

EXPERT TESTIMONY AND JUSTICE GONE ASTRAY:
TRAUMA, MEMORY,
& Child Sexual Abuse

*A One-day Conference Offering Continuing Education for Psychologists,
 Counselors, Social Workers, Attorneys, and Law Enforcement Personnel*

November 1, 2002
Boston University • George Sherman Union
 (Commonwealth Avenue)

Efforts to create effective programs to reduce the incidence of child sexual abuse, assist victims, and punish those who harm children must be based on fact rather than prejudice, on science rather than hysteria, and on reason and rationality rather than political ideology. With recent government reports detailing increased prevalence of child abuse comes growing awareness in legal and scientific communities that both children and adults are susceptible to the effects of misleading suggestions. Scientific research has demonstrated unequivocally that individuals of all ages may come to believe that they have actually experienced what they merely imagined, that memories can be false. Although external verification is the only way to prove the validity of an uncovered "memory," convictions of child sexual abuse in our judicial system are often based solely on the testimony of children who have been subjected to leading, suggestive interviewing and "expert" witnesses whose testimony lacks any scientific foundation.

This conference will address the issues involved in differentiating between true and false allegations of sexual abuse and offer suggestions for incorporating knowledge into clinical practice. It will examine the factors which affect the reliability of both children's and adults' testimony. Participants will learn about the history of false memory syndrome, the science of memory, the role that rumor and hysteria often play in the genesis of false beliefs, and ways to improve practice by incorporating what is known through empirical research about memory and trauma.

By attending this conference you will gain an insight into how conviction rates can be improved by separating out false claims from genuine cases of abuse, thereby enhancing the rationality of verdicts in child sex abuse prosecutions and allowing for the exoneration of innocent people who have been caught up in the sex abuse hysteria which has swept our nation.

Co-sponsored by BU Department of Psychology, Gerontology Center, and EducationPlus+

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& Child Sexual Abuse

Fri., November 1, 2002 Conference

Professor Margaret A. Hagen
 Department of Psychology
 Boston University
 64 Cummington Street
 Boston, MA 02215

**Limited Accomodations
 Register Now!**

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NOV 1st CONFERENCE Registration

Please complete the form and mail with check to the address on reverse before October 18, 2002

Social Workers, Counselors, Law Enforcement Personnel\$109.00
 Attorneys, Psychologists (includes CE Processing Fee)159.00
 Students and Non-professional (no CE's)59.00

Name (as it will appear on certificate if applicable) _____
 Firm/Organization/Company _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 Professional license no. (If CE's or CLE's requested) _____
 E-mail _____

Objectives

After attending this seminar, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss some of the problems inherent in distinguishing between true and false accusations of child sexual abuse
- Identify some overarching issues in the child suggestibility debate
- Discuss the roles of rumor, pseudoscience, irrationality, urban legends, and hysteria in the creation of false memories
- Recognize suggestive techniques that are utilized in the interview process
- Discuss proper role of expert witnesses in the courtroom and the process of science intensive litigation
- Recognize problems inherent in child sex abuse prosecutions and identify possible solutions
- Understand the nature of human memory, with its distortions and strengths, and ways to incorporate scientific findings into practice
- Identify inappropriate types of psychotherapy as well as those proven effective

Schedule

8:00 *Registration*

8:30 PANEL I: WHAT IS AND WHAT IS NOT SCIENCE

Expert Witnesses: Whores of the Court? Science and Pseudoscience in the Courtroom

Margaret A. Hagen, Ph. D., Professor of Psychology, Boston University

Science and Folklore of Traumatic Amnesia

Richard J. McNally, Ph. D., Professor of Psychology, Harvard University

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: The Harmony of Illusions

Allan Young, Ph. D., Dept of Social Studies of Medicine, Anthropology, & Psychiatry, McGill University

Children as Witnesses--What Expert Witnesses Should Tell the Court

Hollida Wakefield, M.A., Institute of Psychological Therapies, Northfield, MN

10:30 *Refreshment Break*

10:45 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS--PANEL I

12:00 *Lunch*

1:00 PANEL II: DISCONNECT BETWEEN SCIENCE AND PRACTICE--REPERCUSSIONS

Memory Creation and Science

Mark Pendergrast, Independent Scholar and Author

Children, Suggestibility, and Autobiographical Memory

Terence W. Campbell, Ph. D., Forensic Psychologist, Author

The Roles of the Legal System and Experts

Jack Quattrocchi, Esq., Family Practice Attorney

2:30 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS--PANEL II

3:00 *Refreshment Break*

3:15 *Wrongful Convictions of Child Sexual Abuse: What Can Be Done? Claims of innocence and the role, after conviction, of prosecutors, defense counsel, and the court system.*

Stanley Z. Fisher, Boston University Law School

3:45 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS--PANEL I & II

Margaret Hagen, Moderator

4:30 *Closing Comments and Issuance of Certificates of Attendance*

About the Speakers

Terence W. Campbell, Ph.D. is the author of *Smoke and Mirrors: The Devastating Effect of False Sexual Abuse Claims* and *Cross-Examining Experts in the Behavioral Sciences*. Terence Campbell earned a doctoral degree in Human Development and Clinical Psychology at the University of Maryland and completed post-doctoral training in family therapy at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He specializes in family psychology and forensic psychology in his private practice in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Dr. Campbell's work has appeared in many scientific and professional journals, such as the *American Journal of Forensic Psychology*, *American Journal of Forensic Psychiatry*, *Issues in Child Abuse Accusations*, and *Psychotherapy*.

