

## QUINN K. SMELSER, PhD, NCC, LPC (VA/DC/TX), LCPC (MD), RPT-S

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### LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Licensed Clinical Professional Counseling (LCPC), Maryland, #LC11053, Expires 01/2024

*Approved Clinical Supervisor*

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Washington, DC, #PRC200001235, Expires 12/23

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Virginia, #0701007878, Expires 06/2024

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Texas, #72069, Expires 01/2024

Registered Play Therapist Supervisor (RPT-S)

National Certified Counselor (NCC)

### EDUCATION

- 2015 - 2020     Doctor of Philosophy, Counseling  
The George Washington University, Washington, DC (CACREP-Accredited)  
*Chair and Advisor: Richard Lanthier, Ph.D.*  
*Defense Date: March 2020*  
*Dissertation: Playful Behaviors in Fragile Families: How Does Play in Mother-Child Interactions Impact Adolescent Adjustment?*
- 2013             Master of Arts, Professional Counseling  
Specialization: Play Therapy  
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX (CACREP-Accredited)
- 2008             Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, With Honors  
The University of Texas, Austin, TX

### SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

#### *Refereed Chapters in Books:*

- Smelser, Q. K.** (2023, July). Identity and loss: Where intersectionality and disenfranchised grief converge. In R.B. Turner and S. Stauffer (Eds). *Disenfranchised Grief: Examining Social, Cultural, and Relational Impacts*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Smelser, Q.K.** (2021, July). Exploring gender and sexuality in play therapy. In E. Gil and A. Drewes (Eds). *Culture and Play Therapy* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). New York, NY: Guilford.
- Gil, E. & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2020, January). Prescriptive play therapy for sexually abused children. In H. Kaduson and D. Cange (Eds.). *Prescriptive Play Therapy: Tailoring Interventions for Specific Childhood Problems*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Gil, E. & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2020, January). Prescriptive play therapy for children with problem sexual behaviors. In H. Kaduson and D. Cange (Eds.). *Prescriptive Play Therapy: Tailoring Interventions for Specific Childhood Problems*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Gil, E. & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2018). Puppets in family therapy with a case of trauma and sexual abuse. In A. Drewes and C. Schaefer (Eds.). *Puppet Play Therapy: A Practical Guidebook*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Ybañez-Llorente, K. & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2018). Getting started: Intake and clinical assessment in family therapy. In B. Flamez and J. Hicks (Eds.). *Marriage, Couple, and Family Therapy: Theory, Skills, Assessment, and Application* (Chapter 7). San Diego, CA: Cognella Academic Publishing.

#### *Refereed Journal Articles:*

- Parker, M.M., Glickman, C.F., **Smelser, Q.K.**, & DeRaedt, M. (2021, January). Therapeutic or traumatic: An exploratory study of play therapists' perceptions of toy guns and aggressive toys in the playroom. *International Journal of Play Therapy*.
- Parker, M.M., Hergenrather, K., **Smelser, Q.K.**, & Kelly, C. (2021, January). Exploring child centered play therapy and trauma: A systematic review of literature. *International Journal of Play Therapy*.

- Kjellstrand Hartwig, E. & **Smelser**, Q.K. (2018, January). Practitioner perspectives in animal-assisted counseling. *Journal of Mental Health Counseling*.
- Ybañez-Llorente, K. & **Smelser**, Q.K. (2014, April). Client as expert: Incorporating spirituality using the Tree Ring Technique. *Counseling and Values Journal*.

#### *Publications in Process*

- Parker, M.M., **Smelser**, Q.K., & Kelly, C. (2022). Exploring child centered play therapy and trauma: A meta-analysis of the last 20 years.

#### *Other Refereed Publications:*

- Smelser**, Q. (2014, May). Equality: The only value acceptable in session. *Counseling Today Online*.  
<http://ct.counseling.org/2014/05/equality-the-only-value-acceptable-in-session/>

#### *Presentations at Professional Meetings:*

##### INVITED TALKS

- Parker, M., Ray, D., Taylor, L., **Smelser**, Q.K., & Opiola, K. (2020, September). *The impact of COVID-19 on childhood mental health*. Panelist for *Conversations that Matter* hosted by the GW Graduate School of Education and Human Development.
- Smelser**, Q.K. (2019, August). *Play therapy for at-risk youth & Play therapy for sexual and gender identity exploration*. Presented at the Norma Leben Play Therapy Symposium for the University of Texas School of Social Work, Austin, TX.
- Smelser**, Q.K. (2019, June). *Play therapy for sexual and gender identity exploration*. Presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Play Therapy Training Institute, Arlington, VA.
- Gil, E., Altwater, R., **Smelser**, Q.K., DeRaedt, M., Bryan, H. & Shaw, J. (2019, June). *Effective and innovative play therapy techniques: A panel presentation*. Presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Play Therapy Training Institute, Arlington, VA.
- Smelser**, Q.K. (2018, June). *Play therapy for sexual and gender identity exploration*. Presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Play Therapy Training Institute, Arlington, VA.
- Gil, E., Bryan, H., Goldin, M., Mcleod, A., & **Smelser**, Q.K. (2018, June). *The play therapist goes to court: Clinical preparation for testifying*. Presented at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Play Therapy Training Institute, Arlington, VA.
- Shaw, J., Cobb, J., Lefevbre-MeGevna, J., & **Smelser**, Q.K. (2017, June). *Choosing an effective play therapy model: Understanding their strengths and differences*. Panel presented at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Play Therapy Training Institute, Arlington, VA.
- Bobby, C. L., Kimbel, T. M., & **Smelser**, Q.K. (2017, March). *Counselor education in CACREP-accredited programs: Current issues and information*. Presented at the American Counseling Association (ACA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.

##### NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- Smelser**, Q.K. (2020, December). *Play therapy for sexual and gender identity exploration*. Presented at the Diversity in Play Therapy Summit, Atlanta, GA.
- Ybanez-Llorente, K., Leggett, E., **Smelser**, Q. K., & Roaten, G. (2019, October). *Supervising novice counselors navigating ethical and legal dilemmas when counseling youth*. Presented at the Association for Counselor Education and Supervision Bi-Annual Conference (ACES), Seattle, WA.
- Parker, M. M. Hergenrather, K., **Smelser**, Q. K., & Kelly, C. T. (2019, October). *Child-Centered play therapy and trauma: Examining 20 years of research*. Poster presented at the Association for Play Therapy (APT) Annual International Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Smelser**, Q.K. (2017, October). *Exploring gender and sexuality using play therapy*. Discussion group conducted at the Association for Play Therapy (APT) Annual International Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
- Smelser**, Q.K. (2017, July). *Using play therapy and family interventions for gender expansive children*. Presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling Conference (ACAC), Arlington, VA.
- Smelser**, Q.K. (2017, July). *Reframing 'At-Risk' to trauma-informed care: A play therapy approach*. Presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Association for Child and Adolescent Counseling Conference (ACAC), Arlington, VA.

- Smelser, Q.K.** (2017, April). *Taking the disorder out of gender identity: Exploring gender using play-based therapies for children*. Presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Human Rights Campaign's Time to Thrive Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Chan, C. D., Brown, M. H., Erby, A. N., Schauss, E., & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2017, March). *Applying ambiguous loss to LGBTQ+ persons in the coming-out processes and transitions*. Presented at the American Counseling Association (ACA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Smelser, Q. K.,** Durant, S. G., Emmanuel, D., & Jain, K. (2016, October). *Building counselor resilience: The importance of grief work in counselor educations and supervision*. Presented at the Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES) Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Smelser, Q.K. & Chan, C.** (2016, September). *Taking the disorder out of gender identity: Exploring gender and sexuality using play-based and creative therapies for children*. Presented at the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC) Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- Chan, C. & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2016, June). *Framing growth and resilience in ambiguous loss*. Presented at the Association for Humanistic Counseling (AHC) Annual Conference, Portland, OR.
- Eberts, S., Ybañez-Llorente, K., & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2016, February). *Group work with children and adolescents: Common process issues*. Presented at the Association for Specialists in Group Work (ASGW) Annual Conference, Alexandria, VA.
- Ybañez-Llorente, K. & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2013, July). *Incorporating client spirituality in counseling*. Paper presented at the American Mental Health Counselors Association (AMHCA) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C.

