

Dr. Douglas W. Ota
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Education

- 2016 - 2024 Doctor of Philosophy, PhD in Developmental Psychology, Erasmus University Rotterdam. Supervisors: Prof. Marinus van IJzendoorn, Prof. Peter Prinzie, Dr. Joran Jongerling. Title: *Safe Passage for Attachment Systems: Can Attachment Security at International Schools Be Measured, and Is it at Risk?*
- 2017 - 2019 Adult Attachment Interview (AAI) training cohort with Prof. Mary Main and Prof. Erik Hesse, UC Berkeley. One of approx. 300 individuals worldwide to achieve AAI certification.
- 2000 - 2008 Netherlands Psychological Assoc. (NIP) training program to become NIP Child Psychologist.
- 1996 - 2000 Master's in Psychology, Leiden University, Netherlands. Completed 7 year Dutch-language program in 4 years, graduated *cum laude*. Specialization in Clinical Child Psychology. Master's Thesis "Ambiguous Grief: Sense of Place and Attachment Style in the Adjustment of Mobile Adolescents" was awarded a "10"; departmental nomination for best thesis, 2000.
- 1988 - 1993 Princeton University, Bachelor of Arts. *Major*: Philosophy of Religion. Minor in English.
- 1981 - 1988 High School Diploma (*cum laude*) The Bishop's School, La Jolla, California.

Experience

- 2016 - Founder of Safe Passage Across Networks (SPAN). Executive Director from 2016-2021, Advisor since 2021, on sabbatical for 2024.
- 2021 - Visiting scientist & guest lecturer, Erasmus University Rotterdam.
- 2014 Author of *Safe Passage: How Mobility Affects People and What International Schools Should Do About It*. Described as definitive "handbook" on the topic, and "a classic in the TCK literature." Published October, 2014, by Summertime Press, UK. ISBN: 978-1-909193-40-6.
- 1999 - current International presenter, consultant, & author on addressing issues of mobility across cultures in international schools and organizations. Clients: CIS, World Bank, EARCOS, ACAMIS, I.S. Dusseldorf; Nido de Aguilas, Santiago, Chile; European Space Agency; Faria Systems.
- 2002 - current Psychologist, Group Practice "Boetzelaer 136" (www.boetzelaer136.nl). Client-centered, cognitive, narrative, EMDR, and eclectic therapies in both English and Dutch.
- Individual therapy addressing a broad range of issues; specialties in grief & cultural identity.
 - Couples and family therapy; extensive training in EFT and AFFT.
- 1998 - 2010 Chair and co-founder of the once internationally renowned Safe Harbour transitions program at the American School of the Hague, regarded as an exemplar program internationally.
- 1997 - 2010 High School Counselor, American School of the Hague, the Netherlands.
- Responsible for shaping, implementing, maintaining, and evaluating a comprehensive guidance & counseling program where none existed before, for nearly 400 students & families, from 50 countries.
- 1996 - 1997 Dean of Students, High School, the American School of the Hague.
- 1995 - 1999 Photography Teacher, Arts Center, American School of the Hague. Developed a fine arts photography program with a world-class darkroom. Numerous students now pursue prof. careers in photography.
- 1994 - 1996 Taught Information Technology, American School of the Hague.
- 1993 - 1994 Taught English composition & creative writing, High School, American School of the Hague.

