

Parental Alienation International

Advancing worldwide understanding in the field of parental alienation

pasg
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Parental Alienation Study Group

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*"If I have seen further,
it is by standing
on the shoulders of giants."*

Letter from Sir Isaac Newton
to Robert Hooke, 1676.

Honoring the Giants

WHILE I HAVE NEVER MET BARRY BRICKLIN, PHD, I had the privilege of speaking in his place at the recent PASG2019 conference. Dr. Bricklin was honored as part of a "Historical Highlights" session on the third day of the conference. Because he could not attend, I was asked to read a statement he prepared about his work.

That panel discussion, moderated by Bill Bernet, MD, President of PASG, reflected on the achievements of six figures who have been instrumental in the work on parental alienation. Others who were honored were Richard Gardner, MD, Wilfrid von Boch-Galhau, MD, David Levy, JD, John Dunne, MD, and Olga Odinetz, PhD. Dr. von Boch-Galhau and Dr. Odinetz attended the conference and so were able to join the panel discussion in person.

Introducing the panel, Dr. Bernet showed a slide with the words, "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants," quoting a letter from Sir Isaac Newton to Robert Hooke in 1676. Those six individuals are some of the giants in the field of parental alienation. How appropriate it was to take time to reflect on the achievements of those who have worked so hard to address the harm of PA. How gratifying that at the most well-attended annual PASG conference to date, they could be singled out and honored.

Our thanks goes out to them and to all other professionals at work today throughout the world—in universities, in courts, in support organizations and mental health organizations, and with families and children, to alleviate the suffering of parental alienation.

Louis M. Pilla

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PASG Launches Annual Fundraising Campaign

Membership in PASG is currently free. There is no cost for members to post information on our website (<http://www.pasg.info>) regarding your books and your own website addresses. There is also no cost to post your opinions on our Forum or to network with our 600 members from more than 50 countries.

Because membership is free, each year we conduct a fundraising campaign, which is necessary for PASG to operate. We use these unrestricted funds to manage our website, support the annual international conference, and pay administrative fees related to our status as a non-profit corporation. We also occasionally receive donations intended for specific purposes, such as funding grants for PASG members to conduct research regarding parental alienation. This past year we did receive a generous donation, which funded several small but important research projects.

We will express our appreciation again this year by recognizing members who donate \$100 US or more. That is, we will acknowledge your donation in the January 2020 issue of PAI (unless you tell us not to). Make your donation by December 31 in order to be recognized in that manner.

You can donate to PASG by going to our website (<http://www.pasg.info>) and using the button on the homepage, "Make a Donation." That takes you to PayPal, where you can use your credit card to send funds to PASG. Some members donate automatically every month through PayPal. The advantages of using PayPal are that (1) it is easy to do, and (2) it accepts currencies from almost every country. The only disadvantage is that they deduct a small fee for every transaction.

You can also donate by writing a check to Parental Alienation Study Group and mailing it to:

Phillip Hendrix
COVENANT COUNSELORS
200 S. Wilcox Street #502
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104 U.S.A.

This year we are again setting the specific but achievable goal of \$10,000. This is the amount determined to fund and expand our operations for the upcoming year. Please help us to reach this goal! If you can make a donation of \$20, \$50, \$100, \$500, or more, please do so soon. If you have questions, contact the PASG Treasurer Phillip Hendrix at phillip@covenantcounselors.com.



You can earn money for PASG effortlessly.

AmazonSmile is a simple, automatic way to support PASG every time you shop for your usual purchases on Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop at <https://org.amazon.com>, you'll find the same prices, selection, and shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to PASG.

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Article highlights prevalence of alienating behaviors

The November 2019 issue of *Children and Youth Services Review* features an article entitled “Prevalence of adults who are the targets of parental alienating behaviors and their impact.” Coauthors include PASG members Jennifer J. Harman and Zeynep Biringen. Among the findings:

- Over 30% of parents in the U.S. and Canada feel they are being alienated from a child by the other parent.
- About 22 million American parents are the targets of parental alienation behaviors and are not reciprocating these in kind.
- Over 3.8 million children in the U.S. are estimated to be moderately to severely alienated from a parent.

