

Dr. Nancy Isserman

Nancy Isserman, Ph.D

Senior Research Fellow, Council for Relationship, the Division of Couple and Family Studies, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, PA. Since 1993, Dr. Isserman has been the Co-Director of the Transcending Trauma Project, a qualitative research project of more than 275 Holocaust survivors and three generation family members exploring coping and resilience after the experience of war and genocide. She also has directed the research for Council For Relationship's Center for the Advancement of Relationship Education where she was the research coordinator of the Philadelphia Healthy Marriage Project, a project to develop a research based curriculum for low income, minority fathers in Philadelphia from 2007-2010. Dr. Isserman is also affiliated with the Feinstein Center for American Jewish History, Temple University. She has published reports, articles, book reviews, and edited books on topics relating to the contemporary Jewish experience and on tolerance in survivors. Dr. Isserman received her PhD from the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her dissertation, "*I Harbor No Hate: Tolerance and Intolerance in Holocaust Survivors*" received the 2004-2005 Braham Dissertation Award. She is the co-author of *Transcending Trauma: Survival, Resilience and Clinical Implications in Survivor Families*. (Routledge 2011)

Transcending Trauma

Survival, Resilience, and Clinical Implications in Survivor Families



By [Bea Hollander-Goldfein](#), [Nancy Isserman](#), [Jennifer Goldenberg](#)

Published 2nd November 2011 by Routledge – 341 pages

Based on twenty years of intense qualitative research, *Transcending Trauma* presents an integrated model of coping and adaptation after trauma that incorporates the best of recent work in the field with the expanded insights offered by Holocaust survivors. In the book's vignettes and interview transcripts, survivors of a broad range of traumas will recognize their own challenges, and mental-health professionals will gain invaluable insight into the dominant themes both of Holocaust survivors and of trauma survivors more generally. Together, the authors and contributors Sheryl Perlmutter Bowen, Hannah Kliger, Lucy Raizman, Juliet Spitzer and Emilie Scherz Passow have transformed qualitative narrative analysis and framed for us a new and profound understanding of survivorship. Their study has illuminated universal aspects of the recovery from trauma, and *Transcending Trauma* makes a vital contribution to our understanding of how survivors find meaning after traumatic events.

Transcending Trauma shows that it is possible to learn even from the most horrific events of the past hundred years. The authors emphasize that trauma always involves survival and that focusing on survival can deepen our understanding of coping and resilience. The result is a magnificent integration of individual, family and cultural perspectives on trauma and resilience." - **Danny Brom, Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, Jerusalem, Israel, and coeditor of *Treating Traumatized Children: Risk, Resilience, and Recovery***

"Transcending Trauma changes the way we think about Holocaust survivors—and, indeed, about the human ability to cope with all manner of traumatic experience." - **from the foreword by Charles R. Figley, PhD, the Paul Henry Kurzweg Distinguished Chair in Disaster Mental Health at Tulane University and author of *Compassion Fatigue***

"Transcending Trauma is a sensitive and thorough—as well as clear and comprehensible—study of a controversial topic." - **Peter Suedfeld, PhD, professor emeritus, University of British Columbia**

"The authors of Transcending Trauma have captured the process that allows trauma survivors to travel to the abyss and back. This book is a must read for anyone interested in the intergenerational transmission of sorrow, hope, and social justice." - **Roberta Greene, professor at the University of Texas School of Social Work and author of *Resiliency: An Integrated Approach to Practice, Policy, and Research***

"I found [this book] absolutely compelling and awe inspiring. [The authors] have done an immense job of integrating vast amounts of data and then integrating the relevant literature. I think the contribution [they] have made is astounding. The main points of [the] work are critically important...every chapter reads like the work of love." - **Kaethe Weingarten**