

The Center for Integrative Psychology

At Alliant International University

Presents

Agency Life: Dialogues on Hopes, Struggles, and Possibilities

with Dr. Craig Smith

Agencies serve many important functions in mental health. They provide vital services to clients who couldn't otherwise afford to pay for them. They are a source of supervision and clinical hours to PsyD, PhD, and MFT trainees and interns. They also are the first place trainees begin to experiment with what they learned from graduate school and to launch into the wider profession. Sometimes agencies can be the source of inspiration and useful training and sometimes they can be disappointing and lead to frustration.

This workshop will provide an opportunity to talk about and listen to fellow colleagues' experiences in mental health agencies. Usually these discussions take place around the water cooler and are limited to those in one's immediate situation. The idea for this workshop is to provide a safe, respectful place to dialogue with a wide spectrum of colleagues about agency life. We are inviting trainees, interns, teachers, supervisors, program directors, administrators, and licensed mental health professionals. We are hoping people from many different graduate programs and agencies in San Diego will attend.

After the wine & cheese social gathering from 6 - 6:30, we will have a brief introduction at 6:30. Then we will have small group discussions among the different groups mentioned above and finally a large group discussion. You will be invited to share some of your original hopes for getting into the profession, some of your struggles and disappointments, and some small ways you have found to survive and/or thrive within agency life. We want everybody to feel safe and to be heard. So, we will be asking that people take ownership of their own experience and avoid large generalizations or blaming statements. The aim of this workshop is to provide a comfortable place where people can feel heard, supported, and can learn some new ways of enhancing agency experience.

Craig Smith, Ph.D., LMFT will facilitate the discussion. Dr. Smith is a graduate of CSPP-San Diego and teaches at Alliant International University (AIU) and at SDSU in the MFT departments. He has either worked within or consulted with agencies since 1981, has supervised trainees from both AIU and SDSU and also has a private practice in Solana Beach.



Friday, **May 1**, 2009

6:30pm - 8:30pm (Green Hall)

~ Wine & Cheese Reception begins at 6:00pm ~

CSPP at Alliant Intl University

Scripps Ranch Campus

10455 Pomerado Road

Scripps Ranch, 92131

Your \$10 donation is appreciated

Please RSVP to integrativepsychology@alliant.edu

To learn more about the CIP and to get directions to this event, visit www.integrativepsychology.net

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