

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## SHAWN A. WYGANT, M.A., T.L.L.P.

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### EDUCATION

#### **Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology (Candidate '24)**

Saybrook University, Pasadena, CA

#### **Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology**

Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, MI

**2018**

#### **Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology**

Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ

**2015**

#### **Bachelor of Arts in Psychology & Criminal Justice**

Argosy University, Phoenix, AZ

**2013**

### PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

[State of Michigan Psychologist – Doctoral Temporary Educational Limited ~ # 6352000017](#)

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Iosco County Psychological Services (Oscoda, MI)**

**2018-Present**

*Forensic Psychology Associate & Limited Licensed Psychologist*

Provides supervised forensic and clinical psychological services to residents of Northern Michigan. Helps Family Courts assess and deal with complicated visitation and custody issues. Aids triers of fact in making evidenced-based decisions concerning the best interest of the child. Emphasis in the assessment of child custody and complex forms of child psychological maltreatment. Areas of supervised practice include:

- Parental alienation Diagnosis Assessment, & Treatment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Psychological Testing
- Expert Testimony
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy
- Forensic Interview Analysis
- Child Abuse / Neglect Assessment
- CE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professionals

**Ausable Valley Community Mental Health (Tawas, MI)**

**2017-2018**

*Practicum in Clinical Psychology*

Provided supervised clinical psychology services in an outpatient clinic employing cognitive behavioral and emotion-focused methods for the diagnosis and treatment of psychological dysfunction. Supervised services included: emergency screening, intake assessment, differential diagnosis, treatment planning, individual therapy, and group therapy. Adapted and applied the State of Michigan “[Person-Centered Planning](#)” policy with each client honoring their preferences, choices, and abilities within a supportive and empathetic therapeutic environment.

**PsychLaw.net, PLLC (Oscoda & Hamburg, MI)**

**2016-Present**

*Forensic Psychology Associate & Limited Licensed Psychologist*

Provides supervised expert analysis and evaluation of psycho-legal questions that arise within criminal, civil, and dependency cases. Aids counsel and triers of fact in making the best possible decisions concerning complicated behavioral science evidence specializing in the evaluation of child neglect/abuse issues that involve severe forms of child psychological maltreatment. Supervised by licensed psychologist [Demosthenes Lorandos, PhD, JD](#) to create forensic psychological reports used in court to support expert witness testimony. Areas of supervised practice include:

- Parental alienation Diagnosis Assessment, & Treatment
- Child Custody Evaluations
- Family Therapy
- Individual Therapy
- Psychological Testing
- Expert Testimony
- Parent-Child Reunification Therapy
- Child Abuse / Neglect Assessment
- Forensic Interview Analysis
- CE Training for Mental Health and Legal Professionals

**Lorandos-Joshi Trial Lawyers (2013-2016) / Joshi Attorneys & Counselors (2016-2020) (Ann Arbor, MI)**

**2013-2020**

*Forensic Psychological Researcher*

Provided supervised forensic psychological analysis of high-conflict law cases involving parental alienation. Drafted behavioral science memorandums and forensic psychological legal briefs used to answer questions of fact in high conflict custody cases. Developed interim strategies to ameliorate perverse family drama triangles that involve the unjustified abrogation of a child’s right to a close and continuing relationship with both parents.

## **PRE-PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

**Tawas United Methodist Church (Tawas City, MI)**

**2012-Present**

*Music Director / Pianist / Vocalist / Organist*

Rehearses, directs, and accompanies two choral ensembles (Praise and Sanctuary Choirs). Leads the singing during worship services. Provides multimedia support and music for all services.

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church (Oscoda, MI) 2002-2011**

*Pianist / Organist / Vocalist*

Rehearsed and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

**Michigan Aerobics & Fitness (Hartland & Oscoda, MI) 2002-2010**

*Cardio Kickboxing, Spinning, & Tai Chi Instructor*

Provided aerobics instruction for cardio-kickboxing, spinning, and tai chi classes at North Oakland Family YMCA, Bally's Total Fitness of Southfield, Powerhouse Gym of Livonia and Rochester Hills, The Gym of Lake Orion & Orion Judo Club, Corefit Pilates of Brighton, Oscoda Community Center, and Huron Sports.

**Arthritis Foundation Michigan (Troy, MI) 2002-2005**

*Tai Chi Instructor*

Taught Dr. Paul Lam's '[Tai Chi for Arthritis](#)' program, as adapted by the Michigan chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, to small and large groups of adults throughout Michigan.

