

GINA TOUCH MERCER, Ph.D.
CURRICULUM VITA

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Education

Postdoctoral Fellowship in Geropsychology, Houston VA Medical Center, 1997.
Ph.D. Counseling Psychology, University of Houston, 1996.
M.S. Family Studies, University of Tennessee, 1989.
B.A. Psychology, St. Bonaventure University, 1987.

Licensure

Psychologist, State of Arizona. License No. 3637, 4/04 – present.
Originally licensed as a Psychologist, State of Kentucky, 2/98.

Appointments and Positions Held

Psychologist, Private Practice. Phoenix, AZ.
Reflections Psychotherapy and Assessment 4/05 –present

Abrazo Central Family Medicine Residency Program. Faculty,
Behavioral Health Coordinator. 1/15 – 2/17

**Arizona School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University
Phoenix. Department of Clinical Psychology.**
Associate Professor, Core Faculty. 9/03-12/13

Foundations Medical Partners, Nashua, NH. Psychologist and
Director of Behavioral Health 8/00 – 8/03

St. Louis Behavioral Medicine Institute, Psychologist,
Director of Geriatrics. 2/99-7/00

**University of Missouri - Saint Louis. Departments of Psychology and
Women's Studies.** Adjunct Faculty. 1/00 – 7/00

Central State Hospital, Louisville, KY. Psychologist and
Geriatrics Unit Program Director. 9/97 - 12/98

University of Houston, Counseling & Testing Service. Coordinator/
Counselor, Student Support and Retention Program. 2/95 - 7/96

Rice University, Career Services. Career Counselor. 9/90 - 5/93

ARC of Monroe, Rochester, NY. Clinical Manager. 9/89 – 6/90

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Clinical Training

Houston Veterans' Affairs Medical Center, Psychology Service

Postdoctoral Fellow. 9/96 - 8/97

Clinical rotations in Neuropsychology, Spinal Cord Injury, Geropsychiatry, Outpatient psychotherapy, Community Psychology and Applied Research.

University of Houston, Counseling & Testing Service. Psychology

Resident. 7/94-1/95. Rotation in Multicultural Counseling.

Arizona State University, Counseling and Consultation.

Pre-doctoral Intern. 7/93 - 7/94

Clinical rotations included Eating Disorders Interdisciplinary Treatment and Women's Issues.

Hispanic Family Center/ASU, Department of Anthropology and Counseling & Consultation. Group Therapist. 7/93 - 3/94

Houston Veterans' Affairs Medical Center, Geropsychiatry. 7/90 - 10/90

University of Houston Counseling and Testing Services. 5/91 - 8/91

Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine. 6/92 - 6/93
Family Counseling Clinic.

Teaching Assistantships

University of Houston, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Counselor for Learning Development. 1/91 - 5/92

Baylor College of Medicine. Department of Oncology. 2003

Second Year Elective: Long-term Care of Indigent Cancer Patients.

Team taught with family physician, medical ethicist, and oncologist.

Research Assistantships

University of Houston, Department of Educational Psychology. 6/90 - 5/91

Principal Investigators: Norm Kagan, Ph.D. and Henya Kagan, Ph.D.

Stress Management in Emergency Medical Personnel.

Baylor Psychiatry/Houston VA Medical Center, Geropsychiatry. 1/91 - 5/92

Principal Investigator: Victor Molinari, Ph.D. Administered and scored structured clinical interviews for multi-site study of personality disorders in the geriatric population.

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Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Allied Health. 9/91 - 5/92
Principal Investigator: David Holcombe, Ph.D.
Conducted literature reviews for studies of adolescent drug and alcohol use.

Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine. 5/92 - 6/93
Principal Investigator: James H. Bray, Ph.D. Stepfamily Research Project.
NIH grant research assistant.

Spring Branch Independent School District. Houston, TX 1/93 - 5/93
Consultant on high school counseling needs and services outcome research.

University of Tennessee, Department of Child & Family Studies.
Master's Candidate. 6/88 – 12/89. Principal Investigator: Brian K. Barber,
Ph.D. Principal research assistant in two national studies on adolescent disorders.

Publications and Editorial Contributions

Touch Mercer, G. (2016). Editorial contributions to 2017 revision of AZ “Elderly abuse and exploitation protocol” Section 5: Healthcare Community protocol.

Touch Mercer, G. “Clarity in aging” in Heery & Richardson (Eds). (2015). *Awakening to aging. 2nd edition.* Petaluma, CA: Tonglen Press.

Touch Mercer, G. “Finding your balance” in Heery’s (2014) *Unearthing the moment.* Petaluma, CA: Tonglen Press.

Manuscript Reviewer for The Clinical Gerontologist: “Depression and Cognitive function as predictors of social network size. 2012.

Mercer, G. T. (2010). Book review of *Awakening to aging: Glimpsing the gifts of aging*, 2009. In *Journal of Transpersonal Psychology*, vol. 42 #2, pp. 239-242.

Co-authored Instructor’s Manual to accompany *Assessment with the WAIS-IV* by Sattler, J. and Ryan, J. (2009). Made significant editorial contributions and proofread textbook, created Powerpoint slides and teaching strategies for the manual.

Travis, L. and Touch Mercer, G. (2007). Chapter on Arizona Laws and Statutes concerning older adults. *Arizona Psychologists' Sourcebook.*

Schneider, J. K., Mercer, G. T., Herning, M., Smith, C. A., & Prysak, M. (2004). Using a Cognitive Behavioral Intervention to Promote Exercise Behavior in Older Adults. *Journal of Gerontological Nursing*, 30.

Mercer, G., Molinari, V., Kunik, M., Orengo, C.; Snow, L. & Rezebak, P. (1999). Rehospitalization of older psychiatric inpatients: An investigation of predictors. *The Gerontologist*, 39, 591-598.

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Collaborative Research Projects and National Presentations

Young, J., **Touch Mercer, G**; McGovern, R., Virden, T., & Walters, M. Using the Rey effort tests as markers of Alzheimer's dementia. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society, Big Island, HI., March, 2013.

Touch Mercer, G., Molinari, V., Pinnell, C., Sadek, R., Amin, K., Wright, K., & Virden, T. A proposed model of Alzheimer's dementia and PTSD: Pathophysiological processes in coping with traumatic negative affect. International Alzheimer's Association Conference, July, 2010.

Touch Mercer, G., Pinnell, C., Swartout, I. and Toma, J. Presented four-day intensive training on Family and Couples' Theory and Therapy at Casa de la Culture in Romania. July, 2007.

Touch Mercer, G., Molinari, V., Kunik, M., Orengo, C.; Snow, L., Rezebak, P. Rehospitalization of older psychiatric inpatients: An investigation of predictors. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, San Francisco, California. August, 1998.

Touch, G. TRIO Retention program. Designed and delivered professional Presentation on measuring program success at a national association meeting of college retention program directors. El Paso, TX. May, 1996.

Touch, G. & Mosby, T. Infants' emotional development and caregivers' needs. Oral presentation at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources Infant-Toddler Conference, Louisville, KY. July 1995.

Bray, J., Berger, S., **Touch, G.** and Boethel, C. Longitudinal impact of nonresidential father relationships on children. Presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, New Orleans, Louisiana. March, 1993.

Bray, J.H., Berger, S., Boethel, C., Maymi, J. and **Touch, G.** Longitudinal changes in stepfamilies: Impact on children's adjustment. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association, Washington, D.C. August, 1992.

Touch, G. Eating disorders in female athletes. Invited address to NCAA Regional Conference of Academic Advisors, Dallas, TX. June, 1992.

Touch, G. Coaches as advocates for the prevention of eating disorders. Presented at the Ninth Annual Conference on Counseling Athletes. Department of Psychology, Springfield College, Massachusetts. May, 1992.

