

Maria daVenza Tillmanns, PhD, Free Thinker

Summary:

My Dissertation: Philosophical Counseling and Teaching: “Holding the Tension” in a Dualistic World, was published in 1998.

Philosophy for and with Children:

- Currently, I am seeking funding for a project in partnership with UCSD “doing” philosophy with children in underserved schools in San Diego.
- 2013 – 2014, I was a Philosopher-in-Residence at La Jolla Country Day School
- 2013 – present, Seekers Club for Teens and an intergenerational philosophy program for kids, parents and grandparents once a month at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church
- 1990 – 1993, developed a Philosophy for Children Program at two International Schools in The Netherlands

Teaching Philosophy:

- 2015 – 2016, taught Intro to Logic and Critical Thinking at California College, San Diego, CA
- 1998 - 2008, taught at University of California, San Diego in the Teacher Education Program, Human Development Program and Communication Department, and at UCSD Extension

Socratic Dialogue groups:

- 2002 - present, my husband and I conduct a Socratic Café once a month
- 2002 – 2007, he and I conducted a bi-weekly Socratic Dialogue group for five years for inmates at the Metropolitan Correctional Center while he was Prison Chaplain

Philosophical Counseling:

- 1998 – 2002, Dr. Maurice Friedman and I had a joint practice in Philosophical Counseling
 - 1996 - 97, President of the American Society for Philosophy, Counseling and Psychotherapy (ASPCP now NPCA, National Philosophical Counseling Association)
 - 1989 – 1993, had a private Philosophical Counseling Practice in the Netherlands
 - and was a Board member of the Dutch Association for Philosophical Practice in Amsterdam
- In 2005, I was invited by Princess Irene of the Netherlands to discuss my work on Dialogue (based on Martin Buber and Maurice S. Friedman’s work)
- 2005 - 2013, I was the Field Representative for the Professional Union at UCSD representing approximately two hundred Non-Senate faculty and forty Librarians

Publications:

- I have publications in America, British and Dutch journals
- Ran Lahav and I co-edited "Essays on Philosophical Counseling," (1995)

Lecturer at UCSD Extension

1999 - 2008 (9 years)

I developed and taught courses in Philosophy and Critical Thinking, Philosophical Counseling through Dialogue with Dr. Maurice Friedman, and courses in Philosophy for Children.

Lecturer at University of California, San Diego

1998 - 2004 (6 years)

As a Lecturer at UCSD, I worked for the Teacher Education Program (now: Education Studies -EDS), the Human Development Program, Communication Department, and the Laboratory for Comparative Human Cognition (LCHC) under Dr. Michael Cole.

Philosophical Practitioner at Private Practice in Philosophical Practice/Counseling

1989 - 1993 (4 years)

As Philosophical Practitioner, I used the art of questioning to aid clients in how they thought about a particular problem/issue they were dealing with in life. I created a space where they felt comfortable questioning their own thinking instead of feeling pressured to defend it. As witness of their own experiences (rather than solely as victim), the clients felt empowered, thereby gaining the strength to question their own thinking, their assumptions about life, their values and life experiences which all played a part in how they made their decisions in life. Through *aporia* and the art of questioning small shifts can take place in someone's thinking and at times even a paradigm shift. Philosophy is about paradigms and creating paradigm shifts in thinking/being.

Languages:

English (Native or bilingual proficiency)

Dutch (Native or bilingual proficiency)

German (Limited working proficiency)

Education:

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D., Philosophy and Philosophy of Education, 1994 - 1998

University of Massachusetts Boston

Master's degree, Critical and Creative Thinking, 1982 - 1985

Clark University

Bachelor's degree, Philosophy and Minor in Fine Arts, 1975 - 1979

Gymnasium Alpha, The Netherlands
High School Diploma, 1968 - 1975

Organizations:

APA, American Philosophical Association

PLATO, Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization

ICPIC, International Council of Philosophical Inquiry with Children