Presentations & Publications

- 11/2023 Invited Keynote Address, International School of London Think-Tank on Transitions
- 10/2023 Global Presentation of SPASIS research results, CIS Headquarters, Leiden, Netherlands.
- 10/2023 Invited Keynote Address, SPAN Symposium
- 2/2023 Introductory Lecture on Attachment, first-year psychology students, Erasmus University. Described by students afterwards as the “best lecture they ever attended.”
- 11/2022 Invited Keynote Address, Council of International Schools Global Forum, Madrid. [Described](#) by many veteran administrators afterwards as the “best keynote they ever attended.”
- 10/2022 SPAN Keynote Address, the SPASIS Research Project: Preliminary Findings, Oct. 8-9.
- 2/2022 Keynote Address, "The Story of SPAN," SPAN Annual Symposium, February 5-6.
- 2020 - 2021 Hired by World Bank to present with SPAN to 30-40k employees on coping with Covid-19.
- 10/2019 United Nations International School, Hanoi, Vietnam: “Effect of Mobility on Teens.”
- 11/2018 Invited presenter for 2-day ACAMIS Professional Development Workshop (Association of Chinese and Mongolian International Schools), hosted at Hangzhou Intl. School, China.
- 11/2018 Invited presenter for 2-day EARCOS Weekend Workshop (East Asian Regional Conference of Schools), hosted at Taipei American School, Taiwan.
- 11/2018 Keynote Address, Symbooldrama Conference, Gouda, Netherlands.
- 9/2017 Hosted Safe Passage Across Networks’ (SPAN) first conference, March 22, 2017, The Hague, Netherlands, with 60 leaders in transitions from around the world.
- 3/2017 “Waarom Je Samen Sneller Loopt Dan Alleen,” *Runners World* (Dutch Edition), Jan., 2017.
- 1/2017 Invited Keynote Address, 4th Annual OpenApply Admissions Conference, Shanghai, China
- 11/2016 “Hello, Goodbye.” Cover story for *The International Admissions Bulletin*, September, 2016.
- 9/2016 Founding Member of Safe Passage Across Networks (SPAN).
- 3/2016 “Launching Networks of Safe Passage Schools Worldwide.” Presentation at Families in Global Transition Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2016 “The Impact of Mobility on Children.” *Relocate Global*, Kent, UK, 2016.
- 11/2015 Aftershow Moderator, *Since Maggie Went Away*, Koninklijke Schouburg, The Hague.
- 10/2015 Invited Keynote speaker, EARCOS Leadership Conference, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 5/2015 Invited Presentations at Intl. School of Luxembourg & Lycée Aline Mayrisch, Luxembourg
- 3/2015 Invited Keynote speaker, Families in Global Transition Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 1/2014 Invited Address, Council of International Schools Annual Meeting for School Support and Evaluation, Leiden, Netherlands.
- 10/2013 International School Nido de Aguilas, Santiago, Chile: Comprehensive series of workshops for K-12 student, parent, and staff audiences on addressing the challenges of mobility.
- 6/2012 “Raising Confident Children”: Invited Address, European Space Agency, Noordwijk.
- 3/2012 Consulting Work with International School of Dusseldorf’s Transitions Program.
- 2/2012 Presentation at Shell Outpost Headquarters, the Hague, Netherlands.
- 2010 Trainer, European Council of International Schools’ (ECIS) International Teacher Certification program. Expert consultant on culture & mobility.
- 11/2009 “Collaborating with the Archive Center in Addressing Mobility”: presentation in collaboration with Expat Archive Center, ECIS Conference, Hamburg, Germany.
- 10/2009 International School of Prague, Czech Republic: Comprehensive series of workshops for K-12 student, parent, and staff audiences on addressing mobility at an international school.
- 9/2009 “The Experience of Expatriation from Within the Family”: Invited presenter at International School Training Services’ Induction Conference for International School Teachers, Utrecht.
- 3/2009 Keynote Address, 11th International Families in Global Transition Conference, Houston, TX
- 3/2009 “Rewriting Yourself—and Your Audience”; presentation at FIGT Conference, Houston.
- 3/2009 “21st Century Cross-Cultural Kid”, panel representative, FIGT Conference, Houston.
- 9/2008 “My Parents Erased Me: The Relocated Adolescent’s Attempt to (Re)Write His or Her Life Story.” Workshops at the Induction Conference for International School Teachers, Utrecht.
- 6/2008 Assistant Professor, Counselor Training Center, London U.K., sponsored by Lehigh University. Trainer at the CTC program for International School Counselors.
- 4/2008 Shell Outpost International Conference, Invited Panel Facilitator for 10 teens, as they explore “The Effects of an Internationally Mobile Youth” before an intl. audience at Shell Outpost.
- 11/2007 “Developing Transitions Programs in International Schools,” ECIS Conference, Madrid.
- 3/2007 “Developing Transitions Programs in International Schools,” Preconference Workshop, Families in Global Transition Conference (FIGT), Houston, Texas.
- 3/2007 Education Representative, Cross-Sector Panel Debate, FIGT 2007, Houston, Texas.

