Curriculum Vitae: Dr Myrna Gower

Myrna Z Gower

**PhD. (Lond), MA., BA. (Witw), CQSW, QUAL. in F.T. (Tavistock Clinic)**

**E-mail: myrna@gower.me.uk**

A systemic and conceptual thinker who is organised and analytical. Uses a collaborative style to encourage participation from both groups and individual clients.

Believes in research to evaluate practices. Considers continual professional development essential to high performance. Has a portfolio career with interests in Consultation, Clinical Practice, Teaching, writing and Research. A Social Worker and Family Therapist with experience of the public and private sectors.

KEY COMPETENCIES

Consultation

* For 8 years integral to the training of family therapists to MSc level at the Tavistock Clinic, London and to the development of the course curricula.
* For 10 years integral to the clinical training and development of a two-year post qualifying multidisciplinary training in systemic family therapy, Prudence Skynner Family Therapy Clinic, Springfield University Hospital, London Medical School, St Georges Hospital Tooting, London.
* Consultation to smaller practice teams in the public sector e.g. Probation, NSPCC, Social Services etc.
* Consultation to family businesses.
* Strategic consultation to those leading key business negotiations.
* Live consultation to the introduction of a Family Intervention Programme on a close supervision unit for adult mentally disordered offenders.
* Consultation to academic courses in order to ensure they meet standards for professional accreditation from the national body in line with laid down standards.
* Consultation to individuals, couples and families.
* Consultation to large professional firms (law, accounting) addressing personal and professional development of leadership of partners.

**Teaching**

* Innovative in the development of training programmes to meet specific requirements.
* Developed and deliver training on Systemic Practice with Families and Organisations at MSc level at The University of London (Royal Holloway)
* Extensive years of experience in live clinical and theoretical teaching at St. Georges Hospital; Westpark Hospital and The Tavistock Clinic.
* Developed, piloted and taught a new course in which trainees were offered supervised clinical training in their workplace for an academic year (Tavistock Clinic)
* Supervise and contribute to the teaching of trainers.
* Accepted invitations to teach/run short workshops/conferences for particular interest groups.
* Invited abroad to share and teach research interests

Independent Clinical Practice.

* Developed and run an independent clinical practice for individuals couples and families. Referrals are generally professional, medical, collegial and self referred.
* Problems presented are varied and include consultation to employees in the work place; dilemmas in working relationships and negotiating within management teams.
* Special interest in working with high conflict divorce and ensuing alienation experience of either parent and the child/ren.

RECENT CAREER HISTORY

Independent Clinical Practice

 1986-date

Doctoral Research 2005-2011

*Completed Doctoral Research at Birkbeck University of London (supervised by Prof Stephen Frosh: Professor of Psychology and Pro-Vice-Master and Emilia Dowling Systemic Psychotherapist and Clinical Psychologist)*

**Research Fellowship**

*Post Doctoral research invitation Royal Holloway University of London*

*Department of Health and Social Care/Social Work* 2011-to date

Visiting Lecturer, Royal Holloway College, London University 1990-date

Teaching the MSc Syustemic Family Therapy Modules to Social Work Students. Included supervision of students; visiting students in their work placements; setting and marking examination papers.

**Visiting Lecturer, Royal Holloway-Birkbeck-Tavistock Clinic** Teach on the Government Initiated Post Qualifying Programme for Social Work. 2002-date

**Leadership Development** 2005-date

*Invited to join Brightside Productions (a coaching and leadership partnership) and implemented systemic leadership & coaching initiatives designed to enhance personal and team performance in organisational life*.

***Doctoral Research****:*  Title: Parenting Adult Children: A qualitative study of narratives of intergenerational attachment. This research devised a novel qualitative research methodology and presented an analysis of parenting adults introducing significant implications for general and clinical practice.

***Parental Alienation:*** Beginning pilot research for larger qualitative study investigating parental alienation syndrome.

FORMAL EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS

1970 BA in Social Work, University of the Witwatersrand, 1970 CUM LAUDE

1978 MA Researched aspects of cross-cultural practice with Asian Families

1985 Sheldon Fellowship at the Tavistock Clinic

2011 PhD. Department of Psychosocial Studies. Birkbeck College, University of London

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATIONS

1999-date AFT Approved Family Therapy Supervisor

1995-date UKCP registered Family Therapist.Registration No: 950136

1998- date AFT Member of Committee for Registration of Therapists and Supervisors

2002-2005 2011- date: AFT Chair of Committee for the Registration of Family Therapy Training UK.

1980- date Association of Family Therapists: AFT membership No: 1641

1995-2010 Member of Context Editorial Group (publication for family therapy and systemic practice)

2010-date Member of Systemic Study of Parental Alienation Google Group (SS0PA)

**VALDATION and EXTERNAL EXAMINER EXPERIENCE**

2012 – to date Post Graduate Certificate in Systemic Practice Anglia Ruskin University

2003- to date Post Graduate Cert/Pst Graduate Diploma /MA in Applied Systemic Theory UEL University of East London

2004-2011 External Examiner Post Graduate Cert/Pst Graduate Diploma /MA in Applied Systemic Theory UEL University of East London (Tavistock Clinic);

PUBLICATIONS

"What Have you done with your Family Therapy Training?" 1987. Unpublished.

"Modern Technology and Family Therapy; Getting it taped." The Association for Family Therapy Newsletter. Vol.8 no.2. 1987.

Family Therapy Supervision Teams in Agencies. A Model for Training. 1987 . Internal publication.

"Live Supervision: A secure Base for Experimental Theatre" 'Context' No.21, Winter 1994.

"An Invariant Formula " Dartington Conference. Internal publication. 1996.

"Lest We Forget: Forty years of Family Therapy" 'Context' No.27, Summer 1996.

"An Invariant Formula for the Teaching of Systemic Practice" Paper delivered at Conference Springfield University Hospital, 1996.

Paper on 'The Invariant Formula' invited for presentation at the 7th International Family Therapy Association, Israel March 1997.

'Understanding The Teaching Learning System' - Editor of regular column in 'Context' 1997/8

‘Context – the Millenium Celebration’ December 1999 – Co-Editor, ‘Back to the Future’ – conversations with six Systemic Practitioners from across the world.

Bennet, M., Gower, M et al, (2002) ‘Supervision and Clinical Governance’ in *Perspectives on Supervision* Campbell, D and Mason, B (eds),. Karnac, London, Part 1V, pp157-181.

Gower, M. ((2000) ‘Diversity and Narrative Therapy’ in White, M. *Reflections on Narrative Practice, essays and Interviews*, Dulwich Centre Publications, Australia.

Draper, R, Gower, M and Huffington, C, (1991) *Teaching Family Therapy*, Karnac, London.

Gower, M and Shawver, L (2001) ‘AFT JFT FORUM 5 If Wittgenstein and Lyotard could talk with Jack and Jill towards postmodern family therapy’ An invited essay by Lois Shawver Context,Vol 23 Issue 3 August 2001

Gower, M. (2006) *Israeli Study on parenting Adult Children*. Unpublished paper.

Gower, M. and Dowling, E. (2008) Parenting adult children - invisible ties that bind? *Journal of Family Therapy,* 30: 425-437.

Gower, M., Dowling, E. and Gersch, I. (2005) Parenting adult children: a project combining narrative, clinical and empirical methodologies. In A.Vetere and E. Dowling (eds) *Narrative Therapies with Children and Their Families.* UK: Routledge.

Gower, M and Gupta, A., *Parental Alienation: Raising constructs from a contact dispute using qualitative analysis of text.* (2014*) (*Submitted to The journal of Family Therapy. Awaiting publication)

Gower, M., (2014) *A Thousand tiny poisonous needles.* thealienationexperience.org.uk