**[PianoNation, Inc.](#) (Traverse City, Novi, & Bloomfield Hills MI) 2000-2005**

*Sales Manager / Music Technology Clinician*

Managed retail piano store. Sold new and used digital and acoustic pianos (*Technics, Young Chang, Seiler, Bechstein, Kurzweil, Weinbach, & Viscount*). Developed & maintained web-site. Wrote, directed & produced TV, radio, and print advertising. Hired and trained piano teachers. Developed and managed annual institutional sales and academic placement services.

**Kurtz Music, Inc. (Traverse City, MI) 1995-2000**

*Sales Manager / Music Technology Clinician / Piano Teacher*

Managed retail piano store. Sold Yamaha and Kawai digital and acoustic pianos. Organized and promoted institutional sales and musical instrument loan programs for [Interlochen Summer Arts Camp](#), [Bay View Music Festival](#), and [Concord Academy](#). Trained new teachers and sales staff.

Achievements: Increased annual gross sales from \$540k to 1.01 million (+89%). Highest number of pianos sold during any institutional piano sale (42 units).

**St. Andrews Episcopal Church (Gaylord, MI) 1995-1997**

*Pianist / Organist / Choir Director*

Rehearsed, directed, and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

**[Troy Adventist Academy](#) (Troy, MI) 1993-1995**

*Piano Teacher*

Taught piano and music theory to the elementary school students.

**Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church (Royal Oak, MI)**

**1992-1995**

*Pianist / Organist / Vocalist*

Rehearsed and accompanied choir. Provided music for services including weddings and funerals.

**Valhalla Music, Inc. (Ferndale, MI)**

**1987-1992**

*Head Programmer / Music Technology Clinician*

Programmed and created voice sound libraries for popular keyboards by Yamaha, Roland, Ensoniq, and Korg which were sold through [Keyboard Magazine](#) and [Electronic Musician](#). Sequenced, composed, and recorded demos for all of the sound libraries. Achievements: Created the most popular selling and critically acclaimed library of sounds for the Roland D-50 (Studio Series); Increased annual gross sales from \$225k to 550k (+144%)

**Wygant Music, Inc. (Oscoda, MI)**

**1981-Present**

*Owner*

Pianist, choir director, vocalist, composer, arranger, and percussionist providing classical and sacred music services. Notable compositions and performances: Mass in D with the St. Hugo of the Hills Choir at St. Hugo of the Hills Cathedral (March 27<sup>th</sup>, 1993); Piano Concerto No. 1 in C-Sharp Minor with the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra at Temple Beth El, Birmingham, MI (February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1995); Violin Concerto No. 1 in F Major with Fine Arts Strings, Scottsdale, AZ (July 8<sup>th</sup>, 1996); Piano Concerto No. 2 in A Major and Season Suite for flute & guitar at Milliken Auditorium, Traverse City, MI (March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1999).

## **PRESENTATIONS AT CONFERENCES & TRAINING SEMINARS**

Wygant, S. A. (2021, July 14). [Child-Centered Forensic Interviewing Strategies: How to Help Children Tell What They Know](#). Presented a 90-minute workshop describing and comparing child-centered forensic interview and interviewer-centered forensic interviews, identifying inappropriate interviewer-centered techniques, and examining phenomenological approaches to enhancing rapport building skills. Presented at The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium.

Wygant, S. A. (2021, April 17). Third Party Alienation: How Professional Participants Play the Role of Rescuer in the Alienating Parent's Perverse Family Drama Triangle. Presented at Malta's First International Experts' Seminar on Parental Alienation. sponsored Happy Parenting – Malta.

Wygant, S. A. (2020, November 26). [Third Party Alienation: How Professional Participants Play the Role of Rescuer in the Alienating Parent's Perverse Family Drama Triangle](#). Presented at the [Online Parental Alienation Conference 2020: Supporting the Fight to End Parental Alienation Around the World](#). Sponsored by [Parental Alienation Europe, Time to Make a Change](#) and [La Dolce Vita Project](#).

Wygant, S. A. (2020, October 2). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a five-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar for [Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority \(AVCMHA\)](#). This training seminar taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2020, August 4). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a five-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar for [Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority \(AVCMHA\)](#). This training seminar taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A., Burgess, B. W., & Van Gunst, A. (2019, September 13). [\*Third Party Alienation: How Professional Participants Play the Part of Rescuer in the Alienating Parent's Perverse Family Drama Triangle\*](#). Presented in a 90-minute three-person panel session at the Third International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, September 12-14, 2019.

