

Dr. Vinita Puri

Canada

vinitapuri@hotmail.com

6475257662

[linkedin.com/in/dr-vinita-puri-7647b7](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-vinita-puri-7647b7)

Summary

Dr. Vinita Puri is a highly experienced Registered Social Worker, Accredited Mediator, Coach and Consultant that provides evidence-based and solution-focused services to individuals, families and community groups. Over the past 20 years, she has worked with diverse populations across a range of settings, including correctional institutions, hospitals, community health centers, settlement agencies, educational institutions and corporate environments. Currently she is the Clinical Director for Resilience Counseling and Coaching Services.

As a passionate social justice advocate, she actively participates on the Human Rights and Social Justice Committee for the Canadian Psychological Association and the Diversity Advisory Committee (DAC) of the Psi Chi International Honorary Society in Psychology. She is also a Board Member for the Ontario Association of Family Mediators (OAFM) and supports the work of the Standards of Practice Committee.

The City of Mississauga recognized her as a COVID Hero in 2020 and was recognized as an Eminent Ambassador for Human Rights and Peace by the International Human Rights Advisory Council in 2021. Since this time, she has been invited as a Keynote Speaker for several community-based events. In 2023, she was appointed as a Judge for the Shakti Film Festival in Vancouver and a Jury Member for MDC Globe International in India in January 2024. Prior to this, she was Crowned as Ms. Canada World Universal in the Elite Category in 2021/2022 and Ms. MDC Globe International in 2022/2023.

Dr. Puri holds a Doctorate in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, a Master's in Criminological Research, a Master's in Social Work, and a Specialized Honours B.A. in Sociology. She is also a PhD candidate in Psychology with a specialization in therapeutic jurisprudence. Her professional certifications include Refugee and Migration Studies and Dispute Resolution; Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT); Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR); Family Mediation (Basic and Advanced); Parenting Coordination; Neuro-Linguistic Therapy (NLT) and Narrative Therapy.

Dr. Puri is a proud Faculty Member for the M.S. Psychology program at Western State University in California. Her love for teaching, mentoring and coaching is truly an inspiration. On May 22, 2024, she will be presented with the Inspirational Leadership Award by the Ontario Association of Social Workers at their Annual General Meeting in Toronto.

Experience



Faculty for MS Psychology

Western State University, California

Jan 2024 - Present (5 months)

Faculty Professor, MS. in Psychology at Western State University (USA)



Career Coach

Mindful Career

Dec 2023 - Present (6 months)

Utilize advanced behavioural profiling and evidence based assessments to illuminate the distinct strengths, values, and workplace preferences of clients. Mentor and support clients with enhancing self awareness and personal growth to support decision making on career paths.

Clinical Director

Resilience Counseling and Coaching Services

Jul 2015 - Present (8 years 11 months)

Provide uniquely tailored counselling and coaching services to support individuals, couples and families that are experiencing challenges associated with relationship conflict and life transitions, as well as mental health and addictions issues. Provide short-term, solution-focused counseling psychotherapy and mediation services.



Industrial/Organizational Coach and Consultant

Homewood Health Centre

Nov 2017 - Jan 2024 (6 years 3 months)

Provide leadership coaching, consultation, mediation, educational training, and human resource management development support as part of Workplace Interventions and the Health Promotions team.



Adjunct Professor of Psychology

Yorkville University

Aug 2022 - Jul 2023 (1 year)

Adjunct Faculty for the Master's of Arts in Counseling Psychology (MACP) and the Doctoral Counseling Psychology (DCP) Programs. Courses taught include Crisis and Trauma Counseling, CBT Skills, Psychodynamic and Humanistic Psychology, Research Methods, Mental Health Assessment Skills, Practicum courses and Advanced Research.



Clinical Panel Member, Office of the Children's Lawyer

Attorney General | Procureur général

Jul 2020 - Dec 2022 (2 years 6 months)

The Office of the Children's Lawyer represents children under the age of 18 in court cases involving custody and access and child protection, as well as in civil, and estates and trusts cases.

As a Clinical Panel Member, I conducted clinical investigations, prepared assessments (Sections 112 and 89) as well as Voice of the Child reports for family court. I also assisted Lawyers that were representing children in family dispute matters.



Clinical Instructor, Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Walden University

May 2020 - Apr 2021 (1 year)

Provided training, coaching, mentoring, and Supervision to Masters of Social Work (MSW) students. I prepared students to apply social work theory and methods to engage, assess, intervene, and evaluate interventions in situations involving individuals, families, and groups. In my role, I liaised with Field Placement Supervisors and Faculty to develop and implement Learning Agreements; monitor and

evaluate student progress as they fulfill CSWE Accredited requirements. All students who satisfactorily completed CSWE accreditation standards were eligible for professional licensure.



Educational Mentor/Coach and Cognitive Behavioural Therapist

TeleCBT

Mar 2017 - Jan 2021 (3 years 11 months)

Independent Contractor, provides Monthly Mentoring/Coaching sessions to CBT Clinicians.



College Professor, Social Service Work and Gerontology

St. Clair College

Jan 2014 - Aug 2016 (2 years 8 months)

- Prepared course syllabi, lesson plans and assignments for Social Work courses
- Graded student assignments and exams
- Provided student coaching and guidance
- Established agreements with organizations to secure practicum placements for Gerontology students.
- Prepared Gerontology students for practicum placements.
- Reported to the Academic Director.



College Instructor, Community Social Service Worker Diploma Program

Academy of Learning Ltd

2011 - 2013 (2 years)

Assessed, designed, implemented, evaluated learning strategies and methodologies based on adult learning principles and practices.

Prepared, designed, delivered and administered 13 core module courses including:

- Statistics and research methods
- Community development; social welfare, advocacy/social justice
- Human development, Psychological theories and counselling techniques

Provided guidance to students on student placement opportunities, career goals, etc. Administrative duties included monitoring student attendance and student progress through exams and assignments.



Coordinator, "If I Had Only Known" Project: Rights and Responsibilities in Canada (Family Violence)

Family Service Toronto

Oct 2009 - Mar 2011 (1 year 6 months)

- Developed communication tools in all languages associated with the project (Tamil, Farsi, Pashto, Dari, Punjabi and Somali)
- Developed and maintained strong partnerships with relevant social service organizations, community leaders and key stakeholders across Canada
- Negotiated contracts with partner organizations and Chaired National Advisory Committee
- Planned and delivered workshops to service providers on family violence across Canada
- Presented research at local and international conferences and published research reports

Lead Counsellor for Community Diversion Programs

2004 - 2009 (5 years)

Developed and delivered rehabilitation programs on anger management, life skills, financial management, substance use/harm reduction and relapse prevention to ex-offenders.

Chaired the Access and Equity Committee and coordinated all aspects of the annual "Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges" Conference. Invited as a guest speaker in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Correctional Services of Canada-Ethnocultural Services); Ottawa and Montreal to share the outcomes established from conference.

Nationally Certified Facilitator for Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) Moderate Intensity Family Violence Prevention Program:

- Delivered high quality, intensive, rehabilitation and relapse prevention programs for adult men charged with domestic violence in federal prison and transitional halfway houses (Keele Correctional Facility and Don Jail).
- Conducted in-depth pre and post risk assessments, delivered program curriculum based on a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) Model
- Correctional reports to determine eligibility for parole/probation and post release relapse prevention plan

Connections Project/Youth Outreach Coordinator, National Crime Prevention Strategy

Neighbourhood Group

2002 - 2004 (2 years)

- Mentored and supported youth in a number of at-risk neighbourhoods in Toronto
- Planned and organized a variety of community events and safety fairs
- Facilitated Anger Management and Youth Violence Prevention workshops

Delivered workshops on Anti-Oppression, Conflict Resolution, Anti-Bullying, Homophobia and "Street Smarts" using popular education models to engage youth. Coordinated and supervised Youth Drama Program at Crescent Town Community Centre. Developed a play on gun violence and community safety with at-risk youth and presented role plays at various community events around the City of Toronto.



Group Facilitator and Speaker

METRAC

2001 - 2002 (1 year)

- Developed, planned and facilitated interactive, peer-to-peer workshops, trainings, and speaking engagements in the Toronto District School Board system on violence against women and youth violence (bullying prevention)

Education



Walden University

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD, Psychology

Jun 2020 - Jul 2024

Dissertation: Judicial Perspectives on Trauma Informed Approaches to Sentencing Mentally Ill Violent Offenders. Research Study focuses on New York



American University School of International Service

Doctorate (Honoris Causa) , Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Jul 2021 - Aug 2021

Vinita was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the American University for Global Peace (AUGP), She is recognized for her outstanding contributions for facilitating positive social change in the workplace.



University of Cambridge

M.Phil/MSc. in Criminological Research, Criminology, Faculty of Law

2013 - 2014

Criminological analysts of Violence/Aggression based on neuroscientific literature



Wilfrid Laurier University

MSW, Social Work

2005 - 2009

Specialization in Community, Policy, Planning and Organizations with a focus on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes



York University

Specialized Honours B.A., Sociology

1997 - 2001

Graduated with a Professional Certificate in Dispute Resolution and Refugee/ Migration Studies.

Licenses & Certifications



Mental Health First Aid Instructor Training - Mental Health Commission of Canada
Certified Instructor



Dispute Resolution - York University



Refugee and Migration Studies - York University



Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing (EMDR Level 1 and 2) - InSight4U
Online EMDR & Psychotherapie



Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) - LivingWorks
<https://www.livingworks.net>



Registered Social Worker - Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers

816681



Registered Clinical Social Worker - British Columbia College of Social Workers

12018



Professional Member - Ontario Association of Social Workers (OASW)

4552



Master Trainer - CAMH

CACBT

Skills

Relationship Counseling • Program Launch • For-profit Education • Quality Assurance • Student Success • University Teaching • Curriculum Development • Counselling • Social Services • Case Management

Honors & Awards

Lifetime Membership - Golden Key International Honours Society

Feb 2021

Awarded for academic achievement as a PhD student with a 3.8 grade point average