ALFRED J. KAHN
BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Dr. Alfred J. Kahn is Professor Emeritus, Special Research Scholar, and Special Lecturer at the Columbia University School of Social Work, following formal retirement from the Faculty on June 30, 1989. He has continued to teach courses each semester through December 2004. He was a faculty member (instructor) from September, 1947, assistant professor in 1949, associate professor in 1952 and professor from 1954.

Dr. Kahn is also co-director, Cross-National Studies research program. For the periods 1958-60, 1965-66, 1967-73, and 1982-87, he chaired the Committee on Advanced Programs. Since its establishment in 1998, he has chaired the Steering Committee of Columbia University's Institute for Child and Family Policy.

Professor Kahn served on the Columbia University Senate, 1970-73, and chaired its Committee on Education, 1972-73. He served on the Senate's task force on fringe benefits in the period 1984-86. He has also served for various periods on the advisory boards of the Bureau of Applied Social Research and the Social Sciences Center. He served for many years on the publications committee of the Columbia University Press, and has been a member of the academic advisory committee to the Human Rights Center.

Dr. Kahn has served as consultant to federal, state and local agencies, voluntary organizations, and foundations concerned with social policy generally, the planning of social services, income maintenance, family and child welfare and related matters, and with international collaboration. He was staff consultant, Citizen's Committee for Children, New York City, 1948-73.

He has held a variety of national offices in professional societies, including the Board of the National Association of Social Workers - where he also chaired the Division of Practice and Knowledge. He has served on numerous public and voluntary task forces, advisory committees and policy groups in his areas of concentration.

Dr. Kahn has completed overseas consultant assignments for the Department of Health, Education, Welfare; the State Department; private foundations; the United Nations; and several foreign governments. He was a United States participant and rapporteur in the 1967 U.N. "Expert Group on Social Policy and Level of Living in the Nation," a participant in the 1969 U.N. "Expert Group on Training Social Welfare Personnel for Development Planning," and rapporteur for the 1981 U.N. expert group on "Global Policies for Social Services." He has held a Fullbright lectureship.

The following are among Dr. Kahn's current or earlier professional memberships: The American Planning Association and the Institute of Certified Planners; American Association of University Professors; Policy Studies Organization; National Association of Social Workers; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; Council on Social Work Education.

Dr. Kahn was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California for the academic year beginning September 1981. In 1996 he received the national "Presidential Award for Exemplary Service" from the National Association of Social Workers. In 1998 he was one of five living inductees into the newly established Alumni Association Hall of Fame of the Columbia University School of Social Work. In 1999 he received the "Significant Lifelong Achievement Award" of the Council on Social Work Education and the "Annual Founders' Award" of the Citizens' Committee for Children of New York.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate (Doctor of Humane Letters) by Adelphi University in May 1984 and a medal as a distinguished scholar in social welfare by the State University of New York (Albany) earlier in that year. In May of 1989 he was awarded an honorary degree by the University of Maryland (Doctor of Science). In July 1998 he was awarded an honorary degree (Doctor of the University) by York University (England).

He has devoted a considerable portion of his time and energies since 1970 to the Cross-National Studies program. Related consultation, conference, and expert-group participation have supported and derived from these interests in family and child policy, income maintenance, social services, and related social policy issues. He also has devoted considerable scholarly energies to theory and method in social planning and policy analysis, and to advanced social work education and authored several widely used texts in these fields. .

Current and Earlier Advisory Positions (Partial)

- Advisory Board, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1968-
- National Research Council - National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.: Advisory Committee on Child Development, 1971-76; Committee on Child Development Research and Public Policy, 1977-83 (Chairman from September 1980-August 1983).
- Committee on Social Work Applications (Fullbright-Hays Awards), 1973-76 (Chairman, 1975-76).
- Advisory Committee, Program of Policy Research on Women, Urban Institute, Washington, D.C., 1975-80.
- Board of Visitors, University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work, 1976-1980.
- Consumers' Advisory Committee, Project Share (Service Integration Clearinghouse, DHEW) Rockville, Maryland, 1975-77.
- Consultant on State of the Child Report, Foundation for Child Development, New York, 1974-76, 1980.

- National Commission on Families and Public Policy, National Conference on Social Welfare, 1977-78.
- Publications Committee, Columbia University Press, 1974-81.
- Advisory Board, Columbia University Social Science Center, 1976-80, 1986-1988.
- Advisory Board, N.Y. City Human Resources Administration, 1977-78, and Social Services Task Force, 1978-80.
- Advisory Board, Center for Studies of Families and Children, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1979-81.