Wygant, S. A., & Burgess, B. W. (2019, September 13). [\*The Science Behind False Allegations of Child Abuse in Cases of Parental Alienation\*](#). Co-presented a 45-minute presentation concerning the science behind false allegations of child abuse in cases of parental alienation at the Third International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, September 12-14, 2019.

Wygant, S. A. (2019, September 12). *Alienation of Children and Families*. Presented a four-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, Michigan. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of the alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2019, May 23). [\*Understanding the Sequelae Psychological Maltreatment in Alienated Children & Resolving Issues of Diagnosis, Assessment, and Treatment\*](#). Presented at the Parental Alienation Awareness Conference for Professionals at Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, May 23, 2019. This 1-hour presentation helped participants identify and describe the sequelae of psychological maltreatment in alienated children as well as resolve diagnostic, assessment, and treatment issues using science drawn from the empirical research.

Wygant, S. A., & Bach, L. (2019, March 23). [\*Exploring the Valence and Meanings of Love and Hate in the Therapeutic Relationship\*](#). Authored and co-presented an experiential and dialogic role-playing workshop at the [American Psychological Association Division 32](#) Society for Humanistic Psychology 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, [\*Embracing Our Fear, Courage, and Love in Pursuit of a Just Community\*](#), at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon, March 21-24, 2019.

Wygant, S. A. (2019, February 27, 2019). ***Alienation of Children and Families***. Presented a four-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) training center in Oscoda, Michigan. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2018, September 21). ***Alienation of Children and Families***. Presented a four-hour (Five Social Work CEUs) training seminar at the Ausable Valley Community Mental Health Authority (AVCMHA) St. Vincent Training Annex, West Branch, Michigan. This training seminar for AVCMHA social workers and family therapists taught participants how to (1) identify and differentiate the symptoms of parental alienation, (2) compare and contrast parental alienation strategies and brainwashing techniques with other forms of child psychological abuse, (3) classify the severity and forms of parental alienation, and (4) construct treatment programs and interventions specifically tailored to the needs of alienated children and their families.

Wygant, S. A. (2017, June 16). ***Remembering Falsely: The Neural Correlates of False Memory Induction***. Presentation at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Psi Chi Research Symposium, *The Intersection of Psychology and Neuroscience* held at the Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan June 16, 2017. Presented a one-hour didactic workshop on the latest scientific research studies into how false memories are induced in animals and human beings.

## CONFERENCES, WEBINARS, & PRESENTATIONS ATTENDED

Friedland, H. M., & Behringer, G. D. (2021, August 10). “Co-parenting” Without Contact and Other Conundrums: Can Parties with Orders of Protection Really Have Joint Custody? [Webinar Video on Demand] This 60-minute workshop focused on identifying the limitations our court system struggles with to adequately address intimate partner violence, the impact domestic violence proceedings can have on parenting, and the effect orders of protection can have on parties’ ability to co-parent as well as explored suggestions for alternatives that in the right circumstances, if implemented, could enable parents to continue co-parenting while offering a domestic abuse victim protection from future acts of intimate partner violence.

Kalcharno, C. (2021, July 15). [Interview and Interrogation of Child Abuse Suspects](#). 60-minute workshop examining typical shared traits of offenders based on the type of victimization: child homicide, child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, and technology-based offenses with a special focus on learning techniques to engage offenders during interrogations and gauge the level of victimization through post confession investigative practices to enhance criminal prosecution. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium.

Vieth, V. (2021, July 15). [We're Just Going to Talk: Presenting Your Case in Opening Statements and Closing Arguments in Cases of Child Abuse](#). 90-minute workshop discussed the art and science of effective strategies and themes for opening statements and closing arguments in child abuse cases focusing on developing themes for presenting a case, making specific arguments to persuade a jury that a child is telling the truth, and debunking common defenses. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium.

Mitnick, M. (2021, July 14). [Interviewing Children About Sexual Abuse](#) [Live Webinar]. This 60-minute webinar provided information about the impact of children's cognitive development on interview participation, how to frame reliable questions, and how to understand the answers received. In *The Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Training Webinars*.

Hart, S., Brassard, M., Slep, A., Schneiderman, M., Blackmon, S., & Whitman, J. (2021, July 14). [Global Child Psychological Maltreatment Summit-Vision, Recommendations & Progress](#). 60-minute symposium presenting highlights of the global Child Psychological Maltreatment Summit, including consideration of its nature, recommendations and related progressive developments with emphasis on multiple tier intervention. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium.

