

# NINA ROVINELLI HELLER PHD

## Curriculum Vitae

University of Connecticut - School of Social Work  
38 Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06103

[Nina.rovinelli.heller@uconn.edu](mailto:Nina.rovinelli.heller@uconn.edu)

959-200-3649 University office

## Education

### **Ph.D. in Clinical Social Work, 1990**

Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA

### **Master of Social Work, 1978**

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

### **Bachelor in Social Work, 1975**

Providence College, Providence, RI

## Academic Positions

University of Connecticut West Hartford, CT

**Dean, School of Social Work** January 2016 – present

**Interim Director**, Hartford Regional Campus October 2016 – August 2017

**Interim Dean, SSW**, July 2015 - December 2015

**Co-Director PhD Program** August 2016 - present

**Director of PhD Program** June 2015- August 2016

**Zachs Professor of Social Work** 2015 – present

**Full Professor** – 2014 - present

**Associate Professor (Tenured)**: 2001- 2014

**Assistant Professor**: 1994-2001.

- Courses Taught MSW Level:  
Clinical Conditions with Children and Adolescents; Clinical Conditions with Adults and Older Adults; Brief Therapies; Casework Differential Practice Theories; Casework with Resilient and Vulnerable Populations; Casework Practice Research; Casework: Helping Processes; Behavioral Disorders of Children and Adolescents; Seminar in Field Instruction; Field Advising
- Courses Taught: Ph.D. Level:  
Social and Behavioral Theories: Micro Perspectives  
Coordinate and implement Ph.D. Student Teaching Program.  
Major Advisor/Dissertation

**Research Associate**: 2006-2010

- Joint Appointment with Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Study of Adult Development Project. NIH Grant.

**Clinical Assistant/Associate Professor:** 1988-1995; 2004-2007. (Summer adjunct)  
Smith College School for Social Work, Northampton, MA

- Ph.D. Program Teaching:  
Perspectives on Social Work Education and Clinical Supervision  
Supervision, Field Advising, and Consultation  
Doctoral Orals Examiner
- MSW Program Teaching:  
Introduction to Social Work Practice with Individuals and Families  
Second Year Practice: The Four Psychologies; Treatment of Eating Disorders; Challenges in the Management and Treatment of the “Difficult” Client; Senior Integrative Seminar; Crisis Intervention

**Tutorial Instructor:** 1993-1994  
Norwich University, Northfield, VT

- Provided weekly tutorials for graduate students in Counseling Psychology

**Instructor:** 1993  
Boston College, Boston MA at  
University of Connecticut, West Hartford, CT

- Taught Supervision in Field Instruction.

### **Professional Clinical Experience:**

**Private Practice Clinician:** 1991-2009  
Brattleboro, VT

- Psychotherapy, supervision, and consultation
- Individuals and couples therapy for adults and older adolescents
- Consultant to Brattleboro AIDs Project, 1990-1994
- Consultant and Staff Development Facilitator, Southwestern VT Medical Center, 1991-1992
- Contracted Provider, Brattleboro Retreat, 1993-1994
- Consultant, Brattleboro Youth Services, 1993-1994

**Adult Outpatient Therapist:** 1987-1990  
Brattleboro Retreat, Brattleboro, VT

- Provided range of clinical services to outpatients

**Chief Psychiatric Inpatient Social Worker:** 1978-1987  
Brattleboro Retreat, Brattleboro, VT

### **Honors:**

Social Work Educator of the Year, NASW-CT, 2017  
Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, 2000, University of Connecticut Alumni Association  
(University wide)  
University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow Award, 2000-2001 (University wide)  
Brattleboro AIDS Project Outstanding Service Award, 1999.

## **Research Training and Experience**

Participant, Research Training Institute (RTI), of the CDC, Injury Control Research Center for Suicide Prevention. University of Rochester, NY. May 20-24, 2013.

Psychological Autopsy Certification, American Association of Suicidology, January, 2014.

Psychological Autopsy Interviewer. United States Marine Corps Psychological Autopsy Suicide Study. February, 2013 - present.

Fellow, Psychoanalytic Research Training Program, March 2008 Anna Freud Centre Program at the Yale Child Study Center Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis and Psychoanalytic Society, University College, London.

Grant: Client Suicide, Impact on Clinical Social Workers  
University of Connecticut Internal Grant, September 2008, ongoing; \$1500 Award  
Research Associate: 2006-2010

Joint Appointment with Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital. Study of Adult Development Project

Research Internship: 1986

Smith College, Northampton, MA & Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

- Assisted Robert Shilkret PhD on coding qualitative data on college students' adjustment to college, utilizing Blatt Object Relations Scale.

