

LEAH FORTSON, Ph.D., MDiv.

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Azusa Pacific University
701 E. Foothill Blvd., Azusa, CA 91702

Education

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California 2015 - 2018
Degree: *Master of Divinity*

Fuller Graduate School of Psychology 2010 - 2017
Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California
Degree: *Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology*
Degree: *Doctorate of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology*

California State University, Dominguez Hills, Carson, California 2006 - 2010
Degree: *B.A. Psychology, Socio-Psychological Behaviors Minor*

Teaching Experience

Department of Clinical Psychology 2020 – present
School of Behavioral and Applied Sciences
Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California
Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychology

PPSY 742 Diversity II: Historical and Current Causes of Systemic Differences and Oppression (3 Units) Spring 2019
Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California
Adjunct Professor

Touchstone Integration (4 Units) Winter 2014
Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, California
Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Integration (4 Units) Fall 2014
Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, California
Teaching Assistant

Supervised Clinical Experience

Post-Doctoral Fellow 2017 - 2018
Azusa Pacific University Counseling Center, Azusa, California

- Attend weekly: UCC staff meetings, peer consultation, supervisor’s meeting and 2 hours of individual supervision.
- Conduct 3 intakes per week and 4 hour blocks of urgent care/single sessions.
- Provide individual and couples brief therapy.
- Provide 1 hour of individual supervision to assigned practicum student.
- Facilitate group supervision for practicum students once a month.
- Conduct 2 training seminars for practicum students (one per semester).

- Become familiar with Hanna Levenson's TLDP model (for practicum student supervision).
- Attend conferences/seminars, select books to read for professional development.
- Lead RIO Workshop, Anxiety Toolbox, and possibly co-lead a process oriented and/or skills based group.
- Participate in outreach to the campus community.
- Social Media Project.
- 1 to 2 formal case presentations with video clip.
- Provide consultation (e.g. partner with Residence Life staff).

Doctoral Intern Therapist

2016 - 2017

BIOLA Counseling Center, BIOLA University, La Mirada, California

APA Accredited Internship

- Conduct clinical intake assessments for incoming clients and writing intake assessment report.
- Treatment planning and implementation.
- 24-hour on-call crisis assessment and intervention one week per month.
- Maintain clinical caseload of 10-12 clients for individual psychotherapy, including psychoeducational assessment clients.
- Co-Facilitate a Premarital Couple's group based on Prepare and Enrich curriculum.
- Initiate and facilitate a Single's group for BIOLA University students.
- Drop-in consultation and outreach education presentations.
- Receive 6-8 hours of direct individual and group supervision from licensed psychologists.
- Participate in weekly didactic trainings addressing clinical and crisis skills, multicultural competence, psychological testing, therapist self-care, outreach education, outcomes assessment, and program evaluation.
- Psychological testing and report writing.
- Individual primary supervision of a practicum student.
- Presentation on cross-cultural/cross-ethnic conversations at the Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation.

Psychological Assistant

2014 - 2016

Aim for Breakthrough, Studio City, CA

- Conducted clinical intake assessments for incoming clients.
- Treatment planning and implementation.
- Received weekly supervision from a licensed psychologist.
- Participated in monthly didactic trainings addressing clinical skills, multicultural competence, psychodynamic/psychoanalytic theory and technique, and outreach education.
- Maintained a clinical caseload of 5-10 clients for individual and couple's therapy.

Clinical Trainee

2014 - 2016

Fuller Psychological & Family Services, Pasadena, California

- Conducted clinical intake assessments for incoming clients.
- Maintained a caseload of 10-12 clients for individual, couple's and family therapy.
- Treatment planning and implementation.
- Received weekly supervision from a licensed psychologist.
- Participated in monthly staff meetings and quarterly didactic training addressing integration and clinical skills.

Pre-Internship: Psychotherapy

2014 - 2015

Los Angeles Christian Health Centers, Los Angeles, California

- Conducted clinical intake assessments and crisis assessments and interventions.
- Maintained a caseload of 10-12 clients for individual therapy.

- Conducted individual psychotherapy utilizing modalities such as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Brief Psychodynamic Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Motivational Interviewing
- Received weekly individual and group supervision from a licensed psychologist.
- Participated in monthly staff meetings and weekly didactic training addressing clinical and crisis skills, short-term models of psychotherapy, therapist self-care, multicultural competence, and diagnostic competence.
- Psychological testing and report writing.
- Provided Outreach Education Presentations on the impact of trauma on relationships.
- Co-Facilitated a relapse prevention psychoeducational, didactic group for women recovering from substance abuse and a process group on healthy lifestyles, relationships and choices.
- Part of a Multidisciplinary team of medical doctors, social workers and case managers to determine appropriate treatment plans and wrap around services for clients.

Clerkship: Psychological Assessment 2013 - 2014

Child and Family Guidance Center, Northridge, California

- Conducted Psychological Assessments for children and adolescents
- Interpreted assessment results and integrated results into psychological testing report
- Conducted feedback sessions with clients and parents and provided treatment recommendations for therapists.

Practicum II 2012 - 2013

Emmaus Road Christian Counseling – Dream Center, Los Angeles, California

- Conducted clinical intake assessments for incoming clients.
- Maintained a caseload of 10-12 clients for individual therapy.
- Treatment planning and implementation.
- Conducted individual psychotherapy utilizing modalities such as Psychodynamic Therapy, Object-Relations and Attachment Theories.
- Received weekly group supervision from a licensed psychologist.

Practicum I 2011 - 2012

Fuller Psychological and Family Services, Pasadena, California

- Provided Client-Centered Therapy.
- Maintained 1 client for 10 sessions.
- Received group supervision from a licensed psychologist.
- Video recorded and reviewed weekly sessions.

Supervised Research Experience

Research Intern 2011 - 2017

Center of Community Alliance for Research & Education

City of Hope Hospital, Duarte, California

- Collaborate on DOD funded project with the City of Hope National Medical Center
- Literature review
- Data cleaning and prep work
- Data analysis (SPSS)
- Manuscript writing

Research Fellow (2015-16), Research Assistant (2010-16) 2010 - 2016

Spirituality, Cancer and Health Disparities Lab

Fuller Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, California

Dissertation: The Role of Social Support and Locus of Health Control in Well-being for Breast Cancer Survivors

Thesis: Negative God Concept, God Locus of Health Control and Prostate Cancer Screening Attitudes Among African American Men

- Collaborate on DOD funded project with the City of Hope National Medical Center
- Literature review
- Data cleaning and prep work
- Data analysis (SPSS)
- Manuscript writing
- Co-lead weekly lab meetings
- Manage and assist other students with lab projects

Research Assistant 2008 - 2010

Women's Wellness Study & HIV Prevention Study

California State University, Dominguez Hills, Carson, California

- Created online survey (survey monkey)
- Recruitment
- Study administration
- Coded transcripts (qualitative thematic analysis)
- Data entry
- Data analysis (SPSS),
- Presented oral and poster presentations at national and local conferences.

Research Assistant Summer 2009

Evolutionary Psychology Lab

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

- Data entry
- Data analysis (SPSS)
- Literature review
- Presented at lab meetings
- Presented research findings orally at a local conference

Other Professional Experience

Associate Director of Spiritual Care 2019

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California

- Provide pastoral counseling
- Respond to pastoral care needs including but not limited to hospital visitation, prayer, grief support, etc.
- Lead an evening chapel
- Preach in chapels occasionally
- Participate in the care team
- Attend weekly pastoral staff meetings
- Attend weekly all staff meetings

Associate Campus Pastor of Pastoral Care & Counseling 2018 - 2019

Azusa Pacific University, Azusa, California

- Provide pastoral counseling
- Respond to pastoral care needs including but not limited to hospital visitation, prayer, grief support, etc.
- Lead an evening chapel
- Preach in chapels occasionally
- Participate in the care team
- Attend weekly pastoral staff meetings
- Attend weekly all staff meetings

Substitute Teacher 2015 – 2016

Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, California

- Lesson planning and teaching K-12 students
- Managing and maintaining safety, order and classroom rules

Student Spiritual Formation Team Leader 2015 - 2016

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California

- Led small groups focused on student formation
- Prayed with students
- Provided pastoral counseling for students
- Participated in weekly chapel services
- Engaged with the Fuller community and the larger Pasadena community

Chaplain 2011 - 2015

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California

- The pastoral care team representative for the school of psychology
- Led small groups for student formation
- Prayed with students
- Provided pastoral counseling for students

Student Development Representative 2013 - 2013

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California

- Responsible for alumni and student relations
- Marketing and fundraising
- Data collection

Multicultural Liaison, Psychology Graduate Union 2011 - 2012

Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California

- Managed all multicultural concerns of students
- Served on the admissions committee for new student applicants
- Attended monthly Psychology Graduate Union Meetings
- Participated in School of Psychology events and socials

Special Education Trainee (Substitute) 2007 - 2010

Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, California

- Worked with a diverse student population with developmental delays including mental and physical disabilities

Library Assistant 2005 - 2007

Los Angeles Unified School District, Los Angeles, California

- General administrative duties and cataloging books
- Assisted students, faculty and staff in locating materials

Telephone Interviewer 2004 - 2005

Meritz Research, Carson, California

- Conducted telephone interviews with consumers of various products and services such as Bank of America, GMC, etc.

Related Volunteer Experience

- Orphanage Caretaker** June 2013
El Sauzal Orphanage, Ensenada, Mexico
- Cared for children and staff
 - Provided emotional support
 - Led community support groups and activities
 - Cooked meals and cleaned facilities

Honors and Awards

- **Frank and Till Tranzow Research Fellowship** 2015 - 2016
Fuller Theological Seminary, Graduate School of Psychology, Pasadena, California
- **Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC)** 2008 - 2010
Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research (USTAR)
Program Grant Number: NIH/MARC T34 GM008683
- **National Institute of Health (NIH)** 2007 - 2010
Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE)
California State University, Dominguez Hills
Program Grant Number: NIH/MBRS R25 GM62252
- **Travel Grant** June 2008 & 2009
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in the Sciences
- **Honor's Nominee** May 2009
California State University, Dominguez Hills Honor's Convocation

Publications and Presentations

Fortson, L. (2019). Sister circle: Spirituality and community. In C. Fort and L. Fortson (chairs), *Sister circle: A social networks approach to professional identity development and soul care*. Presented at the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.

Fortson, L. S., Abernethy, A. D., Ashing, K. T. (2019). *Social support, locus of health control, and well-being in breast cancer survivors*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Fortson, L. S. (2018). An integrative approach to psychotherapy: A case study of Ms. B. *Journal of Psychology and Theology*, 46(2), 127-132. doi: 10.1177/0091647118767983

Fortson, L. S. (2017). *The impact of race-related stress on the trainee of color*. Presented at the Organization for Counseling Center Directors in Higher Education (OCCDHE).

Hwang, J. K. & **Fortson, L. S.** (2017). *Dialogue and relationships in the face of race-related stress*. Presented at the Student Congress on Racial Reconciliation (SCORR).

Abernethy, A. D., **Fortson, L. S.**, & Brown, A. W. (2016). *Negative god concept, god locus of health control and prostate cancer screening attitudes among African American men*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Willingham, M., Bennett, M., **Fortson, L.**, Hwang Koo, J., & Son, H. (2016). *Deconstructing Safety in Social Justice Training Dialogues: Strategies for Deconstructing Safety and Reconstructing Expectations for Self-Reflection and Engagement in Courageous Conversations*. Presented at the Organization for Counseling Center Directors in Higher Education (OCCDHE).

Abernethy, A. D., **Fortson, L. S.**, Flores, N. J., & Ashing, K. T. (2016). *The Influence of Health Professional Control and Quality of Care on Well-being Among Breast Cancer Survivors*. Presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM).

Fortson, L. S., Abernethy, A. D., Ashing, K. T. (2016). *Social support, locus of health control, and well-being in breast cancer survivors*. Presented (oral/poster) at the American Psycho-oncology Society (APOS).

Fortson, L. S., Abernethy, A. D., Rebeck, R., Thomas, R., Leaks, B., & Brown, A. (2014). *Religion's impact on attitudes toward cancer screening*. Presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM).

Fortson, L. S. (2015). *Black like me: A conversation on multicultural competence from the lens of the other*. Presented to the Los Angeles Christian Health Centers team of mental health providers.

Fortson, L. S. (2015). *Something happened to me: Overcoming the effects of traumatic life events*. Presented at the Los Angeles Mission.

Fortson, L. S., Abernethy, A.D., Rebeck, R., Thomas, R., Leaks, B., Brown, S. (2013). *The role of religiousness on cancer screening attitudes*. Presented at the Travis Research Institute Student Research Colloquium.

Fortson, L., & Paxton, K. (2010). *Adolescent sex talk and sexual behaviors among female college students*. Presented at California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) Student Research Day.

Fortson, L., Bolden, S., & Paxton, K. (2010). *Depression, anxiety and mental health promotion in a sample of urban college Women*. Presented at CSUDH Student Research Day.

Fortson, L., Bolden, S., & Paxton, K. (2010). *African American women engaging in HIV risk behaviors with at-risk male partners*. Presented at the National Council for Black Scholars.

Bolden, S., **Fortson, L.**, & Paxton, K. (2009). *HIV risk behaviors among African American women with at-risk male partners*. Presented at CSUDH Student Research Day.

Fortson, L., Gildersleeve, K., Larson, C., & Haselton, M. (2009). *Relationship between testosterone and men's sexual and romantic histories*. Presented at University of California Los Angeles Summer Research Program.

Bolden, S., **Fortson, L.**, & Paxton, K. (2009). *Empowering wellness: Innovative strategies for the mental health promotion of urban women*. Presented at the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in the Sciences.

Fortson, L., & Paxton, K. (2009). *The relationship between sex talk and protective sexual behaviors in female college students.* Presented at the Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR).

Fortson, L., Claybrook, M., & Furusa, M. (2009). *Obama: King's dream realized.* Presented at CSUDH Student Research Day.

Fortson, L., Claybrook, M., & Furusa, M. (2009). *Martin Luther King's influence on Barack Obama's political discourse.* Presented at the National Council for Black Studies (NCBS).

Professional Memberships

Christian Association for Psychological Studies	2020
American Psychological Association	2019
California Psychological Association	2017
Society of Behavioral Medicine	2014
San Gabriel Valley Psychological Association	2013
National Council for Black Studies	2009
Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Sciences	2008
Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society	2008