



THE HANDBOOK OF  
**Systemic  
Family Therapy**

**VOLUME 1:** The Profession of Systemic Family Therapy

Editor-in-Chief: **Karen S. Wampler**

Associate Co-Editors: **Richard B Miller** and **Ryan B. Seedall**



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# **The Handbook of Systemic Family Therapy**

Volume 1

## **The Profession of Systemic Family Therapy**

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*In memory of Douglas J. Sprenkle  
Educator, scholar, colleague, mentor, and friend.*

---

Karen Smith Wampler, PhD, passed away unexpectedly, just weeks before *The Handbook of Systemic Family Therapy* went to press. The handbook is dedicated to her lasting memory.

Karen served as Editor-in-Chief for all four volumes of *The Handbook of Systemic Family Therapy*. From the beginning, she had a vision of what our field needed to know to move into the future. Her work was finished in late November 2019, just in time for her next adventure in New Zealand and Australia. She was wise in her selection of Co-Editors for each volume: Rick Miller and Ryan Seedall (Volume 1), Lenore McWey (Volume 2), Adrian Blow (Volume 3), and Mudita Rastogi and Reenee Singh (Volume 4). She was grateful for the chance to work with each of these scholars and with her Assistant Editor, Leah W. Maderal. She was delighted and humbled to see “the book” grow to 106 chapters and 292 authors and co-authors. It cheered her heart—there was so much to know and so much to learn about systemic family therapy. She saw this work as her magnum opus, and it is.

Karen had a career as researcher and teacher, mentor, dissertation and thesis advisor, program director, and department chair that spanned 33 years. Her impact on the field of systemic family therapy lives on in these volumes, in her many research publications and chapters, in students she loved and trained, in colleagues who benefited from her wisdom, enthusiasm, and support, and in the many individuals and groups she touched with her kindness, generosity, intelligence, humor, and goodwill.



To paraphrase Shakespeare: “*We shall not look upon her like again.*”

# **About the Editors: *The Handbook of Systemic Family Therapy***

## **Editor-in-Chief**

**Dr. Karen S. Wampler, PhD**, retired as Professor with Tenure and Chair of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University. Professor Emerita at Texas Tech University, she served as Department Chair, MFT Program Director, and the C. R. and Virginia Hutcheson Professor. During her 10 years at the University of Georgia, Dr. Wampler developed the MFT doctoral program as well as the Interdisciplinary MFT Certificate Program, a collaboration with MFT, Social Work, and Counseling. She is past editor of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*. Her primary research interests are the application of attachment theory to couple interaction, family therapy process research, and observational measures of couple and family relationships. She has authored over 50 refereed journal articles and 10 book chapters and has been funded by NIMH. A licensed marriage and family therapist, she is a Fellow of AAMFT, past member of the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, and recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy Award. The Family Therapy Section of NCFR has recognized her with the Distinguished Service to Family Therapy and Kathleen Briggs Mentor awards.

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**Ryan B. Seedall, PhD**, is Associate Professor in the Marriage and Family Therapy Program at Utah State University, having received his SFT training from Brigham Young University (MS) and Michigan State University (PhD). He completed postdoctoral training with Dr. James Anthony in the NIDA-funded Drug Dependence Epidemiology Fellowship Program. His primary program of research focuses on understanding and improving relationship and change processes within the couple relationship and in couple therapy. He aims to improve couple and family relationships through research on couple interaction and support processes, especially within the context of chronic illness. He is also interested in protective family dynamics and prevention efforts,

including ways to reduce mental health disparities. Lastly, he is interested in identifying specific interventions that are useful when working with couples (e.g., enactments) and also client-related factors that are strongly associated with process and outcome in therapy (e.g., attachment and social support). Dr. Seedall has published over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and seven book chapters. He lives in Hyde Park, Utah, with his wife (Ruth) and four children (Spencer, Madelyn, Eliza, and Benjamin).

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#### **Volume 4: Mudita Rastogi and Reenee Singh**

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