### **Grants:**

HRSA Workforce Training. Transitioning Youth at Risk. :700,000.

CT Department of Social Services Training Unit. 5,980,00.

## **Scholarship**

### **Books:**

Stanford, S., Heller, N., Sharland, E. & Warner, J. (2017). *Beyond the risk Paradigm: Mental Health Policy and Practice*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Heller, N. R. & Gitterman, A. (Eds.). (2011). *Mental health and social problems: A social work perspective*. London: Routledge Press.

Northcut, T.B. & Heller, N.R. (1999). *Enhancing psychodynamic theory with cognitive behavioral techniques*. Northvale: New Jersey.

### **Book Chapters:**

Heller, N. R. & Lu, J. (2015). Eating Disorders and treatment planning. In Kevin Corcoran and Albert Roberts (Ed.) *Social work desk reference* (3rd ed.) New York: Oxford University Press.

Northcut, T.B. & Heller, N. R. (2015). Treatment of depression: Integration of psychodynamic and cognitive-behavioral practices. In K. Corcoran & V. Vandiver (Eds.) *Social Work Desk Reference* (3rd ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

- Heller, N.R. & Northcut, T.B. (2015). The integration of psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral. In J. Berzoff, L.M. Flanagan & P. Hertz. (Eds.) *Inside out and outside in: Psychodynamic clinical theory and psychopathology in contemporary multicultural contexts.*(3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) New York: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Heller, N.R. (2014). Suicide and suicidal behaviors. In A. Gitterman (Ed.). *Handbook of social work practice with vulnerable and resilient populations* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Heller, N.R. & Garran, A.M. (2014). Borderline conditions. In A. Gitterman (Ed.). *Handbook of social work practice with vulnerable and resilient populations* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). New York: Columbia University Press.
- Heller, N.R. and Gitterman, A. (2011). Introduction to social problems and mental health/illness. In N. Heller & A. Gitterman (Eds.), *Mental health and social problems: A social work perspective.* (pp. 1-18). London: Routledge Press.
- Heller, N.R. & Werkmeister-Rozas, L. (2011). Anxiety conditions. In N. Heller & A. Gitterman, (Eds.). *Mental health and social problems: A social work perspective.* (pp. 356-380). London: Routledge Press.
- Bodenheimer, D. & Heller, N.R. (2011). Eating conditions. In N. Heller & A. Gitterman (Eds.). *Mental health and social problems: A social work perspective.* (pp. 356-380). London: Routledge Press.
- Heller, N.R. & Northcut, T.B. (2011). The integration of psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral. In J. Berzoff, L.M. Flanagan & P. Hertz. (Eds.) *Inside out and outside in: Psychodynamic clinical theory and psychopathology in contemporary multicultural contexts.*(3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). (pp. 208-221). New York: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Heller, N. R. (2008). Eating Disorders and treatment planning. In R. Greene. (Ed.) *Social work desk reference* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). (pp. 531-537). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Heller, N.R. & Northcut, T.B. (2008). Integrative treatment of depression. In R. Greene. (Ed.) *Social work desk reference* (pp.552-557). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Heller, N. R. (2002). Eating disorders and treatment planning. In A. Roberts & G. Greene (Eds.) *Social work desk reference* (pp. 328-333). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Heller, N. R. & Northcut, T. B. (2002). Treatment of depression: Integration of psychodynamic and cognitive-behavioral practices. In A. Roberts & G. Greene (Eds.) *Social work desk reference* (pp. 352-355). New York: Oxford University Press.
- Heller, N.R. & Johnson, H. 2002. Borderline Personality. In A. Gitterman, (Ed). *Handbook of social work practice with vulnerable and resilient populations.* (pp. 97-123. Columbia University Press.
- Heller, N.R. & Northcut, T.B. (1999). Clinical assessment. In N.R. Heller & T.B. Northcut. (Eds.) (1999). *Enhancing psychodynamic practice with cognitive-behavioral techniques* (pp. 95-134). New York: Jason Aronson.
- Northcut, T.B. & Heller, N.R. (1999). Introduction: Bringing together theory and experience. In N.R. Heller & T.B. Northcut. (Eds.) (1999). *Enhancing psychodynamic practice with cognitive behavioral techniques* (pp. 1-14).

New York: Jason Aronson.

