

Book Review

Nelson, T., & Winawer, H. (Eds.) (2014). *Critical Topics in Family Therapy: AFTA Monograph Series Highlights*. New York: Springer.

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Critical Topics in Family Therapy consists of chapters that evolved from essays in American Family Therapy Academy Monographs (AFTA) published between 2005 and 2011. It is the first in a planned series of volumes entitled *AFTA SpringerBriefs in Family Therapy*.

The volume is divided into six parts, addressing issues family issues in diverse contexts, including 1) families in war zones, 2) community practice, 3) natural disasters, 4) neuroscience and family therapy; 5) social justice, and 6) gender and sexuality issues. Contributors are primarily practitioners, including clinical psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, social workers, and academics.

Strengths of this work are the variety of issues covered and coverage of unique topics not often addressed in the literature – for instance therapy involving erotic fantasy and “kinky sexuality.” Another strength is the book’s devotion to chapters concerning expanding the definition of “family” to include, same-sex couples and the inclusion of four chapters devoted to the linkage of clinical work to community practice, two fields of practice often considered virtually mutually exclusive.

The work is of particular interest to social workers engaged in clinical practice and social work educators teaching clinical practice. It would therefore be most appropriate for use in MSW-level advanced practice courses or electives focusing on preparing social work students for a career in clinical practice.

The editors of this work are Dr. Thorana S. Nelson and Ms. Hinda Winawer. Dr. Nelson is a faculty member in the Department of Family, Consumer, and Human Development at Utah State University, and is the author of numerous papers in the field of Family and Marriage Therapy.

Ms. Winawer holds the MSW degree and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and past president of AFTA (2011-2013). She is also co-founder and Executive Director of the Center for Family, Community, & Social Justice, Inc.