



## **Course: overcoming panic and worry: mastering exposure work with acceptance, defusion, humor, and paradox**

**Address:** <https://asadis.net/en/course/deconstructing-panic-and-worry/>

**Duration:** 5h

**Type of course:** Continuing education

**Location:** Online course

**Individual price:** \$200.00

### **Overview:**

Anxiety disorders could be more accurately termed disorders of excessive self-protection: panic attacks do not cause death, obsessive worries about germs do not result in infections, and persistent worry does not lead to insanity. Yet, our chronically anxious clients are often tricked by their own efforts to avoid, distract from, and protect against these perceived dangers. When these dangers do not materialize, they may believe they narrowly escaped a terrible calamity and feel more vulnerable. Consequently, they become increasingly fearful of more and more improbable events. Treating these clients requires creativity and finesse. If you are already familiar with the basics of exposure therapy and want to expand your clinical toolkit, Dr. David Carbonell's masterclass will give you the inspiration you need. With over 40 years of experience as a psychologist, Dr. Carbonell presents the fascinating nuances of combining multiple techniques, including the use of humor and paradox, to help clients defuse their deeply ingrained anxious beliefs. In this workshop, Dr. Carbonell will guide you on how to help your clients disengage from the self-protective behaviors that keep them trapped in anxiety. He will share his techniques to empower your clients to see themselves as capable individuals fooled by anxiety, rather than as defective individuals needing protection. He will provide insights on how to motivate your clients to seek out, rather than avoid, the corrective experiences they need for recovery. Dr. Carbonell will also present effective strategies drawn from Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Paradoxical Therapy, Metacognitive Therapy, and traditional Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT). These strategies will help your clients reconnect with the hopes and dreams they had for life before they were derailed by their struggle against anxiety. This workshop will feature: Understanding on how clients are tricked into a counterproductive struggle against anxiety and the mechanisms of excessive self-protection

Identifying signs of struggle against anxiety and safety behaviors How to help your clients recognize their inherent strengths and capabilities Ways to motivate clients to embrace corrective experiences essential for their recovery Practical strategies for symptoms management Clinical techniques to address client's thoughts, feelings of blame and shame, and self-protective behaviors This training will equip you with the art of guiding clients towards effective responses to anxiety. Embracing innovative and counterintuitive strategies can empower clients to navigate their anxiety more successfully.

**Learning objectives:**

1. Understand how clients become enmeshed in a counterproductive struggle against anxiety.
2. Help clients acquire adaptive approaches to managing symptoms.
3. Become effective in addressing client shame, blame, and excessive self-protection.
4. Implement clinical techniques to address clients' thoughts, feelings, and behaviors

**Learning material:**

A theoretical course illustrated with clinical examples. This course is composed of videos of 5 to 15 minutes each. The PowerPoint of the course to download.

**Audience:** This training is intended for mental health professionals.

**The expert**

Dr. David Carbonell, clinical psychologist, who specializes in helping people overcome fears, phobias and worry.

He is the author of four self- help books: Panic Attacks Workbook, The Worry Trick, Fear of Flying Workbook, and Outsmart Your Anxious Brain: Ten Simple Ways to Beat the Worry Trick.

He is the “coach” of the popular self-help site, anxietycoach.com, and has taught workshops on the treatment of anxiety disorders to more than 10,000 therapists in the U.S. and abroad. He received his doctorate in clinical psychology from DePaul University in 1985 and has maintained a practice devoted to the treatment of anxiety disorders in Chicago since 1990. In his spare time, he is the founding member of The Therapy Players, an improvisational comedy troupe of professional psychotherapists in the Chicago area.

**Syllabus**

PowerPoint

Understanding Anxiety

Presentation

Treating anxiety disorders

Models to draw from

The false signals of danger

The anxiety trick

First. Reducing Anxiety

Anxiety doesn't just fool you once

The first session - Reducing Anxiety about Treatment

Video role play- belly breathing

The controversy about breathing instruction

### Second, Breaking the Anxiety Cycle

The rule of opposites

Finding evidence of the trick in client observations

The scary movie example

Identifying safety behaviors

Avoidance and escape

Distraction and reassurance

Support people and objects

Rituals and superstitions

Secrecy

Control

### Mastering Exposure and Overcoming Panic

Creating interventions- invite clients to try experiments

An observing posture

Responding to high anxiety - the AWARE steps

The Amygdala- your unconscious guardian

You never forget your first attack

Describing a recent attack

Video role play- 3 powerful questions

The panic cycle

What brings the panic to an end

Models of exposure

Inhibitory learning

Exposure guidelines

Video role play repeating the worry experiment

Are you motivated to worry?

Conclusion

Bibliography

### **Evaluation:**

To validate the achievement of the learning objectives, a final evaluation in the form of true/false questions is required. It must be completed in order to obtain the certificate of completion.

In addition, an optional self-assessment is offered at the beginning and end of the course, allowing you to measure your progress on the targeted skills.

These evaluations are not graded and are intended primarily to support your professional reflection.

**Access timeline:** Once registration is confirmed, you (or the learner) may start the training at any time, independently and at your own pace. You can access the training for as long as Asadis as the legal right to diffuse it (typically 10 years).

**Accessibility support:** This training is offered as a pre-recorded video format, without subtitles. If you have a disability, we can provide an adapted alternative (technical assistance for viewing or individual supervision). For any request, please contact our disability coordinator at the following address: [contact@asadis.net](mailto:contact@asadis.net)

**Questions?** Feel free to contact us at [contact@asadis.net](mailto:contact@asadis.net)