



## Deciphering the Matrix

Course Description & Learning Objectives  
4 CE available

To register online, go to <http://education.yesinstitute.org/portal>



*Joseph Zolobczuk engaging in discussion with course participants.*

This course is one of several offered by YES Institute.  
For a complete education catalogue, visit <http://www.yesinstitute.org>  
or call our office at **305-663-7195**.

**YES Institute – Creating a Safer World for All Youth**

Phone: 305-663-7195

## OVERVIEW OF COURSE

*Deciphering the Matrix* explores the confusion that occurs when we fail to distinguish biological sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation. Unraveling this knot, we see how these three aspects of identity relate to one another and their importance to us as human beings.

Our cultural perceptions are explored and contrasted with the latest research on these topics. *Deciphering the Matrix* brings clarity to previously illogical pieces of the “gender puzzle.”



**“*Deciphering The Matrix* delves into the question of gender identity. Being able to vocalize these thoughts during the presentations adds to the effectiveness of the workshop.**

***- Maureen Miller, Teacher,  
Archbishop Curley Notre Dame  
Catholic High School***

This discourse is particularly useful for people who are working with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth and their families. Participants gain access to generating powerful dialogue and creating action plans for a safer community.

**“Very thought provoking course! The information was substantiated by current research, and the opportunity to explore my own beliefs about these topics was very helpful.”**

***- Barbara Byrne, LCSW  
Private practice***



What sets YES Institute apart is our unique approach to education and interaction, based on a communication model that can effectively engage the entire community, by including **all** viewpoints and staying focused on a common purpose of **safety for all youth**.

## PRIMARY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### Learning Objectives:

- Clarify distinctions between the body's physical characteristics, gender, and orientation, and identify ways these separate aspects of experience relate to one another.
- Deconstruct binary gender and assess the pitfalls and consequences of binary gender assumptions when relating to clients.
- Conceptualize gender and orientation through the a new paradigm based on latest research.
- Speak effectively about gender and orientation without reliance on stigmatizing labels.
- Assess the impact binary notions of the body, gender, and orientation have on self-expression and authentic relatedness.

## INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL & AUDIENCES

### Instructional activity level:

- *Intermediate through advanced:* This course is designed for those with moderate to comprehensive amounts of experience with gender and orientation topics. Those seeking more introductory through intermediate material should consider the Essentials of Orientation, Communication Solutions, and Gender Continuum courses.

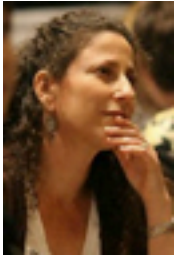
### Audiences that regularly attend YES courses include:

- Teachers and school administrators and support staff.
- Mental health counselors and therapists.
- Nursing and other healthcare professionals.
- Parents and family members.
- High school and college students.
- Social service providers working with youth and families.

### The *Deciphering the Matrix* course also :

- Compares research about biological sex, gender identity, and orientation with cultural perceptions.
- Recognizes how biology, gender identity, and sexual orientation set up a path to masculinity and femininity.
- Distinguishes gender performance from gender identity and sex.
- Presents new research on intersex youth and adults and examine how chromosomal, biological, and hormonal variance is challenging the medical community.
- Explores our binary model of gender and observe the limitations it imposes in self-expression.
- Takes a critical look at how our interpretation of gender identity and sexual orientation shapes how we conceptualize these topics.
- Observes how current use of language creates and reinforces biases in our culture.
- Deepens our understanding of the importance of gender to human beings.

## YES INSTITUTE COURSE INSTRUCTORS



### **Terilee Wunderman, PhD**

University of Miami, Adjunct Faculty  
Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology

Dr. Wunderman enlightens audiences with her 20 years of experience and knowledge as a practicing psychologist. Her background in marriage and family therapy, foster care, and adoption provides clinical insights for professionals working with youth and families in a variety of systems of care. Dr. Wunderman has also served and supported clients over the years who have worked through challenges surrounding gender and orientation topics.



### **Lucian Jude, MA**

YES Institute, Director of Communication & Innovation  
Florida International University, Master's in Comparative Sociology

Lucian is recognized as a leading educator on gender, working to create new language and understanding that includes gender transitioning in a supportive context. His proven success in opening productive conversations on this topic has established him as a resource for professionals in academic, business, mental health, and nursing communities. Lucian has worked with YES Institute for 5 years.



### **Brittney Hoffman, MA**

YES Institute, Program Coordinator  
George Washington Univ., Master's in Women's Studies & Public Policy

Brittney is a stand for youth to feel empowered to express themselves authentically and engage others in acclimatizing environments to be inclusive and supportive of all youth and families. A South Florida native, Brittney has over 5 years of experience working with youth, parents, and educators to keep all youth safe. Brittney is the newest staff member and has worked with YES for over a year.



### **Joseph Zolobczuk, BPA**

YES Institute, Director of Education  
University of Miami, Pursuing a Master's in Community & Social Change

Joseph has served the South Florida community for over 13 years with YES Institute. Joseph is recognized in South Florida and throughout the U.S. for his ability to generate productive dialogue where people are divided by conflicting opinions and fears on gender and orientation topics. He has facilitated presentations and workshops for various audiences, including university students, high school teachers and students, healthcare professionals, and religious leaders.

## COURSE DATES, REGISTRATION & DETAILS

### Course Dates, Times & Fees

For the next available course, visit the YES registration document online:

<http://www.yesinstitute.org/education/register>

Or, call YES staff by phone: 305-663-7195 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

### Course Registration

To register for the course, please do one of the following:

- Register and pay online at: <http://education.yesinstitute.org/portal>
- Print and send by mail or fax registration form: <http://www.yesinstitute.org/education/register>
- Call YES staff register by phone: 305-663-7195 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

### Attendance & Cancellation Policy

- Call YES staff by phone for details: 305-663-7195 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

### Course Duration

This workshop is typically delivered as a eight hour (8 hour) course. This course is also divided into smaller portions for special conferences and other clinical purposes.

### Availability

This course is offered several times a year at the YES Institute Education Center located in Miami, Florida. This course may be offered live in your area on special dates. If you can secure a group of **10 or more people** and can obtain a training budget or grant opportunity, the YES Institute can conduct a live engagement at an offsite location.

### 4 CE Credit Hours available



MDCPS Professional Development  
Master Plan Points (MPP)  
#2-406-302 and  
#2-403-003



Florida Board of Nursing and the  
Florida Board of Clinical Social Work,  
Marriage & Family Therapy, and Mental  
Health Counseling - #50-1652 (491)



Miami-Dade College  
Faculty Maintenance of Rank  
(Contingent upon individual approval)

Licensed professionals who complete the course are eligible for 4 CE credits. YES Institute currently sponsors CE for licensed professionals with the following:

- Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Professional Development, Master Plan Points
- Florida Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling
- Florida Board of Nursing
- Miami-Dade College faculty (must obtain approval from their supervisor)

For more information and details about CE, please contact YES staff by phone: 305-663-7195 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm).