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**Women, trauma, and alcohol dependency: Exploring the links and gaps in treatment approaches****Deanna L. Mulvihill**

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**Statement of the problem:** Women who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are at greater risk for physical and mental health problems including Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and alcohol dependency. On their own, IPV, PTSD, and alcohol dependency result in significant personal, social, and economic costs, and the impact of all three may compound these costs. Researchers have reported that women with these experiences are more difficult to treat; many do not access treatment, and those who do, frequently do not stay because of difficulty maintaining helping relationships. However, these women's perspective has not been previously studied. The purpose of this study is to describe the experience of seeking help for alcohol dependency by women with PTSD and a history of IPV in the context in which it occurs.

**Methodology & theoretical orientation:** An inter-subjective ethnographic study using hermeneutic dialogue was utilized during participant observation, in-depth interviews, and focus groups. An ecological framework was utilized to focus on the interaction between the counselors and the staff to understand this relationship and the context in which it occurs.

**Findings:** The women in this study were very active help seekers. They encountered many gaps in continuity of care, including discharge because of relapse. Although the treatment center was a warm, healing, and spiritual place, the women left the center without treatment for their trauma needs, and many without any referral to address these outstanding issues.

**Biography**

Deanna L. Mulvihill studied human medicine at the University of Bonn. He has been working as a medical teacher in the formation of geriatric nurses, occupational therapists, and assistants of the medical doctor at the Euro Academy in Pößneck since 1999. He has been doing scientific work at the Institute of Neurosciences of Castilla and León (INCYL) in Salamanca (Spain) since 2002. With Prof., he assisted at over 30 national and 12 international congresses of neurology and published over 60 reviews about neural networks in neurological and psychiatric diseases. Since 2014, Dr. has belonged to the editorial board of the Journal of Cytology & Histology.