

LISA ARONSON FONTES, Ph.D.

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Education

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Ph.D. from APA-approved program in Counseling Psychology, 1992. Dissertation: *Cultural Considerations in Therapy for Child Sexual Abuse: Puerto Rican Clients*.

New York University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, M.A. in Psychology, 1988.

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, M.S., 1984.

Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences, B.A. 1982. Summa cum laude in Spanish Language and Literature.

Selected Academic and Administrative Experience

Smith College, Adjunct Instructor, Sexuality and Gender Studies, Sexual Violence, Spring 2025

University of Massachusetts Amherst. Senior Lecturer II, Dept of Interdisciplinary Studies, Aug. 2009-2025. Taught Child Abuse & Neglect, 2015-2025, Sexual Violence, 2020-2025, and core courses in Interdisciplinary Studies. Taught doctoral Qualitative Research course, 2012, College of Education; taught first year seminar, *Cults: Mind Control and the Search for Meaning*, 2018 & 2019.

Union Institute & University. Core faculty member in Clinical Psychology doctoral program. Program development & teaching. Doctoral dissertation chair and member. Fulltime 2006-2009, part-time to 2013.

Springfield College, Springfield, MA. Director of the School Counseling Graduate Program & Assist. Professor of Psychology. August 2000-August 2006. Promoted to Associate Professor 2005.

Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA. Associate Faculty teaching Interpersonal Violence in the Family. Summers 2000 & 2001 and Child Trauma, summer 2006.

University of Massachusetts Amherst, School of Education. Visiting Professor in School Counseling and Social Justice Education. January 1999-May 2000.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Assistant Professor, Family Therapy, Department of Child Development & Family Studies. Core faculty member of AAMFT accredited doctoral program. Courses include Family Violence, Qualitative Research, and Practicum. Clinical work. August 1994-August 1996.

Keene State College, Keene, N.H. Assistant Professor, Psychology. September 1992 to June 1994.

Selected Teaching/Consulting Outside the Mainland United States (in Spanish and Portuguese, where applicable)

Nairobi & Kisii, Kenya. Multiple workshops related to coercive control, child sexual abuse, and female genital cutting along with the NGO Hope Foundation for African Women. March 2019.

Lima, Peru: Workshop on coercive control for prosecutors, and weeklong workshop on forensic interviewing of children for suspected child sexual abuse. Instituto de Especialización e Investigación en Psicología Forense (IPSIFOC), 2018 and 2019.

Budapest, Hungary: Participant and presenter at European Union meeting on Interpreting for Children in Crisis: Co-Minor Inquest II, 2017.

England: three presentations related to Cultural Issues in Coercive Control, various cities, 2017.

Chile: Weeklong workshops on forensic interviewing of children for suspected child sexual abuse with the NGO, ACHNU. Trained judges, prosecutors, psychologists & community members with the NGOs EPES, Amparo y Justicia, y Tierra de Esperanza, 1995-2017. Coercive Control, 2019.

Guyana: Through the NGO ChildLinK in Georgetown, conducted trainings and ongoing supervision with child protection workers, police, psychotherapists, prosecutors, and school welfare personnel, 2015-23. Wrote first research report on child sexual abuse in Guyana, *Cries in the Dark: Child Sexual Abuse in Guyana*, 2018.

Spain: Universidad de Oviedo. Taught two class sessions and gave a community presentation on gender-based violence through the Programa de Género y Diversidad, 2015.

Argentina: Universidad de Buenos Aires. With Fulbright Foundation award, taught graduate courses on Child Maltreatment and Forensic Interviewing for Suspected Child Sexual Abuse. Spring 2007.

Puerto Rico: Universidad de Puerto Rico. Conducted and organized three week-long trainings on the forensic interviewing of children for suspected child sexual abuse, through APSAC and the Programa Biopsicosocial de Evaluación de Menores. 2005-2014.

Brazil: Pontifícia Universidade Católica, Porto Alegre. Taught a graduate course on Crisis Counseling and one on Qualitative Research, as well as colloquia. August 1997.

Selected Clinical Supervision

ChildLinK, Georgetown, Guyana. Intermittent virtual supervision and training of counselors, forensic interviewers, and clinical administrative staff who work with child abuse & domestic violence, 2015-23.

Springfield College, Springfield, MA. Supervised practicum and pre-practicum students in Massachusetts and Connecticut school guidance departments. August 2000 to June 2005.

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. Practicum and internship/externship supervisor for family therapy graduate students at university clinic. August 1994 to June 1996.

Keene State College, Keene, NH. Organized and supervised weekly psychology practicum group, January 1993-May 1994.

The Care Center, Holyoke, MA. Interim supervising consultant to counselors at a school for pregnant and parenting teens, mostly Puerto Rican. February-May 1991.

Selected Clinical Experience

EmergeDV, Intimate Partner Violence Intervention program, Boston. 20-hour facilitator training & subsequent group facilitation, November 2025 – April 2026.

The Trauma Institute, Trauma Informed Treatment Training (85 hours plus clinical practice), 2021. Training and clinical practice with victims of trauma including child abuse and domestic violence.

Purdue University Marriage and Family Therapy Center. Occasional therapy with training center clients, especially in cases of domestic violence. August 1994 to June 1996.

Franklin Clinical Associates, Franklin Medical Center, Greenfield, MA. Clinical internship doing therapy and assessment with individuals, families, couples and groups; adults, teens and children. Developmental Evaluation Team member. September 1991 to August 1992.

Family Services Outreach Team at People's Bridge Action, Athol, MA. Individual and family therapy and assessment, primarily with issues of child neglect, physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Also led a group for at-risk mothers and infants. May 1989 to October 1990.

Emergency Services at Franklin/Hampshire Community Mental Health Center, Northampton. Part-time counseling; assessment; individual, family and network interventions with clients in crisis. May 1988 to August 1989.

Books

Fontes, L.A. (2015). *Invisible Chains: Overcoming Coercive Control in Your Intimate Relationship*. New York: Guilford (also translated into Japanese, Spanish, and complex and simple Chinese).

Fontes, L.A. (2008). *Interviewing Clients across Cultures: A Practitioner's Guide*. New York: Guilford (also translated into Korean).

Fontes, L.A. (2005). *Child Abuse and Culture: Working with Diverse Families*. New York: Guilford.

Fontes, L.A. (Ed.) (1995). *Sexual Abuse in Nine North American Cultures: Treatment and Prevention*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

Selected Book Chapters

Fisher, C., Rogers, M.M., Ali, P., Almark, P., & Fontes, L.A. (2022). Technology facilitated abuse: Increasing the reach and impact of intimate partner violence. In Rogers & Ali (eds). *International Handbook of Domestic Violence and Abuse*. Routledge.

Fontes, L.A. (2020). Cultural competence in the Field of Child Maltreatment. *Handbook of Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan*. Springer: New York.

Fontes, L.A. (2017). Child Maltreatment Services for Culturally Diverse Families in J.B. Klika and J.R. Conte (Eds) *APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment* (4th edition). Sage Press.

Fontes, L.A. (2016). Considering culture in child abuse and neglect: Tips for attorneys. In D.N. Duquette, A. M. Haralambie & V. S. Sankaran (Eds.). *Child welfare law and practice* (3rd edition) (pp. 151-174). Denver: Bradford Publishing Company.

Fontes, L. A. & Fontanil, Y. (2013). De la violencia doméstica al control coercitivo en el contexto latinoamericano y español. In Y. Fontanil, M.A. Alcedo y J. Roberts (Eds.): *Violencia contra las mujeres: Análisis interdisciplinar de la violencia de género* (pp. 49- 56). Oviedo, Spain: KRK Ediciones.

Fontes, L. A. & McCloskey, K. (2011). Cultural issues in violence against women. In J. Edelson, C. M. Renzetti and R. K. Bergen (Eds.), *Sourcebook on violence against women* (2nd edition) (pp. 151-168). Sage Press.

Selected Peer-Reviewed Publications

Rogers, M.M., Ali, P., Fischer, C., Allmark, P. & Fontes, L.A. (2022) Technology facilitated abuse in intimate relationships: A scoping review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*.

Katzenstein, D. & Fontes, L. A. (2017). Orthodox Jews and the Under-reporting of Child Sexual Abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 26, 752-767.

Tishelman, A.C. & Fontes, L. A. (2017). Religion in child sexual abuse forensic interviews. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 63, (120-130).

Fontes, L.A. & Tishelman, A.C. (2016). Language competence in forensic interviews for suspected child sexual abuse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 58, (51-62).

Collins, C., O'Neill, M., Fontes, L. A., & Ossege, J. (2014). Catholicism and Childhood Sexual Abuse: Women's Coping and Psychotherapy. *Journal Of Child Sexual Abuse*, 23, 519-537.

Fontes, L. A. & Plummer, C. (2010). Cultural issues in disclosures of child sexual abuse. *Journal of Child*

Sexual Abuse, 19, 491-518.

Fontes, L.A. (2010). Interviewing immigrant children for suspected child maltreatment. *Journal of Psychiatry and the Law*, 38, 283-305.

Fontes, L. A. (2007). *Sin vergüenza*: Addressing shame with Latino victims of child sexual abuse and their families. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 16, 61-82.

Fontes, L. A. (2005). Interviewing immigrant children and families about child maltreatment: Setting the stage. *Protecting Children*, 20(1), 37-46.

Fontes, L. A. (2004). Ethics in violence against women research: The sensitive, the dangerous and the overlooked. *Ethics and Behavior*, 14, 141-174.

