



GAMES, MANIPULATIONS, AND SEDUCTIONS IN COUNSELING THE DIFFICULT ADOLESCENT

A Cross-Cultural Theoretical Foundation to Teens & Teen Therapy w/Developmental & Strategic Principles and Approaches

Trainer: Ronald Mah, M.A., Ph.D., L.M.F.T.

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The underlying cross-cultural and development principles of the therapeutic and life games, manipulations, and seductions practiced by adolescents (with themselves, with their peers, and with adults) will be conceptualized leading to practical interventions and interactions.

This will allow clinicians to successfully meet the demands of the adolescent inter-relational “game.” Clinicians will be guided in how to validate the existential world of the teen by “playing” the game successfully (gaining respect and credibility versus losing the same), and then promoting therapeutic change leading to behavior, attitude, and value development.

- * The presenter will discuss cases from pragmatic, therapeutic, and theoretical perspectives from experiences with teens in a variety of clinical, consulting, and personal situations.
- * Cross-cultural and development principles will be presented to help conceptualize the adolescent world and perspectives. This will be followed by presenting the therapeutic and life games, manipulations, and seductions practiced by adolescents (with themselves, with their peers, and with adults) that reflect their world orientation.
- * Examples of teen attitudes, values, and behaviors as they are manifested in peer, social, academic, and therapeutic interactions and relationships will be presented. Each will then be examined for
 - the adolescents’ existential foundation (adolescent cultural and developmental origins),
 - the implicit requirements made of the clinician (or parent, teacher, other family member, or peers),
 - the expected stereotypical (and unsuccessful) therapist or parental (or other adult or peer) responses,
 - alternative theoretically and pragmatically sound responses for therapeutic growth.

Included will be issues and interactions around

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| 1. Abandonment Issues | 12. Choice and Danger |
| 2. Negativity | 13. Challenge |
| 3. Avoidance Communication | 14. Responsibility |
| 4. Non-Responsiveness | 15. Self-Disclosure |
| 5. Provocation and Anger | 16. Obligations to Peers |
| 6. The Challenge of Trust/Mistrust | 17. Betrayal by Parents |
| 7. Boundaries | 18. Alternative Adult (Parental/Mentoring) Relationships |
| 8. Intimidation | 19. Adolescent Culture |
| 9. Self-Injuring Threats | 20. Investment and Hope(lessness) |
| 10. Promise and Potential- and the Process of Manipulation | 21. Foundations for Relationships |
| 11. Immunity from Punishment | 22. Relationship Assessment |

Workshop Goals and Objectives:

- * For clinicians better conceptualize and apply cross-cultural paradigms to adolescent work, (for example, understanding teen culture (or sub-culture) and why teens disrespect and how they manipulate “nice” therapists);
- * For clinicians to better conceptualize and apply adolescent developmental understandings to therapeutic challenges faced by young people (for example, recognizing and addressing the adolescent stage of “natural narcissism”).
- * For clinicians to recognize the difficult adolescent’s existential world- their games, manipulations, and seductions (for example, recognizing and not “being played” with the teen game of “Make me an offer so that I can spit on it!” – a power through negativity game);
- * For clinicians to facilitate stronger rapport by developing theoretically sound and pragmatic clinical approaches to provoke adolescent emotional, psychological, social, and behavioral development (for example, using “distrust” to build rapport).

INSTRUCTOR: Ronald Mah, M.A., Ph.D., L.M.F.T., CEU provider #PCE3298 The workshop presenter has a successful private practice (including many adolescents and young children, families and couples). He is also a credentialed elementary and secondary teacher. He has taught, directed, and owned child development centers. He is on the Board of Directors of both the California Association of Marriage & Family Therapists (CAMFT) and the California Kindergarten Association (CKA). He has extensive clinical experience with children and teenagers, including clinically supervising therapists in an inner city high school teen clinic. He has trained about youth to various human services and counseling agencies over the years. He also has two very positive and powerful teenage/ young adult children who have successfully passed through adolescence with a minimum of unnecessary drama! Ronald has teacher and parent education presentations available on DVDs at www.FixedEarthFilms.com; he is also the author of “Difficult Behavior in Early Childhood, Positive Discipline for Pre-K-3 Classrooms and Beyond,” Corwin Press, 2006, “The One-Minute Temper Tantrum Solution, Strategies for Responding to Children’s Challenging Behaviors,” Corwin Press, 2008, and “Getting Beyond Bullying and Exclusion, PreK-5, Empowering Children in Inclusive Classrooms,” Corwin Press, 2009.

Course meets the qualifications continuing education for MFT’s and LCSW’s as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences.