# CURRENT WORK

**Psychological Counsellor/Couples Therapist – Private Practice ● 2006 to present** Geneva, Switzerland

Manage my private therapy practice for adults, adolescents and couples needing assistance with a variety of issues from mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety to relocation adjustments and couples conflicts. Special interest in international humanitarian workers returning from conflict or post-conflict zones.

Web site: [www.david-schiesher.com](http://www.david-schiesher.com/)

**Consultant for UNHCR** ● **2013 - 2014** **and 2018 to present**, Geneva, Switzerland

Supervise and facilitate a monthly reflective practice group for CMOs (Career Management Officers) at UNHCR.

The first year was facilitated in person in Geneva and the second time currently is being facilitated remotely with the CMO team in Budapest.

# INTERNATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

**Psychosocial Trainer ● 2008** International Catholic Migration Commission(ICMC), Amman, Jordan Assessed stress levels of refugee caseworkers and provided stress relief. Provided training on the identification of symptoms of psychological disorders among Iraqi refugees in Jordan. Identified a local mental health practitioner to provide ongoing staff support.

**Protection Consultant** **● 2007** ICMC, Amman, Jordan

Identified protection needs of Iraqi refugees in Jordan during a four week mission. Recommended startegies to improve protection of most vulnerable refugees in comprehensive report of the mission.

**Verification Team Leader ● 2005 to 2006** UNHCR – ICMC, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Managed a team of 31 national staff and one international Program Assistant in UNHCR’s Project PROFILE verification exercise of 29,000 Rohingya (Myanmar) refugees in Kutupalong and Nayapara refugee camps in southern Bangladesh.

**Child Protection Adviser • 2005** Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Jakarta and Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Performed child protection assessments for the needs of IDP children who lost families and homes in the earthquake and tsunami. Worked closely with UNICEF and NGO’s in Child Protection, Tracing, Psychosocial and Trafficking working groups. Solicited proposals from agencies doing child protection work and made recommendations to AusAID for improving the situation of children in tsunami-affected areas.

**Course Director and Training Curriculum Writer** • **2003-2004** SOLVE Program,International Labour Organisation (ILO)**,** Geneva, Switzerland

Wrote training curriculum dealing with stress and young workers. Co-author of *The ILO’s Educational Programme Addressing Psycho-social Problems at Work,* Confronting Globalisation: The Quest for a Social Agenda, Bulletin for Comparative Labour Relations 55.

**International Foster Care Consultant** • **2001-2002** Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), Baltimore, Maryland, via contract with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Evaluated care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated refugee children by carrying out two-week site visits in Tanzanian refugee camps and in urban centres of South Africa. Prepared site visit reports, which were included in the final report.

**Resettlement Specialist and Consultant** • **1999-2000** UNHCR Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

Completed Best Interest Determinations (BID’s) for Sudanese unaccompanied minors (commonly known as the “Lost Boys”) and made durable solutions recommendations to UNHCR. Revised and developed interview forms, mental health screens and final recommendation forms. Completed the first 99 Sudanese BID’s at Kakuma in six weeks in late 1999, and returned the following Summer for eight weeks. Designed and directed a workshop for refugee health care workers dealing with burnout.

**Social Service Director** • **1999** International Catholic Migration Commission, Tirana, Albania

During the Kosovar refugee crisis, I recruited, hired, trained and supervised 20 Albanian Social Workers who provided social services to Kosovar Albanian refugees in host families, collective centres and tent camps throughout Albania. Visited refugee living situations on a daily basis to provide on-site supervision to national staff.

# UNITED STATES WORK EXPERIENCE

**Clinical Social Worker •** **2000-2003** Valley View Middle School, Edina, Minnesota, USA

Provided individual therapy to students. Wrote social, emotional, behavioural objectives as part of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for Special Education students. Performed Functional Behavioural Assessments (FBA’s) of students requesting Special Education services. Facilitated group therapy with students dealing with grief, divorce, social skills deficits and deaf/hard of hearing challenges. Consulted and supported parents, teachers and staff in dealing with students’ social, emotional and behavioural issues. Performed crisis interventions with suicidal students. Collaborated as a member of the Student Assistance Team and the Child Study Team.

**Program Director • 1996-1999** Lutheran Social Service, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Directed activities for five Transitional Programs for youth that included Unaccompanied Refugee Minors, Karibu House and Kapani House adolescent group homes, School-based Victim Services and Relative Foster Care Licensing. Wrote the grant proposals for three of the above. Achieved 80% success rate for grant proposals. Recruited, supervised and evaluated three Program Managers and two Social Workers. Field Instructor for two MSW student interns. Negotiated contracts, created budgets and contained costs for programs totalling over one million dollars. Licensed three corporate foster care facilities.