Fontes, L. A. (2002). Child discipline and physical abuse in immigrant Latino families. *Journal of Counseling and Development*, 80, 31-40.

Fontes, L. A., Cruz, M. & Tabachnick, J. (2001). Views of child sexual abuse in two cultural communities: An exploratory study with Latinos and African Americans. *Child Maltreatment*, 6, 103-117.

Fontes, L. A. (2001). Those who do not look ahead, stay behind. Introduction to the special issue on Cultural Issues in Child Maltreatment. *Child Maltreatment*, 6, 83-88.

Fontes, L. A. & Piercy, F. (2001). Teaching ethical decision-making in qualitative research: A learning activity. *Journal of Systemic Therapies*, 20, 60-69.

Fontes, L. A. (2000). Children exposed to marital violence: Suggestions for school counselors. *Professional School Counseling*, 2, 231-237.

Fontes, L. A. (1998). Ethics in family violence research: Cultural issues. *Family Relations*, 47, 53-61.

Blogs and Popular Publication Outlets

Dozens of pieces in **The Conversation**, **PsychologyToday.com**, **Huffington Post**, **Domestic Shelters**, **Everyday Health**, **Soar**, **Yourtango.com**, **Ms. Magazine online**, and others. Blog on PsychologyToday.com has reached over two million readers.

Selected Funded Research

WUN Worldwide University Network grants. Along with Dr. Parveen Ali, won a Researcher Mobility Program grant to establish a Domestic Violence partnership with Sheffield University, 2017. Awarded a Matching Fund Grant for a WUN study on Domestic Violence & Women's Mental Health with Dr. Ali and researchers in Ghana and Australia, RDF 2019, extended to 2023.

Tishelman, A. & Fontes, L. A. (2014-15). *Cultural issues in forensic interviews for suspected child*

sexual abuse. Small Massachusetts General Hospital grant awarded 2014.

Tabachnik, J., Cruz, M. & Fontes, L. (1999). *Views of child sexual abuse in two cultural communities*. Community focus groups held with Latinos and African Americans to inform future sexual abuse prevention activities in these communities. Funding provided by STOP IT NOW!

Fontes, L. *Sexual abuse in Santiago shantytowns*. Focus groups with health promoters on sexual child abuse and avenues for intervention. Collaboration with the Chilean NGO, Educación Popular en Salud (EPES). \$1,000 grant from the **Midwest University Consortium on International Affairs (MUCIA)**, \$1,000 grant from the Dean's office of the **School for Consumer and Family Science**, \$2,500 Global Initiatives Grant, **International Programs, Purdue University**.

Piercy, F. & Fontes, L. *Alcohol use and sexual behavior by adolescents on probation*. Focus groups and individual interviews used to examine the relationship between alcohol use and sexual risk-taking behaviors for youth who are on probation. \$14,000 grants each year awarded in 1995 and 1996 by the **Rural Center on AIDS and STD Prevention**.

Selected Other Research Participation

Israel Science Foundation: Evaluator on several grant proposals related to violence against women and children, 2017-2023.

Consultant on the New Jersey State grant on **Child Abuse Forensic Evaluation**, with Craig Springer and Colleagues, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J. 2015.

Cultural consultant on Keith Kaufman's Centers for Disease Control grant, *Child Sexual Abuse Risk Factors: Modus Operandi & Supervision*, 9/98 – 8/04.

Consultant, on Catherine A. Taylor's NIH/NICHHD grant, *Prevention of child maltreatment: A focus on social norms and corporal punishment*, 8/09-6/14.

Reviewer of grants for multiple federal agencies & cultural consultant on grants related to children's issues and intimate partner violence.

Other Recent Prizes, Awards and Scholarships

Umass Professional Development Fellowship. Competitive award granted to develop materials related to Trauma-Sensitive Teaching Online at Colleges and Universities. Spring Semester, 2022.

Teaching for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity (TIDE), Amherst, MA. Selected for teaching fellowship at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. 2015-16

Fulbright Scholar. 3-month Fulbright residence in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Spring, 2007.

Five College Women's Studies Research Center, South Hadley, MA. Fall 2006 appointment as a research associate investigating statutory rape.

Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights, 2005 Outstanding Book Award, honorable mention for book *Child Abuse & Culture: Working with Diverse Families*.

APSAC Award for the Advancement of Cultural Competency in Child Maltreatment. 2004.

Professional Service

On editorial boards of the *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, the *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, & Trauma, Abuse and Violence*. Ad hoc manuscript reviewing for *The Journal of Forensic Psychology Research and Practice*, *Race and Social Problems*, *Ethnicity and Disease*, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, *Violence Against Women*, *Child & Family Services Review*, and *Child Abuse and Neglect*. Formerly on editorial boards of: the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, *Child Maltreatment*, *Journal of Family Psychotherapy*, *Journal of Counseling and Development*, *Journal of Feminist Family Therapy*, the *Professional School Counselor*, and *The Family Journal*.

