

## ELENA MUSTAKOVA-POSSARDT, Ed.D., LPC

Psychologist, Evolutionary Social Scientist  
 Spiritual Philosopher, Coach  
 Educational & Organizational Consultant  
 Co-Founder & Executive Director of Foundation for Virtues and Social Health  
 Health Realization Counseling & Consulting

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- 40 years of experience in the field of education, psychological and human services in North America, Europe, Africa, and the Arab Peninsula, working with adults, families, and communities in different socio-economic and cultural contexts. Expertise in the systemic links between individual health, culture, moral development, language, and societal health. Clinical focus on human resiliency, prevention, mindfulness, and the health of communities.
- Lifelong professional focus on individual, social, and global transformation towards justice and optimal human development, through academic teaching, research, community development, clinical work, writing, and international work. Expertise in the many faces of oppression - political, ideological, cultural, religious, racial, gender-based, disability-based. Experience with related issues of violence and radicalization.
- Engagement in the discourse on indicators for sustainable development, and the need for a systemic approach to the interrelationship between healthy human development and planetary regeneration.

### SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Mustakova, E. (2021). *Global Unitive Healing: Integral Skills for Personal and Collective Transformation*. New York, NY: Light On Light Press.

Mustakova-Possardt, E., Basseches, M., Lyubansky, M., & Oxenberg, J. (Eds.) (2014). *Towards a Socially Responsible Psychology for a Global Era*. New York: Springer.

Mustakova-Possardt, E. (2010). *Beyond Competing Identities and Ideologies: Systemic Antidote to Radicalization and Terrorism*. Collected Volume on Radicalization. Verlag Springer, Germany.

Podger, D., Mustakova-Possardt, E., & Reid, A. (2010). *A Whole-Person Approach to Educating for Sustainability*. International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education, 11(4).

Mustakova-Possardt, E. (2006). *Clash or Meeting between East and West: Analysis of Post-9/11 Challenges*. Journal of Peace Psychology, Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 12 (2).

Mustakova-Possardt, E. (2004). Education for critical consciousness. *Journal of Moral Education*, 33 (3), 245-269, Oxford, UK: Carfax.

Mustakova-Possardt, E. (2003). *Critical Consciousness: A study of morality in global historical context*. Westport, CT: Greenwood/Praeger.

Mustakova-Possardt, E. (2000). Critical consciousness and its ontogeny in the life-span. In Miller, M. & West, A. (Eds.) *Spirituality, ethics, and relationships: The emotional and philosophical challenges of the adulthood years*. Madison, CT: Psychosocial Press/International Universities Press.

Mustakova-Possardt, E. (1998). Critical consciousness: an alternative pathway for positive personal and social development. *Journal of Adult Development*, 5 (1), 13-30. New York: Plenum.

## **DISTINGUISHED AWARDS**

*Carter Campus Community Partnership Award 2003*. Awarded for founding the Latino Initiative of University of West Georgia, aimed at applying the insights of critical and community psychology theory and praxis to assisting the new Latino immigrant population of rural Carroll County in its empowerment, in improving its quality of life, and integrating into the life of the larger community.

*1998 Outstanding Dissertation Award of the Association for Moral Education*, awarded for study entitled *The Ontogeny of Critical Consciousness*. The association is the leading international forum that focuses on moral development and moral education.

*Henry A. Murray Dissertation Award*, Radcliffe College, Harvard University, 1995. Granted to support cross-cultural research project on "Social Responsibility and Critical Consciousness in Bulgarian Mid-lifers", which explored adult social consciousness and citizenship in the context of economic, political, and social transformation.

## **SELECT PANELS**

NATO Advanced Research Workshop. *Indigenous Terrorism: Understanding and Addressing the Root Causes of Radicalization among Groups with an Immigrant Heritage in Europe*, Budapest, Hungary, March 7-9, 2008.

Invited member of a twenty-five-person expert Interfaith panel on *Finding the Missing Zero*, an initiative of Emory's Rollings School of Public Health Interfaith Health Program and The Carter Center, geared at mobilizing Interfaith resources to address on an unprecedented scale the crisis with African AIDS orphans – October 20-21, 2003, Carter Center, Atlanta.

## **SELECT KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

*A psychology that responds to our times*, 2017 Wilmette Institute Web Talk.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLfSimnUuy8&feature=youtu.be>

*A systemic approach to health in a troubled world*, Central Virginia Institute of Noetic Sciences Community group meeting, November 18, 2017.

*Cultivating cultures of social health in a troubled world: Emergent dimensions of a systemic approach to global mental health*, 2016 Advanced Study Institute Conference on *Psychiatry for a Small Planet: Eco-Social Approaches to Global Mental Health*, Community and Family Psychiatry, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, May 30 – June 1.

*Understanding resilience: Core connections that sustain*. Keynote Address, Annual International Sea Turtle Symposium, Baltimore, February 2013.

*Creating healthy social environments: Positive and sustainable communities*, 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Association for Bahá'í Studies, Washington, D.C., August 2009.

*Critical consciousness – motivation for service to humanity*. Keynote address, Conference on Social and Economic Development for the Americas, Orlando, FL, December, 2004.

### **SELECT WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS FOR PROFESSIONALS**

*Education for sustainable development*. 3-day seminar for development professionals from North and South America, Annual Rabbani Trust Conference on Social and Economic Development, Orlando, FL, 2005.

*Critical consciousness and the challenges of social transformation in post-communist Bulgaria*. A series of lectures delivered at Sofia University and other public forums in Bulgaria, June-July 2005.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Former Tenured Associate Professor, Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychology, University of West Georgia Graduate and Undergraduate teaching and curriculum development.

Research Associate, Radcliffe College, Harvard University.

Private clinical, coaching, and consulting practice.

### **EDUCATION**

1996 Ed.D. (Human Development), University of Massachusetts, Amherst

1983 M.A., English Language and Literature, Sofia University, Bulgaria