Binford, W. W., Bochenek, M., Wang, E., Matlow, R., Punskey, B., & Pineda, L. (2021, July 14). [Conducting Trauma-Informed Interviews of Children](#). 60-minute workshop examining the neurobiology of trauma and protocols for conducting safe, trauma-informed interviews with children. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium.

Pumo, A. (2021, July 14). [When Parents and Systems Cause Harm: Healing Parent-Child Relationships in Therapeutic Supervised Visitation](#). 90-minute workshop on supervised visitation programs. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium.

Faller, K., Everson, M., & Cordisco-Steele, L. (2021, July 13). [Variations on the Single Interview Model](#). 90-minute workshop describing the latest research, perspectives, and models for forensic interviewing and evaluation for children suspected of abuse, but who need more than one interview. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium.

Barocca, C., & Dickson, J. (2021, July 13). [Tele-Forensic Interviewing: Emerging Research, Policy & Practice](#). 60-minute workshop reviewing tele-forensic interviewing research and practice guidelines as well as advice for implementation. In the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC) 28<sup>th</sup> Virtual Colloquium

Link, D., & Zafar, S. (2021, June 10). Resist-Refuse and Domestic Violence Allegations: Abuse, Anxiety, or Alienation? [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed how to differentiate and respond to domestic violence and parental alienation. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin](#).

Greenberg, L. R., Schnider, R. A., & Picker, E. M. (2021, June 10). Acting Before It's Too Late: Prudent Early Intervention in Resist-Refuse Cases [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed common obstacles and practical strategies for early, prudent intervention with resist-refuse dynamics including the critical roles of the Court, appropriate intervention models, obtaining effective orders, challenges to current thinking, and essential interdisciplinary steps. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin](#).

Bala, N., Fidnick, L., Frederick, L., & Drozd, L. (2021, June 9). When a Child Rejects a Parent: Becoming Part of the Solution [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute multidisciplinary panel discussed the range of perspectives and approaches for intervening with the intent of developing a collaborative model of practice. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin](#).

Goldstein, S., & Braunstein, L. J. (2021, June 9). Ten Things Every Family Law Professional Should Know About Sexual Abuse in Child Custody Matters [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed the difficulty for professionals and the Courts in dealing with allegations of child abuse that arise in the context of custody cases. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin](#).

Neoh, J. (2021, June 9). A Four-Day Single Therapist Model for Complex Family Matters [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop discussed behavioral parent therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, and exposure and response prevention therapy; keeping both parents involved in children's lives; rejection of the either/or parent litigation model of dealing with alienation; emphasis on reportable nonconfidential therapy; practical advice, such as how to get resistant children together with rejected parents; mapping strategies on the idiosyncratic needs of each family; and ongoing case management. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin](#).

Truax, L. T., Slabach, M., McCall, S. (2021, June 9). Zealous Advocacy and Creating the Appropriate Team in Resist-Refuse Cases: Can It Be Done? [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop delved into the ethical considerations that lawyers face when



representing parents in resist-refuse cases where ethics of zealous advocacy are seemingly contrary to a child's best interest or the long-term goals of a parent. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Popielarczyk, L., Altobelli, T., & Fidler, B. (2021, June 8). Cases Involving Severe Resist-Refuse Dynamics: A Time to Say Goodbye...For Now? [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop focused on severe cases of resist-refuse dynamics in the aftermath of court proceedings resulting in (1) an order for custody change, (2) an order stipulating parenting time with each parent, or (3) an order granting the status quo with restricted time, no time, or restricted communication with the rejected parent; as well as explored a protocol for saying goodbye, its clinical significance, and legal considerations. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Deutsch, R. M., Drozd, L., & Saini, M. (2021, June 7). Trauma as a Potential Distractor or Illuminator in Exploring Resist-Refuse Dynamics [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop distinguished between stressful life events and traumatic events, described the trauma screening process, and introduced a new clinical assessment to evaluate risks, resilience, and previous treatments and responses; as well as reviewed methods for evaluating treatment gains. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

McNamara, K., & McWilliams, J. (2021, June 7). Fostering Healthy Outcomes for Families: How Professionals Can Become Part of the Solution [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop highlighted current psychological research on the cumulative effects of adverse childhood experiences, factors that promote resilience, and the availability of empirically informed interventions as well as discussed various ways lawyers, judges, and therapists can work together to help ensure that families in crisis receive appropriate interventions sooner rather than later. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Burns, A. T., Carter, D. K., & Moran, J. A. (2021, June 2). Conflict Prevention, Peacemaking, and Peacekeeping in Families with Resist-Refuse: A Parenting Coordinator's Role, Functions, and Skills [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop reviewed Resist-Refuse Dynamics theory and research, a parenting coordinator's role, and essential elements of the parenting coordination process as described in the 2019 AFCC Guidelines for Parenting Coordination; as well as taught parenting coordinators skills to screen for Resist-Refuse Dynamic problems; when to withdraw coordination agreements; and, how to coordinate services with behavioral health providers working with the family. In the [AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.](#)

