

# MARCY AXNESS

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## CURRICULUM VITAE

### EDUCATION

**Ph.D., Early Human Development**, The Union Institute and University, 2003 (Dissertation: *Malattachment and the Self Struggle: Separation, Survival and Healing*)  
**M.A.(eq), Developmental Psychology**, The Union Institute and University, 1997  
**B.A., Theater Arts**, UCLA (minors in Psychology and French), *Cum Laude*, 1977

### SPECIALIZED TRAINING

**Special Start: Developmentally Supportive Care for Premature Infants**, Ventura County Foster & Kinship Care Education, 2004  
**Facilitating Emotional Attachment**, Daniel Hughes, 2004

### ACADEMIC / PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**Adjunct Professor of Prenatal Development**, Santa Barbara Graduate Institute (2004-present)  
**Adjunct Professor of Child & Family Development**, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies (2004-2005)  
**Quantum Parenting**: Private counseling practice specializing in fertility, adoption, pregnancy psychology, early parenting and parent development, from pre-conception/pre-adoption through school-age; professional CEU and in-service training in developmentally supportive approaches to infant care, early education, adoption, psycho-social disorders; educational talks for parents, caregivers, teachers and professionals presented in a variety of community settings. (2003 – present)  
**Adoption Insight**: Author, speaker, counselor and educational consultant specializing in the social, emotional, and spiritual issues involved in infertility and adoption, with particular expertise in the prenatal and perinatal implications; featured expert on the largest adoption information and support forum on the internet, and on both Mothering.com and ClubMom.com. (1993 – present)

### COURSES TAUGHT / SUPERVISED

#### ACADEMIC

Prenatal Experience (Preconception through Birth), Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, Current  
Prenatal Experience I (Preconception, Conception, and Early Embryological Stages), Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, 2006-2008  
Impact of Modern Birth Practices, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
The New Family and Society, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
History of the Birth Attendant and Birth Outcomes, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
Foundations of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Summer 2004  
Birth and Bonding Across Cultures, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Summer 2004  
Prenatal Experience II (Post-implantation, Fetal and Perinatal stages), Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, Summer 2004  
The New Family & Society, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Fall 2004  
Affective Development, The Union Institute and University, College of Undergraduate Studies, Spring 2004

## **PROFESSIONAL TRAINING / IN-SERVICE**

- "The Trauma of Separation in Adoption: A Hero's Journey Perspective", Adoption Knowledge Associates Professional Session, Austin, TX, 2008
- "When Does Adoption Begin? An Introduction to Prenatal Psychosocial Development", Adoption Knowledge Associates Professional Session, Austin, TX, 2008
- "Adoption Dynamics", MFT intern trainings, The Maple Counseling Center, Beverly Hills, CA, 2005-6
- "DNA: Predisposition Not Predestination", Specialized Adoptive/Foster Parent Training, San Luis Obispo Dept. of Social Svcs w/ Cuesta College Foster/KinshipCare, CA, 2006
- "Introduction to the Adopted Student", Teacher training, West Valley Occupational Center, Woodland Hills, CA, 2005
- Continuing education in adoption dynamics and attachment neurobiology, Simi Valley Psychotherapists' Network, Simi Valley, CA, 2004-5
- "Encouraging Attachment", Resident physician training, Northridge Hospital Family Practice, Northridge, CA, 2004
- "Birth Through Seven: Laying a Foundation for Lifelong Success", Parent & faculty training, Highland Hall Waldorf School, Northridge, CA, 2004
- "Attachment-Supportive Discipline", Faculty training, American Montessori School, Eagle Rock, CA, 2004
- "Separation Trauma in Adoption", Divisional staff training, San Bernardino County Adoption Services, CA, 2003

## **PUBLICATIONS – REFEREED**

- 2010, "Prenatal Control Issues: Perspectives on Gendered, Genomic and Gestational Conflicts," in Shea, M., *Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy ~ Volume 3*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books.
- 2009, "Painful Lessons," in *Adoption Issues*, from "Current Controversies" textbook series, Farmington Hills, MI, Gale-Cengage.
- 2007, "When the Joy of the Mother is Missing: An Organic Perspective on Postpartum Depression," *Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health*, 21(4).
- 2005, "Malattachment and the Self Struggle," *Journal of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health*, 19(2).
- 2003, "To Praise or Not to Praise: What Children Need to Hear and Not Hear from Parents and Teachers," *Renewal, A Journal of Waldorf Education*, 12(1).
- 2001, "When Does Adoption Begin?," American Adoption Congress *Decree*, (18)2.
- 2001, "Towards A Fluid Dance in Seamless Dress: The Field of Pre- and Perinatal Development Challenges Researchers to Integrate Scientific and Spiritual Orientations," *Journal of Faith and Science Exchange*, Vol. IV, 327-338.
- 2000, "The Primal Wound: A Therapist Counsels Adoptive Parents," chapter of *A Workbook for Prospective Adoptive Parents*, New Zealand Dept. of Child, Youth and Family Services.
- 1999, "Point of View: Thoughts On Prenatal Stimulation," (with Laura Uplinger), *APPPAH Newsletter*, February.
- 1996, "Growing Up Adopted: An Inquiry into Limitations, Interpretations, and Implications of The Search Institute's 1994 Adoptive Family Study," American Adoption Congress *Decree*, (13)4.
- 1995, "Authentic Beginnings, Real Bonds: Honest Talk About Adoption," *National Association of Social Workers California News*, December/January.

## **PUBLICATIONS – UNREFEREED**

- 2009, "When the Joy Is Missing, An Organic Perspective on Postpartum Depression" *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Special Childbirth Issue.
- 2009, "Moms & Dads, Who is the Boss of You? The Force of Culture on Birth and Parenting Choices," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 21.
- 2008, Letter to the Editor, *Los Angeles Times* (on teens and socio-cultural devolution), July 12.
- 2008, "Raising Generation PAX: Peace Begins with How We Parent, From the Very Beginning," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 18.
- 2007, "Of Love & Milk: Facing Our Breastfeeding Ambivalence," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 15.
- 2006, *Adoption Parenting*, Jean McLeod and Sheena Macrae, editors, EMK Press: Section contributor.

- 2006, "Keeping Our Children Whole: Preventive Parenting in a Noisy World," *Down to Birth* (Australia), Winter.
- 2005-8, Featured parenting columnist, *The Wet Set Gazette*, Southern California.
- 2004, Letter to the Editor, *Los Angeles Times* (on healthy parenting), June 10.
- 1998, *Painful Lessons, Loving Bonds ~ The Heart of Open Adoption* (Adoption Insight Series, Vol. I)
- 1998, *What Is Written On The Heart ~ Primal Issues in Adoption* (Adoption Insight Series, Vol. II)
- 1998, Letter to the Editor, *Time* (on adoption), September 7.
- 1998, Letter to the Editor, *USA Today* (on reproductive technology), January 13.
- 1996, Letter to the Editor, *Harper's Bazaar* (on adoption), January.
- 1995, "Second Rejection: The Pain After Reunion," *CUB Communicator*, September.
- 1995, "A Mother's Call to Healing," *The Whole Life Times*, July.
- 1994, "Babies Separated From Mothers At Birth," *Wet Set Gazette*, September.

## PRESENTATIONS / LECTURES

- 2010, "From Presence to Simplicity: Parenting for Peace," *Metamorphosis: Embrace, Evolve, Emerge*, USCB Professional Women's Assn. annual conference, Santa Barbara, CA
- 2010, "Peace: From the Cell to the Collective," Communication and Peace class, UC Santa Barbara, CA: Guest lecture
- 2008, "DNA: Predisposition Not Predestination," Adoption Knowledge Associates, Austin, TX: Keynote.
- 2008, "Rhythm, Respect, Relationship: Antidotes for the Disorder Epidemic," Adoption Knowledge Associates, Austin, TX: Workshop.
- 2008, "Adoption and Attachment," Science Meets Our Hearts Child Advocacy conference, Nelson, BC, Canada: workshop.
- 2007, "An Organic Perspective on Postpartum Depression," Gentle Birth World Congress, Portland, OR: Keynote.
- 2007, "Prenatal Development: Nature's Own Head-Start Program," Smart Start Nat'l Conference, Greensboro, NC. Auditorium session.
- 2007, "Conscious Conception, A Quantum Collaboration," at "Birth and the Human Family," the Association for Pre- and Perinatal Psychology and Health's 13<sup>th</sup> Int'l Congress, Los Angeles, CA: Plenary panel leader.
- 2006, "Psychological Development in the Womb," 16<sup>th</sup> *Natural & Conscious Pregnancy and Birth* conference of REHUNA and Instituto Aurora, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Keynote.
- 2006, "Psychological Development in the Infant," 16<sup>th</sup> *Natural & Conscious Pregnancy and Birth* conference of REHUNA and Instituto Aurora, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Keynote.
- 2006, "What Babies Want Us to Know About... Being Adopted," *Journey Into Life* (regional conference of APPPAH), University of Minnesota: Plenary.
- 2005-8, "Parenting with New Science in Mind," California State University Northridge (CSUN), Dept. of Educational Psychology, CA: Guest lecturer.
- 2004, 25<sup>th</sup> "The 57 Varieties of Open Adoption: Which is Yours?", Annual conference of the American Adoption Congress, Kansas City, MO: Keynote.
- 2003, "What Do We Mean by Child-Centered Adoption and What Will It Take to Make It Happen?", 9<sup>th</sup> (and final) Biennial Conference on Open Adoption: "Among Friends: The Open Adoption Community Reflects on a Generation of Practice and Experience," Traverse City, MI: Plenary.
- 2003, "Embracing Adoption's Losses and Blessings," RESOLVE, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, Annual Adoption Conference: Plenary.
- 2001, "When Does Adoption Begin?", 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the American Adoption Congress, Anaheim, CA: Workshop.
- 1999, "Birth & Consciousness in the New Millennium," Association for Pre- and Perinatal Psychology and Health's 9<sup>th</sup> Int'l Congress, San Francisco, CA: Panel.
- 1999, "Does Adoption Respect the Interests of Birth Parents & Birth Families?", Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute's "Ethics and Adoption" conference, Anaheim, CA: Workshop.
- 1999, "Adoption as a Hero's Journey," 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference on Open Adoption, Traverse City, MI: Plenary / workshop.
- 1998, "Affirming the Adoptee's Reality," National Conference on Adoption, Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand: Keynote.
- 1997, "The Push and Pull of Adoption," at "Birth, Love and Relationships," the Association for Pre- and Perinatal Psychology and Health's 8<sup>th</sup> Int'l Congress, San Francisco, CA: Panel.

