

**TARA W. LUMPKIN, PhD**

P.O. BOX 2160 TAOS, NEW MEXICO USA

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Dr. Lumpkin holds a PhD in environmental and medical anthropology and has experience in environment, Women in Development, health, communication and media. She worked in Panama for a year as a WorldWid (Women in Development) fellow for USAID and the Panamanian National Commission on the Environment in the area of ecotourism with a focus on gender. She also has consulted for Conservation International in Panama and in the United States in the areas of women, environment and ecotourism. Tara worked for a year in Namibia for UNICEF and the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services conducting research on traditional medicine and community use of traditional medicine and made recommendations to improve communication between healers and biomedical personnel. In addition, she has worked as interim chief-of-party for USAID/Rwanda's Rule of Law setting up an information, education, and communication (IEC) process for the ethno-justice system known as *gacaca*. Currently, she is Environmental Program Consultant to the Blackstone Institute in Northern New Mexico and is also the president of Perception, a small non-profit that has successful global projects in the areas of Maternal and Child Health, sustainable tourism, writing, photography, video and film. In addition, she has worked as a journalist, professor of writing and media, and in communications.

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**KEY AREAS OF EXPERIENCE:**

- Environmental program consulting for non-profits
- Community-based natural resource management and community conservation
- Ecotourism, ethno-tourism, cultural tourism, heritage tourism, adventure tourism
- Women in Development
- Ethno-medicine & traditional medicine
- Medical Anthropology: Maternal and Child Health Care, HIV/AIDS, Primary Health Care, community-use of medical modalities
- Ethno-justice
- Information, education and communication (IEC)
- Knowledge, attitudes and practices (KAP) qualitative data-gathering
- Research
- Project planning
- Project management
- Participatory research
- Writing & journalism
- Photography projects to empower adults and children

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

### **March 2000-present—Taos, NM, USA—President, Perception**

Responsible for small non-profit whose purpose is to promote biological, cultural and perceptual diversity.

### **1982-present—USA—Freelance Writer and Journalist**

Wrote and have had published numerous freelance pieces (journalistic nonfiction, editorials, creative nonfiction, short stories, novel excerpts, and poetry) in a variety of newspapers, magazines, and literary journals

### **December 1, 2005-present—Taos, NM, and Baltimore, MD—Somatic Experiencing Practitioner**

Treat clients suffering from trauma to reduce its negative impact upon their lives using a process know as somatic experiencing, which was designed by Dr. Peter Levine. Somatic experiencing is a short-term, naturalistic approach to healing trauma. The process is based upon the study of wild animals, which are regularly threatened in the wild. Human beings, unlike animals, have rational brains that inhibit their natural animal ability to discharge trauma. The result is that trauma becomes locked in the nervous system and body creating illness. Many of the symptoms from trauma take years to appear and we may not connect them with the trauma itself. Using the model of an animal's ability to release trauma combined with human awareness, Somatic Experiencing transforms trauma, allowing the client to become fully functional.

### **August 1, 2006-present—Taos, NM and CO, USA—Environmental Program Consultant —Blackstone Institute**

Dr. Lumpkin is program consultant to the Blackstone Institute, a 170 acre ranch, located 15 minutes from downtown Taos, New Mexico. The ranch is a green area with many wetlands, which provide refuge for a variety of water fowl, and is currently home to a small population of horses, cows, donkeys, and buffalo. In addition, coyotes roam the land. The property offers one of the finest views of the mountains in Taos. At this time, the ranch is being designated a non-profit that will offer environmental education and will serve as an ecological retreat center and think-tank. Tara's role is to help develop the ranch's environmental mission and program.

