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Preface

This edition of the Handbook of Counseling Psychology, like all three prior editions, has three primary objectives: (1) to provide a scholarly review of important areas of counseling psychology inquiry, (2) to elaborate directions for future research, and (3) to draw specific suggestions for practice that derive from the scholarly literature in counseling psychology and related disciplines. Also, as in the third edition, we asked authors, as much as possible, to report effect sizes and to use these, and published meta-analyses, to draw inferences about the current state of knowledge in the field, to suggest questions for future investigation, and to derive practice implications. We are pleased to see that the research literature on topics addressed in this edition had advanced sufficiently so that, in many cases, our authors could use meta-analyses and report effect sizes to summarize their literature and draw implications. We are also pleased that many authors calculated and reported effect sizes when preexisting meta-analyses were not available.

Despite the broad continuities with prior editions, this edition departs from the others in significant ways. First, as readers of past editions will notice, there are more, but shorter, chapters in this edition. Our decision to include shorter chapters on more focused topics was solidified by an email survey we conducted with the membership of the Society of Counseling Psychology. Our goals were to capture advances in a wider range of the field while allowing authors to cover circumscribed topics in reasonable depth. We hope readers find this choice to be a good one. We thank our authors for trying so hard to follow length guidelines (not an easy task) and for their graciousness when difficult decisions had to be made to reduce their text to page limits.

The section topics and their ordering also depart from earlier editions. Part I of this edition, a Handbook mainstay, covers important current professional and scientific issues, but many of the topics in this edition are new and reflect important emerging professional trends. The coverage in this section was largely suggested to us by our survey of Division 17 members. Topics that were mentioned frequently included the new APA ethics code; managed care and prescription privileges; the growing use of technology in research, assessment, and counseling; the international growth of counseling psychology; social justice issues; and the growing attention to positive psychology. Each of these topics is covered in Part I.

The subsequent three sections cover important research in the most active areas of counseling psychology inquiry over the past 10 years. Brent Malinckrodt, in response to our e-mail survey, kindly provided us with a content (key word) analysis of research published in the Journal of Counseling Psychology and The Counseling Psychologist since the publication of the third edition of this Handbook. The results revealed that the most active areas of counseling psychology research in this time frame were, in order, multicultural psychology, counseling and supervision process and outcome, and vocational psychology. These topics, therefore, are covered in Part II (multicultural psychology), Part III (counseling and supervision), and Part IV (vocational psychology) of this edition.

Part V covers topics on development and prevention. Although Brent Malinckrodt’s content analysis did not reveal that prevention per se engages the research attention of large numbers of counseling psychologists, it did show that many in our field are interested in health and disease, suicide, substance abuse,
PREFACE

eating disorders, and school violence. Because we continue to believe that development and prevention are of historic and contemporary significance to counseling psychology, we decided to include chapters on each of the preceding topics, but to ask authors to take a preventive rather than remedial-treatment approach to them. These topics are complemented by two promotion-oriented chapters on resiliency interventions for at-risk youth and interventions to promote positive development and competencies. We hope the chapters in Part V will stimulate readers to give renewed thought to promoting positive development and resiliency and preventing (rather than only treating) psychological and health-related problems.

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We have many people to thank for their help throughout this project. First, we thank the many Division 17 members who responded to our email survey. Their suggestions were invaluable in helping us create a volume that spoke as much as possible to the current interests and concerns of those working in our field. Second, we thank Brent Mallinckrodt for going above and beyond what we had asked for in the survey. His content analysis gave us an excellent picture of contemporary counseling psychology research and provided us with an empirical basis for organizing this edition of the Handbook. Third, we are indebted to topic experts who took time out of their busy schedules to help us consider what to include in each Part. After deciding on the main sections and developing a preliminary set of chapter topics in each section, we emailed experts in each area (often multiple times) for input and suggestions about content and possible authors. The ultimate set of topics covered in each Part owes much to the thoughtful suggestions of Consuelo Arbona, Fred Borgen, Jean Carter, Ruth Fassinger, Nadya Fouad, Charlie Gelso, Paul Gore, Puncky Heppner, Clara Hill, Mary Ann Hoffman, Fred Leong, Jim Lichtenberg, Brent Mallinckrodt, Matt Miller, Laurie Mintz, Karen Multon, Karen O’Brien, Joe Ponterotto, Jim Rounds, Mark Savickas, Derald Wing Sue, Terry Tracey, Liz Vera, and Bruce Wampold.

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STEVEN D. BROWN
ROBERT W. LENT
Contributors

Saba Rasheed Ali, PhD
Psychological and Quantitative Foundations
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

Consuelo Arbona, PhD
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Houston
Houston, Texas

Patrick Ian Armstrong, PhD
Department of Psychology
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa

Rashanta A. Bledman, BA
Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology
University of Missouri–Columbia
Columbia, Missouri

Nancy E. Betz, PhD
Department of Psychology
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio

Kathleen J. Bieschke, PhD
Department of Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology, and Rehabilitation Services
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

Gary R. Brooks, PhD
Department of Psychology and Neurosciences
Baylor University
Waco, Texas

Steven D. Brown, PhD
Counseling Psychology Program
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Hung Chiao, MEd
Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology
University of Missouri–Columbia
Columbia, Missouri

Kathleen Chwalisz, PhD
Department of Psychology
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois

Nicole Coleman, PhD
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Houston
Houston, Texas

Madonna G. Constantine, PhD
Department of Counseling and Clinical Psychology
Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, New York

James M. Croteau, PhD
Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan

Devon L. Cummings, MA
Department of Psychology
The University of Akron
Akron, Ohio
CONTRIBUTORS

Steven J. Danish, PhD
Counseling Psychology Program
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia

Lisa M. Edwards, PhD
Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology
Marquette University
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Timothy R. Elliott, PhD
Department of Educational Psychology
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

Dorothy L. Espelage, PhD
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Champaign, Illinois

Ruth E. Fassinger, PhD
Department of Counseling and Personnel Services
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

James Fauth, PhD
Center for Research on Psychological Practice
Antioch University New England
Keene, New Hampshire

Tanya Forneris, PhD
School of Kinesiology and Health Studies
Queens University
Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Nadya A. Fouad, PhD
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Debra L. Franko, PhD
Department of Counseling and Applied Educational Psychology
Northeastern University
Boston, Massachusetts

Charles J. Gelso, PhD
Department of Psychology
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Diane Y. Genther, BA
Psychology and Research in Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Lucia Albino Gilbert, PhD
Office of the Provost
University of Santa Clara
Santa Clara, California

Rodney K. Goodyear, PhD
Rossier School of Education
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Paul A. Gore Jr., PhD
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Utah
Salt Lake City, Utah

Arpana Gupta, MEd
Department of Psychology
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

Emily Hamilton, MA
Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology
University of Missouri–Columbia
Columbia, Missouri

Jeffrey A. Hayes, PhD
Department of Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology, and Rehabilitation Services
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania

P. Paul Heppner, PhD
Department of Educational, School, and Counseling Psychology
University of Missouri–Columbia
Columbia, Missouri
CONTRIBUTORS

Clara E. Hill, PhD
Department of Psychology
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Jennifer M. Hill, BA
Psychological and Quantitative Foundations
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

Arthur M. Horne, PhD
Department of Counseling and Human Development Services
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

Zac E. Imel, MA
Department of Counseling Psychology
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Madison, Wisconsin

Arpana G. Inman, PhD
Department of Education and Human Services
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Neeta Kantamneni, MS
Department of Educational Psychology
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Mai M. Kindaichi, MA, EdM
Department of Counseling and Clinical Psychology
Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, New York

Sarah Knox, PhD
Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology
Marquette University
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Nicholas Ladany, PhD
Department of Education and Human Services
Lehigh University
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Michael J. Lambert, PhD
Department of Psychology
Brigham Young University
Provo, Utah

Christine M. Lee, PhD
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Robert W. Lent, PhD
Department of Counseling and Personnel Services
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Frederick T. L. Leong, PhD
Department of Psychology
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Wade C. Leuwerke, PhD
Department of Counselor Education
Drake University
Des Moines, Iowa

James W. Lichtenberg, PhD
Psychology and Research in Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

William Ming Liu, PhD
Psychological and Quantitative Foundations
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa

Shane J. Lopez, PhD
Psychology and Research in Education
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Jessica L. Manning, MA
Department of Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, Michigan