

**MARCY AXNESS**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D., Early Human Development**, The Union Institute and University (Dissertation: *Malattachment and the Self Struggle: Separation, Survival and Healing*)  
**M.A.(eq), Developmental Psychology**, The Union Institute and University  
**B.A., Theater Arts**, UCLA (minors in Psychology and French), *Cum Laude*

**ACADEMIC / PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Adjunct Professor of Prenatal Development**, Santa Barbara Graduate Institute (2004-2011)  
**Adjunct Professor of Child & Family Development**, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies (2004-2005)  
**Quantum Parenting / Parenting for Peace®**: Private psycho-education counseling practice specializing in fertility, adoption, pregnancy psychology, early parenting and parent development, from pre-conception/pre-adoption through school-age; professional CEU and in-service training in developmentally supportive approaches to infant care, early education, adoption, psycho-social disorders; educational talks for parents, caregivers, teachers and professionals presented in a variety of community settings. (2003 – present)  
**Adoption Insight**: Author, speaker, counselor and educational consultant specializing in the social, emotional, and spiritual issues involved in infertility and adoption, with particular expertise in the prenatal and perinatal implications; featured expert on Mothering.com. (1993 – present)

**COURSEWORK TAUGHT / SUPERVISED**

**ACADEMIC**

Growth & Wellbeing, From the Very Beginning: Body, Brain & Psyche, Postgraduate Diploma in Primal Health, Universidad de Concepción, Chile (San Miguel de Allende, Mexico satellite campus), 2015  
Dissertation committee member for Amy Rice: *Non-Medically Indicated Cesarean and the Factors That Inform First-Time Mothers to Select This Birthing Option: A Grounded Theory Study*, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology; Defense Fall 2015.  
Dissertation committee member for Leila Eshghali: *The impact of birth stories on postpartum depression*, The Chicago School of Professional Psychology; Projected defense spring, 2014  
Prenatal Experience (Preconception through Birth), Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, 2004-2010  
Prenatal Experience I (Preconception, Conception, and Early Embryological Stages), Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, 2006-2008  
Impact of Modern Birth Practices, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
The New Family and Society, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
History of the Birth Attendant and Birth Outcomes, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
Foundations of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Summer 2004  
Birth and Bonding Across Cultures, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Summer 2004  
Prenatal Experience II (Post-implantation, Fetal and Perinatal stages), Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, Summer 2004  
The New Family & Society, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
Affective Development, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Spring 2004

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING / IN-SERVICE**

- "Uma Geração para a Paz" (A Generation for Peace), 8<sup>o</sup> module in course series of ANEP (Associação Nacional para Educação Prénatal), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2015
- "Toward a Neurophysiology of Thriving: A Parenting for Peace Toolkit for Building Healthy Young Brains," 9th Annual WNC Conf. on Infant Mental Health, Asheville, NC, 2013
- "The Power of Prenatal Imprints," 9<sup>o</sup> module in course series of ANEP (Associação Nacional para Educação Prénatal), São Paulo, Brazil, 2013
- "Prenatal Psychology: An Adaptive Lens on Behavioral & Developmental Disorders," Post-graduate developmental psychology research group, UERJ (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro) RJ, Brazil, 2013
- "Birthing Peace: How the New Science of Human Thriving Can Enrich Practice," Trust Birth pre-conference training, Nashville, TN, 2012
- "A Falling Out of Everydayness: Understanding Adoption," California Society of Clinical Social Workers, Los Angeles, CA, 2011
- "The Trauma of Separation in Adoption: A Hero's Journey Perspective", Adoption Knowledge Associates Professional Session, Austin, TX, 2008
- "When Does Adoption Begin? An Introduction to Prenatal Psychosocial Development", Adoption Knowledge Associates Professional Session, Austin, TX, 2008
- "Adoption Dynamics", MFT intern trainings, The Maple Counseling Center, Beverly Hills, CA, 2005-6
- "DNA: Predisposition Not Predestination", Specialized Adoptive/Foster Parent Training, San Luis Obispo Dept. of Social Svcs w/ Cuesta College Foster/KinshipCare, CA, 2006
- "Introduction to the Adopted Student", Teacher training, West Valley Occupational Center, Woodland Hills, CA, 2005
- Continuing education in adoption dynamics and attachment neurobiology, Simi Valley Psychotherapists' Network, Simi Valley, CA, 2004-5
- "Encouraging Attachment", Resident physician training, Northridge Hospital Family Practice, Northridge, CA, 2004
- "Birth Through Seven: Laying a Foundation for Lifelong Success", Parent & faculty training, Highland Hall Waldorf School, Northridge, CA, 2004
- "Attachment-Supportive Discipline", Faculty training, American Montessori School, Eagle Rock, CA, 2004
- "Separation Trauma in Adoption", Divisional staff training, San Bernardino County Adoption Services, CA, 2003

