One-Day Conference. Nashville, TN.
- Silva, L.C. (2011). Beyond the Basics of Intercultural Competence: What You're Not Taught in Graduate School. Workshop presentation at the TAMFT Annual Conference. Nashville, TN.
- Silva, L.C., & Seponski, D.M. (2011). Systemic Frameworks in Treating Survivors of Acid Burnings and Their Families. Workshop presentation for Cambodia Acid Survivors Charity, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Bermudez, J. M., Zak-Hunter, L., Branchetti, K., Silva, L., & Dunn, C., & Reyes, N. (2009). Culturally Responsive Parenting Classes. Accepted for a poster presentation at the National Meeting of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Sacramento, CA.
- Neustifter, R., & Silva, L. C. (2008). *Offering psychoeducational sexuality workshops to families in domestic violence shelters*. Accepted for a workshop at The XVI World Family Therapy Congress. Porto, Portugal.
- Silva, L. C., Campbell, K., & Wright, D. W. (2007). Influential factors in entry and adjustment into intercultural marriages. Accepted for a poster presentation at the 2007 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference.
- Campbell, K., Silva, L., & Wright, D. W. (2007). Online methods for qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method research. Accepted for a round-table discussion at the 2007 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Silva, L. C., Campbell, K., Wright, D. (2007). A Framework for Understanding Adjustment to Intercultural Marriages. Accepted for a poster presentation at the Annual Spring Conference of the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. May, 2007. St. Simons Island, GA.
- Campbell, K., Silva, L. C., Wright, D. (2006). Validation of the Premarital Rituals Scale: A Qualitative Study. Accepted for a poster presentation at the 2006 National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference. November 2006. Minneapolis, MN.

- Campbell, K., Silva, L. C., Childs, N., Arndt, C., & Wright, D. (2006). Heterosexual Identity Development: Future Directions. Accepted for a poster presentation at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Conference. October 2006. Austin, TX.
- Silva, L. C., Templeton, G. B., Blyskal, R. T., Johnson, L. N. (2006). The Effect of Reminders on First Therapy Session Attendance. Accepted for a poster presentation at the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Conference. October 2006. Austin, TX.
- Silva, L. C., Blyskal, R. T., Templeton, G. B., Johnson, L. N. (2006). To Call or Not to Call: The Effect of Reminder Phone Calls on Client Attendance to First Therapy Sessions. Accepted for a poster presentation at the Annual Spring Conference of the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. May, 2006. St. Simons Island, GA.
- Silva, L. C., Neustifter, R. N., Brewer, A. L., Kim, J., Stegman, E. B., & Paulin-Seponski, D. M. (2006). The Impact of Marriage and Family Therapy Training on Graduate Students' Relationships. Accepted for a poster presentation at the Annual Spring Conference of the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. May, 2006. St. Simons Island, GA.
- Samuel, L.F., Williamson, G., Dooley, W. K., & Silva, L.C. (2006). Heavenly Support: The Relationship of Religious/Spiritual Coping, Care-related Stress and Depression Among Informal Caregivers of Older Adults. Accepted for a poster presentation at The Seventh Annual Southeastern Regional Student Mentoring Conference in Gerontology and Geriatrics. April, 2006. Lexington, KY.
- Silva, L. C., & Vaughn, L. (2003). Difficulties and coping mechanisms in cross-cultural relationships. Accepted for a poster presentation at the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Behavioral Sciences at The University of Georgia. March, 2003. Athens, GA
- Silva, L. C., & Vaughn, L. (2003). Role of self in intercultural relationships. Accepted for a poster presentation at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Georgia Undergraduate Research in Psychology Conference at Kennesaw State University. April, 2003. Kennesaw, GA

### **Project Management**

#### **UAB Collegiate Recovery Community, *University of Alabama at Birmingham***

Jan. 2015 – Sept. 2018, Birmingham, AL

Led efforts in engaging university and greater regional community for stakeholder buy-in; engagement, recruiting, selecting, and supervising program's dedicated staff; development and implementation of signature programs targeting specific learning objectives; marketing program and disseminating its goals and accomplishments; and overseeing program evaluation efforts. Recruited, selected, hired, and trained new full-time program coordinator when program grew large enough to require full-time dedicated staff.

#### **Federal Project Manager, *Renewal House***

Jan. 2010 – July 2014, Nashville, TN

Served as primary project manager responsible for implementation of two 3-year grant projects funded by two separate DHS (Children's Bureau) grants, to bring mental health services (individual and family therapy, psychiatric medication management) to residential program for low-income mothers undergoing addiction treatment. Designed data collection procedures and protocols; assisted grant evaluators in building data collection systems; trained agency staff (over 30 individuals) on project goals and objectives and data collection procedures; supervised staff's progress in data collection; entered, cleaned, and managed data sets; oversaw service delivery and overall project implementation; assisted in project design and grant writing for second grant project; established outcome indicators; negotiated memoranda of agreement with partner agencies; assisted and advised Chief Clinical Officer in presenting results of evaluation projects to agency stakeholders and community at large.

