

Dr Agatha Benyera-Mararike

DCPsych; Post-MSc Diploma; MSc; PGCE; BSc Hons; HE Dip (RM)

Chartered Counselling Psychologist



Health Professions Council Registration: **PYL34593**
British Psychological Society Membership: **87097**

Dr Benyera-Mararike has completed over 129 Medicolegal Reports and over 100 Professional expert reports. To date, she has never attracted criticism and her opinion has been accepted by court

Dr Benyera-Mararike is a midwife with a professional background in Education, Counselling Psychology and Psychotherapy. She has 23 years of experience as a midwife working in consultant led NHS and in private hospitals. She also has extensive knowledge and experience of preparing reports within Criminal Justice System Civil Procedure and Family Courts where she has developed experience as an expert witness.

Dr Benyera-Mararike continues to provide medico-legal reports (MLR) for family criminal and civil matters – in accident injury claims, immigration, and Court of Appeal relating to detainees and victims of torture and complex presentations of traumatic stress.

REPORTS COMPLETED

Past Instructions 2006- 2017 Terrence Higgins Trust

Over 100 Professional Expert reports:

- Writing court reports for refugees and asylum seekers clients.

Recent Instructions and Assessments: April 2017 to July 2020

51 Expert Witness Reports covering:

- Medico Legal Report writing for immigration cases for asylum seekers, victims of rape, trauma, torture in detention centres and community)
- Cases- Impact of trauma on psychological well-being of detainees' victims of torture, multiple trauma, trafficking and modern-day slavery
- Assessment of attachment between parents and children
- Impact of domestic violence on adults and children
- Assessment of the impact of a parent's psychological status on their children and their ability to provide care for them
- Issues relating to abuse and neglect
- Cognitive assessments
- Assessments of children and teenagers:
- Assessment of maturity and psychological effect on Culpability of offense

78 Medico-legal Expert Witness Reports in:

- Assessment of psychological impact of complex accident injury and road traffic collision and work-related injuries; Treatment and prognosis or recovery.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

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| 2015 | DC Psych (Doctorate in Counselling Psychology and Psychotherapy) - Middlesex University |
| 2006 | Post-MSc Diploma Counselling Psychology - City University London |
| 2003 | Advanced Certificate in Counselling Skills - University of Central Lancashire |
| 2001 | MSc in Psychological Research Methods - Lancaster University |
| 1997 | HE Diploma in Midwifery Studies - University of Nottingham |
| 1991 | BSc Honours in Psychology - University of Zimbabwe (UZ) |
| 1987 | BSc General in Mathematics and Biology - UZ up to part 2 |

SPECIALIST TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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| 2010 | PGCert Supervision, Group-work and Leadership training: NSPC |
| 2002 | Medical Research Ethics & Law Training (PG Level): Keele University |
| 2002 | University Certificate in Information Technology UCLan |
| 2001 | ENB 934 – Care and management of HIV/AIDS: The University of Manchester |
| 2004 | PGCLT Clinical Practice & Higher Education: Liverpool University |

Other training includes:

- Medico-Legal assessment and report writing - Medical Justice Training
- Excellence in Medico-Legal Report writing – Bond Solon
- Civil Law and Procedure – Bond Solon
- Court room skills and witness familiarisation – Bond Solon
- Cross examination day – Bond Solon
- Working with Long Term conditions; HIV Mental Health
- Perinatal Mental Health; Antenatal screening and diagnosis
- Providing culturally appropriate psychological interventions BAME and migrant populations
- Psychosexual counselling; LGBT work; Sexual health
- Child protection and Safeguarding vulnerable adults
- Working with trauma – Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Court cases Expert Report Writing – Interagency work with Refugees and Asylum seekers; MLR writing – completing Bond Solon Expert Witness accreditation
- Media Spokesperson – BAME HIV work
- Motivational Interviewing
- Couple and Group Work counselling and Supervision
- Bereavement Counselling
- Emotional Freedom Technique – EFT
- EMDR fully trained therapist
- Working with issues around Autistic Spectrum Conditions

PUBLICATIONS

- **Canterbury Christ Church University:** Staff Development Conference presentation- June 2013 – My Community Development work & overview of DPsych Research- Oral presentation
- **Benyera-Mararike, A. (2013). Paper on DCPsych research pilot study report. Title:** Evaluating culturally appropriate HIV counselling for childbearing migrant African women: NHIVNA HIV Nursing. **June 2013 issue. Volume 13 (2) p 14-19.**

- **Benyera-Mararike, A. and James, P (2013).** Paradoxes in practice: Meaning and experience of receiving traditional western counselling (CWC) compared to culturally sensitive approach (AES) as experienced by HIV sero-positive African migrant women – An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) **Oral Abstract Accepted.** Oral Abstract presentation. **Middlesex University Annual Research Conference 2013. Handbook p 37-38.** Conference 20.6.2013.
- **Benyera-Mararike, A. James, P. (2013).** Evaluation of fitness for purpose in provision of culturally sensitive counselling: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA.) **Oral Abstract Accepted.** **NHIVNA** Conference 25-27 June 2013. Presented 26.6.2013.
- **Benyera-Mararike, A. (2013).** Assumptions and paradoxes of providing and imposing Classical Western Counselling models (CWC): HIV sero-positive African migrant women’s meaning and experience of receiving African Emotional Support Counselling Service (AES) **Abstract Accepted** as Poster Presentation theme: Innovations in practice. **RCM conference** 13-15, Nov 2013)
- **Benyera-Mararike, A. (2015).** Tackling HIV stereotypes: targeting late diagnosis across demographics: – **Oral Presentation** on Impact on Practice (counselling aspect). **Impress Health 2 Project Conference. Canterbury Cathedral Lodge. 25 March 2015.**

