

# **Holly Oxhandler, Ph.D.**

**Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, Assistant Professor, Diana R. Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University**

Waco, TX, US

Oxhandler studies how to ethically & effectively assess and discuss clients' religion/spirituality within health and mental health treatment

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## **Biography**

Holly K. Oxhandler joined Baylor University's Garland School of Social Work in Fall 2014, upon completing her Ph.D. at the University of Houston. Her research focuses on the intersection between ethical and effective integration of clients' religion/spirituality and the evidence-based practice process in mental and behavioral health treatment. She developed the Religious/Spiritually Integrated Practice Assessment Scale, which assesses mental healthcare providers' (social workers, psychologists, counselors, marriage and family therapists, and nurses) attitudes, perceived feasibility, self-efficacy, behaviors, and overall orientation toward integrating clients' religion/spirituality in practice.

Dr. Oxhandler has clinical and research experience working with older adults with anxiety and depression at the Baylor College of Medicine, which included co-authoring a cognitive behavioral treatment manual and counselor workbook that integrates clients' religious/spiritual beliefs into practice. Though the integration of clients' religion/spirituality in mental health treatment is her primary area of scholarly interest, her scholarship has extended to or intersects with evidence-based practice, serious mental illness, social anxiety disorder, virtual reality, mentoring, and social work practitioners' professional identity.

Dr. Oxhandler's research and training have been generously supported by the John Templeton Foundation, the Gulen Institute, and the Fernando J. Zuniga y Rivero Foundation. She is grateful for these sources of support, but is especially thankful for the invaluable mentoring she has received over the years. Because of her exceptional mentors, Dr. Oxhandler deeply enjoys paying it forward by mentoring students (BSW, MSW, and PhD) outside of the classroom with regard to professional development.

She is married to Cory Oxhandler, and the couple is both proud of and grateful for their two children, Callie (2012) and Oliver (2016).

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## **Industry Expertise**

Research, Education/Learning

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Religion and Social Work, Religion and Spirituality in Clinical Practice, Evidence-Based Practice Process, Scale Development, Mental Health (primarily Anxiety and Depression), Mentoring and Professional Development, Mental Health

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## **Education**

**University of Houston**  
Ph.D. Graduate College of Social Work

**University of Houston**  
MSW Graduate College of Social Work

**University of Houston**  
B.S. Psychology

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