

Curricular Vitae
Michael S. Leeman PhD, LPC-S, NCC
Southeastern Louisiana University
Department of Health and Human Sciences
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Counselor Education May 2015

Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

CACREP Accredited

Specialization Areas: Biblical-Based Counseling, Psychological Trauma, Posttraumatic Growth

Pre-dissertation Title: *Lifestyle as a Predictor of Posttraumatic Growth*

Dissertation Title: *Life-style, Coping Resources, & Trauma Symptoms: Predicting Posttraumatic Growth*

M.S., (Master of Science in Clinical Counseling Psychology) May 2008

Brenau University, Gainesville, GA

MPCAC Accredited

Concentration: Community Counseling

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) December 2006

Piedmont College, Demorest, GA

Major: Psychology

Minor: English

LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), License #007218. State of Georgia Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, March 2013, and License #8413. State of Louisiana Licensed Professional Counselors Board of Examiners, December 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor

Department of Health and Human Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Graduate Counseling Program, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana.

August 2018-Present:

- Primary instructor for various master level in-person and hybrid courses including specialized topics and CACREP core courses.
- Courses Taught:
 - COUN 6050 Pre-Practicum/Counseling Techniques and Interventions
 - COUN 6080 Human Growth and Development
 - COUN 6010 Legal, Ethical and Professional Issues
 - COUN 6100 Introduction to Diagnosis and Treatment of Psychopathology
 - COUN 6420 Crisis Intervention and Grief Counseling
 - COUN 6270 Introduction to Play Therapy
 - COUN 6290 Advanced Play Therapy
 - COUN 6830 Practicum
 - COUN 6930 Internship
 - MCFC 6210 Introduction to Marriage, Couple, & Family Counseling
 - COUN 6260 Techniques in Marriage, Couple, & Family Practice

Clinical Assistant Professor

Department of Counseling and Higher Education, College of Education, Graduate Counseling Program, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

August 2015-July 2018:

- Primary instructor for master level courses including specialized topics and CACREP core courses.

- Courses Taught:
 COUN 5290 Ethical Issues
 COUN 5490 Abnormal Behavior Effects of Trauma and Crisis Intervention
 COUN 5660 Advanced Counseling Techniques
 COUN 5520 Counseling for Wellness
 COUN 5720 Clinical Mental Health Counseling Internship I
 COUN 5721 Clinical Mental Health Counseling Internship II

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Licensed Professional Counselor

Not for Profit: No Heart Left Behind, Mandeville, LA

September 2023 – Present: Provide therapy and consultation to marriages, couples, and families with emotional, behavioral, relational and spiritual issues; provide individual therapy for adolescents and young adults with stress and trauma related issues; conduct intake sessions, build and manage a client caseload, and develop treatment plans; lead treatment teams and provide supervision for counselors-in-training and beginning counselors.

Licensed Professional Counselor

Private Practice: Focus Forward Counseling & Consulting, Inc., Cumming, GA

May 2014-August 2015: Provide play therapy to children with emotional/behavioral issues; provide filial therapy for primary caregivers of children with emotional/behavioral issues; provide individual therapy for adolescents and young adults with stress and trauma related issues; conduct intake sessions, build and manage a client caseload, and develop treatment plans.

Licensed Professional Counselor

Private Practice: Family Counseling Associates of North Georgia, Cumming, GA

January 2012-May 2014: Provide play therapy to children with emotional/behavioral issues; provide filial therapy for primary caregivers of children with emotional/behavioral issues; provide individual therapy for adolescents and young adults with stress and trauma related issues; conduct intake sessions, build and manage a client caseload, develop treatment plans, and collaborate in the development of professional workshops.

SCHOLARSHIP

GRANTS/EXTRAMURAL FUNDING

Green, D. & Leeman, M. S. (2024). Student Technology Fee Grant. Tevera Software for the Graduate Counseling Simulation Clinic. \$23,125, with a match of \$1,500. (Funded)

Green, D. & Leeman, M. S. (2023). Board of Regents Support Fund Enhancement Program Grant. Southeastern Louisiana University. \$84,659 (Not Funded)

Leeman, M. S., & Castleberry J., (2022). Orr Research Endowment. Southeastern Louisiana University. \$875.00 (Not Funded)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL

Leeman, M. S. & Collins, L. (2023). Clinical practice review on post-traumatic growth among healthcare professionals post COVID-19 and the facilitation of health outcomes for the patient and client population group. *Journal of Hospital Management and Health Policy*. doi: 10.21037/jhmhp-23-111

Leeman, M. S., Castleberry, J. & Chang, C. Y. (2023). Life-style, coping resources, and trauma symptoms as predictors of posttraumatic growth. *Journal of Individual Psychology*, 79(3). <https://doi.org/10.1353/jip.2023.a909957>

Watts, J., Leeman, M., O'Sullivan, D., Castleberry, J., & Baniya, G. (2021). Childhood Emotional Maltreatment and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Context of Centrality of the Event and

Intrusive Rumination. *Rehabilitation Counseling Bulletin*, 64(2), 108-117.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0034355220925889>

Leeman, M. S., Dispenza, F., & Chang, C. Y. (2015). Lifestyle as a predictor of posttraumatic growth. *Journal of Individual Psychology*, 71(1), 58-74. <https://doi.org/10.1353/jip.2015.0007>

BOOK CHAPTERS

Castleberry, J. & **Leeman, M. S.** (2021). Prediction research in counseling. In S. V. Flynn (Ed.), *Research Design for the Behavioral Sciences: An Applied Approach* (pp. 159-204). Springer Publishing.
doi:10.1891/9780826143853.0006

Fazio-Griffith, L. J., Marino, R., & **Leeman, M.** (2021). Ethical Considerations for Play Therapy Supervision. In L. Fazio-Griffith & R. Marino (Eds.), *Techniques and Interventions for Play Therapy and Clinical Supervision* (pp. 1-16). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-4628-4.ch001>

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

INTERNATIONAL

Leeman, M. S., Sadler, W. B., & McNeill, Q., & Watson, M. (2025). *Navigating Through Grief and Loss in Different Stages of Substance Use and Recovery*. Presented at the Law and Ethics in Counseling Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Leeman, M. S. & Murray, P. P. (2023). Law, Ethics, and the Self Care Paradox. Round Table Discussion at the Law and Ethics in Counseling Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Leeman, M. S. & Breau, A. (2022). *Developing an Ethical Sense-of-Self Care*. Presented at the Annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference, Virtual.

Leeman, M. S. & Ladd, J. (2022). *Applying Ethics and Reducing Risk in Trauma Treatment*. Presented at the Annual Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Leeman, M. S. & Breaux, A. (2021). This Above All: To Thine Own Self-Care Be True. Presented at the Law and Ethics in Counseling Virtual Conference.

Leeman, M. S., Carey, S. & Ladd, J. (2021). Applying Ethics and Reducing Risk in Trauma Treatment. Presented at the Law and Ethics in Counseling Virtual Conference.

Leeman, M. S., Meza, L., & Dantin, K. (2021). It's Not You It's Me: Ethics & Countertransference. Presented at the Law and Ethics in Counseling Virtual Conference.

Leeman, M. S., Meza, L., & Dantin, K. (2020). Ethical Practices in Supervision and the Importance of the Supervisory Relationship. Presented at the Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference, New Orleans, LA.

NATIONAL

Leeman, M. S. & Murray, P. P. (2022). *Ethics and Trauma Techniques: Helping Clients Make Meaning from Their Trauma*. Presented at the Annual American Counseling Association Conference, New Orleans. LA.

Watts, J., **Leeman, M.**, O'Sullivan, D., Castleberry, J., & Baniya, G. (2021). Childhood Emotional Maltreatment and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Context of Centrality of the Event and Intrusive Rumination. Presented at the American Counseling Association Virtual Conference Experience.

Leeman, M. S. & Castleberry, J. (2018). Life-style, Trauma Symptoms, Coping Resources and

Posttraumatic Growth. Presentation Proposal (accepted/not presented) for the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology Conference, Toronto, ON.

STATE AND LOCAL

Leeman, M. S., Sadler, W. B., & Watson, M. (2023). *Navigating Through Grief and Loss in Different Stages of Substance Use and Recovery.* Presented at the Annual Recovery Capital Conference, Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA.

Leeman, M. S. (2023). The Self-care Paradox: Why don't I care? Louisiana Mental Health Counselors Association Luncheon Keynote Speaker at the Louisiana Counseling Association Annual Virtual. Baton Rouge, LA.

Leeman, M. S. & Carey, S. (2023). Keep It Quiet: Navigating the Intricacies of Betrayal Trauma, Shame, and Disenfranchised Grief. Presented at the Louisiana Counseling Association Annual Conference. Baton Rouge, LA.

Rock, W., **Leeman, M. S.,** Abadie, K., & Perise, J. (2021). *When the School Community Suffers a Loss: School Counselor Leadership in the Time of Grief.* Presented at the Annual American Counseling Association Conference, New Orleans. LA.

Leeman, M. S., Meza, L., & Dantin, K. (2020). Ethical Practices in Supervision and the Importance of the Supervisory Relationship. Presented at the Louisiana Counseling Association Virtual Conference.

