



**Brian Distelberg PhD** is a Professor in the School of Behavioral Health at Loma Linda University. He joined Loma Linda University in 2009 after completing his PhD at Michigan State University. He teaches statistics and research methods courses for doctoral-level marriage and family therapy, as well as psychology and social work students. He also became the Director of Research for the Loma Linda University Behavioral Medicine Center in 2015. Dr. Distelberg oversees and supports the growth of all research at this facility. As part of his research role, he is also the Director of the MEND program. This program is a family systems psychosocial intervention for youth and adults with a chronic illness. Dr. Distelberg and the MEND team have developed this approach over the last 10 years and have published over 13 peer-reviewed articles from this work. He is also the Associate Editor for *Family Process*, an interdisciplinary scholarly journal that focuses on family interaction and family relations with larger systems.

Dr. Distelberg is a lead investigator for multiple studies in the area of housing, resiliency, and socioeconomic mobility in the Inland Empire. Much of his research focuses on housing assistance and family supportive programs focused on building resiliency and socioeconomic mobility. He is a trained Marriage and Family Therapist, and uses his family systems training to provide consulting to Moving to Opportunity designated districts of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He is also a member of the Loma Linda University Human Subjects Review Board, and founding board chair of the not-for-profit organization, KEYS, which is the largest rapid rehousing service for homeless individuals in San Bernardino County, California. He has published over 40 peer-reviewed research studies in the areas of housing assistance, low-income families, mental health, chronic illness, marriage and family therapy, as well as family and community resilience.

<https://behavioralhealth.llu.edu/faculty/department-counseling-and-family-sciences/brian-j-distelberg-phd-ma>



**Daniel Zomerlei** has been in full-time private practice since graduating the CFT program in 2015. He is currently the co-owner of Alliance Counseling Group, a therapy practice specializing in the treatment of couples, students, and trauma. Alliance Counseling Group has multiple office locations in the Grand Rapids area and are comprised of a team of nearly 20 expert therapists. In addition to clinical work and attending to the day-to-day activities of operating a business, he is also an adjunct professor in the Psychology Department at Hope College in Holland, Michigan.

<http://www.alliancecounselinggroup.com/>



**Dr. Asha Barber Sutton, LMFT**

AAMFT Approved Supervisor Associate Director of MFT Doctoral Clinical Training & Assistant Professor Northcentral University Asha B. Sutton is an experienced professor specializing in distance-based teaching and training of MFT graduates. She is also a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the states of Illinois and Michigan as well as an AAMFT Approved Supervisor. In her newest role as the Associate Director of MFT Doctoral Clinical Training, Asha supports the clinical training needs of doctoral students. Additionally she serves on the Elections Council for the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. She approaches her teaching and supervision using a culturally informed framework. It is through her work that she seeks to conceptualize and analyze challenges in a manner that acknowledges, advances, and incorporates concepts of social justice and racial equity. She also engages in program evaluation focused on helping organizations to improve their program delivery methods.

<https://www.ncu.edu/people/asha-sutton-phd#gref>



**Dr. Zain Shamoon** is currently a Core Faculty professor of Couple and Family Therapy at Antioch University Seattle. He completed his PhD in Human Development and Family Studies in Fall 2017 at Michigan State. In addition to teaching and advising students, Zain is the co-founder and host of the Narratives of Pain storytelling series, centered on the creation of communal spaces where the telling of personal stories are used as a resource towards personal healing. This was launched in Michigan, and has since continued to Seattle. His professional writing and research has included topics such as cultural sensitivity in domestic violence services (Zain's dissertation), the use of personal awareness in managing therapist anxiety, and the use of formal feedback mechanisms in therapy.



**Dr. Karlin Tichenor** is a clinical scholar. As a researcher, he has investigated the Promoting Academic Success Program (PAS) for minority males and the efficacy of this program on the matriculation of these students from high school and post-secondary education. He has also worked with the FirstSchools Intervention which is a project focusing on diminishing the ethnic/racial achievement gap between majority and minority youth through the development of partnerships between program staff, families, and schools in the context of Michigan. As well, he is a two-term minority fellow of the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Program, where he completed two quantitative studies on how at-risk minority males talk about themselves, their lives, and the influence of contextual factors on relationship maintenance for African American couples.

Dr. Tichenor also works in the Lansing school district as the developer and Director of the Behavior Intervention Monitor Program. He is also the Director of Project Prevent— a federally funded grant to increase school-based and community-based mental health services for students and families. Additionally, he has performed as the director of the Academic Intergenerational Mentoring Program (AIM High) through the City of Lansing and the department of University Outreach and Engagement at Michigan State University, the Coordinator of the Culturally Responsive Positive Behavior Intervention Support (CRPBIS) initiative, and the Director of the Student Support Specialist Program.

Dr. Tichenor is currently the Executive Director for School Culture for the Lansing School District, a Fixed Term Assistant Professor at Michigan State University in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, and an Adjunct Professor at Siena Heights University in the Mental Health Counseling Program.

## Dr. Ryan Seedall



Dr. Ryan Seedall graduated from the Michigan State University CFT program in 2011. Upon graduating, he began a postdoc in Dr. Jim Anthony's NIDA funded research lab at MSU. After nine months, he accepted a position as an assistant professor in the MFT program at Utah State University.

Dr. Seedall is now an associate professor and has been at USU for over seven years, with his primary program of research focusing on understanding and improving relationship process, including both couple relationship and therapeutic processes. He aims to improve couple and family relationships through research on couple interaction and support processes, especially during adversity. He is also interested in protective family dynamics and prevention efforts, including ways to reduce mental

health disparities. Lastly, he is interested in the therapeutic process and identifying specific interventions that are useful when working with couples (e.g., enactments) and also client-related factors that are strongly associated with process and outcome in therapy (e.g., attachment and social support).

He counts his time at MSU with all of the great faculty there as a defining moment in his life, both professionally and personally. He lives in Hyde Park, Utah, with his wife (Ruth) and four children (Spencer, Madelyn, Eliza, and Benjamin).

<https://hdfs.usu.edu/people/faculty/seedall-ryan>



**Katie Bozek, PhD, LMFT** runs a private practice that serves the residents of the Grand Rapids and greater Grand Rapids area in Michigan. She recently stepped into the role of Executive Director for the Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network (KAAN), which is a national non-profit that provides educational and other resources to people involved within the adoption community. KAAN hosts an annual conference each year that brings together all members of the adoption community, including adoptees, adoptive families, birth families, and professionals who work in various fields that serve the adoption community. Katie also serves as a board member for the Michigan Board of Counseling, and the West Michigan Asian American Association (WMAAA). She is Past President of the Michigan Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

<https://kaancommunity.wordpress.com/2018/08/30/katie-bozek-named-new-executive-director-of-kaan/>



**Matt Brosi** is an Associate Professor and Masonic Endowed Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies at Oklahoma State University and has worked at OSU since graduating from MSU in 2004. He serves as Program Director for the marriage and family therapy program and holds a joint appointment with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service as a Marriage and Family State Specialist. The unifying theme of his research and extension/engagement is heavily centered on co-parenting, divorce, remarriage/step-family formation, as well as the development of programs addressing parenting issues. As a State Specialist, he has been responsible for co-developing and launching statewide the Co-parenting for Resilience (for divorcing parents) program and centers much of his outreach work in the area of divorce, co-parenting, and step-family formation as well as mental health awareness. He currently teaches courses on MFT models, psychopathology and psychopharmacology, ethics and professionalism, and practicum at the graduate level and introduction to MFT at the undergraduate level. He is an AAMFT Approved Supervisor and serves as a

COAMFTE Site Visitor. Matt provides certification training in PREPARE/ENRICH within the MFT program and trains both Extension Educators and graduate students in the Co-parenting for Resilience program. He also serves as an officer on the Oklahoma Board of Behavioral Health Licensure, the regulatory body overseeing licensure for LMFT's, LPC's and LBP's.

Matt's greatest joys are spending time with his wife, Carrie, and two boys Eli and Liam. He is most proud of serving as an Assistant Scoutmaster with Eli's Scout Troop and spending time outdoors. He deeply misses the MSU hockey season and the cold weather but loves his MFT colleagues and students in Oklahoma, and alumni around the globe!

<https://humansciences.okstate.edu/hdfs/cfr/research-associates/matthew-brosi.html>



**Christie Eppler, PhD, LMFT ('02)** is a program director and professor in Couples and Family Therapy at Seattle University. Her research areas include resiliency, spirituality, and promoting social justice in relationship therapy. Christie's studies have been published in the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, *Journal of Systemic Therapy*, *Feminist Family Therapy*, and the *Journal of Family Psychotherapy*. She presents regularly at American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy's (AAMFT) National Conferences. Christie is an AAMFT Approved Supervisor and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT; Washington). Christie teaches group supervision classes. She enjoys helping new interns mitigate their anxieties while utilizing systems theories and common factors to conceptualize clients. Clinically, Christie works from a critically conscious, strength-based, narrative family therapy approach. Her own resilient-care practices include yoga and hiking with Luke and Mossy where the forest meets the sea.

<https://www.seattleu.edu/stm/about/faculty/christie-eppler-phd-lmft.html>