

# **Kristen Zaleski**

**Clinical Associate Professor of Social Work Dept. of Adult Mental Health and Wellness at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**

Los Angeles, CA, US

Clinical Associate Professor focused on sexual assault victims and psychotherapy.

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## **Description**

KRISTEN ZALESKI is a sexual assault victim advocate, researcher, professor and psychotherapist in Southern California. Her decade-long work with sexual assault survivors spans inpatient and outpatient settings, and she has a dual specialty in civilian and military sexual trauma.

Zaleski has published research on treatment for sexual assault-related post-traumatic stress disorder and focused her dissertation research on the trauma of becoming pregnant from a rape during military service. Her book, *Understanding and Treating Military Sexual Trauma*, was released in April 2015, and it was showcased at the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books that same year. Her current research has centered on the incidence of rape culture in social media as well as the issue of empathy in social work education.

Zaleski continues to explore clinical phenomena in the areas of health social work, LGBTQI experiences, empathy, mothering, vicarious trauma and attachment-related trauma through a neurobiological lens. She also maintains a private practice in Los Angeles.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Mental Health Care, Training and Development, Health Care - Providers, Health and Wellness, Health Care - Services, Education/Learning

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## **Topics**

Neurobiology, Empathy, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Sexual Assault, Psychotherapy, LGBTQI , Mothering

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## **Affiliations**

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### **Education**

**The Sanville Institute for Clinical Social Work**  
Ph.D.

**University of Southern California**  
M.S.W.

**University of California, Los Angeles**

B.A.

**Santa Barbara City College**

A.A.

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## **Accomplishments**

**Hutto Patterson Foundation Award for Distinguished Faculty**

USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

## **Featured Author**

Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

**Bonnie Bearson Scholarship Fund**

Sanville Institute

## **Graduation Speaker**

University of Southern California

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