

Family Therapy & Domestic Violence

The Work of Sistemas Humanos of Bogotá, Colombia

Sistemas Humanos is a consultation centre in Bogotá, Colombia aimed at constructing better social worlds. Training programs in systematic family therapy, conflict resolution, and organizational work are taught. A masters degree program, directed by Dr. Eduardo Villar, is offered in collaboration with La Universidad Central. Developing social interventions is the core work of its multi-disciplinary team.

Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, July 10, 2010

In a continuing collaboration between the Consortium for Narrative Research and Practice and Sistemas Humanos of Bogotá, Colombia, Dr. Eduardo Villar, Carlos Felipe Villar-Guhl, and Jeannette Samper will present at NSU as the fourth workshop in the Consortium's new series.

WORKSHOP INFORMATION

FAMILY THERAPY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Saturday, July 10, 2010

Part I: A Trans-disciplinary Perspective to Family Violence from a Systemic Approach

The purpose of this presentation is to share our experience in working with family violence from a trans-disciplinary perspective in Bogotá, Colombia. During the last 10 years we have developed a model of working with families involving social workers, lawyers and the court referral professionals in the conjoint creation of a process to intervene in family violence issues. Our work is focused on the construction of micro political interventions towards the acceptance of the other as a legitimate other in the relationship. This approach to the intervention of family violence issues has led us to understand family violence from a different perspective that conceptualizes it as part of a relationship in a specific social and cultural context. Thus, we have moved outside the room and we have created a permanent work with other institutions in the particular social system. This allows us to construct interventions at different levels and moments emphasizing the words used by the families and the professionals in every moment of the *therapeutic* process. Based on this experience, we have designed with the local government different projects on family violence to work with court-referral families. While adopting a trans-disciplinary approach to the family violence situation, the therapeutic conversations start in the legal context and are continued in the therapy room. All these conversations are considered as part of the intervention. This means a conjoint work developed from different disciplines working towards the same goal.

Part II: Conversations in Conversation: *Research* in Therapeutic Contexts

This research is related to the question about *the difference that makes the difference* during therapeutic conversations in systemic family therapy when the presenting problem is family violence in Bogotá, Colombia. With this question in mind, we have focused on understanding clients' and therapists' perspectives on therapeutic conversations and their ideas about the utility of such conversations in the therapeutic process. We integrated research and therapy processes and conceptualized change processes in systemic therapy contexts. The research allowed us to reflect on the actual therapeutic process and to suggest a new way of dealing with domestic violence problems from a systemic point of view.

Part III: Family Therapy with Three Generations

Jeannette Samper will share her work with eight family members across three generations when she was asked by one of the family members to help stop the transmission of incest in the family involving a brother, sister and male cousin. Social services requested help for the family to create a safe environment for the girl and the integration of the boys following residential treatment.

A Narrative and Collaborative approach was employed and ideas were developed to create an ethnic, sacred space where it was possible to speak of the unspoken and hidden experiences of incest.

Cultural, religious and family beliefs and practices were externalized in the service of eliminating guilt and creating responsibility. Themes of Machismo and gender differences were at the center of the work with the family.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

In this workshop, participants will:

1. Learn a trans-disciplinary practice model for working with domestic violence;
2. Learn to integrate research and clinical practice;
3. Learn to apply ideas and skills from Narrative and Collaborative Therapies in the context of domestic violence.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

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| 8:30 - 9:00 a.m. | Registration/ Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. | Dr. Eduardo Villar "Transdisciplinary Model" |
| 10:30 - 10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45 - 12:15 a.m. | Carlos Felipe "Conversations in Conversation" |
| 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. | Lunch (on your own) |
| 1:15 - 2:45 p.m. | Jeannette Samper "Working with a case of Incest" |
| 2:45 - 3:00 p.m. | Break |
| 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | Jeannette Samper "Working with a case of Incest" |
| 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. | Review and Discussion |

TO REGISTER ONLINE by clicking on this link
<<http://shss.nova.edu/register/sistemashumanos/index.html>>