

Valerie Malhotra Bentz, Ph.D., MSSW

Doctoral Faculty - School of Leadership Studies at Fielding Graduate University

Carpinteria, CA, US

Somatics and Phenomenology Professor

Biography

Valerie Malhotra Bentz, PhD, MSSW, is a Professor in the School of Leadership Studies at Fielding Graduate University, where she served as Associate Dean for Research. Her current interests include somatics, phenomenology, social theory, consciousness development, and Vedantic theories of knowledge. Her books include: Transformative Phenomenology: Changing Ourselves; Lifeworlds and Professional Practice (with David Rehorick); Mindful Inquiry in Social Research (with Jeremy Shapiro); and Becoming Mature: Childhood Ghosts and Spirits in Adult Life. She is also the author of a philosophical novel, Flesh and Mind: The Time Travels of Dr. Victoria Von Dietz. She is a Fellow in Contemplative Practice of the American Association of Learned Societies. Valerie was editor of Phenomenology and the Human Sciences (1994-1998). She has served as president and board member of the Clinical Sociology Association, the Sociological Practice Association and the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences. She founded and co-directed an action research team and center in Mizoram, India. Valerie was co-founder of the Creative Longevity and Wisdom program at Fielding. She has 20 years of experience as a psychotherapist, and is a certified yoga teacher and certified massage therapist. She is a member of the board of the Carpinteria Valley Association, an environmental activist group over 50 years old. She supports numerous environmental organizations and plays bassoon and piano. She is currently writing an article for a book of international scholars who are pushing the boundaries of the social and human sciences. Her article will bring in somatic and phenomenological ways of knowing. She is also working on a book on human development over a 35-year span using data to follow up on her first book, Becoming Mature: Childhood Ghosts and Spirits in Adult Life.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research, Health and Wellness, Mental Health Care, Program Development, Professional Training and Coaching, Social Services, Writing and Editing

Areas of Expertise

Research Methods, Phenomenology, Hermeneutics, Somatics, Social Theory and Practice, Vedantic-Yogic Thought, Human Development and Consciousness, Society, Culture and Systems, Social Psychology

Affiliations

Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences : Member, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy : Member, American Sociological Association : Member, Body Therapy Institute : Certified Advanced Massage Therapist, Integrative Yoga Therapy Institute : Certified Yoga Therapy Institute, Vedanta Society of Southern California : Initiate, Member Board of Directors Carpinteria Valley Association, Associate Member World Business Academy

Event Appearances

Presentation on Transformative Phenomenology

(November, 2012) Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences

Swami Vivekananda's Message for World Peace

(February, 2012) Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Education

Southern Illinois University

PhD Psychology

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

MSSW Social Work

Accomplishments

Lillian Dean Award?First Place for Novel

(2010) Awarded by the Central Coast Writer's Conference.

Fellowship

(2005) Conferred by the American Council of Learned Societies, Contemplative Practice.

Social Justice Award

(2002) Awarded by Fielding Graduate University.

Honored Scholar

(1999) Conferred by the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences.

Faculty Publication Awards

(1996) Awarded by Fielding Graduate University in 1996 and 1998.

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