More information:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chilyouth.2019.104471>



The Pinball Machine: How The “House” Wins the Alienation Game

The Pinball Machine is a bum-on-seat autobiographical page-turner about the author Trevor Cooper’s international journey into “the game” to save his daughter from the ravages of child psychological abuse by alienation. See <https://www.trevorcooperauthor.com>

I am sure that Trevor has his own memories of playing the pinball machines. I still recall frantically operating the flippers only to see the ball slip past along with the ever-elusive free game. Little did Trevor Cooper, like so many targeted parents, know that one day he too would be thrown into playing the “pinball machine,” this time for his daughter.

In particular, *The Pinball Machine* highlights the author’s confrontation with international indifference at best and active obstruction at worst with a huge financial cost and ongoing trauma for all. The author has insightful perspectives and proposals for change.

– Contributed by Stan Korosi, adapted from his website: <http://dialogueingrowth.com.au/author/pasdigspreche/>



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You can find PASG on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ParentalAlienationStudyGroup/>

Visit our Facebook page, become a friend, and write a comment.

PASG Members Participate in Recent and Upcoming Events

Parental alienation is frequently a topic at national and international conferences for psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, social workers, and other mental health and legal professionals. At these events, many PASG members participate, share, and make presentations on parental alienation. To share information about an upcoming event about parental alienation: please contact Events Editor Vivian Arber at Adr4solutions@gmail.com.

Parental / Grandparent Alienation and Equal Shared Parenting Symposium, Family Access – Fighting for Children’s Rights

Frankfort, Kentucky
October 4 – 5, 2019

Kentucky Conference to Explore Issues of Family Alienation and Shared Child Custody. Speakers: William Bernet, M.D., Steven Miller, M.D., Amy J.L. Baker, Ph.D., Linda Gottlieb, Esq., Brian Ludmer and Jill Egizii, founder and president of the Parental Alienation Awareness Organization USA.

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP)

Chicago, Illinois
October 14 – 19, 2019

66th Annual Meeting

<https://www.aacap.org/>

American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL)

Baltimore, Maryland
October 24 – 27, 2019

50th Annual Meeting

PASG members William Bernet and Astik Joshi will present a workshop.

www.aapl.org

Association of Family and Conciliation Courts (AFCC) Conference

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
October 31 – November 2, 2019

PASG members William Bernet, Demosthenes Lorandos, and Amy J. L. Baker will present a workshop.

<https://www.afccnet.org/Conferences-Training/AF-CC-Conferences/ctl/ViewConference/ConferenceID/239/mid/615>

International Society for Interpersonal Acceptance-Rejection

Porto, Portugal
June 30 – July 3, 2020

International Conferences on Interpersonal Acceptance and Rejection (ICIAR) are held every two years.

<https://www.isipar.uconn.edu>

PASG2019: Largest, Most Comprehensive Conference Yet

World experts gathered in Philadelphia to discuss latest thinking in PA.

PASG2019, THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF PASG, without doubt counts as the most well attended and comprehensive conference to date. Building on the previous conferences in Washington, DC, USA in 2017 and Stockholm, Sweden in 2018, the event brought together world experts to discuss the latest thinking and research in parental alienation. Besides an impressive list of plenary sessions, attendees could attend sessions in 4 tracks: parent, legal, clinical and research.

More specifically, 160 registrants attended one or more days in person, and there were 70 registrants for streaming presentations. Attendees came from 17 countries. There were 60 presenters. In addition, 4 groups of documentary filmmakers attended; they filmed various presentations and interviewed a number of presenters.

While the live event has come to an end, it lives on in various ways. Members can access information about the conference using the following methods:

- The final version of the program book is on the Members Only part of the PASG website. Go to Documents page and then to PASG 2019.
- PowerPoint slides for most of the presentations are available at the same place.
- Videos of most of the presentations are on the PASG channel of YouTube, which is publicly available.

On a related note, the Board of Directors (BOD) has decided to alternate locations of the annual meeting, i.e., one year in North America; the second year in some other continent. The BOD has been collecting proposals for the location of PASG2020. ■



Amy J. L. Baker, Chair of 2019 PASG Conference



William Bernet, PASG President



Steven G. Miller



Demosthenes Lorandos



Ashish Joshi



Linda Gottlieb



Sandra Moon Dancer, Parent Track Coordinator, and Tom Janssen, General Chair, PASG2019

pasg2019

Progress Made in Middle East

How the first joint custody decision by an Arab Muslim Islamic Court of Sharia was achieved.

