

LENETTE AZZI-LESSING

**School of Social Work
Boston University
264 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215
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Education

- 1996 PhD in Human Development and Family Studies
University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
*Dissertation Topic: Conducting Family Needs Assessment for the
Development of Family Support Programs*
- 1989 – 1990 Masters in Business Administration Program
University of Rhode Island, Providence, RI
*Completed Courses in Computer Applications, Financial Accounting,
Business Law, and Organizational Theory & Practice*
- 1980 Masters in Social Work
Washington University, St. Louis, MO
*Awarded Traineeship in Primary Prevention by the
National Institute of Mental Health
License: RI LICSW- Inactive Status*
- 1977 Bachelors in Public Service
West Liberty State College, West Liberty, WV
Graduated with Honors

Academic Appointments

- July 2018-
Currently Clinical Professor of Social Work
Boston University, Boston, MA
- March 2017-
July, 2018 Professor of Social Work
Wheelock College, Boston, MA
Director, Graduate Certificate Program in Early Childhood Mental Health
- March
2012-2017 Associate Professor of Social Work
Wheelock College, Boston, MA
Director, Graduate Certificate Program in Early Childhood Mental Health
- January Assistant Professor of Social Work

- 2007-2012 Wheelock College, Boston, MA
 Responsibilities include developing and teaching courses in social work practice, research, policy, and administration, and service learning and early-childhood mental health in the MSW Program, advising students, recruiting and mentoring adjunct instructors, contributing to the advancement of the social work department and the college, and participating in scholarly, policy-level, and community-based efforts to improve the lives of children and families.
- September Assistant Professor of Social Work
 1988- Rhode Island College, Providence, RI
 May 1992 Taught full-time in the MSW program. Courses taught included Social Work Practice with Children and Their Families, Clinical Practice I and II, Human Behavior in the Social Environment I and II, Child Welfare Practice, and Crisis Intervention; also served as field and academic advisor to students, chaired the Cultural Diversity Committee and served on Admissions, Academic Standing and Field Education Committees.

Social Work Practice Experience

- 1994-2007 Executive Director,
 Children's Friend, Providence, RI
 Facilitated merger between Rhode Island Center for Children At-Risk and Children's Friend. Responsibilities included oversight of \$10 million annual budget, board development, fund development and grant writing, oversight of staff of 130, community relations, and advocacy on behalf of disadvantaged children and families. Accomplishments include development of an effective, multicultural organization, expansion of early childhood, family support and child welfare programs, initiation of Early Head Start and Early Intervention programs, family preservation, permanency, and adoption support programs, and the creation of Rhode Island's first two family support centers, both in racially and ethnically diverse, low-income neighborhoods. Managed the capital campaign to construct the state's only full-service family support center and expanded the annual operating budget by nearly ten-fold. Agency programs have received recognition from the Child Welfare League of America, Harvard Graduate School of Education, CA Clearinghouse for Evidence-Based Practice and the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University.
- 1989-1994 Founder and Executive Director,
 Rhode Island Center for Children At-Risk, Pawtucket, RI
 Initiated and developed non-profit agency which specialized in providing comprehensive services to vulnerable, young families in Rhode Island's poor, urban communities. Responsibilities included obtaining 501© (3) status and incorporation, board development, fund-raising, supervision of staff, grant

writing, marketing, and community relations. Accomplishments included creating one of the nation's first comprehensive programs for substance abuse-affected families in the child welfare system.

- 1984 -1988 Director of Outpatient Services
Community Counseling Center, Pawtucket, RI
Responsible for development, operation, and staffing of agency's Outpatient Services. Developed agency's children's mental health services capability. Program areas of responsibility included substance abuse treatment, adult and elderly services, child sexual abuse program, emergency services and intake, child and family outreach programs and an alternative school for youths with learning and behavioral disorders. Provided direct clinical services to children and their families
- 1982-1984 Program Director
Cranston Community Action Program, Cranston, RI
Developed and implemented Comprehensive Emergency Services and Adolescent Parenting programs. Responsibilities included direct service to children and their families, grant writing, staff supervision and training, development of program procedures and community relations. Supervised the Director of the Substance Abuse Counseling Program, Coordinator of Community Education, and Head Start Social Service staff.
- 2/81 to 9/82 Medical Social Worker
Charlton Memorial Hospital, Fall River, MA
Provided counseling and casework services to OB/GYN patients, particularly teen mothers and families at risk for child abuse and neglect. Developed and presented training to expectant parents. Provided consultation to medical staff, counseling and casework services to oncology patients, and consultation to Hospice Program.

