

# **AFTA SpringerBriefs in Family Therapy**

## **A Publication of the American Family Therapy Academy**

Founded in 1977, the **American Family Therapy Academy** is a non-profit organization of leading family therapy teachers, clinicians, program directors, policymakers, researchers, and social scientists dedicated to advancing systemic thinking and practices for families in their social context.

### **Vision**

AFTA envisions a just world by transforming social contexts that promote health, safety, and well-being of all families and communities.

### **Mission**

AFTA's mission is developing, researching, teaching, and disseminating progressive, just family therapy and family-centered practices and policies.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/11846>

Laurie L. Charlés · Gameela Samarasinghe  
Editors

# Family Therapy in Global Humanitarian Contexts

Voices and Issues from the Field

**AFTA**  
American Family Therapy Academy

 Springer

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# Series Foreword

The AFTA SpringerBriefs in Family Therapy is an official publication of the American Family Therapy Academy. Each volume focuses on the practice and policy implications of innovative systemic research and theory in family therapy and allied fields. Our goal is to make information about families and systemic practices in societal contexts widely accessible in a reader-friendly, conversational, and practical style. We have asked the authors to make their personal context, location, and experience visible in their writing. AFTA's core commitment to equality, social responsibility, and justice are represented in each volume.

*Family Therapy In Global Humanitarian Contexts: Voices And Issues from the Field* brings issues of social justice front and center as practitioners working in the midst of war, cultural revolution, or the aftermath of disasters illustrate what family therapy looks like across borders and contexts. The authors describe how they confront the moral and practical dilemmas when persons trained in high-income countries seek to help people in low-resource settings. How do “importers” of knowledge look at themselves and turn to and engage with local people and local knowledge in the service of mental health and psychosocial support? How may family therapy practice and training be modified to fit the setting and high level of needs? How does one creatively work “in vivo,” across multiple languages, while being sensitive to issues of colonization and transliteration of concepts developed in Western space, often when working outside their home country and in situations that can be dangerous?

The authors in this volume are from diverse cultural and sociopolitical contexts across the globe. They represent different disciplines and different levels of training and areas of expertise. Their accounts of their work are poignant. Readers are brought into the way the authors think, often transported into the setting itself as though you are there. The collection is a treasure of practical recommendations for anyone seeking to work across borders in humanitarian and conflict-ridden global contexts. It documents and explores complex issues of voice and language in the

telling of their stories. For those like me who do not typically work in these settings, the volume offers a powerful experience, not only in seeing how the authors apply family therapy in their unique situations, but also as a window onto ourselves, challenging us to think about who we are and what we do from larger, global perspective. I invite you to join in the journey.

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# Contents

<b>Introduction to Family Therapy in Global Humanitarian Contexts: Voices and Issues from the Field</b> . . . . .	1
Laurie L. Charlés and Gameela Samarasinghe	
<b>Knowledge Fair Trade</b> . . . . .	13
Marcela Polanco	
<b>Humanitarianism, Colonization, and/or Collaboration? Working Together in Uganda and the United States</b> . . . . .	27
Teresa McDowell and Paschal Kabura	
<b>Collaborative Therapy with Women and Children Refugees in Houston: Moving Toward Rehabilitation in the United States After Enduring the Atrocities of War</b> . . . . .	39
Manjushree Palit and Susan B. Levin	
<b>Ofreciendo Terapia En El Idioma De Preferencia Del Cliente: El Modelo De Preparación Profesional Calificada En Dos Idiomas De Ollu</b> . . . . .	51
Joan L. Biever and Jeanette Santos	
<b>Family Therapy in Postwar Kosova: Reforming Cultural Values in New Family Dynamics</b> . . . . .	65
Mimoza Shahini, Adelina Ahmeti and Laurie L. Charlés	
<b>Time, Trauma, and Ambiguous Loss: Working with Families with Missing Members in Postconflict Cyprus</b> . . . . .	77
Kyle D. Killian	
<b>Engaging the Humanity in Front of You: Family Therapy Task Shifting in the Context of Armed Conflict</b> . . . . .	91
Laurie L. Charlés	

**Family Therapy in Libya: Navigating Uncharted Waters . . . . . 103**  
Malak Ben Giaber

**“My Son Is Alive”: Is Family Therapy Appropriate for Families  
of the Disappeared in Sri Lanka? . . . . . 115**  
Gameela Samarasinghe

**Kaleidoscopic Shifts: The Development of New Understandings  
as Therapists “Go and Find out”. . . . . 125**  
Catalina Perdomo, Deborah Healy, Daisy Ceja, Kathryn Dunne  
and Kotia Whitaker