Books (Partial List Through 3/02)

A Court for Children (Columbia University Press, 1953).

(Editor) Issues in American Social Work (Columbia University Press, 1959) (Also in Portuguese).

Planning Community Services for Children in Trouble (Columbia University Press, 1963) (Also in Spanish).

(Senior author) Neighborhood Information Centers (Columbia University School of Social Work, 1966).

Theory and Practice of Social Planning (Russell Sage Foundation, 1969) (Also in Italian).

Studies in Policy and Planning (Russell Sage Foundation, 1969).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman and Brenda McGowan) Child Advocacy (Columbia University School of Social Work and U.S. Government Printing Office, 1973).

Social Policy and Social Services (Random House, 1973; revised edition, 1979).

(Editor) Shaping the New Social Work (Columbia University Press, 1973) (Also in Portuguese).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Not for the Poor Alone (Temple University Press, 1975; Harper and Row paperback, 1977).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Social Services in the United States (Temple University Press, 1976).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Social Services in International Perspective (U.S. Government Printing Office for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1977; Transaction Press edition, 1980).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) (eds.) Family Policy: Government and Families in Fourteen Countries (Columbia University Press, 1978).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Child Care, Family Benefits and Working Parents (Columbia University Press, 1981).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Helping America's Families (Temple University Press, 1982).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Income Transfers for Families With Children: An Eight-Country Study (Temple University Press, 1983).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman and Paul W. Kingston) Maternity Policies and Working Women (Columbia University Press, 1983).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) (eds.) Essays on Income Transfers and Related Programs in Eight Countries (Columbia University School of Social Work, 1983).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Child Care: Facing the Hard Choices (Auburn House, 1987).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) The Responsive Workplace: Employers and a Changing Labor Force (Columbia University Press, 1987).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) (eds.) Child Support: From Debt Collection to Social Policy (Sage, 1987).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Mothers Alone: Strategies for a Time of Change (Auburn House, 1988).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) (eds.) Privatization and the Welfare State (Princeton University Press, 1989).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Social Services for Children, Youth and Families in the U.S. (Greenwich, CT: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 1989); Special Issue of Children and Youth Services Review, Vol. 12, Nos. 1/2, 1990, pp. 1-179.

(With Brenda G. McGowan and Sheila B. Kamerman) Social Services for Children, Youth and Families: The New York City Study (New York: The Columbia University School of Social Work, 1990).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) (eds.) Child Care, Parental Leave, and the Under 3s: Policy Innovation in Europe (Westport, CT: Auburn House, 1991).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) A Welcome for Every Child: Care, Education and Family Support for Infants and Toddlers in Europe (Arlington, VA: Zero to Three, The National Center for Clinical Infant Programs, 1994).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Social Policy and the Under-3s Six Country Case Studies: A Resource for Policy Makers, Advocates and Scholars (New York: Columbia University School of Social Work, 1994).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Starting Right: How America Neglects Its Youngest Children and What We Can Do About It (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) (eds.) Children and Their Families in Big Cities: Strategies for Service Reform (New York: Columbia University School of Social Work, 1996).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) (eds.) Family Change and Family Policies in Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the United States (England: Oxford University Press, 1997).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Big Cities in the Welfare Transition (New York: Columbia University School of Social Work, Forthcoming).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Privatization, Contracting, and Reform of Child and Family Social Services (Washington, DC: The Finance Project, 1998).

(With Sheila B. Kamerman) Contracting for Child and Family Services: A Mission-Sensitive Guide (Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2000).

*See "Alfred J. Kahn – Professional Publications" for more recent books.

Dr. Kahn is also author and co-author of more than 250 monographs, articles and chapters in books, as well as over 40 book reviews.

(A complete listing is available: "Alfred J. Kahn – Professional Publications").