Teaching

Courses Taught at Boston University

SSW WP 700 *Social Policy I*
SSW MP 759 *Communities and Organizations*
SSW MP 775 *Strategic Management*
SSW WP 707 *Policies and Programs on Children*

Courses Taught at Wheelock College

SWK 630 *Advanced Social Work Research*
SWK 511 *Human Behavior in the Social Environment II*

SWK 641 *Social Work Practice with Children and Families II*
SWK 640 *Social Work Practice with Children and Families I*
SWK 620 *Social Policy Practice*
SWK 610 *Social Work Leadership and Administration*
SWK 850 06 *Early Childhood Mental Health: Practice, Research & Policy*
SWK 850/260 *International Service-Learning in South Africa: Early Childhood Development and Family Support*

Courses Co-Taught at the University Fort Hare, East London, South Africa

SWK 850 01 *Understanding Child Development in the South African Context: Prenatal to Age Five*
SWK 850 02 *Working with Families and Communities in the South African Context*

Courses Created

Conceptualized and developed the following new courses at Wheelock College:

SWK 850/260 *International Service-Learning in South Africa: Early Childhood Development and Family Support*
SWK 850 06 *Early Childhood Mental Health: Practice, Research & Policy*
SWK 850 *Clinical Practice with Young Children and Families* (Co-created with Emily Fischer, LICSW, Martha Elliott Center)
SWK 850 01 *Understanding Child Development in the South African Context: Prenatal to Age Five* (Co-Created with faculty from University Fort Hare and community stakeholders)
SWK 850 02 *Working with Families and Communities in the South African Context* (Co-Created with faculty from University Fort Hare and community stakeholders)
SWK 850 03 *Supporting language and Social Development of Children in the South African Context: Prenatal to Age Five* (Co-Created with Wheelock Early Childhood Education faculty member and faculty from University Fort Hare and community stakeholders)
SWK 850 04 *Supporting the Physical and Cognitive Development of Children in the South African Context: Prenatal to Age Five* (Co-Created with Wheelock Early Childhood Education faculty member and faculty from University Fort Hare and community stakeholders)

Created new syllabi and course designs for the following Wheelock College courses:

SWK 630 *Advanced Social Research*

SWK 640 *Social Work Practice with Children and Families I*
SWK 641 *Social Work Practice with Children and Families II*
SWK 620 *Social Policy Practice*
SWK 610 *Social Work Leadership and Administration*

Academic Programs Created

1. Initiated, conceptualized, developed, and led Wheelock's Four-Course *Graduate Certificate Program in Early Childhood Mental Health*, in response to a national shortage in the workforce of mental health practitioners skilled in working with very young children and their families. Developed two new courses which formed the core of the certificate program.
2. Co-led the development of a Four-Course *Transdisciplinary Certificate Program in Early Childhood Development in the South African Context*, in collaboration with colleagues at Wheelock College, the University Fort Hare, and leaders of community-based organization in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. This program is being delivered to faculty, graduate students, and community leaders in order to help build capacity at UFH and in the community for educating and training early care and education and family-support professionals and paraprofessionals.

Additional Teaching Accomplishments

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| 2011-2017 | Oriented, trained and mentored 7 new adjunct instructors during their teaching in the Wheelock College MSW program. Provided ongoing mentoring and support. |
| Spring, 2011 | Co-led Wheelock service-learning trip to Belfast, Northern Ireland for 17 students from a variety of disciplines. |
| 2011 & 2012 | Nominated for Wheelock's Cynthia Longfellow Teaching Award. |
| 2007-2018 | Guest Presenter in social work, non-profit leadership, human development, and other courses at Wheelock. |

Additional Contributions to Boston University and Wheelock College

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| 2018-2019 | Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, School of Social Work, Boston University. Assisted staff in identifying partners for promoting off-campus programs, and hosted prospective students in my classes during open houses for the MSW program. |
| 2018 | Contributed to Boston University School of Social Work application to become a DCF training provider |

- 2018-2019 Advisor and Faculty Field Liaison to six Boston University macro-major students
- 2012-2018 Director, Graduate Certificate in Early Childhood Mental Health, School of Social Work, Wheelock College
- 2007-2018 Provided academic advising to approximately 12- 24 MSW students per year.
- 2012-2018 Faculty Leader, Partnership for Developing Capacity for Early Childhood Development and Family Support in South Africa. Responsibilities include co-authoring grant proposals and reports, planning a 3-day Summit with Wheelock College and University Fort Hare colleagues and those from South Africa Partners and the ELMA Foundation, co-leading the creation of a 4-course graduate certificate program, and conducting a community assessment process in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Traveled to the Eastern Cape to provide training and technical assistance and participate in trans-disciplinary planning efforts in 2014, 2015, and 2016 in addition to activities during student service-learning trips in those same years.
- 2015-2017 Co-Chair, Wheelock College Faculty Committee for Diversity and Equity.
- 2014-2017 Co-chair, Advisory Board, Center for International Programs and Partnerships at Wheelock College.
- 2015-2017 Member, Selection Committee for the Presidential Student Scholarship Award at Wheelock College.
- 2015-2016 Member, Wheelock College Promotion and Tenure Committee.
- 2013-2015 Member Wheelock College Curriculum Committee.
- 2016 Faculty host to Visiting Scholar, Dr. Namhla Sotuku, Director of the Centre for Excellence in Early Child Development at the University Fort Hare, South Africa.
- 2015 Faculty host to Visiting Scholar, Linky Nkuna, Program Coordinator at Good Work Foundation, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa.
- 2014 Faculty Host for Visiting Scholar, Dr. Greta Galloway, Head of School of Education, University Fort Hare, East London, South Africa.
- 2017 Faculty host to Dr. Valora Washington, Founder and CEO, CAYL Institute and honorary degree recipient during 2017 commencement events.
- 2016 Faculty host to Ellen Parker, Executive Director of Project Bread-the Walk for Hunger and honorary degree recipient, during 2016 commencement events.

- 2014 Faculty host to Mary Tiseo, founder and CEO of South Africa Partners and honorary degree recipient, during 2014 commencement events.
- 2013 Member, Advisory Board to Wheelock Center for Research and Scholarship
- 2012-2013 Member, Strategic Realization Team for Wheelock's strategic plan – Chair of Workgroup on resource identification.
- 2012 Panelist for Non-profit Leadership Program's networking event, "A Conversation Across Generations: The Changing Nonprofit Landscape".
- 2011-2013 Member, Wheelock College Graduate Review Board.
- 2011- 2018 Member, Connected Beginnings Training Institute Advisory Committee.
- 2008-2017 Member, Wheelock College MSW Program Admissions Committee.
- 2011- 2011 Member, Program Planning and Design Group for a proposed joint doctoral program in Educational Psychology at Wheelock College and Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology.
- 2009-2012 Member, Wheelock Peace-building in Early Childhood Work Group. Participated in the development of a 4-course certificate program in Peace-building in Early Childhood Education. Traveled to Colombia, South America, to collaborate with World Forum members.
- 2008-2012 Worked with colleagues across Wheelock College and South Africa Partners to develop a social work partnership and service-learning opportunities in South Africa. Traveled to South Africa to assess potential partnerships and learning opportunities in February, 2012. Co-hosted first visiting scholars from South Africa in 2009.
- 2010 Served as consultant to Wheelock Dean in assessing the feasibility of integrating Connected Beginnings Early Childhood Mental Health Training Project into Wheelock College.
- 2010 Co-chaired Search Committee that hired two tenure-track faculty members in the Wheelock Social Work Department.
- 2008-2009 Member, Planning Committee for conference on addressing trauma in young children, co-sponsored by Wheelock and South Africa Partners; moderated plenary panel discussion.
- 2008 Member, Search Committee to hire a new Director of Library Services at Wheelock College.