By Borja Brañanova

IN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES LAW, after divorce, child custody is assigned only to one parent and the other parent has no or very minimal visitation rights, which can facilitate parental alienation. In this article, you will learn how the first joint custody decision in the Arab World was achieved.

Living in Dubai, in February 2013 I married a woman in the Embassy of Spain under the Spanish Civil Code. We had two children, a boy and a girl. In early 2016, when the children were 2 years old and 6 months old, my ex-wife filed for divorce in front of the Courts of Dubai with the aim of imposing a divorce and custody based on Islamic Sharia Law. I argued against this, aiming to secure both parents' parental responsibilities and assure compliance with the children's rights to get unobstructed access to both their families and roots in their parents' home countries. Under UAE Law, after divorce, the children's custody is assigned only to one parent and the other parent has no or very minimal visitation rights, which facilitates parental alienation.

In 2017, I began to discuss with the local authorities the need for creating an awareness system to minimize the spreading of alienation and increase the understanding of PA.

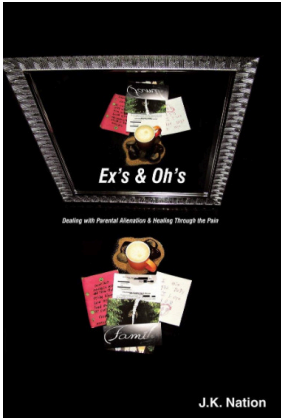
In the legal case, the main sources of the law were provided directly from Spain. A psychiatrist provided reports and risk assessments to inform the authorities of the negative effects of insulating children from their parents at a young age. Unfortunately, the Court of the First Instance of Dubai Court judged in favor of Sharia. This was duly responded to by an expert on international law and Spanish Supreme Court judges.

Joint custody

In November 2018, the Dubai Court of Appeal determined what is the first joint custody ruled by an Arab Muslim Islamic Court of Sharia. In March 2019, the Court of Cassation, the higher and last instance, confirmed the decision, becoming the first verdict in UAE on joint custody and accepted as Islamic jurisprudence. This achievement and the participation of an international multidisciplinary team were recognized by CEMIN, the confederation for the best interest of children with the merit to be proposed as candidates for the Princess of Asturias Award for Concord 2019 that the Princess of Asturias Foundation accepted.

Further activities

I'm currently working on the project "foranychildren.org" to enable linkage between disconnected organizations to pursue improving the international legal framework. Within the framework of foranychildren.org, we are preparing the campaign "Children Rights 2020" that will be released in spring 2020. Also, after almost two years of debate with the authorities, the license to operate the Parental Alienation Syndrome Association (PASA) to educate the Arab world on PA was approved in July 2019. ■



Ex's & Oh's: Dealing With Parental Alienation and Healing Through The Pain

By J.K. Nation

Publisher: Westbow Press (April 2019)

By Abe Worenklein, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Accredited Family Mediator, Montreal, Canada: abew@videotron.ca

UNLIKE OTHER BOOKS that have dealt with the identification and evaluation of parental alienation, this 150-page book discusses PA from a completely different perspective. It presents ways that individuals who have been alienated from their children can deal with the pain of having been alienated and it provides advice on healing.

The author reports that the goal for *Ex's and Oh's* is to bring life, freedom, and restoration to individuals and families impacted by parental alienation. As the author points out, “regardless what your spouse has done to you or to your children to spite you, please understand that you have no control over anything but how you react.” The author provides exercises for individuals who have been alienated and includes religious perspectives and prayers.

Aside from the references relating to the scriptures, there are excellent recommendations with respect to changing one's perspective so that communication with the children, for example, should not touch any “hot buttons” with them nor should certain subjects be raised. In addition, alienated parents need, according to the author, to make the best of the time that they have with the alienated children and not spend the time badmouthing or arguing with the alienated child.

The author provides good advice in terms of what to say to the alienated children by not arguing with them. The author quotes Stephen Covey, the author of *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*: “Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply.”

