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Children's Studies Program and Center

Contact: Professor Gerturd Lenzer, Director
(718) 951-3192
GLenzer@brooklyn.cuny.edu
[Children's Studies Website](#)

September 2010

News from Children's Studies

Join Our Mailing List!

Greetings!

We would like to welcome you back to a new semester with Children's Studies and share with you our latest good news and developments. As many of you know, Children's Studies launched a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Children's Studies last fall and enrollment has far surpassed our expectations with over 180 declared Children's Studies students currently enrolled in the new major.

From the very beginnings and purposes of Children's Studies, we have had long held plans to expand our academic program and have continued to offer new courses and innovations throughout the years. We are excited to share with you new developments in this area as well as news of our activities.

Our Faculty

The Children's Studies Program welcomes two new full-time faculty members, Katherine Hejtmanek, Assistant Professor in Child Welfare Policy Research in the Children's Studies Program and Department of Anthropology, and Jeremy Reed Porter, Assistant Professor in Political Economy of Children in the Children's Studies Program and Department of Economics.

Professor Hejtmanek and Professor Porter will both be teaching sections of CHST 2100- *Perspectives on Childhood* and CHST 3130- *Children of New York*.

Joseph Grochowalski, M.S. and M.A., and Senior Research Associate, Children's Studies Center, will once again be joining Children's Studies as a full-time instructor for Fall 2010.

The Program also welcomes numerous new adjunct faculty including Melba Butler, LCSW; Louise Moreira Daniels, M.A.; Carla Lewis- Irizarry, M.P.A.; Anthoula Poulakos, M.A.; Nira Reiss, Ph.D.; and Charisa Smith, J.D., Esq.

Returning adjuncts include Ellen Fried, J.D., Esq.; Elise Goldberg, M.S.Ed; and Irma Kramer, M.A.

We are pleased to announce that A.M. William Scarborough, Chairman of the Committee on Children and Families in the New York State Assembly, is returning again this fall to teach his very successful course, *Children's Studies 2200- Special Topics: Children, Government, and Public Policy in New York State*. His course will feature a series of guest lecturers including:

- **Patricia Baker**, Vice President, Public Employees Federation
- **Sen. Velmanette Montgomery**, Chair, NY State Senate Committee on Children and Families
- **Joyce Burrell**, Deputy Commissioner, Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DJJOY), New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
- **Mike Arsham**, Executive Director, Child Welfare Organizing Project
- **Judge Edwina Richardson- Mendelsohn**, Administrative Judge, Family Court of the City of New York
- **Lori Bensky**, Senior Analyst, Children's Rights, Inc.
- **Jim Purcell**, Executive Director, Council of Family and Child Caring Agencies (COFCCA)
- **Laurence Busching**, ACS Deputy Commissioner for Youth and Juvenile Justice
- **Robert Hettleman**, Bureau Chief, Family Violence and Child Abuse Bureau, N.Y. County District Attorney's Office

Child Well-Being in a Global World

New Children's Studies Course

The Children's Studies Program introduces a new course this Fall, *Children's Studies 2200- Special Topics: Child Well-Being in a Global World: Focus on the United States*. The course is being taught by our new adjunct faculty member, Louise Moreira Daniels, M.A., a consultant at UNICEF. The course will aim to introduce students to the concept and study of children's well-being, including the evolving understanding of childhood, the jurisprudence of children's rights and child well-being, the effects of poverty, deprivation, exclusion, and vulnerability on children and youth, and methodologies for measuring child well-being. The course will examine child poverty trends in the world, and then turn focus to developed nations, and more specifically to the United States. Finally, the course will examine public policy options and the role of the state in ensuring children's welfare. While the course will be looking at child well-being from an international perspective, the detailed focus of the course will move onto children's well-being in the United States.

Children in Global Perspective at ASA Conference

In her role as Founding Chair of the American Sociological Association Section of the Sociology of Children, Professor Gertrud Lenzer was invited to preside at the "Section on Children and Youth Paper Session. Children in Global Perspective" at the ASA conference on August 16, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia. The conference, "Toward a Sociology of Citizenship: Inclusion, Participation, and Rights," focused on citizenship internationally.

Gertrud Lenzer submitted the following statement to the Council of American Sociological Association Section on Children and Youth, which approved it unanimously and forwarded it to the Council of American Sociological Association for its approval and action:

Statement Affirming and Expanding the Commitment of the American Sociological Association to the Human Rights of Children adopted unanimously by the Council of the Section on the Sociology of Children and Youth of the American Sociological Association, August 16, 2010

This statement of the Sociology of Children and Youth Section suggests to affirm

and expand the commitments of the American Sociological Association to human rights and freedoms enunciated in the ASA statements on human rights of 2005 and of August 2009 to include in its commitment the human rights of children with a special focus on the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its ratification by the United States.

The very definition of "children" in the Sociology of Children and Youth Section in 1991 was founded upon this international treaty. Article 1 reads: "For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, maturity is attained earlier." This international treaty articulates the civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights of children and is analogous to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. 194 countries have ratified this treaty; with the sole exception of the United States.[1]

Members of the Sociology of Children and Youth Section affirm that we are committed to advancing the human rights and protection of children through our research and policy initiatives.

Children have no independent voice in society. Since the research and teaching of our ASA Section is devoted to the protection, well-being and rights of children and since human rights are both universal and indivisible, we encourage the American Sociological Association to fully support the human rights of children as they are articulated in the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

To this end, we also encourage the Council of the American Sociological Association to join other academic disciplines and the international research community in supporting the U.S. ratification of this international human rights treaty along with its evolving jurisprudence and social policies.

[1] It should be added here that in 2002, under President George W. Bush, the United States ratified two Optional Protocols to the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: "The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (OPSC)" and the "Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)." This means that the U.S. has become a State party to these international treaties advancing the human rights of children.

Document drafted and submitted by

Dr. Gertrud Lenzer
Founding Chair, ASA Sociology of Children and Youth Section
Professor of Children's Studies and Sociology
Founding Director, Children's Studies Program and Center
Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center
The City University of New York
August 14, 2010

Children's Studies Featured in Campaign for US Ratification of the CRC Weekly Newsletter

The Children's Studies Program and Center was featured in a weekly newsletter by The Campaign for US Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child called Tuesday's Talk on Child Rights as one of three "extraordinary U.S. educational institutions which offer a range of innovative curricula and degrees in the field of children's rights." The newsletter, released on August 10, 2010, also noted Brooklyn College as "pioneering" the interdisciplinary field of Children's Studies.

To see the newsletter in full view:

	http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/pub/departments/childrensstudies/
	- documents/childrens_documents/Tuesdays Talk on Child Rights
	- _Aug10_2010(1).pdf
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