- 2007-2008 Member, Wheelock Honorary Degrees Committee.
- 2008 Co-chaired Wheelock Faculty Task Force to develop recommendations for utilization of graduate Birth-to-Three curriculum.

Scholarly Work

Book:

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2017). *Behind from the Start: How America's War on the Poor Is Harming Our Most-Vulnerable Children*. (Forward by Lisbeth B. Schorr, Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of Social Policy) New York: Oxford University Press.

Selected for online book discussion by the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2013). Serving highly vulnerable families in home-visitation programs. *Infant Mental Health Journal, Vol. 34(5)*, 376–390.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2011). Home-visitation programs: Critical Issues and future directions. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly, 26*, 387-398.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2010). Growing together: Expanding roles for social work practice in early childhood settings. *Social Work, 55(3)*.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2010). Meeting the mental health needs of poor and vulnerable children in early care and education settings. *Early Childhood Research and Practice, 12(1)*.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2009). Quality support infrastructure in early childhood: still (mostly) missing. *Early Childhood Research and Practice, 11(1)*.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2002). Book Review of Developing cross-cultural competence: A guide for working with children and their families. *Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, 23(2)*.

Azzi-Lessing, L., Olsen, L. J., & Allen, D. (1996). Assessing risk in families affected by substance abuse. *Child Abuse and Neglect, 20(9)*.

Azzi-Lessing, L., & Olsen, L. J. (1996). Substance abuse-affected families in the child welfare system: New challenges, new alliances. *Social Work, 41(1)*.

Publications in Process:

Azzi-Lessing, L., & Schmidt, K. (2019). Child abuse and neglect: The response of early childhood development programmes. In K. Schmidt, A. Moodley, & N. Sotuku (Eds.), *Early Childhood Care and Education (0–4): A Transdisciplinary Approach*. South Africa: Oxford University Press.

Schmidt, K., Azzi-Lessing, L., & Moletsane, M. (2019). Responding to young children with behavioral, emotional, and learning challenges. In K. Schmidt, N. Sotuku, & A. Moodley (Eds.), *Early Childhood Care and Education (0–4): A Transdisciplinary Approach*. South Africa: Oxford University Press.

Azzi-Lessing, L., & Schmidt, K. (2019) The Experiences of Early Childhood Development Home Visitors in South Africa. Under review at *South African Journal of Childhood Education*.

Azzi-Lessing, L., & Schmidt, K. Neglect of Young Children in South Africa: Implications for Prevention, Identification, and Intervention. Abstract accepted for special issue of the journal, *Child Welfare*.

Azzi-Lessing, L., & Sotuku, N. Conducting a Community Assessment for Capacity Building for Early Childhood Development in South Africa.

Azzi-Lessing, L. The U.S. Child Welfare System and the Perpetuation of Intergenerational Poverty.

Additional Publications

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2017). Expert report (60 pages) prepared for Children’s Rights’ federal, class-action lawsuit on behalf of children harmed in the Arizona foster-care system.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2012). Expert report (269 pages) prepared for Children’s Rights’ federal, class-action lawsuit on behalf of children harmed in the Massachusetts foster-care system.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2008). *Key Planning Issues and Next Steps for the Development of an Effective Infrastructure to Support Quality Universal Pre-Kindergarten in MA*. Report prepared for the Early Education for All Campaign, Strategies for Children, Boston, MA.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2007). *Creating an Effective Infrastructure to Promote and Ensure Quality Early Education and Care in MA, Parts II & III: Assessment of the Current System and Structures for Designing an Ideal System*. Report prepared for the Early Education for All Campaign, Strategies for Children, Boston, MA.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2007). *Creating an Effective Infrastructure to Promote and Ensure Quality Early Education and Care in MA, Part I: The National Perspective and a Scan of Other States*.