## **PRESENTATIONS / LECTURES**

- 2016, "Change the World: Creating a Thriving, Sustainable Future for the Human Family Starting in Just One Generation" (Panel), BirthKeeper Summit, Washington, DC.
- 2015, "Birthing the Next Generation of Peacemakers," BirthKeeper Summit, Berkeley, CA.
- 2014, "5 Out-of-the-Box Ways to Help Your Child Listen," Vista del Mar Child & Family Services.
- 2013, "Parenting for Peace" -- Informal talks w/ Q&A for parents and teachers at the Steiner/Waldorf Schools in Juiz de Fora and São Paulo, Brazil: Featured speaker.
- 2013, "Thinking for the Future," in Study Cycle on Social Imagination and Education, Dept. of Psychology, UFRJ (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro), RJ, Brazil: Featured speaker.
- 2013, "Parenting for Peace from the Very Beginning," UERJ (Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro) RJ, Brazil: Featured speaker.
- 2013, "Primal Health: The Power of Prenatal Development," Pró-Saúde (Public Health) Conference, School of Nursing, Universidade de Juiz de Fora, MG, Brazil
- 2012, "Out of Everydayness: How Adoption is Unique," Adopt Salon Conference, Los Angeles, CA: Keynote.
- 2012, "Nurturing Evolution: Raising Ourselves & Our Children as Peacemakers," California State University, Northridge, CA, Lifespan Human Development class: guest lecturer.
- 2012, "Nurturing Evolution: Raising Ourselves & Our Children as Peacemakers," London College of Spirituality, UK: Featured speaker.
- 2012, "Parenting for Peace: Birthing the Next Generation of Peacemakers," Light on Parenting conference, London, UK: Keynote.

- 2012, "Parenting for Peace: Nurturing Brains That Can Change the World," Highland Hall Waldorf School, Northridge, CA: Featured speaker.
- 2012, "Parenting for Peace: Birthing the Next Generation of Peacemakers," Trust Birth conference, Nashville, TN: Keynote.
- 2011, "Parenting for Peace, From the Very Beginning," *Echoes From The Womb*, 16<sup>th</sup> Int'l Congress of APPPAH, San Francisco, CA: Keynote.
- 2011, "When Does Adoption Begin?," The Motherhood Consortium, Los Angeles, CA: Featured speaker.
- 2010, "The Conscious Conception and Birth of New Science," *Freedom for Family Wellness Summit*, ICPA annual conference, Washington, DC: Plenary.
- 2010, "From Presence to Simplicity: Parenting for Peace," *Metamorphosis: Embrace, Evolve, Emerge*, USCB Professional Women's Assn. annual conference, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2010, "Peace: From the Cell to the Collective," Communication and Peace class, UC Santa Barbara, CA: Guest lecture
- 2008, "DNA: Predisposition Not Predestination," Adoption Knowledge Associates, Austin, TX: Keynote.
- 2008, "Rhythm, Respect, Relationship: Antidotes for the Disorder Epidemic," Adoption Knowledge Associates, Austin, TX: Workshop.
- 2008, "Adoption and Attachment," Science Meets Our Hearts Child Advocacy conference, Nelson, BC, Canada: workshop.
- 2007, "An Organic Perspective on Postpartum Depression," Gentle Birth World Congress, Portland, OR: Keynote.
- 2007, "Prenatal Development: Nature's Own Head-Start Program," Smart Start Nat'l Conference, Greensboro, NC. Auditorium session.
- 2007, "Conscious Conception, A Quantum Collaboration," at "Birth and the Human Family," the Association for Pre- and Perinatal Psychology and Health's 13<sup>th</sup> Int'l Congress, Los Angeles, CA: Plenary panel leader.
- 2006, "Psychological Development in the Womb," 16<sup>th</sup> *Natural & Conscious Pregnancy and Birth* conference of REHUNA and Instituto Aurora, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Keynote.
- 2006, "Psychological Development in the Infant," 16<sup>th</sup> *Natural & Conscious Pregnancy and Birth* conference of REHUNA and Instituto Aurora, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Keynote.
- 2006, "What Babies Want Us to Know About... Being Adopted," *Journey Into Life* (regional conference of APPPAH), University of Minnesota: Plenary.
- 2005-8, "Parenting with New Science in Mind," California State University Northridge (CSUN), Dept. of Educational Psychology, CA: Guest lecturer.
- 2004, 25<sup>th</sup> "The 57 Varieties of Open Adoption: Which is Yours?," Annual conference of the American Adoption Congress, Kansas City, MO: Keynote.
- 2003, "What Do We Mean by Child-Centered Adoption and What Will It Take to Make It Happen?," 9<sup>th</sup> (and final) Biennial Conference on Open Adoption: "Among Friends: The Open Adoption Community Reflects on a Generation of Practice and Experience," Traverse City, MI: Plenary.
- 2003, "Embracing Adoption's Losses and Blessings," RESOLVE, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, Annual Adoption Conference: Plenary.
- 2001, "When Does Adoption Begin?," 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Adoption Congress, Anaheim, CA: Workshop.

[ **Prior decade available on request** ]

## **PUBLICATIONS – REFEREED**

- 2014, (co-authored w/ Joel Evans) "Pre- and perinatal influences on female mental health," in Barnes, D. (ed), *Women's Reproductive Mental Health Across the Lifespan*. New York, NY: Springer Publishing.
- 2012, "Parenting the Young Child: Warmth, Rhythm and Loving Authority," *Renewal, A Journal of Waldorf Education*, 21(1).
- 2010, "Prenatal Control Issues: Perspectives on Gendered, Genomic and Gestational Conflicts," in Shea, M., *Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy ~ Vol 3*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books.
- 2009, "Painful Lessons," in *Adoption Issues*, from "Current Controversies" textbook series, Farmington Hills, MI, Gale-Cengage.

- 2007, "When the Joy of the Mother is Missing: An Organic Perspective on Postpartum Depression," *Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health*, 21(4).
- 2005, "Malattachment and the Self Struggle," *Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health*, 19(2).
- 2003, "To Praise or Not to Praise: What Children Need to Hear and Not Hear from Parents and Teachers," *Renewal, A Journal of Waldorf Education*, 12(1).
- 2001, "When Does Adoption Begin?," American Adoption Congress *Decree*, (18)2.
- 2001, "Towards A Fluid Dance in Seamless Dress: The Field of Pre- and Perinatal Development Challenges Researchers to Integrate Scientific and Spiritual Orientations," *Journal of Faith and Science Exchange*, Vol. IV, 327-338.
- 2000, "The Primal Wound: A Therapist Counsels Adoptive Parents," chapter of *A Workbook for Prospective Adoptive Parents*, New Zealand Dept. of Child, Youth and Family Services.

## **PUBLICATIONS – UNREFEREED**

- 2016 – Resident blogger at Mothering and Natural Baby Pros; guest blogger at Dr. Greene, 2013, Complete Wellbeing, Family Guiding, All Things Healing, Natural Parents Network, Be Well | Dr. Frank Lipman, Creating A Family & others
- 2012, "Way Around the Rod: Organic Thoughts on Discipline," *Complete Wellbeing* (India), April.
- 2012, "The Beauty of Appreciation: Neuroscience Implications," *Networking Times*, Jan/Feb.
- 2012, *Parenting for Peace: Raising the Next Generation of Peacemakers*, trade paperback, Sentient Publications, Boulder, CO.
- 2011, "Gratitude: Upgrade Your Life," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 29.
- 2010, "Lifelong Lessons from the Womb," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 25.
- 2010, "En el Vientre Nos Pueden Oír," *Mundo Hispanico*, March.
- 2009, "When the Joy Is Missing, An Organic Perspective on Postpartum Depression" *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Special Childbirth Issue.
- 2009, "Moms & Dads, Who is the Boss of You? The Force of Culture on Birth and Parenting Choices," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 21.
- 2008, Letter to the Editor, *Los Angeles Times* (on teens and socio-cultural devolution), July 12.
- 2008, "Raising Generation PAX: Peace Begins with How We Parent, From the Very Beginning," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 18.
- 2007, "Of Love & Milk: Facing Our Breastfeeding Ambivalence," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 15.
- 2006, *Adoption Parenting*, Jean McLeod and Sheena Macrae, editors, EMK Press: Section contributor.
- 2006, "Keeping Our Children Whole: Preventive Parenting in a Noisy World," *Down to Birth* (Australia), Winter.
- 2005-8, Featured parenting columnist, *The Wet Set Gazette*, Southern California.
- 2004, Letter to the Editor, *Los Angeles Times Magazine* (on healthy parenting), June 10.

[ *Prior decade available on request* ]

## **APPEARANCES / MEDIA**

- 2016 – Misc. radio, podcast and online summit interviews, e.g. Kids In The House,
- 2012, Progressive Parenting, NVC Academy, Culture of Empathy, Leading Edge Parenting
- 2012, *Take Two*, KPCC/NPR, "[Does California's 'open adoption' system help heal a baby's separation wound?](#)", Deepa Fernandes, reporter: Featured expert
- 2012, *Being Mom TV*, main stage taping of episode "From Supermom to Sane & Centered Mom," California Women's Conference, Long Beach, CA: Guest expert
- 2011, *Hot Tech, Cool Science*, KWMR-FM, host Julie Motz: Prenatal Psychology, Featured expert
- 2007-present, Parenting and child development expert source for mainstream publications *Us Weekly* and *Life & Style Weekly*
- 2009, "Where's the Imagination?," *Living Hero: Conversations with Living Luminaries and Mavericks*: excerpt of prior Living Hero interview featured in this 30-minute synthesis
- 2008, *Reader's Digest*, "Words to Inspire", Feb.: Featured child development/parenting expert
- 2007, *Us Weekly*, "Angelina's Double Life", April 9: Cited child development/adoption expert

- 2007, "Shrink Rap" with Phyllis Chase, KCSN-FM, Northridge, CA, Nov.: Featured guest discussing "Quantum Parenting for Peace at Home and in the World"
- 2006, "The K-Earth Community Lights" with Vivian Porter, K-Earth 101-FM, Los Angeles, CA: Featured child development/parenting expert
- 2004, *Trauma, Brain, and Relationship: Helping Children Heal* (documentary film), Philanthro Films in assn. with Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, Santa Barbara, CA: Featured expert
- 2004, *Pregnancy* magazine, "What's Going on in There?", Nov.: featured prenatal expert
- 1997, *Edmonton* Tonight, CHED radio, Alberta, Canada, host Leslie Primeau: Featured adoption expert/interview guest

## **PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- 2008-present, Adoption specialist, *Mothering.com*'s expert panel.
- 2007-2011, Editor in Chief of the quarterly newsletter of APPPAH (Assn. for Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology and Health)
- 2003 – present, Advisory Board member, "The Crib", a Los Angeles transitional home for young women with unplanned or crisis pregnancies who have chosen to be mothers; unaffiliated with any religious or political organization or position
- 2006-2009, Participant working on accreditation cycle materials, Santa Barbara Graduate Institute
- 2005 – 2008, Member of Board of Trustees, Highland Hall Waldorf School, Northridge, CA
- 2005 – 2007, Member, APPPAH's Media & Education Outreach committee
- 2003 – 2006, Core committee member, "From Neurons to Neighborhoods", source of research & community education on early trauma – causes, effects, healing and prevention.
- 2000 – 2004, Doctoral committee member, The Union Institute and University
- 1998 – 2001, Chair, "LAPIS" (Los Angeles Prenatal Information & Support), a community education organization and local outreach of APPPAH (Assn. for Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology and Health)

## **CHILD ADVOCACY**

- 2009, Expert consultant/witness for successful appeal of Child, Youth & Family Services decision in foster care/adoption case, Sue and Shane Sherman, appellants, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 2007, Expert consultant/witness for successful appeal of Child, Youth & Family Services decision in foster care/adoption case, Roxy and Stuart Wright, appellants, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 1998, Independent expert consultant for visitation proceedings, client of Rosie Rusca, J.D., Fresno, CA.

## **SPECIALIZED TRAINING**

- Whole Person Fertility Program**, 7-day intensive w/ founder Niravi Payne, 2007
- Special Start: Developmentally Supportive Care for Premature Infants**, Ventura County Foster & Kinship Care Education, 2004
- Facilitating Emotional Attachment**, Daniel Hughes, 2004

## **PRIOR RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 1977 – 1986, CBS News, Lifetime Television, The Disney Channel, Showtime:  
 Writer/producer/director, specializing in topics of health, culture and human development;  
 Associated Press and Golden Mike awards for "Herpes:The Silent Epidemic" (1981);  
 Emmy nomination for the CBS feature segment, "Adoptees in Search" (1980).

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS / MEMBERSHIPS**

- Association for Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology and Health
- American Adoption Congress
- National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)