

ELIZABETH KITA, PhD, LCSW

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EDUCATION

PhD	Smith College, School for Social Work	2012
MSW	University of California, Berkeley, School of Social Welfare	2001
BA/BS	The College of New Jersey	1996

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UC Berkeley, School of Social Welfare	2011 - 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course title: Forensic Social Work	
Smith College, School for Social Work	2008 – 2011, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Course title: Individual Problems in Biopsychosocial Functioning• Course title: Comparative Psychodynamic Theory• Course title: Boundary, Boundary Violations and the Management of Intense Affect• Course title: Forensic Social Work	

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK EXPERIENCE

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Division of Adult Parole Operations Behavioral Health Reintegration Program	2005 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Social Worker	
Private Practice	2008 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychotherapist	
Vacaville Psychiatric Program, California Medical Facility	2001 - 2005
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Psychiatric Social Worker	

SUPERVISION & CONSULTATION EXPERIENCE

Access Institute	2014 - 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Supervisor	
Research Triangle Institute (RTI)	2014 - 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Consultant	
Smith College, School for Social Work	2008 - 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PhD Program, Clinical Supervisor• MSW Program, Field Advisor• PhD Program, Practicum Advisor	

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation 2014 - 2016, 2021 - Present
Division of Adult Parole Operations

- Lifer Peer Reentry Navigation Network Program
- Lifer Responsivity Model & Training
- Parole Agent Wellness Program
- “Reach & Respond” Co-responder Training Program

Coalition for Clinical Social Work 2008 - Present

- Co-Founder

Reflective Spaces, Material Places 2010 - 2016

- Co-Founder

University of Texas, Austin, Steve Hicks School of Social Work 2021 - 2022
Sue Fairbanks Psychoanalytic Social Work Academy

- Postgraduate Certificate Program

RESEARCH ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Smith College, School for Social Work 2008 - 2012

- MSW Thesis Advisor

Smith College, School for Social Work 2020

- Dissertation Committee Member

Wright Institute 2021- 2022

- Dissertation Committee Chair

PUBLICATIONS

Kita, E. (2026). Between Hope and Dread. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 36(1), 16-17.

Brown, C., Holmes, N., Kita, E. & Layton, L. (2022). Psychoanalytic Spaces, Implicated Places. In Kabasakalian-McKay, R. & Mark, D. (eds.), *Inhabiting Implication*. Routledge: London.

Kita, E. (2019). “They hate me now but where was everyone when I needed them?”: Mass incarceration, projective identification and social work praxis. *Psychoanalytic Social Work*, 26 (1), 25-49.

Kita, E. (2015). Public safety, psychological security: A practice-informed research study exploring how California parole agents experience their work. *Smith Studies in Social Work*, 85 (1), 5-29.

Kita, E. (2011). Making it thinkable: A psychodynamic approach to the psychosocial problems of prisons and prisoners. In: Berzoff, J. (ed.) *Falling through the cracks: Psychodynamic social work with vulnerable and oppressed populations*, New York: Columbia University Press.

Kita, E. (2011). Potential and possibility: Psychodynamic psychotherapy and social change with incarcerated patients. *Clinical Social Work Journal*, 39, 9-1.

SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Rhode Island Association for Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy, 2025

- Presenter: The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same: Neoliberal Subjects, Institutional Enactments and Resisting the Resistance to Radical Change

Baltimore Society for Psychoanalytic Studies, 2024

- Presenter: Resisting and Insisting: Making Space for Meaningful Clinical Work Amid Neoliberal Conditions

Austin Psychoanalytic, Community Event, 2021

- Presenter: “Bang on the bars or be part of the death squad”: The violence of othering, mass incarceration, and the choice before us

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work, Special Series, 2021

- Presenter: “A most disagreeable mirror:” Mass incarceration, projective identification and the problem of the projectors

Psychoanalytic Center of the Carolinas, Scientific Program, 2020

- Presenter: Repairing the irreparable, bearing the unbearable: Clinical work with formerly incarcerated people who have served life-sentences

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work Conference, 2019

- Presenter: “They hate me now, but where was everyone when I needed them?”: Trauma, incarceration and containers that (don’t) hold
- Panelist: The problem of the projector: Whiteness, slavery and projective identification

Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute Symposium, 2019

- Presenter: “They hate me now, but where was everyone when I needed them?”: Mass incarceration, mass projective identification, and creating containers that hold

American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work Conference, 2017

- Presenter: “If I cannot bend the higher powers, I must stir up the lower depths”: Mass incarceration and social work praxis

Northern California Society for Psychoanalytic Psychology Scientific Meeting, 2016

- Discussant: Breaking point – A psychoanalytic response to the effects of forced isolation in the age of mass incarceration

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

Awardee, Seidenberg Paper – Psychoanalytic Perspectives on Prison	2018
Fellow, American Association of Psychoanalysis	2008-2009
Fellow, Psychoanalytic Research Training Program, Yale University	2009
Grantee, Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services	2022
NCSPP, Community Service Award	2022