

NEUROBIOLOGY, EMOTION, MORALITY, AND HEALING

with Darcia Narvaez, Ph.D.
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

To live in the world is increasingly an uncertain experience. Examples of people hurting others headline the news each day with individuals frequently perpetrating violence due to a growing inability to regulate their own emotional experience. The question of how emotional and moral development are fostered is more important than ever. As with many aspects of human experience, the ability to engage morally emerges from optimal developmental experiences. Sadly, Western (civilized) culture has undermined evolution's humanity developmental nest which results in impaired child neurobiological development in multiple ways: Harming social and ecological attachment, disrupting socioemotional development and receptive intelligence, and leading to misdeveloped adults who don't reach their human potential, which is manifested in communal imagination and ecologically wise living. Instead individuals become rooted in distrust, fear and self-protectionism, leading to the destruction of other humans and other-than-human life.

In this workshop, participants will learn how brain development and functioning can affect emotional development and moral character in children and adults. When children do not receive the early care they evolved to need, they develop an impoverished neurobiology with stress reactive brains that lead to persistent vigilance and self-protective behaviors with others. When children receive primal parenting (affectionate touch, responsive care, free play, social support) their capacities to relationally "attune" with others and behave prosocially are enhanced and they are able to develop to their fullest potential. Reaching human potential is vital in this era of growing ecological and social challenges.

OBJECTIVES

- Participants will be able to understand cultural differences in childrearing practices in light of evolution.
- Participants will understand the primal caregiving practices that lead to optimal development and the markers of optimal development.
- Participants will understand the possible consequences of parenting on emotional development and attachment (unresponsive parenting leading to insecure attachment vs. responsive parenting leading to secure attachment).
- Participants will be able to understand how child-rearing practices impact moral development and moral behavior.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 9
9 AM - 5 PM
(two 15 min. breaks, 1.5 hour lunch)

LOCATION

The Wellstone Center
179 Robie Street East
St. Paul, MN 55107-2360

CONTINUING EDUCATION INFORMATION

6 Continuing Education Credits will be provided

COST

Early Bird Registration goes through February 17, 2016
Regular Registration - \$89
Military/Student Registration - \$65
From February 18 until March 9, 2016
Regular Registration - \$115
Military/Student Registration - \$79

**Register at: www.mntraumaproject.org
or the MN Trauma Project Facebook page**



Darcia Narvaez is a Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Notre Dame. Dr. Narvaez's current research explores how early life experience influences societal culture and moral character in children and adults. She integrates neurobiological, clinical, developmental and education sciences in her theories and research about moral development. She publishes extensively on moral development, parenting and education. She is the author or editor of numerous books and articles. Her recent book, *Neurobiology and the Development of Human Morality: Evolution, Culture and Wisdom* (2014), won the 2015 William James Book Award from the American Psychological Association. She is executive editor of the *Journal of Moral Education*.

UPCOMING
WORKSHOPS

MN TRAUMA PROJECT

SAVE THE DATES

April 6, 2016

“Healing From Trauma: The Link between Physiology and Psychodynamics”
Mark Weisberg, PhD, ABPP

May 11, 2016

“Healing Trauma in the LGBTQ Communities”
Beck Gee-Cohen, MA & Monica O'Connell, MA

September 22-23, 2016

Proposed topic: “When We Get Stuck - How an Internal Family Systems Approach Can Transform Resistance With Traumatized Clients”
Richard Schwartz, PhD

October 28-29, 2016

“Intensive Psychotherapy for Persistent Dissociative Processes”
Richard Chefetz, MD
Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Psychoanalytic Society & Institute (MPSI)

April 2017

“Healing the Fragmented Selves of Trauma Survivors: Overcoming Self-Alienation”
Janina Fisher, PhD

November 3-4, 2017

“Engaging Traumatized Clients Who Avoid Attachment, Closeness, and Painful Feelings”
Robert Muller, PhD

For information and registration, please visit: www.mntraumaproject.org
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