

Notes on a Scholarly Career July 2018
David Lester

Most of my scholarly career (2,786 articles and books as of July 2018) has been focused on suicidal behavior, but there have been several other topics of interest.

Suicidology

(1) During my two years at the Suicide prevention & Crisis Center of Erie County (NY), I published a scholarly journal, free to all who were interested (suicidologists and crisis counselors) called *Crisis Intervention*, in which I, and the other staff members of the center, wrote articles on crisis intervention by telephone. This eventually became the first manual for crisis intervention by telephone and, later, in the 3rd edition, using the Internet.

Lester D, Rogers JR. (Eds.) *Crisis intervention by telephone and the Internet*. Charles C. Thomas, 2012.

(2) The major research focus on suicide prevention was (i) evaluating whether suicide preventions had an impact on the suicide rate, and (ii) whether restricting access to methods for suicide reduced the suicide rate.

Clarke R, Lester D. *Suicide: Closing the exits*. Springer-Verlag, 1989.

Lester, D. *Preventing suicide: Closing the Exits revisited*. Nova Science, 2009.

(3) I am the only suicidologist who has extensively analyzed the diaries of suicides (and I have also analyzed suicide notes, blogs and Internet/Twitter notes)

Lester D (Ed) *Katie's Diary: Unlocking the mystery of a suicide*. Brunner-Routledge, 2004

Lester D. *The "I" of the storm*. De Gruyter, 2014.

(4) I have conducted studies, both articles and books, on suicide in minorities and the oppressed, including African slaves, Native Americans, Korean Japanese, Holocaust victims, the Roma, and prisoners. I was also the first to discuss suicide from a feminist perspective.

Lester, D. *Suicide and the Holocaust*. Nova Science, 2005.

Lester, D. The study of suicide from a feminist perspective. *Crisis*, 1989, 11, 38-43.

(5) Among my innovative studies are suicide in the creative arts, suicide and culture, suicide as a dramatic performance, and studies of famous suicides. My website has biographies of over one hundred famous suicides, a data source that has been used in research by others.

Stack, S., & Lester, D. *Suicide and the creative arts*. Nova Science, 2009.

Colucci, E., & Lester, D. *Suicide and culture*. Hogrefe, 2013.

Lester, D., & Stack, S. *Suicide as a dramatic performance*. Transaction, 2015.

(6) I reviewed research and theory on suicide exhaustively (and in all disciplines) from 1897 to 1997 and published the reviews in four books.

Lester D. *Why people kill themselves*. 4th Edition. Charles Thomas, 2000.

(7) In an article in *Crisis* in 2005, Robert Goldney commented on my collaborative work and noted that I have published from A to Z; on suicide in countries from Australia to Zimbabwe (34 in all) and with colleagues from Abdel-Khalek to Zonda (74 in all) by that time.

(8) I have also worked on other topics including the fear of death, murder (especially mass murder and serial killers) and life after death.

Lester D. *Serial killers*. Charles, 1995.

Lester D. *Mass murder*. Nova Science, 2004.

Lester, D. *Is there life after death?* McFarland, 2005.

(9) I am credited with bringing the topic of the fear of death into mainstream psychology with the first article on the topic in a major American Psychological Association journal and a widely used fear of death scale (the Collett-Lester Fear of Death Scale).

Lester, D. Experimental and correlational studies of the fear of death. *Psychological Bulletin*, 1967, 67, 27-36.

Lester, D. The Collett-Lester fear of death scale. *Death Studies*, 1990, 14, 451-468.

(10) I worked in my early years on comparative psychology (with studies on exploratory behavior in rats).

Lester D. *Comparative psychology*. Alfred, 1973.

(11) Recently, I proposed a new theory of personality, a subself theory of personality based on the hypothesis that the mind is composed of several subelves.

Lester D. *On multiple selves*. Transaction, 2015.

(12) With my wife, Bijou Yang, I have published in the field of behavioral economics.

Yang, B., & Lester, D. An exploration of the impact of culture on the economy. *Journal of Socio-Economics*, 2000, 29, 281-290.

Yang, B., & Lester, D. Personality traits and economic activity. *Applied Economics*, 2016, 48, 653-657.