**Program Supervisor** • **1991-1996** Lutheran Social Service, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program. Recruited, licensed, trained and monitored culturally sensitive family foster homes for refugee children. Recruited, supervised and evaluated four MSW staff. Field Instructor for two MSW student interns. Agency Diversity Trainer. Provided direct casework and counselling services to refugee youth. Coordinated staff training and in-service programs. Facilitated foster parent support group meetings. Provided foster care for Chinese minors seeking asylum in the U.S. in cooperation with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

**Social Worker • 1987-1991** Lutheran Social Service, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program. Provided direct casework and counselling for refugee youth from Vietnam, Cambodia, Iran, Eritrea and Ethiopia. Recruited, licensed, trained and monitored family foster homes for refugee children. Planned and implemented independent living skills summer camps. Developed and facilitated Amerasian support group. Planned and implemented culturally appropriate celebrations and educational experiences for foster families and children.

OTHER WORK AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**1985-1986** Social Worker (MSW), Diocese of Metuchen Refugee Services, Perth Amboy, New Jersey

**1982-1983** Personal Care Staff, Aveyron Group Home (DD adults), Hutchinson, Minnesota

**1980-1981** Counselor, Adolescent Treatment Unit, Willmar State Hospital, Willmar, Minnesota

**1979-1980** Youth Counselor Intern, Berrien Center Juvenile Center, Berrien Center, Michigan

**1977-1980** Conference Coordinator and Student Trainer, International Student Leadership Institute, University of Notre Dame, Indiana

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSING AND EDUCATION**

**2016-present** Member American Psychotherapy Association, Diplomate Status

**2015-present** Hakomi Therapy Professional Training, London, UK

**2012-present** Certified by ASCA (Swiss Foundation for Complementary Medicine)

**2012-present** Gottman Couples Therapy Training, Austria (Level 1) and Canada (Level 3)

**2006-present** Listed in Register of Complementary Practice as Psychological Counselor, Geneva, CH

**2003**  Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW), Minnesota, USA

**1989-2003** Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW), Minnesota, USA

**1984-1985** Master of Social Work (MSW), Rutgers Graduate School of Social Work, New Jersey, USA

**1976-1980** Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA

**CONTINUING EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

(A sampling of courses/trainings completed since 1989 totaling over 400 hours)

Intensive In-Home Therapy; Addictive Organizations; Adolescent Development; Advanced Clinical Hypnosis Training; Mental Health Needs of Children in Foster Care; Conflict Resolution; Advanced Crime Victim Advocacy; Violence in the Workplace; Emotional Intelligence; Social Skills Training with Autistic Children; Dealing with Anxiety Disorders; Stop Bullying, Crisis Prevention Intervention; The Victim-Bully Relationship; Thought Field Therapy and EFT; Past-Life Regression Therapy; Transformational Chairwork-Addictions Focus: Sexual Abuse and Recovery; Psychosexual Therapuetic Practice; Simplifying Personality Disorders-Padesky; Hakomi Therapy, Gottman Couples Therapy Levels 1, 2 and 3

## PRESENTATION RECORD

**1993** Ethical Dilemmas in Refugee Foster Care, presented at ELCA Annual Conference

**1994** Diverse Asian Cultures, workshop presented at Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans

###### **1995** Bridging Two Worlds: Refugee Foster Care, presented at the Annual MSSA Conference

**1995** Facilitated 3 Diversity Training programs for Lutheran Social Service

**1996** Facilitated 1 Diversity Training program for Lutheran Social Service

**1999** Social Work Staff Training on Family-Based Social Services in Tirana, Albania

**1999** Nurturing Yourself to Prevent Burnout for Refugee Therapists in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

**2000** Resettling Sudanese Youth, presented for LIRS Conference, Baltimore, Maryland

**2000** International Social Work, presented at NASW Annual Conference, St. Paul, Minnesota

**2001** Life in Kakuma Refugee Camp, presented at LIRS Conference, Baltimore, Maryland

**2004** Life as an ICMC Deployee, presented at UNHCR-ICMC Deployee Training, Stockholm, Sweden

**2005** Working with Children in Host Families, NGO Staff, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

**2006** Two-day staff training on refugee verification procedures, Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

**2007** One-day staff training on burn-out and interviewing refugees, Amman, Jordan

**2008** One-week staff training on recognition of psychological disorders, Amman, Jordan

**2011** Stress Reduction Techniques workshop presented to Glocals members, Geneva, Switzerland

**2012** How to Prevent & Treat Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Addax Petroleum, Geneva, Switzerland

## References Available Upon Request