**Mediators and Metaphorical Analysis: A Phenomenological Study**

**and Integrative Theory of Family Mediators**

**Abstract**

Florida family court mediation programs are assessed predominantly with quantitative analyses. A phenomenological approach using metaphorical analysis has unveiled the unique experiences, rich descriptions, and meaning-making of a group of family mediators. Metaphors are considered to be representations of the mental models with which individuals see the world…

**Introduction**

The state of Florida has a comprehensive system for certifying family mediators for court appointed cases (Florida State Courts Dispute Resolution Center, 2011). Florida Supreme Court family mediation certification includes training, observation, ethical standards, and continuing education. The mediation certification program of the Florida Supreme Court has long been acknowledged as a pioneer and model court connected program in the nation…

The metaphor is a fundamental way of making sense of life (Lawley & Tompkins, 2000). Debra Kolb’s (1994) book, *When Talk Works: Profiles of Mediators*, used interviews to explore mediation styles across mediation fields. In this study, we limited the scope to court-based family mediators. Interviews captured rich descriptions of mediators’ *lived experiences,* or what Dilthey described as the immediate, pre-reflective-consciousness of life (1985)…

**Metaphorical Coherence**

Metaphorical coherence is defined as perceptions that fit into existing metaphorical concepts (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). There is a *systematicity* which, according to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), relates to the idea that metaphorical expressions are linked together through underlying concepts. Shen and Balaban (2000) demonstrated that in natural language there is little apparent coherence, but metaphorical coherence may be identified within a single discussion topic such as mediation.

Metaphors We Live By

In the book *Metaphors We Live By*, metaphorical coherence is seen as structuring our perceptions and understanding of the world, all while guiding our actions and decision making (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980)…

**References**

Hosmanek, A. J., McCormick, B. W., & Gonzalez-Mule, E. (2022). Born and raised: Intelligence and personality matter in negotiations. *Journal of Conflict Management*, *2*(1).