

# THE COLORADO ASSESSMENT SOCIETY



*is pleased to present the following online workshop:*

**Restoring Epistemic Trust Through Therapeutic Assessment:  
Building a Relationship “Superhighway”  
with Difficult-to-Treat Clients**

*Co-sponsored by:  
The Therapeutic Assessment Institute (TAI) &  
The Society for Personality Assessment (SPA)*

Presented by  
**Stephen E. Finn, Ph.D.**

Location: Online via Zoom

Session 1: February 5, 2021: 9:00AM to 12:30PM (MST)  
Session 2: February 6, 2021: 9:00AM to 12:30PM (MST)  
Session 3: February 12, 2021: 9:00AM to 12:30PM (MST)  
Session 4: February 13, 2021: 9:00AM to 12:30PM (MST)



## The Presenter

**Stephen E. Finn, Ph.D.**, founder of the Center for Therapeutic Assessment, is a licensed clinical psychologist in practice in Austin, Texas, USA, a Clinical Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, Senior Researcher and Director of Training at the European Center for Therapeutic Assessment at Catholic University of Milan, Italy, and Director of Training at the Asian-Pacific Center for Therapeutic Assessment in Tokyo, Japan. He has published 90+ articles and chapters on psychological assessment,



psychotherapy, and other topics in clinical psychology, and is the author of *In Our Clients' Shoes: Theory and Techniques of Therapeutic Assessment* (Erlbaum, 2007) and *A Manual for Using the MMPI-2 as a Therapeutic Intervention* (1996, University of Minnesota Press). Dr. Finn also co-edited, with Constance Fischer and Leonard Handler, *Collaborative/Therapeutic Assessment: A Casebook and Guide* (Wiley, 2012). In 2011 Dr. Finn was awarded the Bruno Klopfer Award from the Society of Personality Assessment for distinguished lifetime contributions to the field of personality assessment. In August 2017 he received the award for Distinguished Contributions to Assessment Psychology from Section IX (Assessment) of the Society for Clinical Psychology (Division 12 of the American Psychological Association). In 2018 he received the Carl Rogers Award for an outstanding contribution to theory and practice of humanistic psychology from the Society for Humanistic Psychology (Division 32 of the American Psychological Association).

## Training and Topic Overview

Why do some clients reject new ways of thinking and maintain a high level of distrust with mental health professionals? How can we reach such clients, who often seem unreachable? Two new concepts from evolutionary psychology, Epistemic Trust (ET) and Epistemic Hypervigilance (EH), provide an insightful way of understanding and intervening with difficult clients. In this workshop, Dr. Finn will explain the theory of ET and EH, which asserts that many clients screen out new information from others because in the past this was necessary for their survival. Using this empathic lens, Dr. Finn will then demonstrate how Therapeutic Assessment is uniquely designed to lower EH and build ET, allowing for clients to continue to grow and learn long after a TA is completed.

The workshop will be conducted online in four 3.5-hour sessions, and participants will need an excellent internet connection, as videotapes will be streamed. This training will be useful to psychological assessors and psychotherapists alike. Participants will receive 13 CE credits (pending SPA approval). **Translation of this webinar into Spanish will be available for those would need it.**

## Goals and Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Define the concepts of Epistemic Trust (ET) and Epistemic Hypervigilance (EH) and explain their importance to working with difficult clients;
2. Explain the concepts of Mentalization and Secure Attachment and how they are related to ET and EH;
3. List specific behaviors of clinicians that help lower EH and promote ET;
4. Describe the experience of Ostensive Cueing and Scaffolding from both the client and clinician perspectives;
5. Explain how specific techniques and steps of TA lower EH and promote ET;
6. List personal and professional factors of clinicians that contribute to EH and impede ET

## Continuing Education

This workshop qualifies for **13 hours of CE credits** for psychologists **pending SPA approval**. This program is co-sponsored by SPA. SPA is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. SPA maintains responsibility for the program and its content. CE credits will be available for an additional \$15 (see registration and payment form below).

## Tentative Workshop Schedule

### *Day 1*

09:00	Introductions
09:30	The Theory of Natural Pedagogy: Epistemic Trust, Mistrust, and Hypervigilance ( <i>lecture and videos</i> )
10:30	Break
10:45	Our Inborn Prosocial Engineering: Ostensive Cueing and Mentalization ( <i>exercises in pairs, video, and lecture</i> )
12:00	Comments and Questions
12:30	Adjourn

### *Day 2*

09:00	Small Group Exercise: Mentalization Scenarios
09:30	Large Group Discussion
10:00	Attachment and Epistemic Trust ( <i>lecture and video</i> )
10:30	Break
10:45	Attending to Shame ( <i>lecture and video</i> )
11:30	Attending to Shame: Small Group Exercise
12:00	Discussion
12:30	Adjourn

### *Day 3*

09:00	Questions and Discussion
09:30	How the Core Values of TA Relate to Epistemic Trust ( <i>lecture</i> )

- 09:45 Building Epistemic Trust in the Initial Sessions of TA (*Lecture and videos*)
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Building Epistemic Trust During Testing Sessions: Scaffolding, Bottom-up, and Top-down Learning (*Lecture and videos*)
- 12:00 Comments and Questions
- 12:30 Adjourn

#### ***Day 4***

- 09:00 Open Discussion
- 10:00 Assessment Intervention Sessions: Passing Relational Tests (*Lecture and videos*)
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 Building Epistemic Trust in the Summary/Discussion (*lecture*)
- 11:30 Building Epistemic Trust through Written Feedback (*lecture*)
- 12:00 Questions and Discussion
- 12:30 Adjourn

#### **Special Accommodations**

GSPP is compliant with the American with Disabilities Act. Please feel free to notify the committee if any additional accommodations are needed or if you have any dietary restrictions.

#### **Colorado Assessment Society**

The Colorado Assessment Society is an organization of psychologists and psychologists in training dedicated to the advancement of cognitive and personality assessment. The purpose of the society is to foster the training, practice, and development of cognitive and personality assessment as a discipline, science, and profession through meetings, workshops, research, and dissemination of findings. The society advocates high standards of care in the best interests of the client. It also promotes interdisciplinary and inter-professional cooperation. **For information about joining the Colorado Assessment Society, please email us at [coloradoassessmentsociety@gmail.com](mailto:coloradoassessmentsociety@gmail.com)**

**Registration & Payment**  
**Restoring Epistemic Trust Through Therapeutic Assessment**

- To pay by PayPal (using credit card or bank transfer), please click on the link near the bottom of this page that reflects your status and fee.

To register, please fill out this registration form AND the confidentiality agreement and email these two forms as an attachment to [coloradoassessmentsociety@gmail.com](mailto:coloradoassessmentsociety@gmail.com) to reserve your spot in this training. Your registration will be complete when payment is received.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Institution/Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES (*Click the ADDITIONAL selection of \$15 fee if requesting 13 CE credits*)**

Given the current economic situation affecting members of our community, we are offering a low-cost registration option for people who are financially struggling. It is the same price (\$40) as the registration for student members of Colorado Assessment Society (CAS) or Therapeutic Assessment Institute (TAI). We do not want the cost of this workshop to be a barrier to those who want to attend. Please contact us if this fee structure is prohibitive.

[Click here if you are requesting CEs \(\\$15 fee\)](#)

[\\$200 CAS/TAI Members](#)

[\\$240 Non-Members](#)

[\\$80 Non-Member Students](#)

[\\$40 CAS/TAI Student Members, or for those who are struggling financially](#)

**Total Amount of Payment: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Method of Payment: Paypal**

**Registration must be received in full by February 1st, 2021**

**Cancellation Policy**

*Cancellations before the February 1<sup>st</sup> registration deadline will lead to a full refund. Cancellations occurring after February 1<sup>st</sup> will receive a 50% refund. If the event is cancelled for any reason, we will refund your fee in full. We reserve the right to deny participation to any applicant or to cancel the workshop for any reason. You will be sent an email confirmation of your registration so please be sure we have correct email information for you!*

**CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm a participant in a workshop presented by Stephen E. Finn, Ph.D. where confidential information about real clients will be disclosed and sensitive videotapes will be shown. By taking part in the workshop I agree that I will protect the clients' privacy and I will respect the Psychologists' Code of Ethics, in particular by:

- 1) Not capturing or record the confidential client videos that will be used in the workshop. I also will not let others who have not registered for the workshop view these videos when they are streamed.
- 2) Not divulging or discussing any information about these clients outside the workshop.
- 3) Not mentioning in any way the clinical information disclosed in this workshop, should I meet these clients afterwards in a non-professional context.
- 4) Informing the clients about my previous knowledge of them due to my participation to this workshop, should I meet the clients again in a setting related to my practice as a mental health professional.
- 5) Acknowledging that this agreement is not subject to time limitations and agreeing to respect it indefinitely.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
*WITNESS'S SIGNATURE*

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE