



Child Development Through the Lens of Bowen Theory

Human relationships function as if they are governed by two counterbalancing life forces: a built-in life growth force toward individuality and the differentiation of a separate “self,” and an equally intense force for emotional closeness. Variations in the interactions between the two forces are the primary influences on the degree of adaptive capacity a growing child develops.

Among key insights in Bowen’s studies were the following: (1) the emotional forces and patterns observed in schizophrenic families were only a more intense version of what played out in all families, (2) emotional programming was found to be the principal mechanism for transmitting family emotional strengths and weaknesses to the next generation, (3) a child’s development in the current generation was powerfully influenced by the a multigenerational transmission process that preceded him or her, and (4) a therapeutic innovation termed differentiation of self in one’s own family shifted therapy from the therapeutic relationship to the real world.

A summary of a Bowen theory of development is that a life course is determined by the degree of unresolved attachment to one’s family, a degree of which exists in all people, the amount of anxiety associated with the lack of resolution, and the way that anxiety is coped with.

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Spring Conference
April 26, 2019
Daniel V. Papero, Ph.D



601 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Presentation Schedule

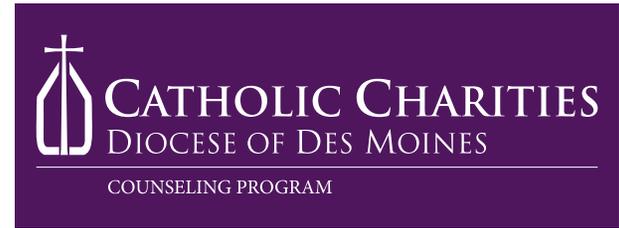
Friday, October 5, 2018 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Orchard Place
925 Porter Ave. (east of the airport)
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

Parking available at Nahas Aquatic Center & South Side Library next door on SW Porter Ave.

Registration	8:30 am
Presentation Begins	9:00 am
Break	10:30 - 10:45 am
Lunch	12:15-1:15 pm
Break	2:45 - 3:00 pm
Presentation Concludes	4:30 pm

BOWEN FAMILY SYSTEMS BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE
hosted by



Child Development Through the Lens of Bowen Theory

By: Dr. Michael E. Kerr, MD
Director, Bowen Theory Academy



October 5, 2018 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

LOCATION:
Orchard Place
925 Porter Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

Registration Form

Registration deadline: October 1, 2018

Pre-registration is required in advance to receive lunch.

___ **Professionals:** \$100

___ **Full-time Students OR Religious/Parish Staff:** \$50

**Continuing Education Units are available. (No additional fee)*

Name _____

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Organization/Profession _____

Student Institution _____

Please attach information for all attendees.

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Mail in registration to: Center for Life Counseling
601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309
or call to register: 515-237-5045

Cancellations received at least five working days before the event are refundable by half per registrant. Please note that if you register and do not attend you are still liable for full payment.

More information online at

www.catholiccharitiesdm.org

About the Presenter



Michael E. Kerr, M.D. is a family psychiatrist. He is Director of the Bowen Theory Academy in Islesboro, Maine and Emeritus Director of the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family in Washington, D.C. The Academy's mission is primarily to address the distinction between systems thinking and cause-and-effect thinking as applied to the family and other human relationship systems. Psychiatrist Murray Bowen originated Bowen Family Systems Theory based on extensive family research. The most important practical application of the theory is the process differentiation of self. Differentiation is a blueprint for changing oneself in ways that have a constructive impact on others and on the overall functioning of a group.

Dr. Kerr co-authored with Dr. Bowen a widely used text entitled, Family Evaluation: An Approach Based on Bowen Theory. The book was excerpted in The Atlantic Monthly in 1988. He has also published many book chapters and journal articles about how families function. His primary research interests are the interplay of mind, body, and relationships and its role in health and disease and the interface between Bowen theory and the natural sciences. He has lectured on Bowen theory and its various applications all over the United States and overseas. One of his strengths is presenting theoretical ideas in a way that most people can identify as relevant to their interests and activities, most particularly to their own families.

Continuing Education

This conference meets the criteria of an approved continuing education program for mental health practice in Nebraska and Iowa. The conference is approved for six hours of C.E.U.s. For further information contact: Sharon Bandstra, LISW, 515-237-5045 or sbandstra@CatholicCharitiesDM.org.



COUNSELING PROGRAM

Catholic Charities Counseling Program is a program within Catholic Charities, Diocese of Des Moines. Our professional therapists work with individuals, couples and families of all faiths regarding a number of issues including depression, anxiety, stress, child behavior problems, marital conflict, eating disorders, sexual abuse, criminal behavior, addictions, health problems and spiritual crisis. Bilingual counseling is also available. Most insurance is accepted. The program also serves those without insurance through a sliding scale fee structure based on income and family size.

About Catholic Charities

Founded in 1924, Catholic Charities, Des Moines Diocese, is dedicated to offering help and hope to those in need throughout central and southwest Iowa. Catholic Charities, a United Way agency, provides individual and family counseling, food pantry, refugee resettlement services, domestic violence and sexual assault shelter and services, family emergency shelter, and more. Facilities include Catholic Charities Emergency Family Shelter, Catholic Charities Outreach Center, and Catholic Charities Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Program in Council Bluffs, IA.

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