WORK HISTORY

2019 – Present Supervisor

- 5 groups- Frontline Therapists
- 1 Supervisee Xen Zone Childline online counsellor
- 3 Psychotherapist

2017 – Present Expert Witness/Counselling Psychologist

- Medico-Legal Report writing for immigration cases for asylum seekers, victims of rape, trauma, torture in detention centres and community
- Assessment of attachment between parents and children on issues relating to abuse and neglect
- Cognitive assessments
- Assessments of children and teenagers
- Assessment of maturity and psychological effect on culpability of offenses
- Accident claims

2017 – Present IAPT High Intensity CBT Therapist - FCS -Faversham Talking Therapies

Undertaking counselling (CBT, EMDR treatment; and assessments for a range of presenting issues including: -

- Anxiety; OCD; PTSD; Depression; Trauma
- Long term conditions
- Couple relationship and psychosexual counselling
- Drug and alcohol addictions; workplace bullying

2009 – Present Senior Lecturer/Academic Link Manager - Canterbury Christchurch University

Senior Lecturer in Midwifery

- Teaching midwifery core modules
- Leading on Module Expertise
- Cohort and module leader
- Teaching Inter-professional modules

- Personal tutor
- Practice link lecturer
- Teaching mentorship updates to midwifery practitioners

Sessional Lecturer in Psychology

- Module convener for Psychology & Therapeutic Process module; and lecturer for Psychology in Practice module

Academic Link Manager for MA in Practice Based Play Therapy (4/2009-Teach out phase -2/2018) duties included: -

- Managing the very complex collaborative programme delivered across eight sites in the UK and 6 overseas venues.
- Leading the programme through a successful Quality Assurance Institutional Audit in March 2010. Recruiting External examiners.
- Being the Deputy Chair of the programme's examination board and liaising with external examiners.
- Managed the day-to-day administration of the programme, coordinating and monitoring students' progress.
- Putting forward any minor or major modification to Quality Standards Office
- Monitoring work-based dimensions of student experience
- Co-ordinating and collating module evaluations for subject reviews; producing the annual programme monitoring report
- Supervising MA dissertations

External Examiner at UK universities and those that work partnership and International Universities – for courses in Counselling and Psychotherapy; Midwifery; HIV Nursing.

2017 – 2019 Counselling Tutor – ABC qualification Awards - Bedonwell Counselling Training Centre

- Level 3 Counselling Skills and Level 4 Diploma in Counselling
- Teaching Level 3 counselling Theory and Skills
- Teaching Working with diversity module
- Teaching the Ethical framework and Personal Development Level 3 and 4
- Supervision of trainees and qualified therapists
- Cohort leadership responsibilities

2014 – 2015 Psychotherapist - Mums Aid, London

- Providing individual psychotherapy to women suffering with perinatal mental health concerns; writing reports
- Antenatal anxiety and depression
- Postnatal depression
- Tokophobia; Birth trauma
- Attachment and bonding

2008 – 2009 Counselling Head of Counselling and Senior Lecturer - Gemini College- NCFE qualification Awards

- Level 3 Counselling Skills and Level 4 Diploma in Counselling
- Teaching Level 3 counselling Theory and Skills
- Teaching the Ethical framework and Personal Development Level 3 and 4

1998 – 2009 Registered Midwife

- My duties involved implementing holistic evidence-based midwifery related duties in relation to antenatal, intrapartum and post-partum periods in consultant led and private hospitals

- Implementing care to women who attending High Risk pregnancy assessment unit the Maternity Day Care Unit (MDCU) at SGH
- Counselling for foetal abnormalities after ultrasound scanning, antenatal screening
- Pre- and post-test counselling for and conducting diabetic screening
- Providing health promotion information/ advice.
- I advised, reassured or referred women/patients to medical practitioners or other members of the multidisciplinary team as their concerns demanded. I also worked as part a midwifery team in antenatal follow-up antenatal and booking clinic
- Management responsibilities as core staff on the MDCU and overseeing students on placements
- Being involved in action research and audits

2003 – 2018 Specialist HIV Counsellor - African Emotional support team (BACP Award winning service) - THT (Terrence Higgins Trust)

Specialist HIV Counsellor BAME women

- Carried on with same duties as above but with focus on BAME women; and
- Providing training to front line workers in NHS and HIV community centres about working with the needs of this specialised client group
- Writing court reports for asylum seekers as a Professional expert

THT Locum Counsellor (with NHS honorary contracts and working in HIV community centres)

- Carried on with same duties as below

African Emotional Support Worker

- Spearheaded the inception and running of 5 NHS based HIV counselling clinics for Africans affected with or infected with HIV/AIDS
- THT providing culturally sensitive 1-1, couple and group therapy; report writing
- Facilitator newly diagnosed group
- Inter-agency work
- Writing court reports for asylum seekers as a Professional expert

2007 Counselling Psychologist/CBT therapist - Brixton Prison

- Providing 1-1 counselling to prisoners

2006 – 2007 Counselling Psychologist

- Providing integrative counselling interventions to service users. The client group was children and young adults with learning difficulties, and their carers and families
- Took referrals of designated children and families in keeping with the procedures of the Service
- Provided specialist Counselling Psychology services in the following areas: assessment, consultation, individual therapy, and family therapy
- Conducted specialist assessments and implemented appropriate psychological interventions for service users
- Functioned as a full member of the multidisciplinary team at the specialist mental health service provided a liaison service to wider service agencies
- Provided highly specialist advice to families of children with disabilities
- Providing counselling support for clients with looked after children, going through fostering, parenting training or where there are parenting concerns
- Writing reports and participated in team meetings, case reviews, supervision, research and audit