



Gertrud Lenzer

**Professor, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center/CUNY
Director, Brooklyn College Children and Youth Studies Program and the
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Gertrud Lenzer is the founder and director of Children's Studies, as well as a professor of sociology at both Brooklyn College and the CUNY Graduate Center. In 1991, she led Brooklyn College's efforts to become the first academic institution to develop an interdisciplinary liberal arts Children's Studies Program. Under her leadership, a minor in Children's Studies was established in 1994 for all liberal arts majors. In 2001, a 30-credit interdisciplinary Children's Studies concentration for majors in early childhood education teacher and childhood education teacher programs was introduced in cooperation with the Brooklyn College School of Education. An interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts degree in Children's Studies was launched in Fall 2009. As of 2011, the name of the Children's Studies program has officially changed to Children and Youth Studies.

Professor Lenzer also founded the Sociology of Children as a new field and section of the American Sociological Association in 1991 and was designated its founding chair. She received the national 1997 Lewis Hine Award in Honor of Outstanding Service on Behalf of Children and Youth of the National Child Labor Committee, founded by an Act of Congress in 1904. Professor Lenzer has received a number of distinguished fellowships during her career, among them the American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in the Humanities with residency at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, a fellowship at the National Humanities Center, and a research fellowship at the Rockefeller Bellagio Center, Italy. In addition she was selected as the first American scholar and the first woman to deliver the 12th Auguste Comte Memorial Lecture at the London School of Economics. Most recently, she has worked closely with legislators to spearhead legislation for an independent Office of the Child Advocate for New York.