Deutsch, R. M., Fidler, B., Frederick, L., & Ver Steegh, N. (2021, June 1). Making Sense of Complicated Situations: A Systematic Approach to Intimate Partner Violence and/or

Resist-Refuse Dynamics [Live Webinar]. This 90-minute workshop explored how using a systematic and label-free approach to cases can improve the quality of analysis and responses. In the [\*AFCC 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference When a Child Rejects a Parent: Are We Part of the Problem or the Solution, June 1-3 and June 7-11 in Virtual, Madison, Wisconsin.\*](#)

Saini, M. (2021, April 15). Using Survey Data to Profile Extreme Views of Resist and Refusal Dynamics [Live Webinar]. This one-hour educational webinar reviewed and discussed the findings of a survey of 1,049 respondents concerning a new term of art entitled: “Resist and Refusal Dynamics.” Respondents’ views and attitudes towards Resist and Refusal Dynamics were highlighted as well as issues of cause, etiology, the role of intimate partner violence, and treatment.

Bernet, W. (2020, November 26). Psychological Tests that Help Establish the Scientific Basis for Parental Alienation [Live Webinar]. The [\*Online Parental Alienation Conference 2020: Supporting the Fight to End Parental Alienation Around the World.\*](#) Sponsored by [\*Parental Alienation Europe, Time to Make a Change\*](#) and [\*La Dolce Vita Project.\*](#)

Cohen, B. R., Stahl, P. M., & Stahl, R. M. (2020, November 14). [\*A High Conflict Case: Trauma’s Impact on Memory, Children, Parents, and the Courts\*](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC’s Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters highlighted and discussed ways in which a family’s conflict results in trauma for their child, looked at the parents’ behaviors through a trauma-focused lens, and provided tools for navigating bias and the trauma behaviors that arise in high conflict cases.

Davis, L. S. (2020, November 14). [\*Deception and Malingering in Child Custody Cases: Research-Based Strategies\*](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC’s Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. Presenter Dr. Davis discussed empirically supported ways to detect deception and malingering in child custody cases as well as interviewing techniques that elicit cues to deception and the role of culture in assessing credibility.

Joseph, G., & Kirby, S. (2020, November 14). [\*Hearing the Evidence of Children: Rights and Remedies\*](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC’s Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. Presenters explored the various methods employed by courts to ascertain children’s views and preferences, as well as the efficacy of those methods, the evidentiary issues they raise, and their potential impact on traditional therapeutic goals.

Carter, D. K. (2020, November 13). [\*Parenting Coordination During Custody Litigation: Challenges and Opportunities\*](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC’s Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children.

This workshop discussed considerations to help guide determinations concerning when, if, and how to use parenting coordination effectively during custody litigation.

Deutsch, R., Drozd, L., & Silberman, H. (2020, November 12). [Encapsulated Delusion? How Do We Identify It and What Do We Do?](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters discussed how in some custody cases where children are resisting or refusing contact with a parent it is fueled by the other parent's unsupported underlying delusional belief about abuse of the child. The presenters also explored the psychological processes that underlie this delusional belief system, described a screening process, and explained how to differentiate cases likely to respond to treatment from those that are not by testing multiple hypotheses, and proposed a system of accountability with concrete goals for the family and for judges to consider in their orders.

Avalle, D., & Shaw, M. (2020, November 11). [Interviewing Children in Custody Evaluations When There Are Allegations of Abuse or Intimate Partner Violence](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters discussed how child custody interviews of children become complicated when allegations of intimate partner violence or child abuse are raised and how evaluators must be competent in the areas of child development, family dynamics, appropriate interviewing techniques, and trauma-focused approaches as well as provided specific tips and techniques for evaluators to implement in their interview process.

Mitnick, M., Platt, S., Walker, H., & Pruett, M. K. (2020, November 11). [Betting on the Voice of the Child in Parenting Disputes](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a plenary session presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenters discussed how they feel the best interests of children are considered paramount in any parenting dispute and examined how to keep children's voices front and center, regardless of the challenges face by professionals.

