



10th Annual Clinical Updates Colloquium

JANUARY 9, 2026 - 9 A.M.-4 P.M. - VIRTUAL

Conference Agenda

Moderator and Conference Chair

Dr. Stephen W. Stoeffler, Ph.D., LSW, Kutztown University

9:00-9:15 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

*Dr. Laurie A. McMillan, Kutztown University,
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

*Dr. Chris Harris, Ph.D., Kutztown University,
Department of Social Work, Chair*

9:15-10:30 a.m.

The Social Environment as a Catalyst for Elder Suicide: A Durkheimian Approach

Dr. Stephen M. Marson, Ph.D.

Discussants:

Dr. Lydia DeBiase and Dr. Jenna Mehnert Baker

10:30-10:45 a.m.

BREAK

10:45 a.m.-12:00 noon

The Social Environment as a Catalyst for Elder Suicide: A Durkheimian Approach

Dr. Stephen M. Marson, Ph.D.

12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.

LUNCH BREAK

12:00- 12:45 p.m.

OPTIONAL: **Doctor of Social Work Informational Session**

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Integrating Neuroscience and Social Work: Advancing Healthy Aging through Community Engagement

Dr. Suk-hee Kim, Ph.D., COI, MSW

Discussants:

Dr. Patricia McGarry and Professor William Bender

2:30-2:45 p.m.

BREAK

2:45-3:45 p.m.

Integrating Neuroscience and Social Work: Advancing Healthy Aging through Community Engagement

Dr. Suk-hee Kim, Ph.D., COI, MSW

3:45-4:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Dr. Chris Harris, Ph.D.

3 CE's Suicide Prevention

3 CE's

Presentation Information

The Social Environment as a Catalyst for Elder Suicide: A Durkheimian Approach

Dr. Stephen M. Marson, Ph.D.



Elder suicide occurs at a higher rate than those of other age cohorts, is more successful, and has the lowest rates of failed attempts. Clinical social workers must be aware of what factors lead to elder suicide. Elders are unlikely to call attention to themselves will be successful in their efforts.

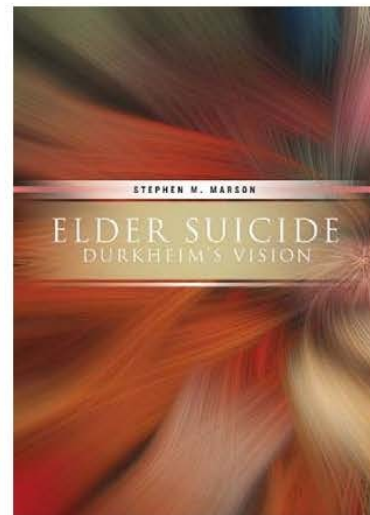
Stephen Marson has spent over 40 years as a practicing social work gerontologist and studying the sociological theories for suicide intervention for elderly clients. Ultimately, Marson determined that Emile Durkheim's theory of suicide was the perfect fit for understanding suicidal distress in older adults. Rather than focusing on psychological diagnoses, he uses Durkheim's theory to identify fatalistic, anomic, egoistic, and altruistic environmental circumstances that create suicide potential. Marson addresses these four dimensions and explores the gerontological research and social history that illustrate the evidence. He then presents various intervention strategies that will help practitioners to identify social factors that provide clues into the potentially suicidal patient and establish an intervention strategy to address suicide based on the social environment.

Over the last 100 years, the major criticism directed toward Durkheim's theory of suicide is the absence of addressing concepts that are transferable to psychotherapy. It is an unjustifiable criticism because Durkheim's theory focuses on environmental factors that catapult the person into suicidal ideation. Through the use of clinical analysis and artificial intelligence, Marson presents findings that links Durkheim's macro concepts to psychotherapy.

Stephen M. Marson attended Ohio Dominican University (BA), The Ohio State University (MSW) and North Carolina State University (Ph.D. – Sociology) with a minor in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the founder and editor of The International Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics and the author of four books. For the last 30 years, he has been conducting research and publishing in the area of elder suicide. His book entitled Elder Suicide: Durkheim's Vision garnered considerable attention and received numerous positive reviews. Although Durkheim's seminal work is clearly defined as macro theory, Marson has demonstrated the connection between macro conceptualization to psychotherapy. He is a former faculty member in the Social Work Department and the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department. After 42 years, he retired from his professorship from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and was awarded Professor Emeritus status in 2019.