Leeman, M. S., Williams, J., & Marino, R. (2020). Beyond Diagnosis: Viewing SUD through a Grief and Loss Lens. Presentation Proposal (accepted) for the Southeastern Louisiana University Annual Terrell Conference for Mental Health Practitioners, Hammond, LA.

Leeman, M. S. & Williams, J. (2019). Facilitating post-traumatic growth following the trauma of bereavement. Presented at the Louisiana Counseling Association Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.

Leeman, M. S. (2019). Narrative metaphor: Helping clients make meaning from their trauma experiences. Presented at the Louisiana Counseling Association Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.

Leeman, M. S. & Williams, J. (2019). Developmental Aspects of Stress and Trauma. Presented at the Southeastern Louisiana University Annual Terrell Conference for Mental Health Practitioners, Hammond, LA.

Rock, W., **Leeman, M. S.,** Dearnas, K., Jones, S. (2018). Using Motivational Interviewing in School Counseling. Presented at the Louisiana Counseling Association Annual Conference, Baton Rouge, LA.

SERVICE

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2023 – Present Louisiana Mental Health Counselors Association (LMHCA)

2018 – Present Louisiana Counseling Association (LCA)

2018 – Present Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023 – 2024 Southern Association for Counselor Education & Supervision (SACES) Member at Large

2022 – Present National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) Standard Setting Committee

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2018 – Present Chi Sigma Iota (Sigma Lambda Upsilon Chapter) Chapter Faculty Advisor
2024 – Present President's Awards for Excellence Committee
2019 – 2024 Faculty Senate Committee Member
2019 – 2024 Senate Faculty Welfare Committee Member
2023 – 2024 Senate University Academic Assessment Committee Member

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2025 Janina Fisher's Shame Certification Training: Integrative Somatic, Sensorimotor, Mindfulness, & Neurobiological Strategies to Transform Self-Loathing (Online Course)
- 2024 Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) Externship
The Emotionally Focused Therapy 4-day workshop focused on relationship distress through an attachment lens and addressing clients' attachment needs and longings. Externship in EFT is a roadmap to work with clients' underlying emotions that increase feelings of secure attachment, closeness and connection.
- 2024 - 2025 Complex Trauma Training Consortium
The Complex Trauma Training and Treatment Network is an international affiliation of leading clinical, training and research experts in the field of traumatic stress. Training includes an extensive array of innovative and evidence-based psychotherapy services for children, adults, couples, and families at nearly two dozen outpatient locations throughout the United States and Canada.
- 2023 34th Annual International Trauma Conference – Neuroscience, Embodiment, the Restoration, of Self
Organized by the Trauma Research Foundation and hosted by renowned trauma expert Dr. Bessel van der Kolk, the conference brought together leading professionals in psychology, neuroscience, and somatic therapies to share the latest research and innovative approaches to trauma treatment. Key themes included the neuroscience of trauma—exploring how traumatic experiences affect brain function and may even impact genetic expression across generations—and the importance of embodiment in healing. Experts presented on a range of body-based therapies such as Somatic Experiencing, neurofeedback, and mindfulness practices, all of which were emphasized as effective tools for trauma recovery. The conference also addressed trauma from cultural and developmental perspectives, underscoring the importance of context in therapeutic work.

Notable speakers included Dr. Gabor Maté, who focused on the mind-body connection and how stress contributes to illness; Dr. Richard Schwartz, who discussed Internal Family Systems (IFS) therapy and the role of internal parts in trauma recovery; and Dr. Kerry Ressler, who presented on the neuroscience of fear and PTSD. Dr. Tania Singer shared research on the healing power of compassion and mindfulness, while Dr. Ron Siegel spoke about integrating mindfulness with psychedelic-assisted therapy. Licia Sky, co-founder of the Trauma Research Foundation, contributed insights into embodied self-awareness and the therapeutic value of movement. Altogether, the conference offered a rich, multidisciplinary approach to understanding trauma and fostering holistic recovery.
- 2017 CCPT 101: Intensive Supervision Experience in Child-Centered Play Therapy
10/11-14 Dee Ray, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, RPT-S and Sue Bratton, PhD, LPC-S, RPT-S Center for Play Therapy, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. Four (4) day workshop on Child-Centered Play Therapy Practice and Application through didactic presentation, role play, and interactive demonstrations with a focus on hands-on learning (i.e., conduct individual play sessions, observe peer play sessions, and participate in supervision).
- 2016 CCPT 101: Basics in Child-Centered Play Therapy

10/27-28

Dee Ray, PhD, LPC-S, NCC, RPT-S, Featured Guest Speakers: Dr. Garry Landreth and Dr. Sue Bratton Center for Play Therapy, University of North Texas, Denton, TX. Two (2) day training workshop about the practice and application.