Moran, J. A. (2020, November 10). [Overcoming the Alienation Crisis: A Team Model](#) [Video on Demand]. This one and a half hour (1.5) educational webinar was a workshop presented at the AFCC's Virtual 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Child Custody: The Future of Child Custody: Stacking the Deck in Favor of Children. The presenter discussed how he believes resist-refuse dynamics (RRD) interventions require case management among clinicians, parenting coordinators, attorneys, and judges under an innovative clinical model for overcoming RRD, which emphasizes the development of trust in the intervention team, re-establishment of coordinated co-parenting, conflict de-escalation strategies, and management of distortions and resentment.

Birnbaum, R. (2020, October 13). [Voice of the Child: An International Perspective](#) [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. This one-hour Association of Family and Conciliation Courts training seminar discussed the important role for children in post-separation

decision-making. The central theme of the presenter focused on how children should be involved in the decision-making process in a way that respects their needs, interests and wishes.

Eddy, B. (2020, August 19). [Sociopaths: The Con Artists of Family Law](#) [Video on demand webinar]. This one-hour Association of Family and Conciliation Courts training seminar discussed the fundamental characteristics of parents who exhibit sociopathic and deceptive behaviors that include making false claims of abuse and misleading professionals during family counseling, family mediation, and family court proceedings.

Polak, S., & Popielarczyk, L. (2020, July 7). Responding to Severe Parent-Child Rejection Cases without a Parentectomy [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning an innovative approach to severe parent-child rejection, referred to as a Blended Sequential Intervention, that involves a reversal of care and includes a multi-day therapeutic experience for child and rejected parent, and anticipates the future involvement of the favored parent.

Bernet, W. (2020, June 25). Parental Alienation and Misinformation Proliferation [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning examples of published falsehoods and misinformation regarding both parental alienation syndrome and parental alienation. Presenter discussed practices that mental health and legal writers can adopt to reduce the destructive polarization that occurred regarding the topics of parental alienation syndrome and parental alienation.

Lorandos, D. (2020, June 18). Parental Alienation in the United States Courts: 1985-2018 [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the extent to which the construct - Parental Alienation – has been found in US family courts and whether it was considered material, probative, relevant and admissible.

Meier, J., Milchman, M., & Geffner, R. (2020, June 16). Rhetoric and Reason in Parental Alienation Discourse [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the presenters' theory of how alienation proponents utilize rhetorical strategies which obfuscate rather than advance the theory and practice of parental alienation assessment. Presenters discussed credible claims of alienating behaviors and invalid applications of the alienation label.

Warshak, R. A. (2020, June 11). Parental Alienation: False Positives and Myriad Concerns [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the complex issue of false positive identifications—mistakenly concluding that a child is alienated and that a parent has engaged in a campaign

of alienating behaviors. The presenter discussed the seven criteria that distinguish negative behaviors of moderately or severely alienated children from negative behaviors that do not indicate parental alienation as well as the importance of attending to the nuances of a parent's alienating behaviors and to judgment biases that can lead to faulty conclusions.

Saini, M., Platt, S., & Laajasalo, T. (2020, June 9). Allegations of Child Abuse During Child Custody Disputes [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the history and current understanding of child abuse allegations within the context of child custody disputes as well as the connections of fabricated allegations to the theory of alienation and the role of gatekeeping.

Deutsch, R., Drozd, L., & Ajoku, C. (2020, June 4). Trauma-Informed Interventions in Parent-Child Contact Cases [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning parent-child contact problems that may arise in the context of high conflict separation/divorce dynamics between parents. Presenters discussed the distinction between the stressful circumstances that may arise as a result of high interparental conflict and pulls for alignment from a parent, and the real or perceived trauma as a factor which contributes to resistance or refusal of a child to have contact with a parent.

Bailey, R., & Davis, F. (2020, June 2). Polyvagal Theory in the Courtroom and Beyond [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning the role of the nervous system and how it influences the outcomes and interactions between Court professionals and participants.

Garber, B. (2020, May 19). Dynamics, Not Diagnoses: Assessing and Responding to the Best Interests of the Polarized Child [Live Continuing Education Webinar]. In [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\) Special Webinar Series on Parent-Child Contact Problems](#). Participated in this live one-hour webinar concerning Dr. Garber's collaborative, cognitive-behavioral reunification protocol for the polarized child within an ecological model of high conflict family systems.

Linda Cordisco Steele & Heather Stewart (2019, November 8). [Most common mistakes made in forensic interviews](#) [Video on demand webinar]. In National Children's Advocacy Center Virtual Training Center. Studied this one-hour webinar for continuing education in forensic interviewing.