The children, like the alienated parent, are carrying pain. It is important that the children look for stability in their lives in a very difficult time. Parents are cautioned not to put the child in the middle of the tug-of-war nor should they be so absorbed by the pain and the parent's rights that the parent does not recognize the negative impact on the children.

The book is recommended in that it is unique in its providing advice to alienated parents with respect to what to keep in mind when interacting with the alienated child and to recognize the negative impact on the children when one just spends the time together in arguing or trying to convince the child that the child was alienated.

Dr. Worenklein is the Book Review Editor for PAI. If you have a book you would like reviewed, contact him at abew@videotron.ca ■

Compiled by Robert Ferrer, PASG Archivist

In this section, Robert Ferrer, PASG Archivist, provides citations and abstracts for recently published articles related to parental alienation. The citations are entered into the searchable [Parental Alienation Database](#), also accessible from the [PASG website](#). Many citations will provide access to the full-text version of the article. To have an article considered for this section, email Robert Ferrer at r-ferrer@illinois.edu

Forced Family Alienation: New Data And New Opinions On Alienation From Parents. Part II.

Note from R. Ferrer: Part I is available in the PA database. Search for Bruna.

By: Barbieri Waquim Bruna, PhD in Law. Psychology and Law, 2019. Vol. 9, no. 2, pp. 296–308, 13p.
[doi: 10.17759/psylaw.2019090220](https://doi.org/10.17759/psylaw.2019090220). (In Russ., abstr. in Engl.)

Abstract: The article is a continuation of the study conducted by the author in Brazil during the implementation of the master's thesis in law, the object of which was the study of the phenomenon of parental alienation. In a previous article published in this journal, we summarized the most important concepts developed in the writings of Richard Gardner, Douglas Darnall, Amy Baker, Mary Lund and other psychologists on the problem of parental exclusion. The first article also analyzes the questions contained in the questionnaire and answers to them using an important and innovative approach, according to which forced family exclusion is not a practice related only to female audiences. In Brazil it is a legal custom that custody children should preferably follow a one-way model and be aimed at mothers, because mothers are most often alienated. Cases have also been identified where the non-custodial parent or relatives who are not legal guardians were responsible for the practice of forced exclusion. In continuation of the publication of the results of the study, this article will analyze other questions of the questionnaire, which include an assessment of the degree of awareness of the survey participants about the phenomenon of parental exclusion, as well as a study of specific situations of living in recreated families, such as the relationship of parents and children with stepfathers, stepmothers, brothers and sisters in a new relationship.

Subjects: Alienation From Parents; Syndrome Of Alienation From Parents; Family Relationships; Juvenile Legal Psychology

Parental Alienation, Coaching and the Best Interests of the Child: Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Court of Australia

Note from R. Ferrer: Authors are critical of the use of Parental Alienation as a rebuttal to abuse in that it relies on the gendered discourses of hysterical, vindictive and manipulative women. Article refers to Magellan cases (p. 5). In Australia these types of cases are established by the Family Court as involving serious allegations of physical and sexual child abuse.

By: Jodi Death, Claire Ferguson, Kylie Burgess. Child Abuse & Neglect. Volume 94, August 2019, Article 104045. 10p

Abstract:

Background: Allegations of child sexual abuse provide complex challenges to family court systems.

Objectives: Despite being highly criticized in the academic research, this analysis examined whether and how the gendered concepts of parental alienation syndrome or parental alienation more broadly are still being used to rebut allegations of child sexual abuse in family court cases in Australia. Parental alienation is broadly understood as the deliberate actions of one parent to disrupt and prevent children's ongoing relationships with their other parent, in this case through allegations of abuse.

Methods: We examined 357 publicly available judgements of the Family Court of Australia between 2010 and 2015. Judgements were analyzed qualitatively for key themes using N-VIVO software.

Results: Five themes emerged in the data, including use of the concept of parental alienation, coaching, mothers as manipulative, mothers as mentally ill, and impact of the best interest of the child.

Conclusions: Results indicate that judgements made in the Family Court of Australia are both similar and divergent from those made in other jurisdictions internationally. The complexity of responding to allegations of child sexual abuse for parents is discussed.

Subjects: Family Law; Parental Alienation; Child Sexual Abuse; Separation

Examining Parental Alienation Treatments: Problems of Principles and Practices

Note from R. Ferrer: Author is very critical of Parental Alienation Treatments (PAT) indicating that PATs have the potential to harm children and their families, and that no adequate evidence has been reported to support claims that these treatments are beneficial. Author erroneously asserts that advocates claim that PA (the influence of the preferred parent) is the sole explanation for the reason a child might exhibit Visitation Refusal or Reluctance (VRR).

By: Jean Mercer. Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal (2019) 36:351–363

Abstract: When children of high-conflict divorced parents prefer one parent and resist or refuse visitation with the other parent, some authors have spoken of this situation as parental alienation (PA). PA refers to cases of avoidance of a parent in which the preferred parent is alleged to have manipulated the child's thinking and created antagonism toward the non-preferred parent, and in which neither abuse nor neglect has been substantiated. Advocates of the PA concept have offered treatment methods that entail court-ordered separation of the child from the preferred parent, followed by intensive treatment and aftercare through specialized counseling, with separation and treatment sometimes lasting years. This paper examines the published evidence and other material related to the safety and effectiveness of PA treatments, and concludes that the treatments have not been shown to be effective, but are in fact potentially harmful. Suggestions are made for research approaches that could help to explain avoidance of a parent and that could yield effective treatment for such avoidance.

Subjects: Parental Alienation; Divorce; High-Conflict Families; Visitation, Reunification

Advocating for Child Clients in Custody Cases Involving Parental Alienation Issues

Note from R. Ferrer: Author is critical of the reliance of forensic evaluators that emphasize the behavior of the alleged alienating parent in determining the child's best interests. Courts are failing children by not considering other compelling factors which may be causing the child to reject a parent. Author claims that actual parental alienation cases are rare, and children's voices are being suppressed.

By: Jaya L. Connors. Widener Law Journal. 2019, Vol. 28 Issue 1, p5-21. 17p.

Abstract: The article discusses the role of children's advocates in the field of child custody within parental alienation allegations. Also cited are the national and international standards of child representation, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children's (CRC) principle on child focused representation, and the parents' rights to custody of their child.

Subjects: Custody Of Children; Lawyers; Parent-Child Relationship (Law); Convention On The Rights Of The Child (1989)

Righting Wrongs: One Man Sets Out to Fight Parental Alienation

Note from R. Ferrer: Newspaper article covers Anthony Cauchi, the founder of Happy Parenting for Happier Children. The organization wants to change a prevailing mentality and give men the right to be just as proactive in their children's life as mothers.

By: Laura Calleja. MaltaToday (San Gwann, Malta) 06 July 2019.

Subjects: Parents and Parenting; Child Custody; Psychologists ■

About the Parental Alienation Study Group (PASG)

Parental Alienation Study Group, Inc. (PASG) is an international, not-for-profit corporation. PASG has over 600 members – mostly mental health and legal professionals – from over 55 countries. The members of PASG are interested in educating the general public, mental health clinicians, forensic practitioners, attorneys, and judges regarding parental alienation. PASG members are also interested in developing and promoting research on the causes, evaluation, and treatment of parental alienation.

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Contributor Guidelines

How to contribute: Please send all your contributions to your local editor or to the editor-in-chief.

Format: Submit manuscript as a Word file (.doc, .docx) as an email attachment.

Style: news, case studies, pilot studies, literature reviews, announcements, research, research studies or proposals, advocacy, publicity, promotion, requests for support or funding.

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Editorial Policy: PASG seeks to lead and promote the scholarly discussion and debate concerning Parental Alienation practice, research, education and advocacy to promote development of informed practice and policy in this field.

Articles may be subject to editing. Authors will be consulted and will be sent their final article for proofing and approval prior to publication.

The editorial team may solicit information and articles for publication and will appropriately consult contributors about the article to be prepared based upon their contribution.

Contributors may submit articles or links to articles that are already published or considered elsewhere. It is the responsibility of contributors to obtain the necessary permission where required to submit their article to *Parental Alienation International* and to appropriately acknowledge prior publication.

The PASG retains the final decision of the suitability of articles and which articles are selected for publication in *Parental Alienation International*.

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