

CURRICULUM VITAE: Maja O'Connor

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Education

2018 Specialist in Geriatric psychology, authorized by the Danish Psychology Association (360 hours of teaching, 240 hours of supervision).
2016 Cognitive behavioral therapist for adults (two-year training)
2013 Authorized psychologist authorized by The Danish Supervisory Board of Psychological Practice (160 hours of supervision)
2009 PhD (psychology), Dept. of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University
2001 MSc (psychology), Dept. of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University

Positions

2023- Professor in Clinical Psychology, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University and The Danish National Center for Grief, Copenhagen.
2017-23 Senior researcher at The Danish National Centre for Grief, Copenhagen, Denmark: Part time position in combination with associate professorship, AU.
2016-2017 Clinical psychologist at Centre for Life Quality, Municipal of Aarhus, part time.
2015-2023 Associate professor, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University.
2012-2015 Assistant professor, Unit for Psychooncology and Health Psychology (EPoS), Department of Psychology and Clinical Institute, Department of Medicine, Aarhus University, part time.
2010-2012 Post doctoral fellow, Center on Autobiographical Memory Research, Dept. of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University
2009-2010 Post doctoral fellow, EPoS, Dept. of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University
2005-2009 PhD student, Unit for Psychotraumatology, Dept. of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University.
2004-2005 Assistant professor, VIA University College Aarhus (DSH Aarhus).
2001-2004 Psychology teacher, The Basic Healthcare College for Nurses Aids, Aarhus (SOSU Aarhus).

Research management

2021- Primary Investigator (PI) of "Testing theories of grief", supported by the Velux Foundation and employing one Ph.d. fellow, one post doc, and one research assistant.

- 2020-23 PI of “Developing tools for identifying Prolonged Grief Disorder”, supported by the Tryg Foundation, employing one post doc.
- 2016- Manager of “Unit for Bereavement Research”, Aarhus University.
- 2016- PI of “The Aarhus Bereavement Study”, a longitudinal survey of bereaved adults with more than 1000 participants and 8 datapoints so far. The TABstudy is ongoing and includes several sub-studies with recognized scientists across the world.
- 2014-16 PI of “Project Life Chapters in grief” in cooperation with Professor Dorthe Thomsen, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University.
- 2010-11 PI of the research project “Memory and identity”, CON AMORE, Aarhus University.
- 2010-11 PI of the research project “Mindfulness training of vulnerable elderly bereaved spouses”, AU.
- 2009-10 PI of “The Visualization Project”, Unit for Health Psychology and Psycho Oncology, AU.
- 2005-09 PhD project “Post-traumatic stress disorder in elderly bereaved spouses and the impact of personality on grief reaction”, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, AU.

Research communication (last three years)

- 2025 The Trade Magazine: P, 17.11.25, ‘Psykotterapi for komplicerede sorgreaktioner – tre terapeutiske greb’, review of latest research on effects of treatment for complicated grief reactions.
- 2025 The Trade Magazine: P, 01.09.25, ‘Forlænget sorglidelse – den nye diagnose’, review of latest research on content of and screening tools for prolonged grief disorder.
- 2025 The Magazine Helse, August 2025, Interview for theme on grief: ‘Ny folkebevægelse skal gøre op med vores berøringsangst overfor død og sorg’, Journalist Jette W. Knudsen.
- 2024 Kristeligt Dagblad 27.12.24. Interviewet for the piece on grief: “Beretninger om sorg har tusindvis af visninger på sociale medier: Unge leder efter nogen, de kan læne sig op ad”, Journalist Simone Nielsson
- 2024 Hjerne kassen på P1, ‘Grief’ (1 hour national public service radio program), 24.12.24.
- 2024 Invited speaker on “Identifying and treating Prolonged Grief Disorder in older bereaved people” at Scandinavian Geropsychology Forum –Copenhagen, 3.-4. June.
- 2024 POLITIKEN STUDIELIV (national newspaper) 24.5., Interview by journalist Karoline Ulvig on grief in relation to “Studerende og Sorg”, a volunteer association for bereaved students at Aarhus University.
- 2024 Invited guest lecturer, Harvard University, May 8th. By Associate Professor Christy Denckla, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.
- 2024 News feature on sudden loss in old age, TVMidtVest (local TV station), 15.2.24.
- 2024 Invited speaker at the annual conference at Center for Psychotraumatology, University of Southern Denmark. Theme: Towards implementing the ICD-11: PTSD, C-PTSD, adjustment disorder, **Prolonged Grief Disorder** (ICD-11 chapter of stress-related disorders).