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Community Health and Continuing Education Programs

- Aug, 2016 **Midwestern University Physician Assistant Program: PANCE** prep review course: Review of Psychological Disorders: Assessment and Evidence-Based Treatments.
- June 2014 **Hospice of the Valley caregiver training: Keynote speaker.** Using Positive Psychology to Care for the Caregivers.
- 4/13 – 6/13 **Phoenix, AZ/Family Routes.** Designed and delivered free community education series entitled “Stop Fighting!” to enhance communication and relationship functioning in families.
- 9/2009-2/2010 **St. Rose Duschene Parish, Anthem, AZ.** Marriage and Family Ministry. “Family Matters.” Designed and delivered 8-week psychoeducational group series to enhance couples’ and family functioning.
- 7/2011 – 7/2012 **1100 AM Radio: “The Pulse on Healthcare.”** Internationally broadcast radio show. Monthly guest on topics including psychiatric disorders, positive psychology, communication and optimal functioning.
- 3/03 – 5/03 **Southern New Hampshire Medical Center. *Fit & Healthy Kids.*** Designed and delivered 8-week interprofessional program to improve nutrition and self-esteem of children and families with binge eating issues.
- 4/02 **Community Medical School.** Televised community presentations: *Indicators and treatment of anorexia, bulimia and binge eating disorder. Treating chronic depression to improve outcomes in PCOS.*
- 9/01 **Response to a Nation in Crisis.** Televised *Health Partners* response following 9/11: *Speaking with children about tragic events.*
- 11/95 - 2/96 **University of Houston, Counseling & Testing Service.**
Site Coordinator of National Eating Disorders Screening Day. Coordinated campus-wide screening and referral service for eating disorders. Coordinated panel presentation and delivered presentation on psychological issues in the treatment of eating disorders.
- 9/95 - 11/95 **University of Houston, Counseling & Testing Service.** Designed, coordinated and conducted eight week interdisciplinary healthy eating seminar. Collaborated with Nutrition and Hospitality Departments. Presented seminars on body image issues and binge eating.
- 10/93 – 1/94 **Arizona State University, Counseling & Consultation.** ASU student outreach program: *Women's Wellness Series.* Developed and presented 6-week mental health series focusing on family history and current issues in women’s lives.

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Volunteer Work

- 6/12 – 1/15 **St. Joseph’s/Dignity Health, Huger Mercy Assisted Living Center.**
Designed and conducted a weekly support group for residents and community members with dementia.
- 2005 – 2007 **Gavilan Peak Elementary School, Anthem, AZ**
Character Counts –parent liaison to character education training program advisory and planning committee; Reading Rocks – weekly volunteer in reading/comprehension enhancement program; classroom volunteer, reading skills development.
- 2004 – 2008 **Girl Scouts of America, Anthem, AZ**
Co-op group leader, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts troops. Planned and conducted monthly meetings, assisted in annual community events and facilitated development of girls aged 7-10.
- 3/01 – 7/02 **Foundation Medical Partners.** Conducted weekly support group for people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- 1/91 - 1/93 **Spring Branch Medical Center, Houston, Texas: Eating Disorders Treatment Program.** Facilitated weekly eating disorders support group.

Professional Affiliations

- 2016 - present Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM).
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers (APAHC)
- 1997 - present American Society on Aging (ASA).
- 2009 - 2014 International Association on Alzheimer’s Disease
- 1997 - 2007 Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

References

- Michelle Melton, Psy.D. Psychologist, Post-Doctoral Training Director. Phoenix VA. Jade Opal Clinic. 650 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85012. (602) 277-5551. Michelle.melton@va.gov
- Cornelia Pinnell, Ph.D Professor, Clinical Psychology Program, AZ School of Professional Psychology. (602) 216.2600. cpinnell@argosy.edu
- Tod Sugihara, D.O. Associate Program Director, Abrazo Central Family Medicine Residency, Abrazo Central Campus. (602) 246-5856.
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