Andra Chamberlin (2019, November 5). [Minimal facts interviews](#). In National Children's Advocacy Center Virtual Training Center [Video on demand webinar]. Studied this one hour webinar for continuing education in forensic interviewing.

Bernet, W., Lorandos, D., & Baker, A. J. L. (2019, November 1). *Research that Supports Parental Alienation*. AFCC Fall Conference: Integrating Research into Practice and

Police: The Impact on Families and Children. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attended this 90-minute presentation on two lines of research regarding parental alienation. The first line of research is the use of the psychological tests (such as the Parental Acceptance-Rejection Questionnaire and the Bene-Anthony Family Relations Test), which measure the pathological defense mechanism of splitting, to distinguish severely alienated children from nonalienated children. The second is the analysis of hundreds of legal opinions, which demonstrate how trial and appellate courts in the US have found testimony regarding parental alienation to be material, probative, relevant, and admissible.

Drozd, L., & Saini, M. (2019, November 1). *Selection Bias in Family Law Research: Reliability at the Cost of Diversity*. AFCC Fall Conference: Integrating Research into Practice and Police: The Impact on Families and Children. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Attended this 90-minute presentation on ways to improve the quality and applicability of social science research within family law. This workshop explored the benefits and risks of stringent criteria for the inclusion of study participants, offered examples within the context of alienation and intimate partner violence, and discussed implications for using empirical evidence in the courtroom.

Pruett, M. K., & Drozd, L. (2019, May 7). [\*Not Just Alienation: Resistance, Rejection, Reintegration, and Realities of Troubled Parent-Child Relationships\*](#) [Video on demand webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Studied this one hour webinar as part of continuing education for parental alienation. It addressed some of the most common assessment issues (screening for safety, strength and vulnerability issues, prior abuse, maladaptive protective gatekeeping, and mis-attuned and intrusive parenting practices) as well as describing trauma-informed treatment strategies that showed participants how to incorporate a family systems approach that emphasizes problems and solutions within the co-parent relationship, rely on evidenced informed interventions, teach adaptive coping skills, and partner with the court to hold the family accountable to measurable goals.

Brown, J. (2019, April 4). [\*Suggestibility in Children: Clinical and Forensic Considerations\*](#). [Video on demand webinar offered by [Palo Alto University, Continuing & Professional Studies](#) ~ [Consolidated Continuing Education & Professional Training \(CONCEPT\)](#)]. Studied this one hour webinar which discussed how to conduct suggestibility assessments in clinical and forensic settings as well as explicating what the scientific literature reports about the suggestibility factors in children and adolescents.

***Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (2018, August 24-25)***. Second International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group ([PASG](#)), Stockholm, Sweden, August 24-25, 2018. Participated in this two-day conference as a live streaming online attendee. Leading experts in parental alienation presented on the diagnosis, assessment, and treatment of parental alienation.

Rappaport, S. R. (2019, September 11). *Psychological Testing in Family Law Matters*. [Live webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Attended this 1-hour CE live webinar concerning what type of questions psychological testing can answer; the use and misuse of psychological testing in custody

cases; when psychological testing should be conducted in family law matters; and what various psychological tests are used in custody related matters.

Hoult, J. (2018, May 14). *Parental Alienation (PA) & Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS): Science, Evidentiary Admissibility, Policy & Effects on Children's Constitutional and Human Rights* [Video on demand webinar]. Federal Bar Association, Washington D.C., May 14, 2018. One hour webinar that discussed the definition and origins of parental alienation syndrome and differentiation from parental alienation; evidentiary admissibility of parental alienation in the Courts; policy considerations regarding admission of parental alienation in cases alleging domestic violence and parental child abuse; and the effect of evidentiary use of parental alienation on children's constitutional and human rights.

Saini, M. (2018, March 14). [An evidence-informed approach to parental alienation](#) [Video on demand webinar]. Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC), Madison, Wisconsin. One hour webinar that highlighted some of the controversies concerning parental alienation and offered practical ways to integrate empirical research into decision making for child custody disputes where parental alienation is a factor.

*Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG) Conference (2017, October 21-23)*. First International Conference of the Parental Alienation Study Group ([PASG](#)), Washington, D.C. October 21-23, 2017. Attended this three-day conference on parental alienation education, litigation, and research presented leading experts in parental alienation.

