Gertrud Lenzer
Professor, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center/CUNY
Director, Brooklyn College Children and Youth Studies Program and the
Children’s Studies Center for Research, Policy and Public Service

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