

Lilan Laishley, PhD
P.O. Box 4296
Chattanooga, TN 37405
423-503-5474 drlilan@laishley.com
Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D.

2004, Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Dissertation: "Labyrinths in American Contemporary Culture: Rituals that Engage a Sacred Cosmos"

Ethnographic and historical research on the importance of cosmology, and ritual as means for people to engage in their idea of the cosmos. Special emphasis on the importance of time and space, labyrinth symbolism, ritual, cosmology, and nature religion. Multi-disciplinary methodology including ethnography, history, art, anthropology, and sociology.

Master of Science

Department of Guidance and Counseling, Hunter College, NY, NY.
Thesis on the use of symbols in psychological counseling, Jungian archetypal perspective.

Bachelor of Arts

Marshall University, Department of Counseling, Huntington, WV

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2006-2008 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tennessee
 Adjunct Professor of Philosophy and Religion
 "Western Humanities"
 Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007, Fall 2007, Spring 2008

2005 The Institute for Shipboard Education, Summer 2005
 Instructor on *Semester at Sea*, an international educational program housed at University of Virginia that combines academic courses with travel around the world on a floating university. I prepared two courses related to travel taken to Iceland, Norway, Russia, Poland, Belgium, France, Ireland, Spain
 "Varieties of Religious Tradition: Judaism, Christianity, Islam"
 "Myth, Symbol, and Ritual: Early Viking and Celtic Religion"

2004 University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Tennessee
 Consultant for summer program "Journey to Sacred India." Was one of

three faculty accompanying twelve students to South India for six weeks.

Facilitated planning, orientation, and course work.

- 1999-2002 Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Instructor “Introduction to Religion”
 Humanities and Social Sciences Fall 2002
- Instructor “Religion and Star Trek: Theory of Religion”
 Humanities and Social Sciences
 Summer 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999
- University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Instructor “Varieties of Early Christianity,”
 Religious Studies Department, Cross-listed with Classics and History
 Summer 2002, Spring 2001, Summer 2001, Spring 2000
- Instructor “Origins of Christianity”
 Religious Studies Department. Cross-listed with Classics and History
 Summer 2001
- Instructor “Myth, Symbol, and Ritual”
 Religious Studies Department, Cross-listed with Anthropology
 Fall 2000
- 1999-2000 University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Instructor “Approaches to the Study of Religion”
 Religious Studies Department
 Summer 2000, Spring 1999
- 1999-2000 Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Instructor “Ethics and Women’s Issues”
 Philosophy Department
 Fall 2000, Fall 1999
- 1995-1998 University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Teaching Assistant in Religious Studies Department
 “Philosophy of Religion”
 “Religion in India I”
 “Introduction to Islamic Civilization”
 “Myth, Symbol, and Ritual”
 “Classics of Christian Thought”

ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2002-2003 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship
- 2001-2002 Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship
- 1998-2001 Dean's Tuition Scholarship
Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Pittsburgh
- 1998 American Academy of Religion,
Eastern International Regional Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada
Student Papers Honorable Mention
- 1997, 2000 Travel Grant from Graduate Student and Professional Association

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2007 *Astrology as Religion: Theory and Practice*,
Journal of Religion and Nature. Issue 1.2 (April 2008)
- 2001 *Harmony Society Labyrinths*, Caerdroia: vol. 32 (August 2001) pp. 8-20.

ACADEMIC PAPERS PRESENTED

- As Above/So Below: Heart and Soul of Astrology*
Institute of Noetic Sciences; Knoxville, TN July 2007
- Labyrinths as Images of the Cosmos*
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Washington DC- Nov 2006
Poster Session. Poster can be seen at www.laishley.com
- Walking a Planetary Path: Honoring the Celestial Deities*
The Labyrinth Society 6th Annual Gathering: Minneapolis, MN- Oct 2004
- The Harrowing of Hell and other Medieval Labyrinth Rituals-* (History of Christianity)
American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta – November 2003
- Passing Religious Traditions to the Younger Generation* (panel respondent)
International Society for the Sociology of Religion, Turin, Italy – July 2003

One God, Many Paths: Religious Diversity on the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth Society 5th Annual Gathering: Baltimore, MD- November 2003

Walking the Labyrinth: Reflections on Ritual Action

University of Pittsburgh, Department of Religious Studies Colloquia Series – February 2003

Walking the Cosmos: Rituals of Participation- (Ritual Studies)

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada – November 2002

Early Roots of American Labyrinths

The Labyrinth Society International Symposium, Glastonbury, England – May 2002

Emerging Ritual: The Labyrinth as an Arena for Change and Innovation

American Academy of Religion: Eastern Regional Meeting, Ithaca, New York – April 2001

Cosmology of the Chartres Labyrinth

The Labyrinth Society International Conference, Fayetteville, Arkansas – November 2000

Mystical 19th Century Harmonist Labyrinths

The Labyrinth Society International Conference, Denver, Colorado – November 1999

Labyrinths of the Nineteenth Century Harmony Society

Religion and Culture Symposium, University of Pittsburgh – March 1998

Ritual and Biopsychology: The Effect of Walking the Labyrinth on the Brain

American Academy of Religion: Eastern Regional Annual Meeting, Toronto – March 1998

The Labyrinth as Ritual Action: Examination of Intent, Ritualization, and Hermeneutic Pluralism

American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, (Christian Spirituality)
San Francisco, California – November 1997