Report prepared for the Early Education for All Campaign, Strategies for Children, Boston, MA.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (April 12, 2016) *Hold Leaders Accountable for DCYF Disasters*. Commentary, Providence Journal.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2016) *The Hidden Harms of Foster Care*. “The Conversation” online magazine.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2016) *Highlights from the 2016 Wheelock Student Service-Learning Trip to South Africa*. 3-Part Wheelock Blog Series.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2015). *It Takes a Firestorm*. Wheelock Blog Post.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2014) *Bringing Home Lessons from South Africa Service Learning Trip*. Wheelock Blog Post.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (2015). *Exploring a Land of Contrasts on the South Africa Service Learning Course*. Wheelock Blog Post.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (June, 2009). *Better Ways to Help Poor Children*. Written testimony submitted to the Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support, United States Congress, Washington, DC.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (March 29, 2003). *Don't let Bush stop Head Start*. Commentary, Providence Journal.

Azzi-Lessing, L. (July 2, 2001). *Better ways to help troubled children*. Commentary, Providence Journal.

Presentations

Family Poverty: The Most Potent Risk Factor for Child Maltreatment. (March 19, 2019) Presentation to Child Welfare League of America, National Commission for Policy and Practice.

Fighting Poverty in the New Normal. (July 17, 2018) Keynote presentation, Iowa Community Action Association Conference, Des Moines, IA.

Promising Programmatic Approaches for Families in Poverty. (July 17, 2018) Iowa Community Action Association Conference. Des Moines, IA.

Promoting the Wellbeing of Vulnerable Young Children and Their Families in South Africa and Globally. (May 25, 2018). Keynote presentation, Graduate Certificate Commencement Ceremony. University of Fort Hare, East London, South Africa.

Fighting Poverty in the New Normal. (October 3, 2017). Plenary presentation, New England Regional Community Action Conference, Hyannis, MA.

Behind from the Start: How America's War on the Poor is Harming Our Most Vulnerable Children. (September 27, 2017). Online Book Discussion, National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University.

Behavioral Health and Early Care and Education. (May 10, 2017) Panelist, Harvard Medical School Leadership and Faculty Development Conference, Office of Diversity and Community Partnerships, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA.

Young Children in Poverty: What Every Early Childhood Professional Should Know. (October 10, 2017), Wheelock Early-Childhood Education Welcome Event. Boston, MA.

Teaching and Learning about Diversity and Equity on the South Africa Service-Learning Trip. (February 28, 2017). Panel presentation at Wheelock Community Day, Wheelock College, Boston, MA.

How Poverty Harms the Life Chances of Young Children. (May 19, 2016) Keynote presentation at Wheelock College Alumni Symposium. Boston, MA.

Early Brain Development and Nurturing Very Young Children. (May 19, 2015). Duncan Village Township, East London, South Africa.

Engaging Families in Early Childhood and Home Visiting Programs (May, 19, 2015). Duncan Village Township, East London, South Africa.

Transdisciplinary Collaboration for the Development of Early Childhood and Family Support Capacity Building. (May 22, 2015). Co-presented with Professor Bobbi Rosenquest at University Fort Hare, East London, South Africa.

Commemorating the War on Poverty: Fifty Years Later. (January 14, 2015). Keynote presentation at East Bay Community Action's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, Newport, RI.

Early Brain Development and Nurturing Very Young Children. (July, 2014). Presented at Masibumbane Development Organization, East London, South Africa and in Butterworth, South Africa.

Engaging Families in Early Childhood and Home Visiting Programs. (July, 2014). Presented at Masibumbane Development Organization, East London, South Africa, and in Butterworth, South Africa.

Providing Early Childhood Mental Health Services. (January 25, 2010). Plenary presentation at the First Early Childhood Mental Health Summit, Child Welfare League of America 2010 National Conference, Washington, DC.

Working with Young Children and Families in Poverty. (December 5, 2010). Presented at the Boston Association for the Education of Young Children, Babies and Toddlers Conference, Boston, MA.

Growing Early Childhood Programs - The Children's Friend Story. (December 4, 2009). Co-presented at the Child Welfare League of America National Webinar: Prevention Across the Child Welfare Continuum: What Is It and What Does It Look Like?

