

Major Topic Symposia:

- **FAITH JOURNEYS of VETERANS & MILITARY PERSONNEL**
 - **PSYCHOLOGICAL,**
 - **SOCIAL &**
 - **SPIRITUAL JOURNEY**



Speakers:

- **Ron Morton,**
 - **M.S., Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist**
 - **Episcopal Priest**
 - **Veteran**
 - **Native American**
 - **Director Recovery and Resiliency
BlueCare/TennCare Select**
 - **NAMI Knoxville, TN**
 - **NAMI National Board of Directors**



Speakers:

- **Cliff McGlotten, LCSW,**
 - **MSGT US Army RET**
 - **Ex Officio NAMI TX Vet Liaison to Veterans Council**
 - **President NAMI San Antonio, TX;**



Speakers:

- **PETER BAUER**
- LCSW-S, LMFT-S, LCDC, ACSW, BCD
- Department Of Veterans Affairs, TX
- Adjunct Professor, Dept. Social Work, U. of Texas, San Antonio



Moral Injury: The Psychological And Spiritual Injuries that Occur Due To War And/Or Violence

Rev. Peter E. Bauer

Cliff McGlotten

Ron Morton



Moral Injury Definition And Statistics

- Moral Injury is any action that a person commits that violates their sense of moral, religious, ethical, understanding of what it means to be human.
- Moral Injury results in an injury to the soul, i.e. a soul wound



Moral Injury Statistics

- Current numbers of Global war On Terrorism (GWOT)
- 2.8 million deployments
- 48 million children effected by deployments of service-member parents
- 22 million veterans
- Data from recent White House Conference with Dr. Jill Biden
- 0.5 percent of the population have served in the military. (Dr. Nancy Sherman VACO presentation Washington, D.C. 04/14/2016)



Moral Injury: History

- Moral Injury goes way back
- Referenced by Bishop Butler London Wells Chapel, 17th Century
- Other references Fifth Century BCE Greece
- Sophocles , Playwright, Philosopher, General
- Ajax, Theatre of war, themes addressed in play
- -psychological anguish
- -holding to account
- Shame (Idea) literally exposure of genitalia “ without my fig leaf “
- Need for patient gratitude, General Jim Dubek, Georgetown University says
- “ that officers who are facing redeployments repeatedly face a lot od disillusionment “
- Moral Anguish



Moral Injury Research

- Dr. Nancy Sherman, Professor, Georgetown University Washington, D.C. Author of “ After War “, philosopher
- Stoicism-armor that it used by some Veterans and serviced members to handle Moral Injury “ that’s just the way it is, some things will never change. “ (Bruce Hornsby)
- Dr. Nancy Sherman suggests that after awhile Stoicism outlives its utility in a combat environment concerning Moral Injury.



Moral Injury Research

- Jonathan Shay MD, Ph.D
- (1997) “Achilles In Vietnam”
- (2002) “Odysseus In America: The Homecoming “
- (2005) “ War And The Soul “ Dr. Ed Tick
- (2013) “ Soul Repair: Recovering From Moral injury After War” Dr. Rita Nakashima-Brock and Dr. Gabriella Lettini, Soul Repair Center, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX



Moral Injury Research

- (2014) The Warrior's Return: Restoring The Soul After War
- (2015) “ Afterwar : Healing The Moral Wounds Of Our Soldiers”
Dr. Nancy Sherman
- Dr. Kent Drescher Ph. D and Presbyterian Minister M. Div,
National Center For PTSD Palo Alto, Ca and The Pathways Center,
Researcher
- (2013) Dr. William Nash, Combat Stress Program, US Marine
Corps; Dr. Brett Litz, VA Outpatient Program Boston, Ma, research
study on Moral injury
- Impact Of Killing In War (six session Cognitive-Behavioral
Intervention)
- Adaptive Disclosure (eight session Exposure-Based Therapy
Intervention)



Moral Injury Research

Psychodynamic Influence

Dr. Robert Stolorow Ph.D

(2007) “ Trauma And Human Existence “

“The Others “ and the “ Normals “

(2011) “(2011), *World, Affectivity, Trauma: Heidegger and Post-Cartesian Psychoanalysis.*

“let the Others Be the Others. “

Russell Bryant Carr MD

(2011) “Combat And Human Existence “ article

Psychoanalytic Psychology

(2015) “ Authentic Solitude: What The Madness Of Combat Can Teach Us About Authentically Being-With Our Patients “

International Journal Of Psychoanalytic Self-Psychology



Russell Carr's stages of treatment for Moral Injury

- 1. Initial Consultation and consent to treatment
- 2. Addressing shame
- 3. Sessions Addressing Phenomenology Of Trauma
- 4. Seek Intersubjective Key With Patient
- 5. Finding a Provisional Relational Home
- 6. Moving On



Moral Injury Stand Alone Phenomena

- Moral Injury can present as a stand-alone phenomena. One can experience a wound to the soul and not experience a mental health disorder.
- However, with combat and/or with other violence phenomena, Moral injury can co-present with Post-Traumatic Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, Bi-Polar Disorder, etc.



Moral Injury Example

- Jeff Hall (18) Combat Engineer, Counter-Insurgency (2005)
- Clean dead bodies out of Iraqi family vehicle, remuneration process to family , amount was only \$750. Dollars. The Soldier Hall arranged for the family to get a car at his own expense .
- Four months later the death certificates arrived for the dead civilian Iraqi family members, they were stamped in red ink “ Enemy combatants “
- This created Moral Injury for Hall.



Moral Injury Recovery

- Need for self-empathy.
- You cannot be one stop shop intelligence analyst, you can't exhibit oversized liability. Another way to view this is proportional responsibility (Nash ,Litz 2013)
- Example of Soldier who picked up body parts in black garbage bags. Later same young Soldier ended up living at a retirement home for retired Soldiers, developed a sense of aspirational hope being someone who could give assistance to these older female veterans.



Moral Injury Interventions

- Religious worship experiences
- Sacred literature group studies
- Prayer experiences, monastic retreats
- Soldier's Heart group pilgrimages to Vietnam, Greece, Turkey, visiting battlefields, doing reparative work
- Truth Circle Gatherings i.e. Veterans Heart Georgia, Decatur, Ga
- Religious ritual experiences like walking a Labyrinth Share Program, Shepherd Center Atlanta, Ga Rev. Alan Roof and the Cathedral Of St. Phillip Atlanta, Ga.
- Native American Spirituality