2006 - 7	“Binoculars of Grief and Gain”, monthly column for <i>The Guardian Online</i> . Column covered relocation issues as they pertained to the psychological needs of internationally mobile teens.
3/2003	“Five Years Later: History of the ASH Transitions Program.” ECIS Guidance & Counseling Conference, American School of London, England.
2/2003	“Writing home: Help for homesickness,” <i>Relocation Today</i> , Vol. V, No 2.
11/2001	European Council of International Schools, Annual Conference, The Hague, Netherlands. “Attacking Transitions in International Schools: the Transitions Program at ASH.”
3/2000	“On the move: the Transitions Program at Am. Sch of the Hague”, <i>Newslinks</i> , 15(4).
11/1999	European Council of International Schools, Annual Conference, Nice, France. “Serving an Internationally Mobile Community: American School of the Hague’s Transitions Program”.
4/1999	Harvard University’s International Schools Consortium Spring Conference, Dusseldorf, Germany. “Multiple Intelligences and Intranet: Using Technology in a Mindful Way”.
2/1999	ECIS Guidance & Counseling Professional Growth Workshop, Geneva, Switzerland. Title: “Starting a Transitions Team: the Am. School of the Hague’s K-12 Transitions Program.”
1993	Various publications as a journalist for the <i>Bayboro Breeze</i> , St. Petersburg, Florida.

Additional Education

2021 - current	Supervision under renowned psychologist and author Dan Hughes
2021	Completed MITx 14.310x "Data Analysis for Social Scientists" with Nobel laureate E. Duflo.
2021	Attachment Focused Family Therapy (DDP), Level II Training with Dan Hughes (virtual).
2017	Attachment Focused Family Therapy (DDP), Level I Training with Dan Hughes, Utrecht.
2010 -	Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT) training, Core Skills 1, Core Skills 2, Oisterwijk,.
2003 - 2011	Training towards registration as a Marriage & Family Therapist (NVRG).
2008 - 2009	NMI Mediator Training, Centrum voor Conflicttherapie (CVC), Haarlem, Netherlands
2005 - 2007	Doctoral work, Ed.D program in International Education, University of Bath, U.K.
2001- 2004	Completed two 6-month modules, Netherlands Assoc. for Group Therapy’s training program.
7/2000	Harvard Med School, Dept. of Cont. Ed., “Agents of Therapeutic Change”, M. Stark M.D.
7/1999	Harvard University, Graduate School of Education, Project Zero Consortium for Intl Schools.
1993	Newsriting & Editing Fellowship, The Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida, USA.
1987	American Field Service (AFS) Exchange Student, Tokyo, Japan.

Additional Experience

2017 - 2021	Coordinator of Van Boetelaerlaan 136 quarterly lecture series.
2013 - 2016	President, Princeton University Alumni Association in the Netherlands.
2006 - 2009	Council Member, Wassenaar Education Board (WOR), Netherlands.
1996 - 2010	Steering Committee member, Am. School of the Hague, advising on policy & planning.
2003 - 2005	Chair, Teacher’s Association Social Committee, Am. School of the Hague.
2001 - 2002	Chair, European Council of International Schools’ (ECIS) Cross-Cultural Committee.
2000 - 2001	Chair, American School of the Hague’s Admissions Committee.
1993 - 1996	Educational Consultant, private practice.
1990	Research Fellow, Sharp Hospital Cardiac Center, San Diego, California, U.S.A.
1989	Photographer, National Geographic Society Excavation, Neolithic site, Osłonki, Poland.
1991	“Right and left ventricular function after cardiac transplantation.” <i>Circulation</i> , Dec., 1991.
1991	Assistant, Shalom Crèche for Handicapped Children, Miraj, Maharashtra, India..
1987 - 1988	Student Body President, The Bishop’s School, La Jolla, California.

Hobbies

<i>Running</i>	10k: 38:38; Half-Marathon: 1:24. Marathons: Apeldoorn, Rotterdam (7x), New York, Verona, Leiden (2x), Berlin. PR Marathon: 3:00:26, Rotterdam, 2016. Still aiming for under 3 hours.
<i>Coaching</i>	Coach for son’s local soccer club (2004-2008)...coach for ASH X-Country Team (1993-4)
<i>Photography...</i>	Shows: 1998: “A tale of two villages”, Gallery 2 ^{1/2} x 4 ^{1/2} , Prinsengracht, Amsterdam. 1997: “Ota, Photographs, 1980-1997”, AWC Gallery, Den Haag.
<i>Music...</i>	Enthusiastic drummer since 14; Dutch neighbors are less enthusiastic. Piano.
<i>Wrestling...</i>	With my three kids, but now they’re too strong so waiting for grandkids.