Child Protection 2009: Strengthening Families and Achieving Permanency for Children. (October 14, 2009). Presented at the Privilege of Caring Series, Pawtucket, RI.

Working with Young Children and Families in Poverty. (March 27, 2009). Presented at Wheelock College School of Social Work Professional Development Day, Boston, MA.

Creating an Effective Multicultural Organization. (March 27, 2009). Presented at Wheelock College School of Social Work Professional Development Day, Boston, MA.

Ten Years of Promoting Policies to Improve the Economic Security of Low and Modest-Income Rhode Islanders. (January, 2009). Keynote Presentation at the Poverty Institute State Budget Conference, Providence, RI.

Tracing the Path: From Rhode Island's failure to meet the needs of its poorest and most vulnerable children to its struggle to create a thriving economy. (February, 2007), Presented to the Rhode Island Early Childhood Investment Council, Providence, RI.

Working with Young Children in Poverty. (November, 2006). Presented at CHILDSPAN, Pawtucket, RI.

Creating an Effective Multicultural Organization and Managing Change in Non-Profit Organizations. (March, 2006). Co-presented for the Certificate Program in Non-Profit Leadership, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI.

Creating an Effective Multicultural Organization. (October, 2004). Presented at Second Annual Conference on Best Practice: Providing Culturally-Relevant Services to Young Children and Their Families, Warwick, RI.

Risk and Resilience in Infants and Toddlers. (September, 2003). Presented at First Annual Conference on Best Practice: Promoting Infant-Toddler Mental Health: A Collaborative Process, Warwick, RI.

Building Resilience in Children. (March, 2001). Presented at CHILDSPAN, Fifth Annual Early Childhood Administrators' Conference, Providence, RI.

Best Practice in Child Welfare: Measuring Outcomes for Project Connect. (September, 1999). Presented at National Resource Center for Family-Centered Practice, Third National Meeting of

the States, Key Biscayne, FL.

Substance Abuse-Affected Families in the Child Welfare System. (June, 1999). Presented at The Rhode Island Child Welfare Advocate's Conference, Warwick, RI.

Providing Intensive, Home-Based Services to High-Risk Families. (November, 1993). Co-presented at the Rhode Island Healthy Families Conference, Providence, RI.

Providing Services to Substance Abuse Affected Families in the Child Welfare System. (July, 1993). Co-presented at the Conference on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Newport, RI

A Comprehensive Model for Working with Substance Abuse-Affected Families in the Child Welfare System. (April, 1993). Presented at Emergency Services Grantees' Conference, National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, Washington, DC

Additional Scholarly Activities

- 2018 Reviewer for National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Board on Children, Youth, and Families Congressional Report on *Building an Agenda to Reduce the number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 years.*
- 2017 Peer reviewer for Oxford University Press of a proposed book on promising practices in children's mental health.
- 2016 Peer reviewer for Oxford University Press of a proposed book on meeting the needs of highly vulnerable children in public schools.
- 2015 Led, in collaboration with Dr. Namhla Sotuku, the development and implementation of a community assessment project in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, to assess needs, resources, and capacity for delivering quality early-childhood development and family support services
- 2015 Led, in collaboration with Dr. Bobbi Rosenquest and local partners, the development and implementation of a needs assessment at four high schools in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa to identify barriers and resources for students accessing post-secondary education.
- Fall 2015 Invitational Symposium, *Social Work + Neuroscience: The Brain in a Social Context*, at Boston College School of Social Work.
- 2014-2015 Peer review of papers submitted to the journals, *Child Abuse and Neglect* and *Infant Mental Health Journal.*
- 2011-2015 Member, Editorial Review Board for the journal, *Early Childhood Research and Practice.*

- 2013-2014 Member, dissertation committee for Caroline Shanti, MSW, doctoral candidate at the Heller School, Brandeis University.
- 2010 & 2012 Consultant to Promotion and Tenure Committees at Northeastern University Monmouth College in evaluating scholarly and other contributions of candidates for promotion and tenure.

Grants

- 2017 Three-year Fulbright Specialist Grant to teach and provide consultation to host institutions of higher education in other nations across the globe.
- 2014-16 Co-author of \$3.5 million planning grant awarded by the ELMA Foundation to University Fort Hare, Wheelock College, and South Africa Partners for the capacity-building project in South Africa
- 2014 Awarded \$12,000 Gordon Marshall Fellowship to support work on my book: *Behind from the Start: How America's War on the Poor is Harming Our Most Vulnerable Children*.
- 2008-11 Awarded \$3,000 grant from Faculty Research and Development Fund
2015-16 to support scholarly writing.

Professional Activities

Consulting

- 2015-ongoing The Center for States, Washington, DC. Expert consultant to provide capacity-building consultation to state public child welfare agencies.
- 2014-ongoing Masibumbane Development Organization and South Africa Partners. Provide consultation to staff members, and to teachers and principals in eight early care and education centres located in an informal settlement in East London, South Africa.
- 2012-2019 Children's Rights, New York, NY. Consulting Expert in Class-action lawsuits filed on behalf of children who were abused, neglected, and/or denied permanency in the Massachusetts and Arizona child welfare systems. Produced reports analyzing the system's response to named-plaintiff children in state custody and gave testimony in a deposition and during a trial in federal court.
- 2007-2008 Strategies for Children, *Early Education for All* Campaign, Boston,

MA.

Conducted a review of statewide infrastructure to support quality early care and education in Massachusetts in the context of developments across the nation; issued three reports which were utilized by state officials in making improvements in the early care and education system.

Volunteer and Membership Activities:

2013-Present	National Joint Commission for Policy and Practice, Child Welfare League of America, Washington, DC
2009-2014	Advisory Committee, National Resource Center on In-Home Services for Children and Families, University of Iowa. Activities include identification of promising child and family-serving practices and guidance of the center's information and technical assistance work.
1996 –2012	National Committee on Prevention, Protection and Family Services, Child Welfare League of America, Washington, DC <u>Co-chair</u> 2003-2012. Facilitated sharing of best practices in child abuse/neglect prevention and intervention, offering webinars on critical topics, guiding the League's work in this area, and advising its leadership regarding its updated mission statement and strategic plan.
2007 – 2008	Children's Rights, New York, NY. Served as volunteer consultant in initial phases of court action on behalf of children in the Rhode Island child protection system.
2003- 2012	Board of Directors, the Economic Progress Institute, Providence, RI <u>Founding Board Chair</u> from 2003 to 2009; led board and staff in establishing by-laws, operating policies, and strategic plan. The institute advocates for economic justice for low-income Rhode Islanders and serves as a resource to policymakers and members of the media.
2006-2008	Rhode Island Early Childhood Investment Council <u>Founder and chair</u> of a coalition of business and philanthropy leaders that champions wise investments in the well-being of disadvantaged, young children
2004-2007	One Rhode Island Served on leadership team of a coalition of organizations advocating

on behalf of disadvantaged Rhode Islanders

- 2003-2004 Advisory Committee, Rhode Island Child Welfare Training Institute,
Rhode Island College
Chair. Assisted in guiding the integration of federally-funded child
welfare staff training operations into the RI College School of Social
Work
- 1995 – 2003 Board of Directors, Island KIDSCOUNT.
Secretary, 2002-2003. Member of the founding board of Rhode
Island’s resource for data regarding the needs and wellbeing of its
children and families
- 1996 – 2001 Advisory Board, Harvard Center for Children’s Health
School of Public Health, Harvard University
Assisted in aligning the work of the Center with other relevant
initiatives.
- 1980-Present Member, National Association of Social Workers, Washington, DC

Awards

- 2006 *Congressional Angels in Adoption Award*
U.S. Congressional Coalition on Adoption, Washington, DC
- 2001 *Children’s Services Champion Award*
NRI Community Services, Woonsocket, RI
- 2001 and 1989 *Commissioner’s Award for Outstanding Contribution to*
The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
Administration for Children, Youth and Families, Washington, DC
- 1999 – 2000 *Fellowship for Outstanding Non-Profit Leaders*
The Rhode Island Foundation, Providence, RI