Heller, N.R. 1996. Should social work education forego theories of individual development in favor of those of the social environment? NO!. In M. Bloom & W. Klein (Eds.). *Controversies in Social Work Education*. Allyn & Bacon.

### Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- Heller, N.R. (2014). Risk, hope and recovery: Converging paradigms for mental Health approaches with suicidal clients. *The British Journal of Social Work*. Online advance access. Doi:10.1093/bjsw/bcu007
- Heller, N.R. (2013). Eating Disorders. In E.J. Mullen (Ed). *Oxford bibliographies in social work*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Parks, C. & Heller, N.R. (2013). The influence of early drinking contexts on current drinking among adult lesbian and bisexual women. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nursing Association*, 19(5), 241-254.
- Gitterman, A. & Heller, N.R. (2011). Integrating social work perspectives and models with concepts, methods and skills with other professions' specialized approaches. *Clinical Social Work Journal* (39), 204- 2111.
- Pergakis, M., Hasan, N.D., Heller, N.H. & Waldinger, R. (2010). Octogenarian reports of lifetime spiritual experiences: Types of experience and early life predictors. *Journal of Spirituality, Religion and Aging*, 22 (3), 220-238.
- Heller, N. R. & Northcut, T. B. (March 2002, special issue). Constructivism: A meeting ground for evolving psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral practices? *Smith College Studies in Social Work*, 72 (2) 197-215.
- Northcut, T. B. & Heller, N. R. (March 2002, special issue). The slippery slope of constructivism: Cautions for practice. *Smith College Studies in Social Work*, 72 (2), 217-229.
- Heller, N. R. & Northcut, T. B. (1998) Assessment of cognitive schemas and attributions in psychodynamic treatment. *Smith College Studies in Social Work* 68(2), 185-202.
- Heller, N. R. & Northcut, T. (1996) Utilizing cognitive-behavioral techniques in psychodynamic practice with clients as borderline. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 24(2) 203-215.

### Selected Presentations:

- Duarte, A., Heller, N.R., Marshall, T., Aseltine, R. & Wakai, S. (April, 2014). Development of State Plans for Suicide Prevention. American Association of Suicidology Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA. Full day preconference workshop.
- Heller, N. R. (2013, June). *Working with risk with the suicidal client*. Keynote presented at Mental health social work and risk: Messages from research. Sponsored by the City of London and Goldsmiths, University of London. [International] [Invited].

Heller, N.R. (2013, February). *Guidelines for development of the Connecticut state suicide prevention plan*. Presented to the CT Suicide Advisory Board. State. Rocky Hill, CT. [regional]

Heller, N.R. (2013, November). *Preparing scholars, preparing teachers; Challenges for doctoral education*. Presented at the Annual Program Meeting, Council on Social Work Education Annual Program Meeting. [National] [Peer Reviewed]

Heller, N.R. (2012, October). *Client suicide: Challenges for social work practice and education*. Presented at Semi-Annual Meeting UConn Field Education. UCONN SSW Field Education Semi-annual Meeting. State. [local] [Invited]

Heller, N.R. (2012, July). *Client suicide and the clinical social worker: Making room for disenfranchised grief*. Presented at Smith College School of Social Work Summer Lecture Series. [Invited]

Heller, N.R. (2012, May). *Risk, hope and recovery: Converging paradigms for mental health approaches in social work practice*. Presented at Beyond the Risk Paradigm Conference. Sponsored by the University of Melbourne and Monash University. Held in Prato, Italy. [Invited]

Heller, N.R. (2012, May). *Clinical training in social work: Overview and trends*. Presented at Mellon Foundation Sponsored Program: Clinical Psychology in the Liberal Arts Institution; Surviving and Thriving in the 21st Century. Williams College. [Invited].

Heller, N.R. (2010, October). *Best practices for EPAS Assessment*. Panelist at Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education. Atlanta, Georgia. [peer reviewed].

Heller, N.R. (October, 2009). *Meeting the client where the client is: Can we teach it?* Presented at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education.. [Peer reviewed].

Heller, N.R. & Northcut, T.B. (September, 2009). *Navigating clinical landscapes*. Presented 2 day workshop at the Clinical Social Work Society of Texas. Boerne, Texas. [Invited].