#### **Research Assistant, *University of Georgia, Psychology Department***

May 2003 - May 2007, Athens, GA

Family Relationships in Late Life Project

Primary Investigator: Dr. Gail Williamson

Served as project coordinator for NIH Grant longitudinal study. Managed large data set from three different data collection sites; wrote and presented reports on project implementation; trained interns and colleagues; participated in publication think-tanks.

**Research Assistant, University of Georgia, Psychology Department**

Aug. 2002 - Dec. 2003, Athens, GA

Coping Mechanisms of Cross-Cultural Couples

Primary Investigator: Dr. Lisa Vaughn

Conducted literature review; assisted primary investigator in selecting measurement tools; assisted in data collection.

**Research Assistant, University of Georgia, Psychology Department**

Jan. 2003 – May 2003, Athens, GA

Mental Depletion in Social Relationships

Primary Investigator: Dr. Keith Campbell

Guided research participants through study tasks and monitored progress; cleaned and entered data.

## SERVICE

**Alabama Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapy**

November 2017 – April 2021

Vice Chair 2018-2019

Chair 2019-2021

**Staff Training for Cambodia Acid Survivors Charity (CASC)**

Jan. 10, 2011, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Silva, L.C., & Seponski, D.M. "Systemic Frameworks in Treating Survivors of Acid Burnings and Their Families."

**Student Volunteer**

The 2005 Southeastern Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality.

Atlanta, GA.

**Abstract Reviewer**

64<sup>th</sup> and 66<sup>th</sup> Annual American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Conference. October 2006 and 2008. Austin, TX and Memphis, TN.

**Newsletter Reporter**

Wrote articles for the Fall 2007 and Fall 2008 newsletters of the MFT Program at UGA, used for student recruitment and marketing.

## SKILLS

Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. Proficient in qualitative research (Interdisciplinary Qualitative Studies Certificate from UGA) with experience in program evaluation. Work well in fast-paced environment. Strong writing and analytical skills.

## HONORS

**NASPA Phenomenal Woman in Student Affairs, 2017**

**AAMFT/SAMHSA Minority Fellow, 2008, 2009**

**Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, 2008**

**UGA Graduate School Dean's Award for Dissertation Completion, 2008**

**Marriage and Family Therapy Graduate Certificate Program Award, 2008**

**Alfred Edmondson Brown Scholarship, 2008-2009**

**Elizabeth T. Sheerer Graduate Scholarship, 2008-2009**

**Rosabelle Carr Koelsche Scholarship, 2007**

**Christus Powell Minority Fellowship, 2006**

**Franklin College Ambassador, 2003-2004**

**University of Georgia Presidential Scholar, 2002- 2003**

**University of Georgia Dean's List, 2000 - 2002**

## REFERENCES

Dr. David Wright

Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science

University of Georgia

Nature of Contact: Major Professor/Academic Advisor in Master's and Ph.D. Programs  
(706) 424-0700 (cell)

[dwright@fcs.uga.edu](mailto:dwright@fcs.uga.edu)

Dr. Maria Bermudez, LMFT

Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science

University of Georgia

Nature of Contact: Clinical Supervisor for four years, dissertation committee member, mentor for Approved AAMFT  
Supervisor designation

(706) 542-3296 (office); (713) 560-7128 (cell)

[mbermude@uga.edu](mailto:mbermude@uga.edu)

Dr. Tom Knowles-Bagwell, MDiv, DMin, LCPT, CSAT

Associate Professor and Associate Director of Mental Health Counseling Program at Belmont University

Clinician at The Pastoral Center for Healing

Nature of Contact: Colleague and partner in private practice setting

(615) 972-7652

[tom@pchnashville.com](mailto:tom@pchnashville.com)

[tom.bagwell@belmont.edu](mailto:tom.bagwell@belmont.edu)

Sharla Mize, LPC

Dialectical Behavior Therapist in Private Practice

Nature of Contact: Supervisee and colleague at Renewal House, 2010-2014; DBT Trainer for Oasis Counseling for  
Women and Children, 2020-2021.

(615) 785-5562 (cell); [sharla.mize@gmail.com](mailto:sharla.mize@gmail.com)

Bart Grooms, LMFT, LPC

(Retired)

Previous Clinical Director of Samaritan Counseling in Birmingham, AL

Nature of Contact: Peer Supervision Group, regular guest speaker in graduate counseling classes at UAB, and  
personal friend since 2014.

(205) 994-1232; [hkg3@bellsouth.net](mailto:hkg3@bellsouth.net)