



## Mary Olson, Ph.D.

*Northampton, Massachusetts, USA*

Institute for Dialogic Practice

Smith College School of Social Work and the University of Massachusetts Medical School

Mary Olson, Ph.D. is the Director of the Institute for Dialogic Practice. She is on the faculty of the Smith College School of Social Work and the University of Massachusetts Medical School. A scholar-practitioner and international lecturer and trainer, she is a recognized leader in the development of Dialogic Practice in the US.

Since 2001, Mary has collaborated with Jaakko Seikkula, Ph.D., the developer of Open Dialogue, on creating training and research programs that will help adapt the approach to the United States, particularly public settings. She is co-principal investigator (with Douglas Ziedonis, M.D.) of the Open Dialogue research study at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Her other research and scholarship examine dialogical transformation in psychotherapy, the effects of managed care, anorexia as communication and the use of writing in therapy.

From 2001 to 2002, Mary was a senior Fulbright Scholar to Finland in the Department of Clinical Psychology at the University of Jyväskylä. From 1990 to 1995, she was Director of the Clinical Externship in Systemic Family Therapy at Berkshire Medical Center, a position she held during the chairmanship of Carlos Sluzki, M.D. – one of the founders of the family therapy field. Mary is a member of the American Academy of Family Therapists and maintains a private practice in Northampton, Massachusetts.

An honors graduate of Wellesley College, Mary has an M.A. in English and comparative literature with high honors from Columbia University and an M.S.W. from Smith College. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts.