

History of Children's Studies

25th

Anniversary

1991

Professor Gertrud Lenzer brings attention to the rapid growth of public interest in "the cultural, social, economic and political circumstances that shape infant development and the lives of children of our societies" in the American Sociological Association (ASA) journal article, "Is There Sufficient Interest to Establish a Sociology of Children?"

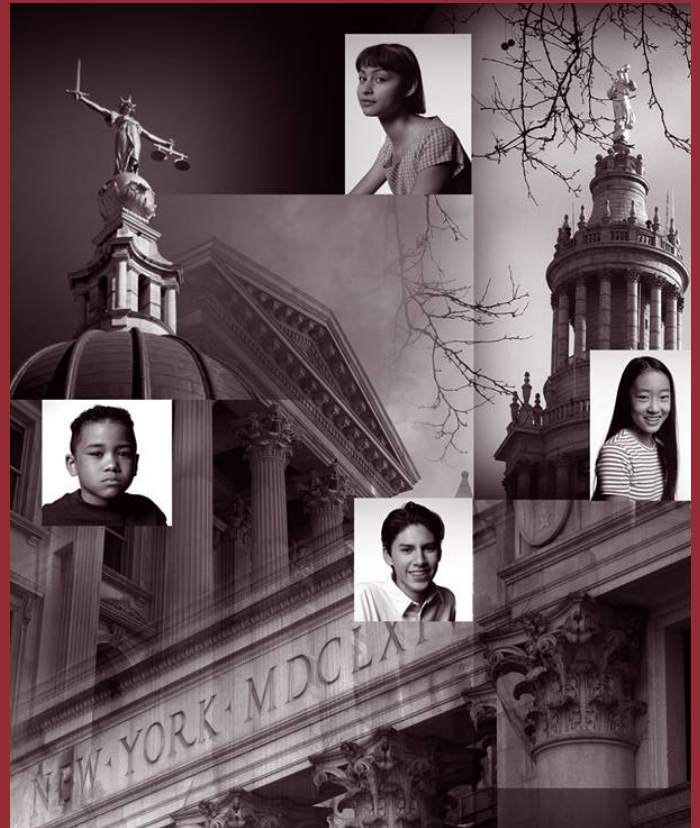
Lenzer develops an interdisciplinary field of Children's Studies and the Children's Studies Program along with faculty committee members Roni Natov and Geraldine DeLuca, English; Betty Wolder Levin, Health and Nutrition Sciences; Margaret King, History; Louise Hainline, Psychology; Laura Kitch, Sociology; and Maurie Callahan, Office of the Provost.

1992

Sociology of Children is established as a new section within the ASA.

Brooklyn College is credited with founding the first Sociology of Children course in the Department of Sociology in any academic institution in the United States.

The human rights of children represent a major framework for the new interdisciplinary field of Children's Studies. Brooklyn College is the first academic institution to develop and establish the course, *Human Rights of Children: A Transnational Development* taught by Irma Kramer, Sociology.



1994

A 15-credit interdisciplinary minor in Children's Studies is approved by Faculty Council and established for all Liberal Arts majors. Courses from the following departments are included: Africana Studies, Education, English, Health and Nutrition, Psychology, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, and Sociology.

1995

The Central Administration of CUNY awards Lenzer and her Children's Studies colleagues a "New Visions in Education" grant for two years.

Professor Lindley Hanlon, chair of the Film Department, joins the Children's Studies Faculty Committee.

1996

The Children's Studies minor program is now available to students. It receives much fanfare from the press and the academic world. The first course offerings are: *Introductory Child Psychology*; *Sociology of Children*; *the Black Child and the Urban Education System*; *Urban Children and Adolescents*; *Literature for Young People*; *Family Influences on Child Health*; and *The Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Caribbean Child*.

Professors Carol Korn-Bursztyn, Education; Maria Pérez y Gonzáles, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies; and Gail Gurland, Speech, join the Children's Studies Faculty Committee.

The Central Administration of CUNY funds a College Assistant position for the Children's Studies Program.

The course, *Perspectives on Children's Studies*, is taught by an interdisciplinary faculty working group in weekly seminars. The course is officially offered the following spring and is taught by six faculty members from English Literature, Film, History, Psychology, Public Health, and Sociology, as well as guest lecturers from the children's rights community.

1997

The Children's Studies Center for Research, Policy, and Public Service is established with approval by the CUNY Board of Trustees. The Center concentrates on pedagogy, research, and public service to the community.

Major activities of the Center are participation in local, national, and international research efforts on behalf of children and youth, and assistance to governmental and advocacy agencies, as well as community-based organizations in their work on behalf of children and young people.

1998

Lenzer proposes a "New Horizons Comprehensive Career Exploration, Student Development, and Career Education Initiative" to develop innovative career exploration and education programs for CUNY students.

