

CHILDREN'S STUDIES 25 (2200): SPECIAL TOPICS:
CHILDREN, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY
IN NEW YORK STATE

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES
FALL 2010

NOVEMBER 9, 2010

GUEST SPEAKER: SYLVIA HOOPER

Assistant Director and Co-Founder, Foster Parent Advocacy Foundation

Ms. Hooper is an adoptive child who went back into the system after her adoptive parents passed away at age 15. She was then placed in kinship foster care, where she did not have a good experience. She has made it her personal mission to advocate for children, individuals and groups who are unable or incapable of doing so.

Ms. Hooper has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Adelphi University and has her Masters in Social Work from Touro College. Sylvia is one of the partners of United Foster Parents Consultants LLC. She worked for the Administration for Children Services as a Child Protective Specialist for two years. She presently works as a student liaison for a middle school in the Bronx. Ms. Hooper also has knowledge and experience of the foster care system as she worked as an Intake Case Planner within a foster care agency, at which she observed the gaps in the foster care system that are affecting the children in care. She also observed the lack of support and guidance that was provided to both the foster parents and children in foster care. It was from her work experience and lack of support and commitment from her colleagues, that Ms. Hooper decided she wanted to take action and help the families and children of the community make a change.