

Lisa M Larson

March 5, 1959 – May 31, 2024



Lisa M. Larson died on May 31, 2024 in Boulder, Colorado. She was a brilliant professor, radiant friend, and loving wife and mother. Lisa was the best of us. She was born and raised in Carl Junction, Missouri on March 5, 1959. Her family prized education and valued hard work, integrity, and kindness. Lisa married her soulmate, Art Konar, in 1985 in Kansas City, Missouri. Their love, fierce and unyielding, is the bedrock of her beloved family. That love will never dim.

Lisa is survived by her husband, Art Konar and her children, Dylan Larson-Konar, Joshua Larson-Konar, and Ileana Hernandez. She is also survived by her siblings, Susette Taylor, Mark Larson, and Marianne Wilson. She is preceded in death by her mother, Lena Mae Gates Larson, her father, John August Larson, and her brother, John Stephen Larson. Lisa received her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1986. She worked as a professor at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln from 1986-1998 and at Iowa State University from 1998-2021.

Lisa was a renowned researcher, specializing in career self-efficacy, counselor training, and self-determination theory. She published 63 peer-reviewed articles, secured over \$6 million in nationally funded research grants, and served on the editorial boards of the top scholarly journals in her areas. She was a beloved colleague and mentor. The intellectual and emotional impact she had on her many advisees and students is immeasurable. At the twilight of her career, Iowa State University awarded Lisa the status of University Professor, honoring her tremendous service to advancing the careers of women and persons of color in STEM disciplines. Lisa balanced compassion with candor, brilliance with humility, and thoughtfulness with humor. She was rooted in a strong Unitarian Universalist religious tradition and was a proud member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames and the Unitarian Church of All Souls in New York City. Lisa relentlessly sought meaning in this world. She found it in God, in nature, in poetry, in music, and in her relationships with those whom she loved and respected.