- 2023 Gloria Mediahouse podcast on grief, 30 minutes on "Can grief be a disorder?", 24.11.23
- 2023 Radio4, Kraniebrud, 1 hour on the experience of grief. 16.10.23
- 2023 Ældresagen/DaneAge Associations magazine, April 2023. Interviewed for the piece "Når vores forældre dør"/"When our parents die"
- 2023 Berlingske (national newspaper) Interview on grief as a basic emotion, 16.4.23

Clinical experience and supervision

- 2024- Supervisor in Grief-focused CBT for the Danish National Centre for Grief.
- 2021-23 Supervisor for psychologists as Center for Quality of Life, The Municipal of Aarhus.
- 2019-2024 Clinical training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Prolonged Grief Disorder by Professor Paul A. Boelen at Utrecht University, Holland
- 2019 Five month clinical and research stay with Professor Richard A. Bryant, University of New South Wales and Traumatic Stress Clinic, Sydney, Australia.
- 2018 Specialist in Geriatric Psychology certified by The Danish Psychology Association
- 2018- Supervisor of psychologist at The Danish National Center for Grief in CBTgrief.
- 2017-19 Performing and supervising compassion focused therapy for PGD in adults
- 2013 Authorized psychologist certified by The Danish Supervisory Board of Psychological Practice
- 2012- Supervising psychologists at AU on Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy
- 2012- Peer supervision training of medical students and GPs, Department of Health, AU.
- 2011-2012 Clinical interviews of patients at the Psychiatric Hospital, Risskov, Aarhus with OCD, eating disorders and personality disorders supervised by Professor Carsten René Jørgensen.
- 2010- Therapist for over 25 eight-week courses on MBCT with groups of breast cancer patients, elderly bereaved spouses, technical administrative personnel, students of psychology and others supervised by MBCT instructors Trish Bartley and Christina Shennan, Bangor university, Wales, and MSc, authorized psychologist, Antonia Sumbundu, Denmark.
- 2009-2010 Visualization intervention with cancer patients supervised by Professor Bobby Zachariae and psychologist Mette Lund Jensen.
- 2005-2009 Interviews and support counselling of elderly surviving spouses supervision by Professor Ask Elklit and psychologists Bente Lynge and Marianne Rønne.
- 2006 Therapist at the Anxiety Clinic, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University, supervised by Loa Clausen, PhD.
- 2006 Therapist at the Center for Rape Victims, supervised by Maiken Knudsen.
- 2004-2005 Training social worker students in collegial supervision. Supervision of group-based BA projects on social work

Grants

2024	SATS-puljen, with the Danish National Center for Grief (15% for salary for MOC)	DKK 6.500.000
2022	Visiting researcher at AU grant (Lonneke Lenferink) , AUFF	DDK 45.000
2021	Velux Foundation “Testing theories of grief”	DDK 3.528.334
2020	Tryg Foundation grant for the project “Tools for identifying Prolonged Grief Disorder”.	DKK 904.645
2020	AUFF Mobility grant (research visit, Utrecht University, NL)	DKK 29.000
2019	SATS-puljen, with the Danish National Center for Grief (15% for salary for MOC)	DKK 7.000.000
2019	Brorsons Foundation	DKK 15.000
2019	Julie von Müllers Foundation	DKK 10.000
2018	AUFF Mobility Grant (research stay at UNSW, Sydney, Australia)	DKK 98.000
2016	SATS-puljen, with the Danish National Center for Grief (15% for salary for MOC)	DKK 8.000.000
2016	AUFF Associate Professor Starting Grant /The TABstudy)	DKK 2.300.000
2015	EGV Foundation	DKK 198.378
2014	AU Competency Center	DKK 25.000
2010	EGV Foundation	DKK 65.000
2006	EGV Foundation	DKK 220.000
2005	FKK PhD fellowship Grant	DKK 1.550.000