#### STATE AND LOCAL PRESENTATIONS

- Smelser, Q.K.** (2022, July). *Play therapy for LGBTQ+ Youth and Families*. Presented Brighter Futures Counseling, Kentucky.
- Smelser, Q.K.** (2020, November). *Play therapy for sexual and gender identity exploration*. Presented at the Maryland/DC Association for Play Therapy (APT) Virtual Fall Conference—Cultivating Cultural Humility in Play Therapy Supervision and Treatment, Maryland.
- Smelser, Q.K.** (2016, February). *Awareness of equity and privilege among counseling professionals*. Poster presented at the Educational Symposium for Research and Innovations (ESRI), The Graduate School of Education and Human Development at The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
- Smelser, Q.K. & Aaron, R.** (2016, April). *Play therapy with families of at-risk youth: Re-connecting families through play-based and expressive interventions*. Presented at the Texas Association for Play Therapy (TAPT) Annual Conference, Austin, TX.
- Ybañez-Llorente, K., & **Smelser, Q.K.** (2013, November). *Incorporating client spirituality in counseling*. Poster presented at the Texas Counseling Association (TCA) Professional Growth Conference, San Antonio, TX.

#### Selected Honors and Awards:

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|-------------------|---|
| <b>2021</b>       | The George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Chi Sigma Iota, Distinguished Alumni Award |
| <b>2020</b>       | Loyola University Maryland, Outstanding Online Course Design—University Wide  |
| <b>2016-2019</b>  | The George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development Merit Scholarship Recipient                 |
| <b>2017</b>       | Association for Play Therapy Leadership Academy Graduate and Honoree  |
| <b>2016</b>       | The George Washington University Graduate School of Education and Human Development Travel Grant Recipient                      |
| <b>2013</b>       | Texas State University Association for Student Government Rising STAR Travel Grant Recipient                                    |
| <b>2012- 2013</b> | Texas State University Graduate Scholarship Recipient   |
| <b>2012</b>       | Texas State University Rising STAR Nominee  |
| <b>2008</b>       | Phi Beta Kappa, The University of Texas at Austin   |
| <b>2007-2008</b>  | Bernard Rapoport Fellow, The University of Texas at Austin  |

## INSTRUCTION AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### FACULTY EXPERIENCE:

**08/2023 – present**      **Assistant Professor**—Department of Counseling, School of Behavioral and Social Sciences, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX

**06/2021- 05/2023**      **Lecturer**—Graduate School of Education and Human Development, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

*Courses Instructed:*

CNSL 6170 (in-person)	Grief and Loss
CNSL 6173 (in-person)	Counseling Interview Skills
HDEV 6108 (online & in-person)	Lifespan Human Development
HDEV 6109/6110 (online & in-person)	Child and Adolescent Development

**08/2019- 07/2021**      **Clinical Assistant Professor**—School of Education  
**Coordinator of Clinical Experiences**—School Counseling Program  
Loyola University Maryland

*Courses Instructed:*

GC 701(online & in-person)	Techniques of Counseling
GC703 (online)	Lifestyle, Career Development, & Decision Making
GC 704 (online)	Theories of Counseling
GC 706 (online & in-person)	Group Counseling
GC 773 (online)	Diagnosis & Treatment Planning

**08/2016- 08/2019**      **Instructor/Limited Faculty**—Graduate School of Education and Human Development, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

*Courses Instructed:*

CNSL 6100 (online)	Independent Study in Severe Mental Illness and Employment
CNSL 6155 (online)	Career Counseling
CNSL 6179 (in-person)	Children and Loss
HDEV 6109/6110 (in-person)	Child and Adolescent Development

**08/2015- 08/2017**      **Teaching Assistant**—Graduate School of Education and Human Development, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

*Teaching Assistant:*

CNSL 6153 (in-person)	Counseling Interviewing Skills
CNSL 6161 (hybrid)	Group Counseling
CNSL 6174 (hybrid)	Trauma and Crisis Intervention
CNSL 6155 (in-person & online)	Career Counseling
CNSL 6159 (online)	Psychosocial Adaptations
CNSL 6381 (in-person)	Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disabilities

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

**01/2017- 08/2018**      **Research Intern: Vital Statistics Trend Analysis/Report**—Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP), Arlington, VA

**08/2016- 08/2017**      **Research Assistant and Program Coordinator**—Center for Rehabilitation Counseling Research and Education, The George Washington University, Washington, DC

**08/2011- 08/2013**      **Graduate Instructional Assistant**—Department of Counseling, Leadership, Adult Education and School Psychology, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

**02/2009- 08/2010**      **Senior Research Assistant**—The Johnson Center for Child Health & Development, Austin, TX

## CLINICAL AND SUPERVISION EXPERIENCE

### *Clinical Experience:*

- 03/2021- present**      **Trauma and Play Therapist**  
Private Practice—Telehealth
- 06/2015- 09/2019**      **Trauma and Play Therapist**  
The Gil Institute: Child, Adolescent, Adult, and Family Therapy—Fairfax, VA
- 07/2017- 05/2019**      **Process Group Facilitator**  
Graduate School of Education and Human Development—The George Washington University, Alexandria, VA
- 2015**                      **Clinical Therapist Intern**  
Residential Treatment for Children and Adolescents—San Marcos Treatment Center, San Marcos, TX
- Counselor and Advisor**  
Austin Community College, Round Rock, TX
- 2014**                      **Clinical Admissions Counselor—All Programs**  
Texas Neuro Rehab Center & Texas Star Recovery, Austin, TX
- STAR Program Counselor—In-Home and In-School Services**  
Connections Individual & Family Services, Bastrop, TX

### *Clinical Supervision Experience:*

- 08/2017- 05/2018**      **Doctoral Supervisor**  
Community Counseling Services Center—Graduate School of Education and Human Development –The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- 01/2014- 01/2015**      **Play Therapy Supervisor**  
Intermediate Methods in Play Therapy Course—Community Counseling Center—Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

### *Clinical Training:*

- 08/2017- 05/2018**      **Doctoral Supervisor**  
Community Counseling Services Center—Graduate School of Education and Human Development –The George Washington University, Washington, DC
- 01/2013- 12/2013**      **Bereavement Intern**  
Children's Traumatic Grief Program & Hospice Counseling Services—Hope Hospice, New Braunfels, TX

## PUBLIC SERVICE

### PROFESSIONAL:

- 2019- present**              **President, Member**  
Maryland/DC Association for Play Therapy (MDDC APT)
- 2017- present**              **Member, Ethics Committee**  
Association for Play Therapy (APT)
- Member, Research Committee**  
Association for Play Therapy (APT)
- 2017- 2020**                **Member, Leadership and Advocacy Committee**

- Chi Sigma Iota, National (CSI)
- 2014-2015** **Corresponding Secretary**, Hill Country Chapter  
Texas Association for Play Therapy (TAPT)
- 2012** **Co-Editor**, Newsletter  
Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (TACES)
- UNIVERSITY:
- 2019- 2021** **Assessment Committee Member**, Education Specialties Department, Loyola University Maryland School of Education
- 2018- 2019** **Student Representative**, Faculty Search Committee, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, The George Washington University
- 2016-2017** **Doctoral Representative**, Chi Sigma Iota—Rho Theta Chapter  
Department of Counseling, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, The George Washington University
- 2013** **Conference Coordinator**, Kaleidoscope of Counseling Conference  
Chi Sigma Iota—Sigma Tau Sigma Chapter, Texas State University
- 2011-2013** **Graduate Student Representative**, University Mental Health Advisory Council, Texas State University
- COMMUNITY:
- 2018- present** **Therapist**, Out Youth Therapist Network
- 2017- present** **Trevor Chat Volunteer, Washington DC Ambassador**, The Trevor Project
- 2015- 2020** **Member and Volunteer**, Federal Club, Human Rights Campaign, National
- 2015** **Table Captain Co-Chair**, Gala Steering Committee  
Human Rights Campaign, Austin, TX
- 2013-2015** **Camp Counselor Lead**, Hope Hospice Children's Grief Program Camp, New Braunfels, TX
- 2006- 2010** **Student Volunteer**, Wonders and Worries, Austin, TX

#### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

**American Counseling Association (ACA)**

Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (ACES)

Southern Association for Counselor Education and Supervision (SACES)

**Association for Play Therapy (APT)**

Maryland/DC Association for Play Therapy (MDDCAPT)

**Chi Sigma Iota International Counseling Honor Society (CSI)**

**National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC)**