

**Ashlie M. Lester**  
LesterA@missouri.edu  
573-882-1301

## **Education**

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- 2013** **Doctorate of Philosophy**, Human Development and Family Studies  
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO  
Dissertation: Religious Similarity and Relationship Quality
- 2004** **Master of Science**, Family Studies & Human Services, Marriage and Family Therapy  
Specialization  
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- 2002** **Bachelor of Science**, Human Development & Family Studies  
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO  
Summa Cum Laude

## **Professional Employment**

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- 2014** **Assistant Teaching Professor, Director of Graduate Studies**, Department of Human  
Development and Family Studies, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

## **Publications**

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- James, A., **Lester, A.**, & Brooks, G. (2012). The effects of denomination on religious socialization for Jewish youth. *Youth and Society*. Advance online publication. doi: 0.1177/0044118X12457084
- Schramm, D. G., & **Lester, A. M.** (in press). Religious heterogamy. C. L. Shehan (Ed.). *The Encyclopedia of Family Studies*.
- Lester, A.** (in press). Catholicism. L. H. Ganong, M. Coleman, & J. G. Golson (Eds.). *The Social History of the American Family*.

## **Papers in Progress**

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- James, A. G., Fine, M. A., & **Lester, A. M.** (in revision). Investigating the role of perceived quality mentorship on the relation between religious orientation and moral reasoning across Christian denominations.

**Lester, A. M., & Schramm, D. G.** An empirical study of the transformational model of religious socialization.

**Lester, A. M., & Proulx, C. M.** Religious similarity and relationship quality.

### **Professional Presentations (Juried)**

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James, A. G., **Lester, A. M.**, & Brooks, D. G. (2012, November). Effects of denomination on religious socialization for Jewish youth. Paper presented at the annual meeting of The National Council on Family Relations, Phoenix, AZ.

**Lester, A. M., & Schramm, D. G.** (2012, November). An empirical study of the transformational model of religious socialization. Paper presented at the annual meeting of The National Council on Family Relations, Phoenix, AZ.

**Lester, A. M. & Proulx, C. M.** An empirical test of the relational spirituality model. Poster to be presented at the annual meeting of The National Council on Family Relations, Baltimore, MD.

### **Professional Presentations (Invited)**

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**Lester, A. M. & Lester, D. C.** (2011, May). Integrating the family into wilderness therapy. Presented at the annual training of Outward Bound, Ely, MN.

### **Research Experience**

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2009-2011     **Graduate Research Assistant;** Supervised by Dr. Christine Proulx. Tasks include managing and analyzing data with large, longitudinal data sets (i.e., Marital Instability Over the Life Course); conducting analyses in SPSS.

2011            **Graduate Research Assistant;** Supervised by Dr. David Schramm. Tasks include managing and analyzing data with large, longitudinal, multi-informant data sets (i.e., National Study of Youth and Religion); conducting analyses in SPSS and AMOS; preparing manuscripts in the area of religious socialization of youth.

### **Teaching and Academic Experience**

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2014            **Assistant Teaching Professor,** University of Missouri, Department of Human Development and Family Studies

- HDFS 1610: Intimate Relationships and Marriage
- HDFS 8100: Foundations and Principles of Family and Community Service

- 2014      **Adjunct Instructor**, Stephens College, M. Ed. in Counseling Program
- MFT 520: The Family Life Cycle
  - COUN 600: Child and Adolescent Therapy
- 2009-2013      **Graduate Instructor**, University of Missouri, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
- HDFS 1600: Foundations of Family Studies (2 semesters)
  - HDFS 1610: Intimate Relationships and Marriage (face-to-face 7 semesters; online 1 semester)
  - HDFS 2400: Principles of Human Development (online, self-paced, Writing-Intensive course, continuously since May 2011)
  - HDFS 4620: Family Interaction (face-to-face 1 semester; online 1 semester)
- 2011-2013      **Internship Coordinator**, University of Missouri, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
- HDFS 3730/4993: Undergraduate Field Practicum/Internship
- 2009-2011      **Connecting for Baby Retreat Facilitator**, University of Missouri, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
- Facilitate weekend retreats for low-income couples with children
  - Teach communication, conflict resolution, and relationship maintenance skills
- 2008; 2011      **Graduate Teaching Assistant (Lab Instructor)**, University of Missouri, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
- HDFS 2400: Principles of Human Development (Writing Intensive course; 2 semesters)

### **University and Departmental Service**

- 2014      Chair, Graduate Studies Committee
- 2014      Member, Technology and Social Media Committee
- 2014      Graduate Teaching Seminar Facilitator, Mentor for 1610 Graduate Instructors
- 2014      Advisor, Family and Community Services Master's program, Great Plains IDEA
- 2008-2011      Secretary, MU chapter of *National Council on Family Relations*

### **Clinical Experience**

- 2008-present **Marriage and Family Therapist**; *Lawrence, Oliver, and Associates, Columbia, MO*. Tasks include facilitating individual, couple, and family therapy for clients facing a variety of issues, including parent-child problems, substance abuse, sexual dysfunction, and mood disorders; empower clients to uncover their strengths and re-align their relationships; provide psychoeducation regarding relationship enhancement, substance use, communication skills, and problem-solving.
- 2006-2008 **Reunion Family Therapist**, *Aspen Achievement Academy, Loa, UT*. Tasks include leading a three-day intensive reunion process for parents and adolescents completing the wilderness therapy program; facilitating psychoeducational and multi-family group therapy, individual and family therapy; developing and presenting weekly live internet parenting classes about communication, adolescent development, and substance abuse; and creating a comprehensive marketing booklet.
- 2005-2006 **Team Therapist**, *Aspen Ranch, Loa, UT*. Tasks include leading a multidisciplinary treatment team to coordinate treatment in the academic, residential, and clinical aspects of the residential setting; co-facilitating equine assisted psychotherapy and recreational therapy groups; providing individual, group, family, and multi-family group therapy to adolescent females struggling with trauma, substance abuse, defiance, and poor parent-child relationships.

### **Honors & Awards**

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- 2008 Piper Graduate Fellowship (\$10,000), University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.
- 2002-2008 Kappa Omicron Nu Honor Society, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.
- 1998-2002 Bright Flight Scholarship (\$8000), University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

### **Professional Memberships**

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*National Council on Family Relations*

*American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy*, Clinical Member

*Missouri Association for Marriage and Family Therapy*, Clinical Member

**Professional References**

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**Teresa Cooney, PhD**, Professor and Chair, Sociology, University of Colorado-Denver  
Teresa.cooney@ucdenver.edu

**Lawrence Ganong, PhD**, Professor and Co-Chair, Human Development and Family Studies  
ganongl@missouri.edu

**Christine Proulx, PhD**, Associate Professor, Human Development and Family Studies  
proulxc@missouri.edu