- 1995, "Is the Trauma Stuck in Your Body?", 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of CERA (Council for Equal Rights in Adoption), New York, NY: Workshop.
- 1994, "An Adoptee's Healing Journey," 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of CERA (Council for Equal Rights in Adoption), New York, NY: Workshop.

### **APPEARANCES / MEDIA**

- 2009, "Where's the Imagination?", *Living Hero: Conversations with Living Luminaries and Mavericks*: excerpt of prior Living Hero interview featured in this 30-minute synthesis.
- 2008, *Reader's Digest*, "[Words to Inspire](#)", Feb.: featured child development/parenting expert.
- 2007, *Us Weekly*, "Angelina's Double Life", April 9: cited child development/adoption expert
- 2007, "[Shrink Rap](#)" with Phyllis Chase, KCSN-FM, Northridge, CA, Nov.: Featured guest discussing "Quantum Parenting for Peace at Home and in the World"
- 2006, "The K-Earth Community Lights" with Vivian Porter, K-Earth 101-FM, Los Angeles, CA: Featured child development/parenting expert
- 2004, [Trauma, Brain, and Relationship: Helping Children Heal](#) (documentary film), Philanthro Films in assn. with Santa Barbara Graduate Institute, Santa Barbara, CA: Featured expert
- 2004, *Pregnancy* magazine, "What's Going on in There?", Nov.: featured prenatal expert.
- 1997, "Edmonton Tonight" hosted by Leslie Primeau on CHED radio, Alberta, Canada: Featured adoption expert/interview guest.

### **PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- 2007-present, Editor in Chief of the quarterly [newsletter of APPPAH](#) (Assn. for Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology and Health)
- 2006-2009, Participant working on accreditation cycle materials, Santa Barbara Graduate Institute
- 2005 – 2008, Member of Board of Trustees, [Highland Hall Waldorf School](#), Northridge, CA
- 2005 – 2007, Member, APPPAH's Media & Education Outreach committee
- 2003 – present, Advisory Board member, "[The Crib](#)", a Los Angeles transitional home for young women with unplanned or crisis pregnancies who have chosen to be mothers; unaffiliated with any religious or political organization or position.
- 2003 – 2006, Core committee member, "[From Neurons to Neighborhoods](#)", source of research & community education on early trauma – causes, effects, healing and prevention.
- 2000 – 2004, Doctoral committee member, The Union Institute and University
- 1998 – 2001, Chair, "LAPIS" (Los Angeles Prenatal Information & Support), a community education organization and local outreach of APPPAH (Assn. for Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology and Health)

### **CHILD ADVOCACY**

- 2009, Expert consultant/witness for successful appeal of Child, Youth & Family Services decision in foster care/adoption case, Sue and Shane Sherman, appellants, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 2007, Expert consultant/witness for successful appeal of Child, Youth & Family Services decision in foster care/adoption case, Roxy and Stuart Wright, appellants, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
- 1998, Independent expert consultant for visitation proceedings, client of Rosie Rusca, J.D., Fresno, CA.
- 1997, Expert consultant for adoption litigation, Rita L. Swenor, J.D., San Francisco, CA.

### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Raising Generation PAX: A 7-Step Parenting Matrix for Joy at Home & Peace in the World*, trade book, projected publication date Spring 2011

### **PRIOR RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 1977 – 1986, CBS News, Lifetime Television, The Disney Channel, Showtime: Writer/producer/director, specializing in topics of health, culture and human development; Associated Press and Golden Mike awards for "Herpes: The Silent Epidemic" (1981); Emmy nomination for the CBS feature segment, "Adoptees in Search" (1980).

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS / MEMBERSHIPS**

Association for Prenatal & Perinatal Psychology and Health

American Adoption Congress

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)