

MARCY AXNESS

16781 KNOLLWOOD DR., SUITE 2 • GRANADA HILLS, CA 91344
AXNESS@EARTHLINK.NET
818.366.7310

CURRICULUM VITAE

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Early Human Development, The Union Institute and University (Dissertation:
Malattachment and the Self Struggle: Separation, Survival and Healing)

M.A.(eq), Developmental Psychology, The Union Institute and University

B.A., Theater Arts, UCLA (minor concentrations in psychology and french), *Cum Laude*

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

- 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, "Moms & Dads, Who is the Boss of You? The Force of Culture on Birth and Parenting Choices," *Pathways to Family Wellness*, Issue 21.
- 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.
- 1999, "Affirming the Adoptee's Reality: A Way To Intimacy," *Roots & Wings* magazine, Spring.
- 1998, "Double Exposure: Portrait of A Reunion," *CUB Communicator*, May/June.

- 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* (Adoption), September 7.
- 1998, Letter to the Editor, *USA Today* (Reproductive technology), January 13.
- 1996, "Many Hands: One Adoptee's Healing Journey," *Roots & Wings*, Winter.
- 1996, Letter to the Editor, *Harper's Bazaar* (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

- 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 13th Int'l Congress, Los Angeles, CA: Plenary panel leader.
- 2006, "Psychological Development in the Womb," 16th *Natural & Conscious Pregnancy and Birth* conference of REHUNA and Instituto Aurora, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Keynote.
- 2006, "Psychological Development in the Infant," 16th *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, 25th "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?", 9th (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, "Birth: The Genesis of Health," Association for Pre- and Perinatal Psychology and Health's 10th Int'l Congress, San Francisco, CA: Panel.
- 2001, "Revisioning Our Beginnings," CUB (Concerned United Birthparents) National Conference, Carlsbad, CA: Keynote.
- 2001, "When Does Adoption Begin?", 23rd 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 9th 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," 7th 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 8th Int'l Congress, San Francisco, CA: Panel.
- 1995, "Is the Trauma Stuck in Your Body?", 3rd Annual Conference of CERA (Council for Equal Rights in Adoption), New York, NY: Workshop.
- 1995, "The Primal Wound in Real Life," 17th Annual Conference of the American Adoption Congress, Las Vegas, NV: Workshop.

1994, "An Adoptee's Healing Journey," 2nd Annual Conference of CERA (Council for Equal Rights in Adoption), New York, NY: Workshop.

APPEARANCES / MEDIA

2008, *Reader's Digest*, "Words to Inspire", Feb.: featured child development/parenting 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 – present, Member of Board of Trustees, Highland Hall Waldorf School, Northridge, CA

2005 – 2007, Member, APPPAH's Community 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, "Neurons 2 Neighborhoods", a leading 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

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.

AWARDS / RECOGNITIONS

Fontaine Maury Belford Scholarship (\$2,500) – November 1, 2002; Awarded to a Union doctoral student whose work to date give "evidence that the learner is doing innovative and/or ground breaking work in his or her chosen field of study. The learner must also show that he/she is applying the principles of interdisciplinary, appreciates and values high academic quality and, express how this academic work will help him/her take better charge of his/her life."

WORK IN PROGRESS

Raising Generation PAX: A 7-Step Parenting Matrix for Joy at Home & Peace in the World, trade book, projected publication date Fall 2009 or Spring 2010

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