Member, Board of Councilors, the **International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN)**, 2006 - 2008.

Member, Board of Directors, **American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC)**, 1998-2003; co-chair of the Cultural Diversity Committee, chair of the Nominating committee; Co-Coordinator of full-day Cultural Institutes, 1997-2004 and 2015-18.

Selected Training, Consulting and Invited Presentations

Regularly train judges, social workers, psychologists, attorneys, police, physicians, educators, advocates, nurses, parents, and others in cultural competence and family violence issues. Have conducted trainings in more than 40 states and several nations in English, Spanish and Portuguese. I have delivered keynotes and trainings, and provided curriculum preparation and consultation services for the following agencies & conferences, among many others: **Massachusetts Guardian Ad Litem Association**, **Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (National & New Jersey)**, **Office of Pennsylvania Courts**, **Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence**, **U.S. Army Family Advocacy Staff Training (FASTA)**; **Dallas Crimes Against Children Conference**; **Dallas Crimes Against Women Conference**; **Institute on Violence, Abuse & Trauma (IVAT)**, Hawaii & California; **Harvard Medical School**, Cambridge, MA; **Violence Prevention Office of the American Psychological Association**, Washington, D.C., **Office of Victims of Crime**, FL, PA, & Washington, DC, **Safe Horizon**, New York City; the **Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services**; **Centers for Disease Control, Division of Maternal and Child Health**, Atlanta; Child Advocacy Centers nationwide, child protection departments, children's hospitals, and women's crisis centers across the nation, and a variety of research teams. Internationally, I have conducted trainings in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, England, Germany, Guyana, Hungary, Kenya, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico and Spain.

Selected Recent Relevant Presentations

AFCC Judicial Training & National Conference. Seattle, WA. May 2026

International Coercive Control Conference, John Jay College, NYC. Two presentations, April 2026.

Diverse Voices on Domestic, Sexual and Family Violence, Edmonton, CA. November 6-7, 2025.

Keynote and two breakout sessions.

Child Centered Solutions, Webinar for attorneys, GALs and psychotherapists. June 27, 2025.

Northwestern District Attorney's Office, Keynote and Panel on Coercive Control, Greenfield, MA.

June 23, 2025.

Association for the Treatment & Prevention of Sexual Abuse (ATSA), *Coercive Control in Sexual & Domestic Violence.* Webinar, March 20, 2025.

Public Counsel Services, Hampden County, *Coercive Control & Intimate Partner Violence.* Springfield (MA) Juvenile Court. November 15, 2024.

AFCC National Conference, Boston, June 7, 2024. Two presentations: *Post Separation Abuse: Parenting After Divorce for Custody Evaluators* (with David Adams, Ed.D.) and *How to Conduct Custody Evaluations So Abusive Litigation is Less Likely.*

STOP Grant Training, Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, two trainings: *Invisible Chains: Coercive Control in Domestic Violence Cases*, March 22, 2024 and *The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children (Part of Kayden's Law)*, March 7, 2025.

Massachusetts Guardian Ad Litem Annual Conference (MGAL). Domestic Violence & Coercive Control: Keeping Children Safe After Separation. Waltham, MA, November 2024.

Massachusetts Bar Association, Family Bar Annual Conference. *Coercive Control and Family Law.* April 17, 2025.

AFCC, New Jersey Chapter Fall Conference, *Invisible Chains: Coercive Control in Family Law.* October 10, 2023.

Expert Witness Experience

Expert consultation, evaluation, reports, and testimony in family and criminal cases since 2016. Qualified in more than 20 states on the following topics:

- Child Abuse & Child Neglect
- Child Development
- Coercion in Prenuptial, Post-Nuptial and Other Financial Agreements
- Coercive Control including specific tactics such as DARVO, financial abuse, intimidation, litigation abuse, monitoring, physical abuse, stalking, & verbal abuse
- Cultural Issues in Families
- Custody Evaluation & Child Custody
- Domestic Violence/Abuse including victim behavior, abuser tactics, abusers as parents, effects on children, self-defense
- Forensic Interviewing
- Parental Alienation & Reunification Therapies
- Parenting & Parenting Plans
- Romance Fraud
- Sexual Violence including child sexual abuse, intimate partner sexual violence, school & workplace sexual harassment, sexual assault, sex trafficking, sex offender assessment & treatment
- Substance Abuse--effects on children, recovery, and monitoring
- Trauma in adults & children

Special Interests, Skills and Experience

- Fluent in Spanish and Portuguese
- Cultural issues in interviewing, counseling, research, child abuse & intimate partner violence
- Forensic interviewing

Testimony List Available Upon Request