



NEJRSP
NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF
RELATIONAL & SYSTEMIC PRACTICE

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF RELATIONAL AND SYSTEMIC PRACTICE: AN INTRODUCTION

STEPHEN DUCLOS, M.ED

Editor, New England Journal of Relational and Systemic Practice

At a moment when systemic practice has evolved or devolved from a private room in a confidential space to a computer screen that faces the world in a close up portraiture, we have, quite absurdly, decided to initiate a journal, the *New England Journal of Relational and Systemic Practice* (NEJRSP). Our hope is to provide a forum, **primarily regional but also international**, that expresses the ever-changing dynamic of the client/therapist/system interchange. Meant to be the symbolic narrative of the New England Association of Family and Systemic Therapy (NEAFAST), we are hoping to capture the voices of practicing therapists, educators, and students. From the beginning, we are dedicated to diversity and inclusion, despite the masks we are forced to wear in public.

In each of our quarterly publications, we hope to present our own regional idea of what constitutes an effective therapeutic conversation. What does it mean to be a Black therapist in New England? What does it mean to be a Queer graduate student in a New England university? How does a White therapist address their own privilege in session? Where do White men fit in their own family?

At the same time that we are explicating New England perspectives, we are also looking for concomitant voices outside that ecology. How might a National Health Service effect the practice of Family Therapy? What constitutes architectural accessibility in 2021? When should aging therapists stop practicing?

The *NEJRSP* starts with racism as an invisible contributor to family health, in all communities—urban, suburban, rural—of New England. Papers that talk about systemic therapy

therapy at the intersection of ageism, ableism, class, heteronormativity, gender inequality and racism will have a home here.

Black/African American and Hispanic families, and all aging adults, have an infection rate and morbidity far beyond everyone else. The vast majority of deaths from COVID-19 in New England occur in nursing homes. The rate of death in New England from all forms of dementia has skyrocketed in the past three months, over and above the rate of death from the coronavirus. These are the social science projects worth writing about in this spring and summer of 2020. And it is the reason we are beginning this journal.