Fidler, B. J. (2017, July 19). [Parent-Child Contact Problems II: More News You Can Use](#). [Video on demand webinar offered by the [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. One hour webinar which addressed critical elements of whole family interventions, including: (a) treatment objectives; (b) clinical intake/screening assessment process (including acceptance criteria) and treatment plan development; (c) treatment court orders and informed consent agreements; and, (d) fundamental interventions implemented with family members individually (child, each parent), with dyads (child with each parent and co-parents together), and with the family as a whole.

Sullivan, M. J. (2017, April 12). [Visitation Resistance](#). [Video on demand webinar]. [Association of Family and Conciliation Courts \(AFCC\)](#), Madison, Wisconsin. Studied this one hour webinar which provided an understanding of the conceptual evolution of parental alienation over the past twenty years—from Parental Alienation Syndrome (PAS) to refusal and resistance dynamics (RRD)—and explored the options for legal and mental health interventions. It also addressed and discussed intensive residential interventions and considerations of changing custody from the favored parent to the rejected parent as well as the typical interventions that are ineffective such as co-parent counseling and reunification therapy.

## SELECTED RESEARCH & WRITING PROJECTS

Wygant, S. A., Lorandos, D., Craft, T., & Aldridge, N. (2021). The Sexual Abuse Forensic Examination. In Demosthenes Lorandos (Ed.), *The Litigators Handbook of Forensic Medicine, Psychiatry, and Psychology*. Thomson Reuters / West Publishing.

Wygant, S. A., Lorandos, D., Craft, T., & Aldridge, N. (2021). Child Forensic Interviews. In Demosthenes Lorandos (Ed.), *The Litigators Handbook of Forensic Medicine, Psychiatry, and Psychology*. Thomson Reuters / West Publishing.

Wygant, S. A. (2020). [Resolving issues of diagnosis when working with alienated children and families](#). *Feedback: Journal of the Family Therapy Association of Ireland, Summer 2020*, 28-42.

Wygant, S. A. (2017). Remembering falsely: The neural correlates of false memory induction. [Unpublished Research Paper] Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Wygant, S. A. (2017). *Primary defense mechanisms in psychotherapy*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Lorandos, D., & Bone, J. M. (2016). Child custody evaluations: In cases where parental alienation is alleged. In Mark L. Goldstein (Ed.), *Handbook of Child Custody* (pp. 179-232). Springer. [Provided research support for the listed authors]

Wygant, S. A. (2016). *Suicidality: Assessment and treatment strategies*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Michigan School of Psychology, Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Wygant, S. A. (2015). [The pitfalls and hazards of interviewing non-abused children for sexual abuse and how to avoid them](#). [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Wygant, S. A. (2014). [Paternal deprivation and its harmful effects on child development](#). [Unpublished Research Paper]

Wygant, S. A. (2013). *Research grant proposal for the prevention and treatment of child psychological maltreatment*. [Unpublished Research Paper]

Wygant, S. A. (2012). [Child suggestibility and the misinformation effect](#). *ResearchGate*. [Unpublished Research Paper]

Wygant, S. A. (2012). Understanding and assessing personality disorders from a dimensional perspective. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Wygant, S. A. (2012). [The etiology, causative factors, diagnosis, & treatment of borderline personality disorder](#). [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.



Wygant, S. A. (2011). *The psychopathology of Albert DeSalvo*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Wygant, S. A. (2010). Hysterical, dissociative, and factitious conditions of the mind. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Wygant, S. A. (2010). *Profiling & identifying serial killers: A case study of child killer Albert Fish*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Wygant, S. A. (2010). *State v. Kip Kinkle: A case for replacing the insanity defense with guilty-but-mentally-ill*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

Wygant, S. A. (2009). *Child maltreatment: Emotional abuse & mental injury defined*. [Unpublished Research Paper] Department of Psychology, Argosy University, Phoenix, Arizona.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

<a href="#">American Psychological Association</a> 39567318 (Washington, DC)	2021-Present
<a href="#">American Psychology-Law Society (AP-LS)</a> (Southport, NC)	2019-Present
<a href="#">Society for Humanistic Psychology</a> 39567318 (Washington, DC)	2019-Present
<a href="#">American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children</a> 3000576 (Columbus, OH)	2019-Present
<a href="#">California Psychological Association</a> 58914097 (Sacramento, CA)	2019-Present
<a href="#">Association of Family and Conciliation Courts</a> 62504 (Madison, WI)	2018-Present
<a href="#">Parental Alienation Study Group</a> (Nashville, TN)	2017-Present
<a href="#">Psi-Chi</a> (Chattanooga, TN) 22087243	2017-Present
<a href="#">American Bar Association</a> 01988334 (Chicago, IL)	2011-Present