The Labyrinth as Transformative Ritual

Religion and Culture Symposium, University of Pittsburgh – March 1997

COUNSELING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYMENT

- 2008-2004 Astrological Consultant, Wholistic Counselor, and Life Coach
- Holistic approach with orientation to body, mind, spirit, and emotion
 - Strategic planning for life direction, and empowerment
 - Focus on women's wellness and psycho-spiritual health
 - Utilize dream analysis, visualization, past life regression
 - Specialist in symbol and ritual
 - Archetypal and energy approach to astrology
 - Classes on beginning and intermediate astrology
 - Private Practice in Chattanooga, TN
- 1996-2003 Astrological Consultant and Counselor
- Wholistic-health approach with orientation to body, mind, spirit, and emotion
 - Facilitated women's groups in areas of divine feminine and empowerment
 - Private practice at Family Center East, Pittsburgh, PA
- 1995 Mental Health Supervisor
- Managed outpatient mental health facility
 - Supervised hiring and training of psychologists and support staff
 - Developed referral sources with community agencies
 - Allied Behavioral Services, Inc., Charleston, WV
- 1991-1995 Psychotherapist
- Psychotherapist for Inpatient and Outpatient: Individuals, families, and groups
 - Organized wellness community including directory and health fair
 - Privileges at *HCA Riverpark Hospital* (psychiatric) for adolescents and adults
 - Gave impressionable diagnoses from DSM-IV including depression, anxiety, bi-polar, adjustment disorder, chemical dependency, eating disorder, and ADHD
 - Provided continuum of care including intake, inpatient, outpatient, discharge planning, referrals, and follow-up
 - Wrote and implemented treatment plans and gained insurance approval
 - Area Psychiatric and Psychotherapy Group, Huntington, WV
- 1989-1990 Psychotherapist
- Primary Therapist: Individual, family, group therapy for adolescents and families
 - Administered treatment to youth for chemical dependency and dual diagnosis in short term in-patient facility
 - Coordinated case management including treatment and discharge plans

- Supervised counselor aides
- Created and implemented educational programs in chemical dependency, co-dependency, family communication, and wilderness experiences.
- Phoenix Adolescent and Recovery Center, Phoenix, Arizona

1991 Rio Salado Community College, Phoenix, Arizona
Instructor “Special Needs of Chemically Dependent Adolescents”
Instructor “Applied Techniques in Counseling”
Instructor “Advanced Counseling in Chemical Dependency”

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Memberships held in: American Academy of Religion
The Labyrinth Society
National Council for Geocosmic Research
Association for Astrological Networking
Organization of Professional Astrologers
International Society for Astrological Research

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND CERTIFICATIONS

2007-2009 License as Professional Counselor (LPC)
West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling (issued 1993)

2003-2006 Certification in Research and Practice Fundamentals for Exempt Research
Institutional Review Board, University of Pittsburgh

2003-2006 Board of Directors: Chair of Research for The Labyrinth
Society

2000 Chair, Sacred Space Committee
United Religions Initiative Global Summit, Pittsburgh, PA
Coordinated meditation, prayer, and ritual events for a three day international
conference that involved representatives of over forty faith groups from fifty
countries.

1998-2000 Board of Directors, The Labyrinth Society

1998 Organizing Committee for the Visit of the Dalai Lama to Pittsburgh, PA
Part of an inter-faith alliance that engaged in fund raising, promotion,
and security for six-thousand participants at three city-wide events.

1998 Co-Chair, Religion and Culture Symposium at University of Pittsburgh

- 1997 Managing Co-Editor
 Religious Studies Newsletter, University of Pittsburgh
- 1997 Program Committee for PhD Professional Development Seminar
 Department of Religious Studies, University of Pittsburgh.
 Event directed toward job options and search strategies for graduate students.
- 1996-97 Editorial Assistant
 Journal of Ritual Studies

EXPERIENCE IN PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Below is a selected list of programs that I have designed and implemented for a variety of settings including hospital, treatment center, wellness facility, retreat center, and churches.

Astrology: Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced

Dreams as a Way to Inner Wisdom

Positive Psychology and the Empowerment Model

Creating Your Vision: A Five Week Training

Reducing Stress and Balancing Your Life

The Labyrinth: Walking a Sacred Path

Wise Women: An exploration of feminine strength including topics of Warrior,
Mother, High Priestess, Crone, Seductress

Gatherings at the Well: Reclaiming women's spiritual strengths including topics
of Ancestral Wisdom, Persephone and the Underworld, Creating
Everyday Ritual

Visualization for Health and Healing

Planetary Psychology: An examination of psychological archetypes

Chemical Dependency

Family Communication

Co-Dependency

TRAINING TAKEN FOR LICENSE CEU'S (selected)

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| 2007 | Carl Jung's psychology, including Myers Briggs psychological types |
| 2005 | Ethics; Coaching the Art of Action-Oriented Change; Positive Psychology; The Feminine in Film |
| 2003 | Clinical Hypnosis with Children and Adolescents; Internet Addiction; Teaching Skills; Substance Abuse and Trauma; Ethics; Writing Patient Educational Guides; |
| 2002 | Integrating Spirituality and Counseling; Spirituality and Healing, Reduce Relapse |
| 2001 | Ethics in Health and Human Services; Menopause; Psychopharmacology in Eating Disorders; Creating Mandalas; Hypnosis in treating PTSD; Ritual |
| 1999 | Psychology of Mind; The Healing Voice; Women and Religion |
| 1997 | Body Image and Healing; Shamanic Techniques and the Therapist; Sharpening your Clinical Assessment Skills; Use of Hypnosis with Children |