

Dr. Spates received his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign in Clinical Psychology. He received an M.A. degree in the same field from Illinois. Dr. Spates holds a license to practice in Michigan and certifications in a variety of subareas within the Clinical Psychology Domain. He is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, as well as a Board-Certified Expert in Traumatic Stress. Dr. Spates began his professional (post Ph.D.) career in the Michigan Department of Mental Health as Assistant Administrator for Planning and Evaluation. He was recruited by Western Michigan University in 1987 to become Director of Clinical Training in the Department of Psychology for their then emerging Ph.D. program. Dr. Spates has held a number of Honorary Professional positions, including Visiting Professor of Psychology at Deakin University in Melbourne Australia, Visiting Research Fellow at Jikei University Medical School in Tokyo Japan, and Visiting Professor of Psychology at University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. He has served as an International Consultant to the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and as International Consultant to the Japanese Morita Therapy Society.

Dr. Spates has produced some 320 scholarly works including peer reviewed publications, book chapters, Invited International Conference and Workshop Presentations, National and State Level Professional Presentations and Trainings, and Technical Reports. He has served on numerous review panels for scholarly works, and as well has served as Chairman and Member of American Psychological Association Site Visit Accreditation Teams. As well, he served on the American Psychological Association's Task Force on Victims of Violence, and as Consulting Member of the American Psychiatric Association's Taskforce of Victims of Crime.

From the perspective of Philosophy of Science and Worldview within the discipline, Dr. Spates considers himself to be a Radical Behaviorists in the Skinnerian Tradition. That is to say he believes strongly in the tradition of the Inductive, Empiricist, Experientialist view of Science; the tradition espoused by the line of thinkers like Francis Bacon, John Locke, Voltaire, Isaac Newton, etc.; This in contrast to Enlightenment Era approaches and the commitment to 'Pure Reason' and the Hypothetico-Deductive approach to the Advancement of Knowledge.