AI and the Human: Exploring Adaptation

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 | PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

All participants are asked to login to Zoom by 8:30 am

Time	Session	Presenter
8:45 AM - 9:00 AM	*Welcome*	Members of WPFC Board & Faculty
9:00 AM - 9:20 AM	*An Overview of Bowen's Family Systems Theory: Setting the Context for Today's Conference*	Mick Landaiche, PhD
9:20 AM - 10:30 AM	*Is the Future Artificial? Is it Intelligent? A Tour of the Past, Present and Predictions on the Future of AI.*	**Keynote** - Brian Caffo, PhD
10:30 AM – 10:45 AM	*Break*	
10:45 AM – 11:15 AM	*Discussion*	Led by Moderator
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	*AI and the Family: Exploratory Data*	Ashley North, LMFT
11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	*Discussion*	Led by Moderator
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM	*Lunch*	
12:30 PM - 1:00 PM	*Artificial Intelligence in Natural Systems: Emotional Processes in Large-Scale Social Change*	Walter Howard Smith Jr., PhD
1:00 PM - 1:30 PM	*Discussion*	Led by Moderator
1:30 PM - 1:45 PM	*Break*	
1:45 PM - 2:30 PM	*Everything Old is New Again*	Sandra Caffo, LCSW
2:30 PM - 3:00 PM	*Discussion*	Led by Moderator
3:00 PM - 3:20 PM	*Moving on Up: Societal Emotional Process and Innovations*	Arthur Zipris, PhD
3:20 PM - 4:00 PM	*Discussion & Wrap-Up*	Led by Moderator

Speaker Bios

Brian Caffo, PhD

Keynote Speaker

Brian Caffo, PhD is a professor in the Department of Biostatistics with a secondary appointment in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. He graduated from the University of Florida Department of Statistics in 2001. He has worked in statistical computing, statistical modeling, computational statistics, multivariate and decomposition methods and statistics in neuroimaging and neuroscience. He led teams that won the ADHD 200 prediction competition. He co-directs the SMART statistical group. With other faculty at JHU, he created and co-directs the Coursera Data Science Specialization, a 10 course specialization on statistical data analysis. He co-directs the JHU Data Science Lab, a group dedicated to open educational innovation and data science. He is the former director of the Biostatistics graduate programs and admissions committees. He is currently the co-director of the Johns Hopkins High Performance Computing Exchange super computing service center and past-president of the Bloomberg School of Public Health faculty senate.

Additional Presenters

Mick Landaiche, PhD

N. Michel (Mick) Landaiche III, Ph.D., is a human relations consultant and facilitator for individuals and groups working toward personal and/or professional development, also providing training and consultation for therapists and organizational consultants in Pittsburgh, PA, as well as in Europe. He has served on the faculty of the Western PA Family Center since 2007. He is the author of "Groups in Transactional Analysis, Object Relations, and Family Systems: Studying Ourselves in Collective Life" (2020).

Ashley North, LMFT

Ashley North has been a student of the concepts of Bowen Family Systems Theory for over a decade, having first encountered the theory in 2010 in the graduate program of Marriage and Family Therapy at Seton Hill University. Ashley attempts to think systemically within her own relationships, in her practice with clients, while on the board and faculty of the Western Pennsylvania Family Center, and anywhere else that nitrogen and oxygen can be found. Ashley has a particular interest in understanding the biological foundations of theory and how a focus on emotional process may be an emotional process in itself.

Walter Howard Smith Jr., PhD

Walter Howard Smith Jr., Ph.D. Is a licensed psychologist in private practice, a board member of the Pittsburgh Foundation, and a trustee of the Casey Family Programs Foundation in Seattle Washington. He was a founding member of the Western Pennsylvania Family Center and currently on its faculty. He is the retired Clinical Director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services and the retired Deputy-Director of Children Youth and Families. He is the past executive director of Family Resources, a large child abuse prevention and treatment non profit organization in Pittsburgh.

Sandra Caffo, LCSW

Sandra Caffo is a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a 40-year career applying systems thinking in clinical work, teaching, and business. She earned an undergraduate degree in social work from the University of Dayton and an MSW from Wayne State University, in a systems-thinking graduate program. Ms. Caffo's early career included work in public welfare, child welfare, and criminal justice, followed by a transition to academia as an Assistant Professor at the University of Toledo. She also taught at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Social Work and its Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy. Ms. Caffo began studying Bowen Family Systems Theory in 1986 and has remained active in the Western Pennsylvania Family Center, through teaching, presenting, and as a faculty member. She established a clinical practice, became licensed as a Marriage and Family Therapist and was an Approved Supervisor for the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. In 2003, she joined Life Solutions EAP, where she advanced to Senior Director, managing Employee Assistance Program services for UPMC and other organizations.

Arthur Zipris, PhD

Arthur Zipris is a licensed psychologist. He has studied Bowen Family Systems Theory for over 30 years, and has done many presentations on different applications of the theory, both in Pittsburgh and elsewhere. He is also on the faculty of the Western Pa. Family Center, and has taught Family Systems theory for many years as an adjunct lecturer with the MFT program at Seton Hill. He is the primary author of the BFST workbook, and developed, along with other faculty members, the on-line program of the theory at the Family Center, as well as being a facilitator of the Basic Seminar at the Family Center.