

Biographical Profile of  
**KATHLEEN M. HEIDE, Ph.D.**  
(Pronounced “HIGH’dee”)



**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Professor of Criminology  
College of Behavioral and Community Sciences  
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida
- Licensed Psychotherapist
- Author or co-author of approximately 100 publications
- Author of two widely acclaimed books on juvenile homicide
- Co-Author of recently published book on animal cruelty as pathway to human violence
- Recipient of six awards for teaching excellence
- Member or former member of more than 10 community and state boards of directors, councils, or task forces, including two consecutive gubernatorial appointments to the Florida Sentencing Commission

**AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

- Juvenile Homicide and Adolescent Parricide Offenders
- Individual and Family Violence
- Treatment of Survivors of Trauma, particularly Child Maltreatment

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Phone: (813) 974-9543  
e-mail: [kheide@cas.usf.edu](mailto:kheide@cas.usf.edu)  
website: <http://criminology.usf.edu/faculty/kheide/>

**EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIALS:**

Kathleen Heide received her B.A. from Vassar College in Psychology and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University at Albany, State University of New York. Her academic honors at Vassar College included election to Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors in Psychology, and General Excellence distinction awarded at Commencement. At the University of Albany, Kathleen Heide specialized in psychological approaches to criminology. In addition to receiving graduate fellowships and a dissertation award while a graduate student at the University at Albany, Kathleen Heide coordinated the psychological component of the National Evaluation of Adult Restitution Projects under a federal grant funded by the National Institute of Justice. In her capacities as graduate student and research analyst, Kathleen Heide was under the direct and formal supervision of clinical psychologist, Marguerite Q. Warren, Ph.D., a pioneering figure in the development of Interpersonal Level of Maturity Theory. Dr. Heide received a Presidential Award for a Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation at Commencement for her research on the personality characteristics of offenders.

**POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION:**

Dr. Heide has also completed extensive postdoctoral education and training in psychology and psychotherapy. She has trained with internationally recognized experts in various therapeutic strategies and has specialized in Cognitive Behavioral techniques and Humanistic/Gestalt approaches. She has advanced education in working with survivors of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse, understanding the dynamics in dysfunctional families, and utilizing cognitive restructuring and emotional release techniques. She has continued her education in forensic evaluation and has acquired additional expertise in hypnotherapy and effective intervention strategies with adolescents and survivors of trauma.

**UNIVERSITY POSITIONS:**

Dr. Heide holds the rank of Professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida. Professor Heide enjoys teaching both undergraduate and graduate students and is actively engaged in thesis and doctoral advising. Her publication record includes more than 150 articles and professional papers in the areas of adolescent homicide, family violence, personality assessment, and juvenile justice. Professor Heide is the author of two widely acclaimed books on juvenile homicide (*Why Kids Kill Parents: Child Abuse and Adolescent Homicide* and *Young Killers: The Challenge of Juvenile Homicide*). She is the co-author (with Linda Merz-Perez) of the recently released book *Animal Cruelty: Pathway to Violence against People*. Requests for reprints of Dr. Heide's publications have come from scholars and practitioners around the world.

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Dr. Heide's research has also been featured in *Newsweek*, *Psychology Today*, *U.S. News and World Reports*, *Epocá* (Brazil), *Facts* (Switzerland), and in dozens of newspapers worldwide including *The New York Times*, *U.S.A. Today*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Chicago Tribune*. She has appeared in several nationally-televised talk and news shows, including Larry King Live, CNN, Good Morning America, Fox News. Professor Heide has served as a consultant to the National Institute of Justice, National Institute of Health, many state agencies, and several law firms.

Dr. Heide served for 19 months as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), University of South Florida, Tampa. CAS is the largest college at USF, a Research I, Carnegie Doctoral Extensive University and has a budget of over \$80 million. CAS has 27 departments in four cognate areas: the natural and physical sciences, social and behavioral sciences, the humanities, and professional programs. The College's 500 faculty and 150 staff serve approximately 17,000 students enrolled in 65 undergraduate major and concentrations, 36 masters, and 14 doctoral degree programs. Many of these programs are nationally ranked and many of the college's initiatives are nationally recognized for innovation and uniqueness. Prior to being appointed as Interim Dean, Dr. Heide served for two years as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Program Development, a position which is considered to be the Executive Associate Dean or the second-in-command in CAS. Her responsibilities included recruitment, faculty development, tenure and promotion, sabbaticals and faculty leaves, honors and awards, faculty governance, retirement, and disciplinary matters.

### **CLINICAL PRACTICE:**

Dr. Heide is a licensed mental health counselor in the State of Florida and practices at the Center for Mental Health Education, Assessment and Therapy, Tampa. She specializes in treating adolescents and young adults, adult children of alcoholics and other high stress families, survivors of childhood abuse, sexual abuse, and sexual assault. Her activities include the training of mental health and social services professionals in family violence, child abuse, and violent juveniles. In addition, Dr. Heide provides individual and group therapy, forensic evaluation, and consultation regarding trial preparation.

Dr. Heide is an internationally recognized consultant on adolescent homicide and family violence. She has been court-appointed as an expert in Florida Circuit Courts in homicide, sexual battery, juvenile, and family matters. Professor Heide has been qualified as a criminologist and expert to testify in psychology, criminology, adolescent homicide and parricide, child abuse, dysfunctional family, psychotherapy, personality assessment, mental health counseling, and forensic evaluation in Florida Circuit Courts and in various jurisdictions across the United States.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE:**

Dr. Heide was appointed in 1994 and reappointed in 1996 by Governor Chiles to serve as a member of Florida's Sentencing Commission. Professor Heide has also served as a member of

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several Board of Directors of community agencies mandated to provide services to sexual abuse and assault victims, psychiatric patients, individuals in crisis, female delinquents and women offenders. Professor Heide is a past President of the Tampa Bay Association for Women Psychotherapists and currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough Constituency for Children and the Tampa Marine Institute.

Dr. Heide has been an active member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary since 1998. She is certified as an instructor, crewperson, coxswain, and aids to navigation verifier. Dr. Heide is actively involved in search and rescue operations, port security, and marine safety. Professor Heide has a federal government security clearance.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:**

Dr. Heide is an active participant in the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, and the Homicide Research Working Group. Dr. Heide is a member of the American Psychological Association, the American Mental Health Counselors Association, and the Florida Mental Health Counselors Association. Professor Heide serves on editorial boards for the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, *Homicide Studies*, *Victims and Offenders*, and *Society & Animals*.

**HONORS AND AWARDS:**

Dr. Heide's postgraduate awards include election as a faculty member to membership in the Golden Key Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi, and Sigma Xi. Professor Heide has received many honors and awards including being recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the State University of New York at Albany and being among a handful of scholars invited by Queen Sofia of Spain to speak on juvenile homicide at an international conference on violence and youth in Valencia. Dr. Heide was elected to full membership status in the American Psychological Association in 1990 in recognition of her contributions in the field of psychology. Professor Heide is the recipient of six awards for teaching excellence, including USF's most prestigious award, the Jerome Krivanek Distinguished Teacher Award. She has also been honored by community agencies for her service to them.

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