Curriculum Vitae

David Williams McMillan, PhD

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST
115 28th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37203
615 327-2183

David McMillan, Ph.D., is an author, speaker, and creator of the Sense of Community Theory, which has been widely referred to in over 10,000 books and articles and hundreds of studies across the globe (and read more than 50,000 times). His Research Gate Interest Score is higher than 98% of members, and his articles generate 25,000 full text reads annually, through organic searches. In 2014, he was a featured speaker at the prestigious CMX Summit, and his talk is a case study in CMX CEO, David Spinks's book, The Business of Belonging (Wiley, 2021).

McMillan's first book, Create Your Own Love Story: The Art of Lasting Relationships (Beyond Words Publishing, 1997), includes a foreword from John Gray and sold 5,000 copies. Written for couples to use on their own or in couples therapy, the book's premise is that each couple has its own love story of how you met, fell in love, and overcame trials, and that couples can write their stories to be more satisfying. His second book, Emotion Rituals: A Resource for Therapists and Clients (Routledge, 2005), lays the groundwork that "emotions flow in waves" and that feelings change feelings and thoughts. Written in a conversational, often confessional style, this book is comparable to Gabor Mate's works.

EXPERIENCE

Clinical Psychologist in Private Practice | Nashville, TN
1977-PRESENT

Adjunct Faculty member, Fisk University, Department of Psychology | Nashville, TN
2008-PRESENT

Founder and Co-Director of Parkwest Eating Disorder Program | Nashville, TN
1988-2005

Applied Salvini-Palazzoli's work in family systems, such that instead of having an 'identified patient' who needs to change, the family is invited to heal as a group.

Adjunct Faculty, George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University Department of Psychology | Nashville, TN
1977-1984 and 2001-PRESENT

Supervisor of graduate students for clinical practice, 1979-1984.

Founder and Co-Director of Compose | Nashville, TN

1994-1999
Created and led this groundbreaking program to treat family violence through feeling and processing emotions like depression, anxiety, and "not-knowing."

Consultant to Rape and Sexual Abuse Center | Nashville, TN
1993-2000

Here, I saw first-hand the flaws of systems theory when a woman who's been raped or beaten is asked what her part was in the violence. This was a major impetus for me to find more natural, universal laws to fill in gaps where homeostasis didn't apply.

Participant in Vanderbilt University Time Limited Dynamic Psychotherapy Research Project led by Hans Strupp and Jeffery Binder | Nashville, TN
1985-1986

My peer considered me the worst therapist and even wrote a paper to this effect, but my clients had the best outcomes in the study. I attribute this to my genuine therapeutic alliances.

Consultant to Nissan Motor Manufacturing Company | Smyrna, TN
1984-1985

Director of Correction Youth Center Comprehensive Evaluation | Nashville, TN
1978
An evaluation conducted by national experts in various areas of youth corrections.

Intern, Stanford Psychiatric Teaching Hospital | Palo Alto, CA
1974-1975
Family Study Unit. Interviewed families, observed therapy, nine hours of supervision weekly, attended seminars and staff meetings.

EDUCATION

B.A., June, 1968
Southwestern at Memphis Memphis, TN (History)

Attended: Southern Methodist University Dallas, TX (Law School) 1969-1970

M.A., June, 1974
George Peabody College for Teachers Nashville, TN (Psychology)

Ph.D., May, 1977
George Peabody College for Teachers Nashville, TN (Psychology).

License for clinical practice in Tennessee granted August 24, 1977; License Number PO523.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

1993-1998: Chairman of the Tennessee Psychological Association Colleague Assistance Committee.

1993-1998: Board member of Tennessee Psychological Association.

1991-2005: Member of Tennessee Psychological Association Colleague Assistance Committee.

1989: Chair of Nashville Psychotherapy Institute

1985-Present: Member of Nashville Area Psychological Association.

1984-Present: Member and founder of Nashville Psychotherapy Institute

1977-Present: Member of American Psychological Association

1977-Present: Listed in National Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology 1977-

Present: Member of Tennessee Psychological Association.

BOOKS

McMillan, D. W. *Create Your Own Love Story: the art of lasting relationships*. Beyond Words Publishing, Inc., 1997.

McMillan, D. W. *Emotion Rituals: A Resource for Therapists and Clients*. Brunner-Routledge, 2005.

McMillan, D.W. *Whatever Happened to Systems Theory?*:*Renewing Bateson's Search for Natural Laws and a Humanistic Approach to Family Therapy.* Vol I. Routledge Press. Forthcoming 2027.

McMillan, D.W. and Childress, C. *Whatever Happened to Systems Theory?*:*Renewing Bateson's Search for Natural Laws and a Humanistic Approach to Family Therapy.* Vol II. Routledge Press. Forthcoming 2027.

PUBLICATIONS

Chavis, D. M., Hogge, J. H., McMillan, D. W., & Wandersman, A. (1986). Sense of community through Brunswik's lens: A first look. *Journal of Community Psychology, 14*(1), 24–40. https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629(198601)14:1<24::AID-JCOP2290140104>3.0.CO;2-P

Chavis, D. M., Hogge, J. H., McMillan, D. W., & Wandersman, A. (1986). Sense of community through Brunswik's lens: A first look. *Journal of Community Psychology, 14*(1), 24–40. https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629(198601)14:1<24::AID-JCOP2290140104>3.0.CO;2-P

Carr, T. H., Cooke, T. P, Strain, P. S., & McMillan, D. (1976). An ecologically oriented approach to youth deviance. *Journal of Community Psychology, 4*(4), 389–400. https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629(197610)4:4<389::AID-JCOP2290040412>3.0.CO;2-C

Lorion, R. P., & McMillan, D. W. (2008). Does empowerment require disempowerment? Reflections on psychopolitical validity. *Journal of Community Psychology, 36*(2), 254–260. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.20236

McMillan, D. W. An Ecological Approach to Quality of Life in the Household. *A Social Report of Nashville.* Nashville: Urban Observatory of Metropolitan Nashville – University Centers, 1973.

McMillan, D. W., & Chavis, D. M. (1986). Sense of community: A definition and theory. *Journal of Community Psychology, 14*(1), 6–23. https://doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629(198601)14:1<6::AID-JCOP2290140103>3.0.CO;2-I

McMillan, D. W. (1996). Sense of community. *Journal of Community Psychology, 24*(4), 315–325. https://doi.org/10.1002/(SICI)1520-6629(199610)24:4<315::AID-JCOP2>3.0.CO;2-T

McMillan, D. W., & Lorion, R. P. (2020). Sense of community, pathway to, or bridge from alienation? *Journal of Community Psychology, 48*(6), 1706-1714. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22406

McMillan, D. W. (2011). Sense of community, a theory not a value: A response to Nowell and Boyd. *Journal of Community Psychology, 39*(5), 507–519. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.20439

McMillan, David. (2022). Community Psychology Getting to Work. *The Cambridge Handbook of Community Psychology: Interdisciplinary and Contextual Perspectives*. Ed. Caroline Claus-Ehlers. University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS United Kingdom, 2022.

Newbrough, J. K., McMillan, D. W., & Lorion, R. P. (2008). A commentary on Newbrough's Third Position. *Journal of Community Psychology, 36*(4), 515–533. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.20248

Peterson, N. A., Speer, P. W., & McMillan, D. W. (2008). Validation of a Brief Sense of Community Scale: Confirmation of the principal theory of sense of community *Journal of Community Psychology, 36*(1), 61–73. https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.20217

Stangor, C., & McMillan, D. (1992). Memory for expectancy-congruent and expectancy-incongruent information: A review of the social and social developmental literatures. *Psychological Bulletin, 111*(1), 42–61. https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.111.1.42