Biographical

Born: February 8, 1919
B.S.S., 1939 CCNY
M.S., 1946 Columbia University School of Social Welfare
Doctor of Social Welfare, 1952, Columbia University
U.S. Army Air Force, 1942-45

For additional personal detail see:

Who's Who in America (1968-69 and subsequent editions)
American Men of Science (The Social and Behavioral Sciences) (Tenth and later Editions)
Contemporary Authors (Volumes 5-6, 1997 supplement)
Who's Who in the World (2nd Edition, 14th Edition, 15th Edition, 16th Edition, 17th Edition)
Who's Who in World Jewry (1987)

Major Completed Projects and Studies, 1947-1999

1947-65 Evaluative and planning studies in delinquency and child welfare, under the auspices of Citizen's Committee for Children of New York, in the capacity of research consultant. (See monograph series on personal publications list.) Integrated overview in Planning Community Services for Children in Trouble (New York: Columbia University Press, 1963)

1965-66 Study of information centers and citizens' advice bureaus, U.S. and U.K. (Ford Foundation). (Project Director)

1967-69 Exploratory studies of social planning methods (NIMH, Russell Sage). (Project Director)

1972-73 National study of child advocacy. (DHEW). (Project Director)

1973-75 Social services for average families in Western Europe (Ford Foundation). (Co-director)

1973-76 Cross-national studies of social service systems in eight countries. (DHEW). (Director)

1975-77 International working party on family policy. A 14 country conference, April, 1977. (Carnegie Corporation, DHEW/OCD and DHEW/SRS). (Co-Director)

1976-80 Alternative policies for caring for children under the age of three: a 6 country study. (German Marshall Fund) (Co-Principal Investigator)

1978-80 Social services for families, a U.S. study. (Robert Sterling Clark Foundation) (Co-Principal Investigator)

1980-82 Maternity policies at the workplace, a U.S. study. (W.T. Grant Foundation) (Co-Principal Investigator)

1979-83 Income maintenance systems from a family policy perspective: An 8-country study. (DHEW, Social Security Administration). (Co-Principal Investigator)

1981-85 Social Policy and the workplace: a study of employee benefits, services and work schedules in the U.S. (Foundation for Child Development). (Co-Principal Investigator)

1982-85 Child care services in the U.S.: A study of the impact of the Reagan Administration policies on child care service delivery in the U.S. (Carnegie Corporation). (Co-Principal Investigator)

1983-85 International working party on child support: an 8-country conference April, 1985. (Ford Foundation). (Co-Director)

1984-86 Social policy and single mothers: a U.S. study. (Rockefeller Foundation). (Co-Principal Investigator)

1985-87 University Seminar on "Privatization and the Welfare State" (Project on the Federal Social Role). (Co-Director)

1987-88 Mother-only families in Western Europe. (German Marshall Fund of the United States). (Co-Principal Investigator)

1987-89 Social Services for Children, Youth and Families in the U.S. (Annie E. Casey Foundation). (Co-Principal Investigator).

Social Services for Children, Youth and Families in New York City, (The Foundation for Child Development). (Co-Principal Investigator).

1989-91 Parenting Policies for Young Families: The Emergence of New Policy Options in the Industrialized World (Ford Foundation and Smith Richardson Foundation). (Co-Principal Investigator).

1990-93 Infant and Toddler Care, Family Support, and Early Childhood Education: Policy Development in Europe (Spencer Foundation) (Co-Principal Investigator).

1992-94 Starting Right: A Study of Innovative European Policies and Programs for Children Under the Age of 3 (Carnegie Corporation and Spencer Foundation). (Co-Principal Investigator).

1990-91
1994-95 Government Expenditures for Children and Their Families in Advanced, Industrialized, OECD Countries, 1960-1990. A cross-national study and an update. (International Child Development Centre, UNICEF, Florence) (Co-Principal Investigator).

1993- Family Change and Family Policies, a multi-country collaboration co-directed with Sheila B. Kamerman and Peter Flora, University of Mannheim. Funded by German Science Foundation and various national sources in some 20 countries.

1994-96 Family Change and Family Policies in the United States. The U.S. report for the above project. (Co-Principal Investigator).

1995-97 Coping with the New Politics of Child and Family Policies. Two interrelated projects, one focused on states and the national voluntary sector and the other focused on big cities. (Carnegie Corporation and the Ford Foundation) (Co-Principal Investigator).

1996-97 Poverty in the industrialized West. A consultant report for the U.N. Development Program. (Co-Principal Investigator).

1997-99 Best Practices in Contracting for Child and Family Services. Annie E. Casey Foundation (Co-Principal Investigator).

1998-99 Child and Family Policies in an Era of Social Policy Retrenchment and Restructuring (Co-Principal Investigator).

1999- Development of a Clearinghouse, including a website on International Developments in Child, Youth, and Family Policy (W.T. Grant Foundation) (Co-Director).