



To: Editor in Chief, *Journal of Mental Health and Social Behaviour*

Re: Responses to Reviewers' Comments on JMHSB-259 "Attachment Theory and Reactive Attachment Disorder: A Foundation for Social Work Practice"

Thank you for your review of my manuscript and for your insightful comments. I have addressed the comments from the reviewers below.

Reviewer 1

Comment: Strengthen the title to address implications for child welfare and social work practice.

Response: Thank you for this comment. The title was updated to reflect the practice element for social work. The new title reads: Attachment Theory and Reactive Attachment Disorder: Implications for Child Welfare and Social Work Practice.

Comment: Briefly mention the evidence base in the abstract.

Response: In line with your suggestion, the abstract has incorporated the evidence base, including mentioning findings from research on institutionalized children.

Comment: Remove redundancies (e.g. Bowlby's contributions); standardize tense.

Response: Thank you for this comment. Redundancies around Bowlby's contributions were removed, and the tense was standardized throughout the manuscript.

Comment: Add more recent U.S.-based empirical studies on RAD prevalence/treatment.

Response: Thank you for this suggestion. While there is a dearth of U.S. based literature on the study of children with RAD, additional studies have been cited to support the empirical base.

Reviewer 2

Comment: Include clear implications for future research and practice.

Response: Thank you for the feedback. The manuscript has been updated to include additional implications for future research and practice.

Comment: A clearer subtitle is recommended.

Response: The subtitle has been revised to read: Attachment Theory and Reactive Attachment Disorder: Implications for Child Welfare and Social Work Practice.

Comment: The inclusion of domestic and international content is too broad for one paper.



Response: Thank you for this comment. Reactive attachment disorder, including its etiology, prevalence, and recommended treatments, remains an understudied area. Research examining the impact of institutionalized care meaningfully contributes to the limited evidence base on this topic. I have incorporated additional evidence-based literature to strengthen this section.

Comment: The social work contributions section seems out of place.

Response: Thank you for this insightful feedback. This section was removed to create a more succinct manuscript.

Comment: The implications section should include additional more recent sources.

Response: This section was revised to include additional, more recent evidence.

Reviewer 3

Comment: There are some passive phrases use. Try to use active voice.

Response: The revised manuscript incorporates more frequent use of active voice, as the reviewer suggested.

Comment: Provide additional examples of attachment theory's application to practice in the Contributions section.

Response: The revised manuscript includes additional examples of application to practice per this suggestion.

Comment: Consider expanding on neurobiology as a demonstration of evidence in the evidence section.

Response: The manuscript reflects additional information on neurobiological evidence of attachment theory, although an in-depth analysis of neurobiological evidence of RAD is beyond the scope of this paper.

Comment: Consider strengthening the conclusion by talking about limitations of theory and areas for future research needed.

Response: Thank you for this comment. The conclusion reflects limitations of attachment theory and areas for future research.

Comment: Three references need attention (Flaherty, Schneider, Siegal).

Response: Thank you for your careful review of the references. The references have been updated.



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
TRI-CITIES

Department of Social Work

Again, thank you for your careful reviews of this manuscript. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

RoseAnne M. Droesch

Washington State University Tri-Cities

Email: roseanne.droesch@wsu.edu