### **January 1-June 30, 2005—Taos, NM, USA and Kham, Tibet, Qinghai Province, China—Project Coordinator, Fundraiser and Field Coordinator, *Gargon Healthcare Project*, Garchen Institute and Perception**

Acted as project coordinator and fundraiser for the Gargon Healthcare Project from January 1-May 8. In the field, the project addressed Maternal and Child Health Care needs in Gargon village and Taju village in Kham (Eastern Tibet). From May 8-June 2 acted as Field Coordinator in Gargon and Taju villages, conducting a Maternal and Child Health Care needs assessment using focus groups, key informant interviews, and a qualitative questionnaire. Trained seven translators in interviewing and surveying techniques. The project also provided midwifery classes and training of trainers for midwives. In addition a clinic operated for a two-week period. The overall goal of the project is to establish a permanent clinic in the area. A fundraising video is in production.

**May 2002-May 2004—Baltimore, MD and Taos, NM, USA—Consultant on Traditional Healers, Fundraiser, *Healing Planet*, Perception**

Acted as advisor and fundraiser for *Healing Planet*, a film that celebrates the lives, rituals and wisdom of traditional healer from around the world. The film is now in post-production and is a project under the non-profit Perception.

**October 21-November 22, 2000—Rwanda—Field Coordinator, *Through the Eyes of Children*, Perception**

Acted as project coordinator. Worked with Rwandan orphans, teaching them creative and visual communication skills through basic photography to help build their self-esteem. Children were encouraged to take pictures of their community in order to communicate what they saw to others. Coordinated selection of a Rwandan orphanage for the project, coordinated project logistics, acted as field translator in French, taught children photography, located venue for first exhibit of the children's photographs in Kigali, created "vision" for this project and its growth, and wrote up logistical notes.

**February-March 1999—Panama—Ecotourism Consultant for Conservation International**

A consultancy to promote community-based ecotourism. With other employees of Conservation International, conducted participatory planning workshops for community members, tourism operators, government officials, and non-governmental organizations in Panama.

**September 1-October 29, 1999—Rwanda—Interim Chief-of-Party overseeing Gacaca for USAID/Rwanda's Rule of Law sector**

A consultancy as Chief-of-Party for a USAID-funded information, education and communication (IEC) public awareness campaign to promote a traditional justice system known as *gacaca*. Unable to process its 120,000 genocide detainees, the government of Rwanda created *gacaca* as an alternative justice system to try all but those who organized the genocide. Seconded to the Ministry of Justice in Rwanda.

**January 1997-July 1998—Panama—WorldWID Fellow in Ecotourism and Women in Development (WID) for USAID/Panama**

A long-term competitive USAID fellowship awarded to mid-career professionals for the purpose of improving USAID's Women in Development (WID) capabilities. Received two-month WID training at the University of Florida and Washington, DC, followed by a year long posting in Panama with USAID. Conducted gender-oriented anthropological and socio-economic research (including a qualitative survey and focus groups) on the feasibility of establishing community-based ecotourism (CBE) and other community-based conservation projects in the Panama Canal Watershed. Worked with indigenous groups and *campesinos*. As sole project administrator, conducted literature search/review, designed qualitative survey, produced training manual, hired and trained two interviewers, managed fieldwork, and wrote report *A Qualitative Study of Community Based Ecotourism in the Panama Canal Watershed* that included recommendations for creation of CBE and other community conservation efforts. Counterparts: Government of Panama National Environmental Commission and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

**April-July 1995—Taos, NM, USA and the MicMac Reserve, Nova Scotia, Canada—Anthropological Consultant to HealthCanada on Indigenous Youth Smoking Project for CIETCanada**

A consultancy to advise on a qualitative and quantitative survey of Canadian First Nations' youth use of tobacco. Acted as a medical anthropologist with a focus on ethno-medicine. National First Nations' Youth Inquiry into Tobacco Use (April 1995-June 1996) was funded by Health Canada. Research was administered by WUNSKA, a network of First Nations social workers. WUNSKA sub-contracted CIET Canada (a NGO) to build indigenous capacity in data gathering and analysis.

**January-April 1995—Taos, NM, USA—Researcher and Media Liaison for Chiapas Watch**  
Volunteer researcher and media liaison to raise support for indigenous persons in Chiapas; also acted as researcher on Zapatista rebellion, as educator on issue of NAFTA's effects upon Mexico, as liaison with Congressman Bill Richardson's office, and as media liaison with New Mexican newspapers.

**June 1993-June 1994—Namibia—Project Manager on Collaboration among Traditional Healers and Health Professionals for UNICEF-Namibia and the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services**

A consultancy to conduct a study on traditional medicine in Namibia. Methods included participant observation, informal interviews, and formal interviews with traditional healers. Also interviewed biomedical health personnel regarding their attitudes toward traditional medicine. Wrote report *Intercultural Communication between Traditional Healers and Modern Health Practitioners in Namibia* on research results, including recommendations.

This was followed with by a qualitative survey on traditional healers and community use of traditional medicine in three regions of Namibia. UNICEF funded the survey and the Namibian Ministry of Health and Social Services (MoHSS) acted as counterpart. Wrote proposal, developed qualitative survey questionnaire, wrote guidelines for focus groups, produced training manual for interviewers, hired and trained twelve interviewers in qualitative interviewing techniques, oversaw all fieldwork, acted as project administrator, wrote research report *Traditional Healers and Community Use of Traditional Medicine in Namibia* that included suggestions for improving community health, and made oral presentations on research results to UN agencies, NGOs, and the Namibian MoHSS.

**February-May 1993—Washington, DC, USA—Researcher and advisor to Women and the Environment/Policy and Governmental Affairs Department at Conservation International**

While completing Ph.D., worked in the Policy and Governmental Affairs Division of Conservation International as an anthropologist, researcher, and writer. Focused on the relationship between gender and biodiversity with a particular emphasis on how empowering women leads to preserving biodiversity. Wrote position paper *Conservation Based Empowerment of Women*, attended ad hoc working committee meetings for NGO participation in United Nations International Conference on Population and Development.

**October 1992-January 1993—Baltimore, MD, USA—Poetry Teacher, Artists-in-Education, Maryland State Arts Council**

Taught public elementary school, middle school, and high school students how to access creativity through poetry writing. Workshops sponsored by the Maryland State Arts Council Artists-in-Education program. Worked with gifted children as well as learning disabled and physically disabled students. Poetry workshops were especially effective for raising the self-esteem of at-risk students. One student's poem was chosen to appear on a local transit bus.

**September-December 1992—Baltimore, MD, USA—Adjunct Professor, Loyola College**

Taught freshman writing, composition, and creative and analytic thinking in the Department of Writing and Media at Loyola College, MD.

**February-May 1988—Paonia, CO, USA—Environmental Investigative Reporter, High Country News**

Conducted investigative reporting for *High Country News*, a respected Colorado-based newspaper that covers environmental policy issues in Washington, DC, and environmental issues in the U.S. Rocky Mountains, Southwest, and Pacific Northwest.

**1983—Santa Fe, NM, USA—Copywriter, KNYN Radio Station**

Wrote advertisements and aided in production of radio advertisements for KNYN radio station, Santa Fe, NM.

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**EDUCATION**

PhD Cultural & Medical Anthropology, The Union Institute, Cincinnati, OH, 1996

MA Creative Writing, Antioch University, Yellow Springs, OH 1988

BA Literature, Yale University, New Haven, CT 1982

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**LANGUAGES**

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Speaking</b>	<b>Writing</b>
English	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
French	Good	Good	Basic
Spanish	Good	Good	Basic

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**REFERENCES**

Vincent Orinda, UNICEF, email: [VOrinda@unicef.org](mailto:VOrinda@unicef.org)

Lars Klassen, USAID, email: [LaKlassen@usaid.gov](mailto:LaKlassen@usaid.gov)

Ken Lizzio, formerly USAID/Rwanda, email: [KLizzio@yahoo.com](mailto:KLizzio@yahoo.com)

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, PRIZES

American Association for the Advancement of Science Engineering and Diplomacy Fellowship, awarded 1999-2000.

Short story chosen for *Hawaii Pacific Review: The Best of a Decade, 1986-1996*, Spring 1997.