Stanley Z. Fisher has been a professor at Boston University School of Law from 1968 to present. He has practiced as a Public Defender and as Assistant District Attorney in Norfolk County, Massachusetts. A founding member of the New England Innocence Project (2000), he also participated as a member of the Task Force to Revise Child Neglect Laws of Massachusetts. His published articles include "The Prosecutor's Ethical Duty to Seek Exculpatory Evidence in Police Hands: Lessons from England," published in the *Fordham Law Review*, and "Zealousness and Overzealousness: Making Sense of the Prosecutor's Duty to Seek Justice," in *The Prosecutor*.

Margaret Hagen has a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Minnesota and is the author of numerous books and articles. In her book, *Whores of the Court: The Fraud of Psychiatric Testimony and the Rape of American Justice*, she traces the insidious invasion of psychology into our courtrooms--an invasion now institutionalized in both legislation and legal practice--and demonstrates the grave damage we have inflicted on the court system's ability to mete out true justice. Dr. Hagen exposes the drastic consequences of placing too much authority and power in the hands of "experts" who cannot administer them responsibly.

Richard J. McNally received his B.S. in psychology from Wayne State University in 1976 and his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1982. He spent the next two years as a clinical psychology intern and postdoctoral fellow at the Behavior Therapy Unit in the Department of Psychiatry at Temple University Medical School before moving to the Chicago Medical School where he established a research and treatment clinic for anxiety disorders. He joined the Harvard faculty as Associate Professor in 1991, and was promoted to Professor in 1995. He served on the specific phobia and posttraumatic stress disorder committees of the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-IV Task Force and on the National Institute of Mental Health's consensus panels for the assessment of panic disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder.

Mark Pendergrast, Independent Scholar and Author. Investigative journalist and scholar, Harvard graduate Mark Pendergrast is the author of *Victims of Memory: Sex Abuse Accusations and Shattered Lives*. The *Scientific American* review described this as "An impressive display of scholarship ... (with) ... a laudable ability to lay out both sides of the argument." His other books include *For God, Country, and Coca-Cola*, named a Notable Book of the Year by the New York Times, and *Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How It Transformed Our World*. He has given presentations throughout the U.S. and in several other countries.

Jack Quattrocchi, Esq., a graduate of Boston University School of Law, has over thirty years' experience as a family law attorney. Physical and sexual abuse allegations often surfaced during custody, support, and visitation disputes. While some of the allegations were tragically true, a significant portion were unfounded, improbable, contrived, or even malicious. The necessity of protecting the child from real abuse while sorting out false claims often revealed glaring failures in the system. Mr. Quattrocchi will outline the problem and some ideas to improve the legal, child welfare, psychotherapy, social welfare, and police response.

Hollida Wakefield, of the Institute for Psychological Therapies, a private practice of clinical psychology, has been providing evaluation, assessment, and treatment for sexual offenders and victims of sexual abuse since 1976. She has conducted several research projects dealing with various questions about child sexual abuse and written extensively in the area. She has conducted professional workshops around the world in how to interview children so as to allow them to provide the most reliable information they can. She provides expert consultation and forensic services in a wide range of legal issues including sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

Allan Young, Ph. D., is professor of Anthropology at McGill University. His current research interests focus on a) the ethnography of psychiatric science, and b) the ethnography of psychogenic trauma as a clinical entity and as a subject of laboratory and epidemiological research. His book, *The Harmony of Illusions*, is simultaneously a history of traumatic memory, based on contemporary reports, and an ethnographic account, based on the author's field research in a Veterans Administration psychiatric unit specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of the memory's characteristic malady, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

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Fri., November 1, 2002

This program has been approved for 6.5 Category I Continuing Education hours for relicensure, in accordance with 258 CMR. Collaborative at NASW Authorization Number D39374.

This activity is being co-sponsored by the Boston University Gerontology Center and EducationPlus+. The Boston University Gerontology Center is approved by the American Psychological Association to offer continuing education for psychologists. The Boston University Gerontology Center maintains responsibility for the program.

This program has been certified by MMCEP and is approved as a Continuing Education course or activity for Licensed Mental Health Counselors for 6.5 contact hours in Category 1. The Certification Number is 02-0413.

Please mail the completed registration form with payment to:

Kathy Begert
Education Plus+
1134 Rathburn Road
Wooster, OH 44691

Make checks (U.S.\$) payable to:
Education Plus+

Questions or Special Needs?

Call: 1-330-263-7798 or 617-522-0705

Email: KBegert846@aol.com

Written notification of cancellation is required. Cancellation notice received on or before October 25, 2002 will result in return of tuition minus a \$25.00 processing fee. No refunds will be given after October 25, 2002. However, printed course material will be sent in consideration of tuition paid.