

Researcher Profile

An Interview with Thomas Smith, Ph.D.

Dr. Thomas E. Smith has been a clinician, researcher, supervisor, and professor for over 30 years. He has more than one hundred articles spanning the fields of family therapy, social work, psychology and financial therapy. He was formerly the Training Director for an accredited postmasters' training program in family therapy and is now a Professor of Social Work at Florida State University. He is a licensed social worker and a Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He has written several books on financial therapy. He is the founder and director of the Financial Therapy Center that is affiliated with the College of Social Work at Florida State University.



Q. Define what you do professionally.

A. I'm a tenured university professor at Florida State University. I am also the Director of the Financial Therapy Center that is affiliated with the College of Social Work at FSU. In my role as a university professor, I teach graduate courses including one on Financial Therapy. In my role as the director, I see clients and administer the center.

Q. What activities encompass your professional responsibilities?

A. I teach masters and doctoral courses in psychopathology, therapy and research. I conduct clinical research. I also see clients and consult on service projects.

Q. How long have you been engaged in your professional activity?

A. 35 years

Q. What led you to your professional calling?

A. Desire to be a therapist.

Q. How are you paid?

A. State funds.

Q. Do you work alone or do you have a team?

A. I have a team.

Q. What theoretical framework guides your work when dealing with clients?

A. Family Systems, Narrative, Mindfulness, and Behavioral Systems.

Q. What needs to happen so that 10 years from now we can say that financial therapy is a respected field of study?

A. Attract diverse faculty; too much financial therapy is done by a few people.

Q. If others are interested in finding out more about you personally and professionally, where can they obtain this information?

A. Visit: Psychologytoday.com
 Financialtherapycenter.com
 FSU.edu