ELDER SUICIDE: DURKHEIM'S VISION

Stephen M. Marson



Use this book to:

- Apply Emile Durkheim's theory to understanding the four dimensions of suicidal distress in older adults: fatalistic, anomic, egoistic, and altruistic environmental circumstances that create suicide potential.
- Understand that suicide among the elderly occurs at a higher rate than those of other age cohorts and has the lowest rates of failed attempts.
- Learn what leads to elder suicide, as the victims are unlikely to call attention to the matter themselves before they make an attempt.
- Implement intervention strategies that will identify social factors (e.g., age, gender, education, and marriage) that provide clues into the potentially suicidal patient and establish an intervention strategy to address suicide risk based on the social environment.

Praise for Stephen M. Marson's *Elder Suicide*:

"The reasoning and emotion that go into the ominous decision to commit suicide makes us ponder. To help us understand this process, Stephen Marson presents poignant and provoking observations that do not fit neatly into the myths of suicide, aging, and life satisfaction. He provides the stimulus for professionals and laypeople to reexamine practice strategies and ethical underpinnings when working with aging adults."

Daniel Pollack, JD, MSSA, MSW
Professor, School of Social Work
Yeshiva University, New York



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and sample chapter,
plus additional
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Presentation Information

Integrating Neuroscience and Social Work: Advancing Healthy Aging through Community Engagement

Dr. Suk-hee Kim, Ph.D., COI, MSW



This keynote presentation explores the intersection of neuroscience and social work in promoting healthy aging, cognitive well-being, and meaningful community engagement among older adults. Dr. Suk-hee Kim will discuss how emerging insights from neuroscience can inform social work practice and education, enhancing interventions that support cognitive health, resilience, and emotional well-being in later life. Drawing on her extensive research and experience in gerontological social work, Dr. Kim highlights community-based, non-pharmacological approaches that address social isolation, cognitive decline, and disparities in health outcomes. She will provide examples of programs that integrate neuroscience-informed strategies to empower older adults, foster social connections, and strengthen age-friendly communities. The presentation also examines the role of social work education in preparing practitioners to translate neuroscience knowledge into practical interventions, curriculum development, and collaborative partnerships with healthcare providers, community organizations, and policymakers. Attendees will gain insight into how interdisciplinary approaches can

bridge research and practice, improve quality of life, and create inclusive environments that support older adults across diverse settings. Through this keynote, Dr. Kim emphasizes the transformative potential of combining neuroscience, social work expertise, and community engagement to enhance healthy aging, demonstrating how social workers can serve as leaders in advancing evidence-informed, person-centered approaches that benefit individuals, families, and communities.

Dr. Suk-hee Kim is a full professor with tenure in the School of Social Work at Northern Kentucky University (NKU). She is nationally recognized for her contributions to gerontological social work and social work education, with a focus on healthy aging, cognitive health, and community-based interventions. Dr. Kim has led numerous initiatives addressing healthy aging programming, opioid addiction, and health disparities in cognitive health. She spearheaded the integration of gerontology into NKU's social work curriculum and, in collaboration with colleagues, developed a gerontology micro-credential. As a founding member of NKU's Age-Friendly University initiative, Dr. Kim played a significant role in helping NKU earn the Age-Friendly University designation in 2020, becoming the first institution in the region to join the international effort to expand accessibility and support services for learners of all ages. Her research focuses on non-pharmacological interventions for older adults with cognitive impairment and on healthy aging programs funded through university-community partnerships and national associations. She has received grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Health Resources and Services Administration to support her work on opioid addiction and rural community health. Dr. Kim has been honored with numerous awards for her scholarship and community engagement, including the Distinguished Recent Contributions to Social Work Education Award from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE, 2021), the Role and Status of Women in Community Impact Award through her Rising Hope for Aging Initiative (CSWE, 2020), and the Commission on Diversity and Social and Economic Justice Community Partnership Action Inaugural Award (CSWE, 2019). She was also honored with the CSWE Mentor Recognition in 2023, 2024, and 2025.

In 2023, Dr. Kim was elected to the CSWE Board of Directors, serving as the Graduate Faculty Representative at the national level. She also received the Boston University School of Social Work's Outstanding Career in Social Work Alumni Award (2021) and selected NKU honors, including the Excellence in Outreach and Engagement Award (2023), Excellence in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award (2021), Inclusive Excellence Faculty Leadership Award (2020), and VA Champions of Success Civilian Faculty Award (2021). Dr. Kim served as President (2023–2025) and served as Vice President (2021–2023) of the Korean American Social Work Educators Association (KASWEA) in the U.S. She has been instrumental in fostering international collaboration, notably co-leading the Korean American Social Work Educators Association (KASWEA)–Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs (KIHASA) Joint Seminar and Forum in 2024 and 2025. In 2025, she received the Excellence in Service Award in recognition of her impactful servant leadership as President of the KASWEA. Dr. Kim was a doctoral fellow in the Department of Family and Geriatric Medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. She holds a joint Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky, an MSW from Boston University, and a BA in Social Welfare from Han-il University and Presbyterian Theological Seminary in South Korea. Her work continues to bridge academic and professional communities across South Korea and the United States, reflecting her deep commitment to advancing social work education and practice for older adults.