#### Posters:

Heller, N.R. (2014, March). Risk, hope and recovery: Converging paradigms for work with suicidal clients. Poster session presented at the annual UConn Office of Research and Scholarship Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut. [regional]

Heller, N.R. (2013, March). *Client suicide and social workers*. Poster session

presented at the annual UConn Office of Research and Scholarship Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut. [regional]

Heller, N.R. (2012, March). *Global challenges for suicide prevention; A social work agenda*. Poster session presented at the annual UConn SSW Office of Research and Scholarship Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut. [local].

Heller, N.R. (2011). *Client suicide: Occupational hazard for social workers*. Client suicide: Occupational hazard for social workers". Poster session presented at the annual UConn SSW Office of Research and Scholarship Research Exhibition, University of Connecticut. [local].

Heller, N.R. (accepted). Suicide Prevention across the Globe: Roles and Imperatives for the Social Work Profession. Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development Annual Conference 2014.

### **Professional Service:**

#### **UConn School of Social Work:**

- Chair, Search Committee for Associate Dean for Research Fall 2013
- Chair, Doctoral Program Evaluation Committee 2013-2014
- Chair, Promotion, Tenure and Reappointment Committee; 2006-2007; 2007-2008; 2008-2009; 2010-2011; 2011-2012. Oversaw all tasks related to the SSW PTR processes.
- Member, Promotion, Tenure and Reappointment Committee, 2003-2006; 2012-2013.
- Member, Doctoral Committee, 2006-2012; 2013-present.
- Chair, Ph.D. Program Orals Examination Committee, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013.
- Chair, Ph.D. Program Scholarship Committee, 2012.
- Member, SSW Academic Vision Planning Committee. 2013- present;
- Chair, Substantive Area in Mental Health and Substance Abuse, 2001-2013.
- Chair, Faculty and Administrative Committee (FAAC), 2009-2010
- Member, FAAC; 2006-2009; 2013-2015.
- Chair, Graduate and Professional Issues: Academic Planning 2008-2009
- Chair, Casework Concentration, 2001-2005. Oversaw all curriculum issues related to the Casework Concentration.
- Chair, Educational Review 1996-1998. Chaired committee charged with assessing student academic performance issues.
- Co-Chair Faculty Student Faculty Committee, 1995-1997
- Member, Dean's Search Committee, 2007-2008.
- Member, Search Committees for 8 faculty positions. 2005-2012.
- Member, Educational Policy Committee. 2001-2005.
- Member, CSWE Reaccreditation school committee. 2006..
- Reviewer, Dean's Research Incentive Grants, February, 2013.

**University Wide Service:**

- SAAT Vision Committee for Genomics, Fall 2013
- Member, Institute for Systems Genomics Planning Committee, 2012-2015;
- Reviewer, Institute for Teaching and Learning, Excellence in Teaching Awards, 2013.
- Member, Dean's Evaluation Committee, 2012-2013. Took active part in evaluation and writing of final document.

**Professional Engagement:**

- Council on Social Work Education  
Member, Council on Social Work Practice Specialization, 2008-2011; 2011-2014. Involves quarterly meetings to advise the accrediting body on curriculum issues related to social work practice.
- NASW CT Delegate Assembly Member, 2009-2011; 2012-2014.  
Panel Member and Contributor to writing of the National Mental Health Policy Statement 2011

## Consulting Reviewer:

- *Families in Society* 2003-present
- *Clinical Social Work Journal* 1998-2006. 2010 – Present. More than two dozen reviews since 2010.
- *Reflections: Narratives of Professional Helping, 2008-2011.*
- *Consulting Supervisor. 2009-present*
- *British Journal of Social Work* 2012- present
- *Journal of Social Work Practice, 2013*

## Editorial Board

- *Smith College Studies in Social Work* 2010 – present

## Manuscript Reviewer:

- *Columbia University Press*
- *Oxford University Press*
- *Cambridge Press*

Book Review Editor, *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 1998-2002

- Wrote column for each quarterly issue

**National, State and Community Engagement:**

- National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention Taskforce for Clinical Workforce Preparedness - Suicide Prevention, Member. (September 2011 - Present).
- CT National Army Guard Suicide Prevention Panel, Advisor. State. Government Agencies (April 2013 - Present).
- CT Suicide Advisory Board. State. General Public/Community/Family, Government Agencies (December 2011 - Present).
- Advisory Committee, Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant, Member. State. General Public/Community/Family, Government Agencies, Schools and Colleges (September 2011 - Present).



- Consultant, Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Connecticut Department of Children and Families. Charged with facilitating and writing the Ct Suicide Prevention Strategy. 2012- Present.
- Grant Reviewer, DMHAS CT Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention. 2011-2012.

**References available upon request.**