

# Bowen Theory:

## A view from the 21st Century Science, Differentiation, Schizophrenia, and Symptom Development

This conference draws on four sources to present a 21st Century view of Bowen Theory. The first source is from science. It reviews a relatively new theory of how cancers develop, called Tissue Organization Field Theory. This challenge is important to Bowen Theory because it represents a shift from cause-and-effect thinking to systems thinking.

The second source is a recent biography of Denis Diderot. Part of the discussions will be to challenge the audience to estimate Diderot's basic level of differentiation and to present the evidence the estimate is based upon.

The third source concerns the so-called negative symptoms of schizophrenia. (Delusions and hallucinations are referred to as the positive symptoms of schizophrenia. The negative symptoms revolve around the phenomenon of avolition, the severe lack of initiative to accomplish purposeful tasks.) Bowen Theory's concept of "self" or lack thereof, is a better way to conceptualize negative symptoms.

The final source is a novel by John Williams entitled "Stoner." It may be a novel, but it is consistent with the way Bowen Theory conceptualizes symptom development. It illustrates that it is essential to understand changes in the family/social context as an extremely important process in symptom development.

### Presentation Schedule

**Friday, October 11, 2019 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

**Mercy College of Health Sciences,  
Brennan Hall Auditorium  
928 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309**

*Parking: Student parking - entrance on Crocker, west of 7th Street.*

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

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Daniel V. Papero, Ph.D



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BOWEN FAMILY SYSTEMS BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
hosted by



# Bowen Theory: A view from the 21st Century

## Science, Differentiation, Schizophrenia, and Symptom Development

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



Oct. 11, 2019 • 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

### LOCATION:

**Mercy College of Health Sciences,  
Brennan Hall Auditorium  
928 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50309**

## Registration Form

**Registration deadline: Oct. 7, 2019**

*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)*

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Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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Organization/Profession \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please attach information for all attendees.*

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**Mail in registration to: Catholic Charities - 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.*

## About the Presenter

Dr. Kerr's latest book is **Bowen Theory's Secrets: Revealing the Hidden Life of Families** published in 2019.



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 (formerly known as Center for Life Counseling) 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

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For more information about Catholic Charities and its programs, call 515-244-3761 or go to

**[www.catholiccharitiesdm.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org)**