WorldWID Fellowship, United States Agency for International Development, awarded December 1996.

Co-winner of First Place Poetry Prize, Society for Anthropology and Humanism, November 1996.

Scholarship, The Union Institute, November 1995-March 1996.

Scholarship, Omega Institute, 1993.

Grant, Individual Artist Award in Fiction, Maryland State Arts Council, 1990.

Writing Fellowships: The Helene Wurlitzer Foundation, 1990; Centrum, Port Townsend, WA, 1989;

La Fondation Karolyi, Vence, France, 1988; Ragdale Foundation, Lake Forest, IL, 1987.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Journals

*Perceptual Diversity: Is Polyphasic Consciousness Necessary for Global Survival?*

Anthropology of Consciousness, Volume 12, Number 1, March/June 2001.

### International Development Reports

*Maternal and Child Health Care in Gargon: Findings from Surveys, Focus Groups, and Clinical Data*, Gargon Health Care Project, August, 2005.

*Rwanda Rule of Law Gacaca Information, Education, and Communication Report*, USAID/Rwanda, 3 November 1999.

*Community Based Ecotourism in the Panama Canal Watershed*, USAID/Panama and the Panama National Environmental Commission, Panama City, Panama, May 1998.

*Traditional Healers and Community Use of Traditional Medicine in Namibia*, UNICEF and Ministry of Health and Social Services, Windhoek, Namibia, May 1994.

*Intercultural Communication Between Traditional Healers and Modern Health Practitioners in Namibia--A Pilot Study*, UNICEF and Ministry of Health and Social Services, Windhoek, Namibia, April 1993.

## **ONLINE PUBLICATIONS**

*Community Based Ecotourism in the Panama Canal Watershed: Executive,*

<http://www.planeta.com/planeta/99/0799panama.html>

*Lise Hanssen, Okonjima and Africat Foundation, One Woman's Odyssey among Namibia's Big Cats,* [www.namibweb.com/africat.htm](http://www.namibweb.com/africat.htm)

*AIDS & Traditional Healers in Namibia: Improving Collaboration between Traditional Healers and Biomedical Professionals,* [www.namibweb.com/aids.htm](http://www.namibweb.com/aids.htm)

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## **RELEVANT WEBSITES**

<http://www.taralumpkin.com>

<http://www.culturalenergy.org/listen.htm>

<http://bioregionalanimism.blogspot.com/2006/02/twelve-principles-understanding.html>

<http://www.tibethealthproject.org/2005Trip.php>

<http://perceptionintl.org>

<http://rwandaproject.org>

<http://www.healingplanet.tv>

<http://espanol.geocities.com/rivashomepage/ecoturismo.html>

<http://www.planeta.com/planeta/99/0799panama.html>

<http://namibweb.com/africat.htm>

<http://namibweb.com/aids.htm>

<http://hometown.aol.com/filmprojects/board.html>

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## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Anthropological Association

Anthropology and Humanism

## **CHRONOLOGICAL WORK HISTORY**

Perception, President, March 2000 – Present

Blackstone Institute, Aug 1, 2006—Present

Gargon Healthcare Project, Perception, Project Coordinator, Fundraiser and Field Coordinator for Needs Assessment, Taos, NM, USA, and Kham, Tibet, Qinghai Province, China, January 1-June 30, 2005.

Through the Eyes of Children, Perception, Project Coordinator, October – November 2000

Conservation International, Consultant, March 2000

Chemonics International, Consultant, September – October 1999

USAID, WorldWID Fellow, January 1997 – May 1998

CIET Canada, Consultant, April – July 1995

Chiapas Watch, Researcher and Media Liaison, January – April 1995

UNICEF/Namibia, Consultant, June 1993 – June 1994

Conservation International, Consultant, February – May 1993

Maryland State Arts Council, Poetry Teacher, October 1992 – January 1993

Loyola College, Adjunct Professor, September – December 1992

High Country News, Environmental Investigative Reporter, February – May 1988

KNYN Radio Station, Copywriter, 1983