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Information Sessions



Upcoming DSW Information Sessions

Friday, January 9 at noon (during lunch break) **OPTIONAL**

Wednesday, January 21 at 5:30 p.m., virtually – [RSVP here](#)

Tuesday, February 17 at 5:30 p.m., virtually – [RSVP here](#)

Monday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m., virtually – [RSVP here](#)

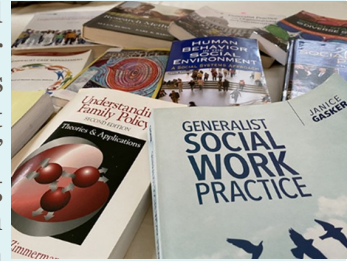


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In a continuous effort to support the profession of social work, we are also raising funds to provide a Licensure Preparation Course for all MSW students. All funds raised during this campaign support social work students at Kutztown University. With your generous donations, we can support our BSW students as they earn their degree. Your contribution will also enhance the profession by graduating MSW students ready for professional social work. Thank you for your continued support of Textbook Lending Library, the next generation of licensed social workers, and the profession of social work.

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Evaluation Survey

Please complete the evaluation survey at the end of the conference:



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CE Requests

If you are requesting CEs, please remember to complete the CE Verification survey:

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A maximum of 6 continuing education credits are available for Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors. (3 suicide prevention credits for morning only, 3 for afternoon only, or 6 for full day.) Continuing education credits will be forwarded via email after the event. Please allow two-three weeks after the close of the request form to process.

Please note, in order to **receive your CE certificate you must complete the CE verification survey** at the end of the event and provide **an email address as well as the verification codes provided during the conference. No certificates will be awarded without codes.**

Additional Information

Clinical Updates Colloquium Implementation Team

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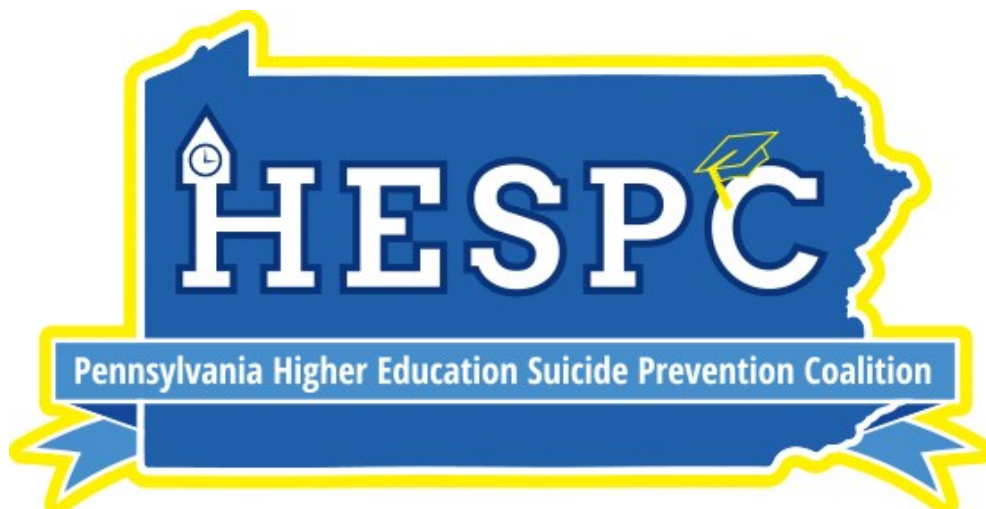
Gabriella Wilson, MBA
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Management Technician



Dr. Chris Harris, Ph.D.
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Department of Social Work
Department Chair, Assistant Professor



Thank you to our sponsor



Upcoming Events



**22nd Annual
Community Forum
March 27, 2026**

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SAVE THE DATE:



**15th Annual
Social Work in the Global
Environment Conference**

November 6, 2026



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**11TH ANNUAL
CLINICAL UPDATES
COLLOQUIUM**

January 8, 2027



Thank you for attending the
10th Annual Clinical Updates
Colloquium.



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