

## **Curriculum vitae**

**Full Name** Darren Spooner

**Title** Clinical Psychologist, Clinical Director  
Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society  
Chartered Member of the British Psychological Society  
HCPC-Registered Practitioner Psychologist

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### ***Current and Most Recent Employment***

I have been the clinical director of The St. Giles Clinic, an independent multidisciplinary psychological practice in Norwich since 2003. This role consists of management and delivery of psychological assessment and therapies and medico-legal assessments and reports. Psychological assessment and therapy is offered across the lifespan with most common, severe, enduring and complex mental health difficulties and personality disorders. My primary clinical specialisms are adult mental health and the treatment of personality disorder and trauma. I have written approximately 1500 medico-legal reports. I have given oral evidence on more than 100 occasions. My primary medico-legal specialisms are Private Law in cases of contact and residency, Child Protection and personal injury.

My undergraduate research was concerned with the cognitive-behavioural treatment of anxiety disorder and my post-graduate dissertation concerned with the management of treatment-resistant depression.

From February 1999 to June 2003 I held a Clinical Psychologist post in adult community mental health at Norfolk Mental Health Care NHS Trust.

Prior to this I was employed as a Child, Adolescent and Family Psychologist at community mental health service in Brisbane, Australia. I also operated a successful private general psychological practice in Brisbane.

Concurrently, I was appointed as an academic tutor at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in counselling and clinical psychology, community mental health and behavioural medicine.

From August 1994 to November 1998 I held several simultaneous research assistant posts with the Department of Psychiatry at The University of Queensland. During this time I was employed widely in research duties on programs concerned with traumatic stress, conduct disorder/oppositional-defiant disorder, food refusal in preschoolers, schizophrenia, alcohol abuse and marital conflict, and mental health service delivery. This included working in the development team for three years on the Positive Parenting Program (PPP) program, which consisted of family assessment and intervention.

In 1992, I was appointed as a group co-facilitator on the sex offender program at a Brisbane prison, and as a group co-facilitator for domestic violence perpetrators at the Queensland branch of a national private marriage guidance organisation.

<b><i>Qualification</i></b>	<b><i>Year</i></b>	<b><i>Institution</i></b>
Bachelor of Arts (Psychology)	1995	The University of Queensland, Australia
Postgraduate Honours (Psychology)	1996	The University of Queensland, Australia
Master of Clinical Psychology	2000	Griffith University, Australia
Statement of Equivalence in Clinical Psychology	2002	British Psychological Society

### ***Experience***

Research Assistant - Psychiatry	1994-1998	The University of Queensland, Australia
Curriculum Development Officer (Community Mental Health)	1995-1997	The University of Queensland, Australia
Tutor/Honorary Lecturer	1997-2003	The University of Queensland, Griffith University, University of East Anglia
Research Consultant	1997	University of Montreal
Psychologist	1997/8	Private Practice - Brisbane, Australia
Psychologist	1998	Caboolture Mental Health Services, Australia
Clinical Psychologist	1999-2003	Norfolk Mental Health Care NHS Trust
Clinical Psychologist	1999-present	The St. Giles Clinic, Norwich

## **AREAS OF MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERTISE**

### ***Child protection, care proceedings, private law***

- Assessment of adult mental health and mental illness
- Assessment of personality disorder
- Substance misuse
- Domestic violence
- Psychometric assessment of cognitive functioning
  - Intelligence
  - Memory
  - Attention
  - Concentration
  - Executive functioning
- Psychological assessment of children
- Assessment of attachment
- Parenting assessment
- Family assessment
- Adoption assessment
- Assessment of malingering and false responding
- Assessment of parental alienation, implacable hostility and issues of contact and residence

### ***Personal injury and employment***

- Assessment of psychological injury, specialising in trauma
- Psychometric assessment
- Assessment of malingering and false responding

### ***Forensic***

- Psychometric assessment of cognitive functioning
- Assessment of mental illness
- Assessment of personality disorder