2001

A 30-credit interdisciplinary Children's Studies concentration for majors in Early Childhood Education Teacher and Childhood Education Teacher programs is introduced in cooperation with the School of Education at Brooklyn College. Children's Studies is also available to students in the CUNY Baccalaureate program as a major or minor.

A career exploration internship course is created based upon the "New Horizons" proposal from 1998.



2003

Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of The Carnegie Corporation of New York awards the Children's Studies Center a grant to host its first major event titled "Policy Symposium: Children and the Law in New York". The proceedings are published and lead to the introduction of legislation in the New York State Assembly for an Independent Office of the Child Advocate for New York.

Loretta Chin is hired on the grant as the Conference/Research Coordinator.

2004

Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost of The City University of New York Dr. Louise Mirrer awards a CUNY targeted full-time tenure track faculty cluster line in Child Welfare Policy Research and Analysis to Children's Studies. Prof. Margaret Ellen Pipe is hired in a shared lined with the Department of Psychology.

2005

The Internship in Applied Children's Studies course is officially established in the spring. It places students in off-campus internship sites to explore careers in professional settings that focus on children, youth, and families.

To further expand the program, Children's Studies is awarded a Higher Education Assistant line from Dr. Selma Botman, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost of CUNY. Elise Goldberg is hired for this position.

Children's Studies students are recruited and trained to conduct preliminary research studies as part of a U.S. Department of Education Ready to Learn Partnership grant to evaluate the effectiveness of newly developed and innovative early literacy materials, media products, and platforms created for children, parents, educators, and service providers. The research helps establish a new PBS television show, *Word World*.

2008

The first issue of "New Horizons, The Future of Children, Youth and The Public Good" is published in June. This publication chronicles the accomplishments of the Children's Studies Program and Center. The "New Horizons" publications are co-written and edited by Loretta Chin and Gertrud Lenzer.

2009

The CUNY Board of Trustees approves the Bachelor of Arts degree in Children's Studies. The major is offered for the first time in the fall semester.

"New Horizons, The Future of Children, Youth and The Public Good," No. II is published.

"The Third Child Policy Forum of New York" officially launches the "Violence Against Children" initiative of the Children's Studies Center in their Forum event, "Implementation and Monitoring of the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography." The Forum event led to several publications, which resulted in major attention from the U.S. government.

Children's Studies' "Fourth Child Policy Forum of New York: "The Human Rights of Children on the 55th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education and the 20th Anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child" are held in two Forum events, one of which is a "Youth Forum."

The Child Policy Forum of New York from 2007-2009 are funded by CUNY Diversity Grants and grants from the New York Community Trust/Mark Family Fund, Colgate Palmolive Company, and The Oak Foundation.

Many of the Forum speakers are later invited to the Children's Studies courses as classroom guest lecturers.



2007

The Children's Studies Center is awarded a CUNY Diversity grant to host the "Inaugural Child Policy Forum of New York: The Right of Every Child" and the "Second Child Policy Forum of New York: The Campaign for United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child." Cynthia Price Cohen, internationally recognized advocate and authority on children's rights and a drafter of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) bequeaths her collection of books, periodicals, and papers to Children's Studies.

2010

Children Studies receives a shared full-time professorial tenure line with the Department of Economics, "The Political Economy of Children." Professor Jeremy R. Porter is hired for this position.

Professor Katherine Hejtmanek is hired on a shared full-time tenure track professorial line with the Department of Anthropology and Archeology.

The Children's Studies Center receives a donation from Honorable Bryanne A. Hamill. The funds are used to create an Outstanding Senior Award for Children's Studies majors.

"New Horizons," No. III is published.

2011

The Children's Studies Program is renamed the Children and Youth Studies Program.

The Children and Youth Studies Program offers a second minor in "Pre-Professional Explorations: Focus on Children in Social Service and the Law" for all Liberal Arts majors.

The Children's Studies Center holds a "National Consultation On Social Justice for Children: To End Child Abuse and Violence Against Children" to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the field of Children's Studies. Major funding is provided by Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

2013

Professor Gertrud Lenzer retires and professor Martha Nadell is appointed Interim Director of the Children and Youth Studies Program.



2014

Professor Madeline Fox, Children and Youth Studies and Sociology, and Professor Erika Niwa, Children and Youth Studies and Psychology, join the Children and Youth Studies Program on two shared full-time tenure track professorial lines.

Professor Jeremy Porter becomes Director of Children and Youth Studies

2015 - 2016

Professor Gertrud Lenzer receives a grant for Brooklyn College from Dr. Vartan Gregorian, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York to initiate plans for a Children's Studies 25th Anniversary Social Justice for Children Lecture Series.

The inaugural lecture, "Children's Literature and the Courage to Imagine" featuring English Department Professor Roni Natov, was held on April 4th, 2017.



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