Research projects and collaborations other than as PI

2018-24	Research partner on DRUG DEATH RELATED BEREAVEMENT AND RECOVERY (END-project), managed by Professor Kari Dyregrov, University of Bergen, Norway.
2018-	Collaboration on “Narrative aspects of grief” with Professor Dorthe Thomsen, AU,
2018-2025	Collaboration on “Transactional memory in grief” with Associate Professor Celia Harris, “University of Western Sydney, Australia.
2015-	Research supervisor of the research program: “Grief after loss of an infant” by associate professor Dorte Hvidtjørn, Master of Science in Health (midwifery) Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark
2014-	Clinical responsibility for several clinical projects at Unit for Health Psychology, AU

- 2013- Coordinator of Intervention Methodology courses, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University
- 2012-16 Coordinator of courses on peer supervision, 2nd semester, MA level, Medicine
- 2012-15 Member of the steering group of the public information project “Når to bliver til en” [When two becomes one] by project manager Jorit Tellervo, Knowledge Centre for Rehabilitation and Palliative Care, University of Southern Denmark
- 2006-2007 PhD student representative, Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University
- 2006- Employment, training and supervision of 55 master students working with interviews, mental support and/or psychological intervention towards elderly bereaved spouses, cancer patients and psychiatric patients.
- 2007- Supervision and assessment of more than 70 Master theses at the Department of Psychology and Behavioral Sciences, Aarhus University
- 2004-2005 Head of the psychology teachers group at VIA University College, Aarhus
- 2003-2004 Head of the psychology program at the Basic Healthcare College, SOSU, Aarhus.

Other activities

- 2024- Member the Professional board of Geriatric Psychology (Gerontopsykologisk Fagnævn) in The Danish Psychology Association.
- 2024- Leader of the workgroup “Developing international clinical recommendations for treating prolonged grief disorder”.
- 2022 Member of the planning committee for the first European Grief Conference, Copenhagen, September 2022.
- 2021-24 Monthly research visit, Southern Denmark University, with Professor Ask Elklit and Associate Professor Maria Louison Vang.
- 2021 Member of expert panel on grief, ESTSS conference online 2021
- 2020- Member of expert panel for clinical consultancy on late effects of cancer, Danish Breast Cancer Group Center and Clinic for Late Effects (DCCL)
- 2019 Research visit, 6 months, with Professor Richard Bryant, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia.
- 2014- Supervisor of 15 Ph.d. projects.
- 2017- Opponent for national and international Ph.d. defences
- 2015- Reviewing large scale national and international grant applications
- 2018-20 Member of the work group for the project “Needs for support in elderly people bereaved by suicide”, University of Southern Denmark.

- 2018-19 Leader of the workgroup on developing clinical guidelines for identifying and treating prolonged grief disorder, The Danish Social- and Health Authority.
- 2017- Supervisor and grief consultant for the NGO "Students and Grief", Aarhus University (non-profit)
- 2017- Board member, Danish Society for Geriatric Psychology.
- 2017-19 Background group for development of clinical guidelines for treatment of depression in elderly people, Danish Association for Patient Safety.
- 2014-18 Member of the Program Board of Study for Psychology, Department of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences, Aarhus University
- 2012 Co-organizer of the international conference and annual scientific meeting *Clinical Perspectives on Autobiographical Memory* at Aarhus University, Denmark
- 2007- Ad hoc reviewer for international journals, for instance, Archives of General Psychiatry, Aging and Mental Health, The Breast, Quality of Life Research, Psychiatry Research, Mindfulness, Nordic Psychology, PLoS ONE, Journal of Affective Disorders, European Journal of Psychotraumatology, Clinical Psychology Review, Frontiers in Psychology, Frontiers in Psychiatry, Clinical Psychology Review etc.
- 2007 Research stay, PhD fellow, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada