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CULTURAL
COMPETENCE
AND HEALING
CULTURALLY BASED
TRAUMA WITH
EMDR THERAPY

INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES
AND PROTOCOLS

MARK NICKERSON

"This is definitely a book whose time has come. One of the brilliant aspects of the EMDR therapy approach is that it makes it clinically possible to cut through social issues, and yet maintain its cultural consonance. From multiple contributions around the world, each chapter brings significant insights into how EMDR therapy can be culturally attuned and yet efficacious in preserving the individuality of each client. Highly recommended for those therapists who work in multi-cultural settings."

- Esly Regina Carvalho, Ph.D., Trainer of Trainers, EMDR Institute/ EMDR Treinamento E Consultoria Ltda and President TraumaClinic do Brasil, Brasilia, Brazil.

Underscoring the importance of cultural competence, this groundbreaking book focuses on using EMDR therapy with specific populations, particularly those groups typically stigmatized, oppressed, or otherwise marginalized in society. Drawing on social psychology research and theory as well as social justice and social work principles, it delivers general protocols for EMDR intervention for recovery from the internalized effects of cultural mistreatment. Employing best -practice methods for cultural competence as EMDR therapy is introduced to new cultures worldwide, the editor and

esteemed EMDR clinician-authors relay their experiences, insights, guidance, and lessons learned through trial and error while adapting EMDR interventions for cross-cultural competency and therapeutic effectiveness.

The text defines cultural competence and validates the need for a multi-culturally aware approach to psychotherapy that embraces authentic social identities and attends to the impact of socially based trauma. Chapters address using EMDR therapy to heal the trans-generational impact of Anti-Semitism, working with the LGBT population, treating an immigrant woman suffering from social anxiety, healing individuals with intellectual disabilities, the traumatizing

effects of racial prejudice, harmful cultural messages about physical appearance, EMDR therapy attuned to specific cultural populations and socially based identities, and many other scenarios. The text is replete with step-by-step treatment guidelines to help clients recover from traumatic life events, do's and don'ts, and common adaptive and maladaptive cultural beliefs.

Mark I. Nickerson, LICSW, is a psychotherapist who trains and consults internationally on the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). EMDR is a Department of Defense and World Health Organization approved top-level trauma treatment. markinickerson.com



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