

COUNSELING FACULTY

Etiony Aldarondo, Associate Professor [curriculum vitae](#)

Ph.D., 1992, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

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A native of Puerto Rico, Etiony Aldarondo earned his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Massachusetts (Amherst). His research and clinical interests include wife assault, Latino mental health, family therapy, and individual and social change.

Aldarondo's publications include articles on wife assault cessation and psychological aggression, risk markers for the cessation and persistence of wife assault, ethnicity and wife assault, and motivation for change in abusive men. He also recently authored (with Dr. Fernando Mederos) "Programs for Men Who Batter: Intervention and Prevention Strategies in a Diverse Society," published by Civic Research Institute.

Aldarondo came to UM from Boston College, where he was tenured faculty in the counseling psychology program. He also worked at Harvard Medical School's Cambridge Hospital and at the Philadelphia Child Guidance Center.

Aldarondo co-chairs the steering committee of the National Latino Alliance for the Elimination of Domestic Violence funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He is a member of the National Advisory Board of the National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center funded by the Center for Disease Control, and a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Batterer Intervention and Prevention Programs Evidence-Based Review Expert Panel.

Kent Burnett, Associate Professor [curriculum vitae](#)

Ph.D., 1984, Stanford University

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Kent Burnett joined the University of Miami's Counseling Psychology Program in 1991, after serving as an assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Burnett's early work focused on computer applications in health psychology. He was the originator of the "Computer-Assisted Diet and Exercise Training" (CADET) software series for hand-held computers, as well as the developer of

the “Computer-Assisted Health Awareness and Promotion” (CHAP) program for helping high school students track and modify important health-related behaviors over the course of an academic semester. Other early work included computer programs for stress management, sleep assessment, and analysis of ambulatory heart rate data in cardiac patients.

Burnett has published numerous articles on cognitive-behavioral assessment and treatment of a wide range of health-related conditions and was the co-principal investigator with Dr. Arlette Perry (Chairperson of Exercise and Sport Sciences) in a clinical trial to study the safety and efficacy of Meridia as a means of helping 12-16 year old adolescents lose weight.

More recently, Dr. Burnett’s work has focused on acute stress disorder and post traumatic stress disorder in medical patients who have sustained serious physical injury (e.g., orthopedic surgery patients, burn patients, and those with multiple physical trauma). Over his career, he has served as a reviewer for numerous journals. He has been on the editorial board of *Computers in Human Behavior* for the past decade and is currently a reviewer for the *Journal of Traumatic Stress*.

Dr. Burnett served as Chairperson of the School of Education Technology Committee from 1994-1999, providing leadership aimed at improving the School of Education’s technology infrastructure. Among other projects, the School of Education’s Computer Laboratory was significantly expanded and modernized as a result of grants he wrote to Microsoft Corporation and the Provost’s Office.

Blaine Fowers, Professor, Department Chair [curriculum vitae](#)

Ph.D., 1987, University of Texas at Austin

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Blaine Fowers joined the University of Miami faculty in 1990, and has served as the Director of Training of the doctoral program in Counseling Psychology from 1997 to 2005, and as Department Chairperson and coordinator of the masters program since 2005. Fowers received a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin. He served as an assistant professor at the University of New Mexico before coming to Miami.

In his role as a teacher, Fowers provides instruction in family therapy and couples therapy. He also supervises marriage and family therapy practicum.

Fowers is the author of the books, “Virtue in Psychology” and “Beyond the Myth of Marital Happiness” and co-author of “Re-envisioning Psychology.” His primary scholarly interest is in the ethical dimension of psychology. Fowers is particularly interested in the interplay of virtues, cultural ideals, and historicity in psychological practices and ordinary life. In a series of articles, chapters, and books, he has applied this framework to the study of marriage and marital

therapy by investigating the cultural and historical importance of marriage, clashing cultural ideals that undermine marriage, the role of positive illusions in marriage, and predictors of marital quality and stability.

Fowers is a licensed psychologist and member of the American Psychological Association's Division 17 (Counseling Psychology) and a fellow of Division 24 (Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology). He is an approved supervisor and clinical member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He has served as the chairperson of the Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's ethics committee. He is an editorial board member of the Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology and has co-edited two issues of the American Behavioral Scientist.

Debbiesiu Lee, Assistant Professor [curriculum vitae](#)

Ph.D., 2005, Arizona State University

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Debbiesiu Lee joined the University of Miami faculty in August 2006. Lee's research interests include multicultural competence in psychology and education, multicultural training, and counselor development. Her dissertation was focused on how counselors-in-training develop in their multicultural case conceptualization skills. Lee is also interested in studying how the intersections of identity affect people's identity development, particularly for those who affiliate with more than one minority status. Lee is in the process of developing a cross-culturally valid measure of parenting styles. Her recent articles have focused on the use of idiographic and idiothetic methodologies in multicultural research.

In her clinical work, Lee's passion is in working with low-income, families of color. She has specialized in serving young children, adolescents and their families, particularly in issues related to trauma and mood disorders.

For the past year, Lee has served as a faculty associate at Arizona State University and a postdoctoral intern at MedPro, an agency that serves people dually diagnosed with developmental disabilities and severe mental illnesses.

Lee is a member of American Psychological Association's Division 45 (Society for the Psychological Study of Ethnic Minority Issues) and Division 44 (Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues) and a Fellow of APA Minority Fellowship Program. She is also member of the Society for Interpersonal Theory and Research.

Brian Lewis, Lecturer, Director of Training [curriculum vitae](#)

Ph.D., 1981, University of Florida

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Brian L. Lewis joined the University of Miami faculty in 2002 and has served as director of the Institute for Individual & Family Counseling from 2002 until 2006, and as Director of Training for the doctoral program in Counseling Psychology from 2005 until 2006. He also supervises students in the doctoral degree program in Counseling Psychology and masters degree programs in Marriage in Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling.

Lewis, who earned his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Florida, is board certified in clinical health psychology by the American Board of Professional Psychology. Prior to coming to Miami, he served as head of the Department of Psychology, at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville, N.C..

Lewis' research has been in the areas of professional training, health psychology and pain management. His recent publications include "Second Thoughts Regarding Documenting the Psychological Consultation," and "Health Psychology 'Specialty' Practice Opportunities In a Rural Community Hospital: Practicing Local Clinical Science" both appearing in *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*. He has also given numerous presentations on complementary treatment approaches to cancer and hypnosis in the treatment of pain."

Lewis is a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Pain Society, and the National Register of Health Services Providers in Psychology. He is also a member and the past president of the Association of Directors of Psychology Training Clinics.

Robert McMahon, Professor [curriculum vitae](#)

Ph.D., 1973, University of Wisconsin, Madison

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Robert McMahon joined the University of Miami faculty in 1977. McMahon supervises masters and doctoral level students in the Counseling Psychology Program. His research studies encompass psychosocial factors in substance abuse and HIV risk in adolescent and adult substance abusers. His funded projects have included "Psychological Correlates and Treatment Outcomes for High and Low Functioning Alcoholics," and "Prediction of Relapse Among Cocaine Abusers," and "Psychoeducation and Prevention of HIV Infection."

His recent publications include “Personality, Stress, and Social Support in Cocaine Relapse Prediction,” in *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, and “Effects of a Cognitive-Behavioral HIV Prevention Intervention Among HIV Negative Male Substance Abusers in VA Residential Treatment,” in *AIDS Education and Prevention*.

McMahon is a consultant to the School of Medicine’s Department of Psychiatry on drug abuse and HIV prevention, and a member of the university-wide Committee on Protection of Human Subjects in Research. He is also a member of the Faculty Senate. He is a member of the American Psychological Association (Divisions 17 & 50) and a fellow of the Society for Personality Assessment.

Ora Prilleltensky, Lecturer [curriculum vitae](#)
Ed.D., 1998, University of Toronto (OISE)

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Ora Prilleltensky has relocated to Miami in August 2006 to join the Department of Educational and Psychological Studies. She has moved here from Nashville, TN where she was a lecturer in the Department of Human and Organizational Development at Vanderbilt University. Her time at Vanderbilt was divided between teaching in the Master’s program of Human Development Counseling and the undergraduate program of Human and Organizational Development.

Ora was born in Israel and has lived and worked in Canada and Australia before relocating to the USA in 2003. She earned a Masters in School Psychology from the University of Manitoba and a doctorate (Ed.D) in Counseling Psychology from OISE at the University of Toronto. Prior to entering academia, Dr. Prilleltensky has worked in a variety of settings as a school psychologist, counselor, behavior consultant, and counseling psychologist.

Prilleltensky’s research interests include disability studies and the promotion of well-being. As a person with a disability and a wheelchair user, she has a personal and a professional interest in disability issues and disability identity. She has authored a book and several articles on motherhood and disability and has co-authored a number of articles and book chapters on promoting well-being. Along with Isaac Prilleltensky, Ora Prilleltensky is the co-author of *Promoting well-being: Linking personal, organizational and community change* (2006, John Wiley & Sons).

Stephanie Schmitz, Assistant Clinical Professor [curriculum vitae](#)

Ph.D., 1987, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Stephanie Schmitz joined the University of Miami part-time in the fall of 2002, and has been a full time member of the Educational and Psychological Studies Department since January, 2006. She was the coordinator for the EPS undergraduate minor in Family and Human Services from 2006-2009, and co-chaired the task force developing the major in Human and Social Development. She began directing the Master's Programs in Counseling in the fall of 2009. She has been an Assistant Clinical Professor since 2009.

Schmitz became involved with mental health practitioner training programs in 1987, and has been teaching graduate courses and conducting supervision since that time. She was an Associate Faculty member in Antioch New England Graduate School's Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology from 1995-2000, and was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Psychology Department at East Carolina University from 2000-2002. Since 1995, Schmitz's interests have focused increasingly on training effective therapists. She has taught a wide variety of clinically applied courses at the doctoral and master's level, as well as undergraduate foundation courses.

Schmitz's teaching interests are informed by over 20 years of clinical experience. She has worked primarily with adults and couples in private practice, and has held positions in a variety of other settings, including hospitals, the Vermont Department of Health, community mental health centers, and school systems. In addition to psychotherapy, she has extensive experience in testing, consultation, training, and the business of practice.

Schmitz earned her degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987, and has been a licensed psychologist since that time. She is currently licensed in Florida, and has been licensed in Vermont, New Hampshire, and North Carolina as well. She is a member of the American Psychological Association and the National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology.