

UNIVERSITATEA DE VEST DIN TIMIȘOARA

**DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA
SOCIALIUM SCIENTIARUM**

Dr. VICTOR GROZA

Grase F. Brody Professor in Parent-Child Studies
Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Ohio



Timișoara

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Cuvânt
la deschiderea ceremoniei de acordare a titlului de
Doctor Honoris Causa Socialium Scientiarum
al Universității de Vest din Timișoara
Domnului
Prof. Univ. Dr. Victor Groza

Distinși Membri ai Comunității Academice,
Stimați invitați,
Dragi colegi, dragi studenți,
Onorată audiență,
Stimate Doamne Profesor Universitar Doctor Victor Groza,

Urmărindu-și cu consecvență rolul cu care a fost investită de fondatorii săi, anume de principal centru de cunoaștere în regiunea de Vest a țării, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara este preocupată constant de promovarea și recunoașterea meritelor științifice, culturale și umane ale marilor personalități ale lumii academice. Astăzi, ne simțim onorați să avem în mijlocul nostru un OM generos, franc și onest, care și-a pus viața și cariera în slujba promovării drepturilor copilului și a valorilor familiei. Acesta este Profesorul Univ. Dr. Victor Groza.

Titlul onorific conferit astăzi, cel de Doctor Honoris Causa Socialium Scientiarum, reprezintă modalitatea prin care Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, recunoaște public și pe deplin meritele deosebite ale domnului profesor Victor Groza, în întreaga sa carieră de cercetare și formare în slujba familiei și a bunăstării copilului.

Deși născut și crescut în SUA, domnul profesor Victor Groza a visat mereu la țara sa de origine, România, atât de bine cunoscută lui din poveștile copilăriei.

Absolvent de psihologie al Universității Tulsa, în 1979, își continuă formarea prin parcurgerea unui ciclu de studii masterale în asistență socială, la Universitatea Oklahoma și apoi, cu un doctorat în sociologie, în 1987, la aceeași universitate. Adept al formării continue, se perfecționează în prevenirea alcoolismului și a consumului de droguri devenind consilier certificat în 1987, apoi supervisor independent în asistență socială, în 1992. Drumul său profesional continuă cu obținerea recunoașterii competențelor sale clinice de către American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (1998).

Conștient de importanța familiei și a promovării valorilor acesteia, dar și de obligativitatea asigurării bunăstării copiilor, profesorul Victor Groza elaborează și publică peste 75 de articole în domeniu, mai multe cărți și capitole în cărți de specialitate dar se implică și în promovarea rezultatelor cercetării altor colegi din domeniu, fiind membru activ în comitetele științifice și editoriale ale unor jurnale recunoscute pe plan internațional (Adoption Quarterly, Review of Research and Social Intervention, Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, Child Welfare, Children and Youth Services Review etc.) și reviewer pentru numeroase publicații și edituri.

Cu toate că activitatea sa de cercetător și cadru didactic este impresionantă, activitatea în domeniul social este cea care îl impune pe plan internațional. Participă ca trainer, speaker, consultant UNICEF sau expert în diverse proiecte desfășurate în India, Guatemala, Etiopia, Ucraina, România etc. Această activitate îl aduce în 1991 pentru prima dată în România, în cadrul unui program dezvoltat de Secretariatul de Stat pentru Persoane cu Handicap în parteneriat cu Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange. Este doar prima vizită dintr-un lung șir de vizite și programe dezvoltate în România, pentru promovarea drepturilor și bunăstării copiilor și pentru consolidarea familiei, ca celulă de bază a unei comunități sănătoase.

Începând din 2011, domnul profesor și-a legat în mod evident majoritatea proiectelor din România de Universitatea de Vest, devenind o prezență constantă și marcantă în existența Departamentului de Asistență Socială și a întregii comunități academice.

Stimate Domnule Profesor universitar Victor Groza,

Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, întreaga noastră comunitate academică, este onorată de prezența dumneavoastră, astăzi, la Timișoara. Prin acordarea onorantului titlu de Doctor Honoris Causa Socialium Scientiarum, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara recunoaște public meritele dumneavoastră și este convinsă că, prin alăturarea Domniei Voastre comunității academice pe care o reprezintă, prestigiul acestei instituții se va consolida.

Vă urez multă sănătate și putere de muncă pentru a putea continua cu aceeași pasiune și dedicare să vă implicați în proiecte noi, care să asigure un viitor mai bun copiilor și tinerilor de pretutindeni, pentru că ei sunt viitorul acestei lumi.

Prof. univ. dr. Marilen-Gabriel Pirtea



Rectorul Universității de Vest din Timișoara

LAUDATIO
în vederea acordării titlului de
Doctor Honoris Causa Socialium Scientiarum
Domnului Prof. Univ. Dr. Victor Groza

Victor Groza este Profesor în domeniul bunăstării copilului și a familiei, fiind inițiatorul catedrei de studii ale relației părinte-copil, în cadrul Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS), Case Western Reserve University, din Cleveland, Ohio. Este Directorul departamentului de studii și formare în bunăstarea copilului și a familiei din cadrul acestei universități. Începând cu anul 2007, deține titlul de Professor Grace F. Brody, o recunoaștere oficială a muncii sale de peste 20 de ani de cercetare și formare în slujba familiei și a creșterii copilului.

În această lume în care se petrec modificări ale tiparelor tradiționale, uneori surprinzătoare și aparent greu de acceptat, cercetarea, dezvăluirea și înțelegerea noilor forme pe care le ia familia, acest grup primar ce stă la baza oricărei societăți, reprezintă profesiunea de credință a Profesorului Victor Groza. Întreaga sa activitate, așa cum se oglindește în CV-ul său, este circumscrisă asistenței sociale a familiei și copilului. Începuturile carierei sale, în urmă cu 30 de ani, se leagă de un centru ambulatoriu pentru sănătatea mentală a copilului și familiei, unde ocupă poziția de manager. În lumea academică, recunoașterea expertizei sale interdisciplinare în acest domeniu aplicativ a depășit de mult granițele MSASS, contribuția sa științifică și practică devenind o componentă sine qua non, la nivel internațional, în domenii cum ar fi cel al adopției copilului și al protecției și bunăstării copilului și a familiei în general.

Omul Victor Groza este o persoană caldă, francă, onestă, cu un fin simț al umorului și o profundă generozitate în relațiile cu ceilalți. Acest portret îmbină franchetea, onestitatea și generozitatea specifice poporului american, cu căldura și simțul umorului, din cultura poporului român. În urmă cu mai bine de 100 de ani, străbunii săi paterni plecau dintr-un sat din Transilvania, atrași de visul american. Nimeni nu credea că acea călătorie odiseică va fi urmată de vreo revenire la tărâmurile inițiale. Poate că această primă călătorie de la un capăt la altul al lumii s-a înscris definitiv în genele familiei. Activitatea de cercetare și sprijin pentru serviciile sociale puse în slujba familiei și a copilului l-au dus și îl duc mereu pe Victor Groza de la un capăt la altul al lumii, așa cum se poate vedea din biografia sa. El a rămas însă interesat și atașat de rădăcinile sale românești. După 1990, de îndată ce a devenit posibil, drumurile lui Victor Groza au țintit frecvent România. Mulți dintre cei de față au avut ocazia să-l întâlnească, să beneficieze de informațiile și experiența sa și să facă parte din generoasele sale proiecte centrate pe ameliorarea serviciilor pentru copiii fără familie sau familiile aflate în dificultate, precum și pe dezvoltarea asistenței sociale din România.

Acordarea titlului de Doctor Honoris Causa distinsului Profesor Victor Groza reprezintă nu doar o recunoaștere a multiplelor sale merite profesionale și umane, ci și o onoare pentru universitatea noastră care a beneficiat de-a lungul ultimilor ani, în mod mai mult sau mai puțin direct, de personalitatea statuară a candidatului. Pe de altă parte, acordarea titlului pecetluiește legătura academică dintre Victor Groza și universitatea noastră și îngăduie speranțe pentru o fructuoasă colaborare în viitor.

Formarea

Formarea Profesorului Victor Groza oglindește interdisciplinaritatea cu care își abordează cercetările, formările și intervențiile.

Absolvent de psihologie, la University of Tulsa (1979), își realizează studiile masterale în asistență socială la University of Oklahoma (1984) și ulterior, la aceeași universitate, își ia doctoratul în sociologie (1987).

Partea practică a formării și-o desăvârșește cronologic după cum urmează:

- în 1987 este certificată competența sa de consilier în prevenirea alcoolismului și a consumului de droguri;
- în 1992 este licențiat ca Supervizor independent în asistență socială;
- în 1998, competența sa clinică este recunoscută de către American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Dincolo de aceste formări oficial structurate, Victor Groza s-a aflat în permanență și se află și azi, într-un perpetuu proces de desăvârșire a formării sale profesionale, ceea ce în timp i-a adus expertiza și excelența profesională recunoscute pe plan internațional.

Meritele sale recunoscute internațional sunt concretizate în cele peste 75 de articole și 5 cărți de autor sau co-autor apărute în ultimii 25 de ani. Cărțile sale sunt un suport și o inspirație pentru cercetătorii în adopție, pentru profesioniștii din domeniul sănătății mintale și al furnizării de servicii pentru copiii adoptați, familii adoptive sau familii aflate în dificultate. Una din lucrările sale se concentrează pe rezultatele adopției copiilor români în Statele Unite, și a fost scrisă pentru publicul larg. Ultima sa carte se adresează părinților adoptivi.

Într-o prezentare făcută pentru personalul academic din Universitatea noastră, Victor Groza atrăgea atenția printr-o butadă originală asupra pericolelor și presiunilor impuse de statutul de cercetător: “Publică sau dispari! Publică și dispari! Publică și înflorește!”. Statura de cercetător a lui Victor Groza s-a construit treptat printr-o înfloritoare activitate publicistică.

Lucrările sale s-au născut prin fructificarea rezultatelor cercetărilor întreprinse în diverse zone ale lumii, așa cum se poate vedea în palmaresul sumar prezentat mai jos. De menționat că toate aceste demersuri de tipul cercetare-acțiune desfășurate de către Victor Groza s-au născut din conștientizarea unor nevoi practice și au propus sau cel puțin au sugerat soluții cu aplicabilitate practică. Întreaga sa activitate a fost și este pusă în slujba copilului, a familiei și a celor excluși sau discriminați social.

Activitatea internațională

2011: Raportor la BSSK¹ - India. A prezentat părinților adoptivi, profesioniștilor în domeniul adopției, tinerilor adoptați și personalului din sistemul de protecție a copilului, rezultatele primului studiu pe adopții interne, în cazul tinerilor și a adulților adoptați în copilărie. A lucrat cu BSSK pe implicațiile rezultatelor studiului asupra politicilor și a practicii (Pune & Mumbai).

2011: Trainer, *Holt International* - **Guatemala**. Conduce o echipă de profesioniști în asistență socială care oferă o instruire în ceea ce privește conservarea familiei, adopția internă și plasament familial al copilului lipsit temporar de familia biologică. Activitatea se desfășoară în 3 locuri: Guatemala City, Zacapa și Quetzeltanango.

2010: Trainer - **Ethiopia**, *Family Health International & UNICEF*. Oferă formare și asistență tehnică privind alternativele bazate pe familie în îngrijirea instituțională.

Co - autor / Ghost Writer, la monografia UNICEF/Centrul de Cercetare Innocenti, privind interesul superior al copilului și adopției.

2009: Vorbitor, reprezentând în **Kazakhstan** *Departamentul de Stat al Statelor Unite*. Furnizează o formare cu privire la măsurile de securitate promovate de către sistemul de protecție socială din SUA pentru a proteja drepturile copiilor adoptați; a vorbit în Almaty, Taraz, și Taldykorgan.

2009: Consultant, pentru *Holt International* - în **Guatemala**. Efectuează o formare cu profesioniștii în asistența socială a copilului, din Zacapa, cu privire la efectele negative ale instituționalizării asupra copiilor, evaluarea copiilor, planificarea permanenței și team building.

2008: Consultant UNICEF – în proiectul *Better Care Network*. A dezvoltat o serie de acțiuni de advocacy și de scurte informări în legătură cu plasamentul familial, dezinstituționalizarea, adopția internă, îngrijirea în cadrul familiei lărgite, kafala, HIV / SIDA și copiii în situații de urgență.

2007-2008: Consultant UNICEF - în **Guatemala**. A oferit evaluare, asistență tehnică și formare în conservarea familiei, adopția internă, asistență maternală și adopția internațională, la nivel de politici și programe; a făcut recomandări la nivel de sistem pentru îmbunătățirea sistemului de protecție a copilului. A fost primul conferențiar și trainer în construirea abilităților de lucru cu copilul și familia în cadrul sistemului de bunăstare a copilului, ca parte a adopției și punerii în aplicare în Guatemala a Convenției de la Haga cu privire la Drepturile Copiilor adoptați.

2005-2007: Consilier Tehnic pentru Ministerul Copiilor, Tineretului și Sportului, din Kiev - **Ucraina**. A oferit asistență tehnică, instruire și consultanță pe adopția internă, asistență maternală și adopția internațională, la nivel de politici și programe; a făcut recomandări pentru

¹ BSSK - organizație neguvernamentală din India, având o cunoscută activitate în domeniul asistenței sociale, în special în asistența socială a copilului și a familiei.

îmbunătățirea sistemului de protecție/bunăstare a copilului. Rolul i-a fost atribuit în cadrul unui proiect USAID, încredințat spre implementare organizației pentru copii, *Holt International*.

2003: Cercetător – în Bergen, **Norvegia**. A realizat o testare pilot a unui chestionar utilizat anterior în cercetarea în adopție din India, România și SUA. A condus realizarea pentru stadiul pilot a unor interviuri de profunzime cu familiile norvegiene care au adoptat în Bergen și Oslo, copii din India.

2001: Cercetător - **India**. A coordonat și efectuat o cercetare cu familiile indiene din Pune care au adoptat copii indieni. Rolul său a fost acela de Coordonator de proiect. Acolaborat cu Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra (BSSK) în oferirea de asistență tehnică și realizarea de interviuri cu familiile. Acest proiect l-a desfășurat parțial în anul său sabatic.

2000: Coordonator de proiect - **Belize**. A realizat interviuri cu actorii cheie, în scopul de a dezvolta un parteneriat agenție - universitate pentru promovarea cercetării în domeniul bunăstării copilului. Proiectul a inclus absolvenți, alumni, precum și o strânsă colaborare cu Organizația Națională pentru Prevenirea Abuzului Copiilor din Belize, America Centrală.

1999: Trainer și Consilier Tehnic - Egipt. A predat și a oferit asistență tehnică privind dezvoltarea curriculum-ului la Universitatea Helwan, Cairo, în perioada 15-26 februarie. De asemenea, a fost ambasador al universității sale, *Case Western Reserve University (CWRU)*, însărcinat cu explorarea posibilităților de construire a unui parteneriat interuniversitar.

Merite în România

Activitatea desfășurată de Victor Groza în România este oglindită în numeroasele articole și rapoarte prin care face cunoscute rezultatele cercetărilor sale. Beneficiarii devotatei sale activități sunt profesioniștii din domeniul protecției copilului din România, din structurile guvernamentale și cele neguvernamentale, precum și personalul academic și de cercetare. Dar ținta permanentă a generoasei sale activități în România ca și în lume rămâne copilul.

Un impresionant raport financiar întocmit de Victor Groza arată că activitățile sale desfășurate în România, cu și pentru români, doar în perioada 1990-1999, au implicat costuri totale de **\$948,545**. Dacă ne gândim și la faptul că adeseori aceste fonduri au necesitat o activitate în plus de strângere de fonduri, valoarea aceasta de aproape un milion devine și mai semnificativă.

Iată câteva din activitățile sale în România:

2005: Trainer și Consilier Tehnic - **România**. A asigurat formarea unor asistenți sociali din Bistrița în domeniul evaluării cazurilor. A furnizat asistența tehnică în dezvoltarea unor programe de terapie familială. Colaborare cu Universitatea din Iași.

2003: Trainer și Consilier Tehnic - **România**. A oferit formare asistenților sociali din Bistrița în tehnici de management comportamental în raporturile cu familiile de plasament. A furnizat asistența tehnică în evaluarea programelor și modelare logică a programelor oferite prin serviciile de protecție a copilului familiilor având copii cu HIV/SIDA. A colaborat cu *Fundația Inocenți/România Children's Relief din Bistrița și Alături de voi* din Iași.

2002: Trainer și Consilier Tehnic - România. A format asistenți sociali diseminând rezultatele cercetărilor întreprinse în anii anteriori pe familii de plasament din Bistrița. A furnizat asistența tehnică în dezvoltarea unui grup de sprijin pentru asistenții maternali. A colaborat cu Fundația Inocenți/România Children's Relief.

2001: Cercetător și coordonator de proiect - România. A coordonat o cercetare asupra programului de evaluare al familiilor care au copii în plasament în Bistrița. Proiectul a inclus proaspeți absolvenți, precum și colaborarea cu *Fundația Inocenți/România Children's Relief* pentru realizarea interviurilor cu familiile.

2000: Trainer și Coordonator de proiect - România. A format, în București și Constanța, asistenți sociali, diseminând rezultatele cercetărilor pe care le condusesese în anii anteriori cu privire la familiile din România care adoptaseră copii din sistemul de protecție. Proiectul a inclus proaspeți absolvenți, alumni, precum și colaborarea cu organizația *Holt International* în vederea organizării formării și a furnizării de asistență tehnică.

1999: Coordonator de proiect - Romania. În București și Constanța a format asistenți sociali și a coordonat cercetări cu privire la familiile din România care au adoptat copii din sistem. Proiectul a inclus proaspeți absolvenți, alumni, precum și colaborarea cu organizația *Holt International* în vederea organizării formării și a furnizării de asistență tehnică, precum și în realizarea interviurilor cu familiile.

1998: Trainer și Coordonator de proiect - România. A format asistenți sociali și a coordonat o cercetare cu copii ai străzii în București. Proiectul a implicat absolvenți și alumni precum și o colaborare cu facultatea de medicină din București, în vederea furnizării formării, a asistenței tehnice și în realizarea interviurilor cu informatorii cheie și cu copii ai străzii.

1997: Coordonator proiect - România. A coordonat în Iași o evaluare comunitară cu femei și copii cu risc de HIV/SIDA. Proiectul a implicat absolvenți și alumni precum și o colaborare cu Facultatea de medicină din Iași, în vederea realizării interviurilor cu informatorii cheie și cu femei gravide.

1996: Co-Director de proiect - România. Cartografierea activelor comunităților. Activitate de strângere de fonduri pentru organismele neguvernamentale locale active în bunăstarea copilului și conferințe pe tema rezultatelor adopției în cazul copiilor români adoptați în Statele Unite. Proiectul a implicat și câțiva absolvenți, alumni și voluntari comunitari. Proiectul a impus călătorii pe teritoriul întregii Românie.

1995: Consultant și Trainer - România. În București și Iași, în colaborare cu *Holt International* și Universitatea din Iași, a oferit formări pe tema evaluării și a sprijinirii familiilor. Proiectul a inclus absolvenți și alumni de la Case Western Reserve University.

1994: Consultant și Trainer - România. În București, în colaborare cu *Holt International*, a oferit formări pe tema evaluării și a sprijinirii familiilor. Proiectul a inclus absolvenți și alumni de la Case Western Reserve University.

1993: Co-Director și Trainer - România. În Oradea și Iași a desfășurat un proiect de Dezvoltare Curriculară (CDROM). Proiectul a implicat absolvenți ai universității din IOWA, absolvenți de nivel de licență de la universitatea din Oklahoma, precum și absolvenți de la Case

Western Reserve University, precum și personal academic de la facultatile de asistență socială din toată țara și un voluntar comunitar. A fost dezvoltată o programă, au fost formați formatorii (profesori și studenți din universități) și au fost distribuite universităților din țară mii de cărți de asistență socială și psihologie.

1992: Consultant și Trainer - România. În Videle și Suceava a sprijinit planificarea în protecția copilului prin evaluarea copiilor și dezvoltarea unor recomandări. A colaborat cu *Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange* și cu *Secretariatul de stat pentru persoane cu handicap*. Proiectul a inclus absolvenți de asistență socială de la universitatea din Iowa.

1991: Consultant și Trainer - România. În Videle a sprijinit planificarea în protecția copilului prin evaluarea copiilor și dezvoltarea unor recomandări. A colaborat cu *Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange* și cu *Secretariatul de stat pentru persoane cu handicap*. Proiectul a inclus asistenți sociali din cadrul comunității.

Activitatea meritorie a Profesorului Victor Groza cu și în cadrul Universității de Vest din Timișoara

Toate proiectele desfășurate de Victor Groza în România, între 1991-2005, au avut printre mulții beneficiari academici, secția de Asistență Socială a Universității de Vest din Timișoara. Inițierea secției de Asistență Socială din cadrul UVT a beneficiat de un suport considerabil prin formările oferite cu generozitate de către Victor Groza. Sute de cărți de asistență socială și psihologie au umplut biblioteca vidă pe atunci a asistenței sociale. Prof. Viorel Prelici, șeful secției, a beneficiat de un consistent schimb de experiență în Statele Unite, în organizarea lui Victor Groza. Alți colegi au avut acces la informație de specialitate și la schimburi de experiență în SUA, grație muncii generoase, asidue a prof. Victor Groza.

Începând cu 2011, munca în România a Profesorului Victor Groza se centrează în principal în cadrul universității noastre.

În 2012 Victor Groza a făcut o vizită de lucru la Universitatea noastră, pregătind la toate nivelele, inclusiv guvernamental, un program de formare centrat pe sănătatea mentală în adopție. Programul este o continuare a activității de dezvoltare curriculară pentru asistența socială din România, din anii 2000, a profesorului Victor Groza.

Începând cu 2013, prof. Victor Groza a devenit o prezență constantă în Universitatea noastră. În 2013 el a participat la o conferință a Departamentului de asistență socială. În plus, a susținut o prelegere pentru personalul academic cu privire la rigorile cercetării și ale publicării.

În perioada 2013-2014, Victor Groza a asigurat furnizarea unui program de specializare post-universitară pentru profesioniștii în domeniul adopției (asistenți sociali și psihologi) din structurile de stat, dar și din mediul nonguvernamental. 30 de profesioniști din toată țara au absolvit acest program furnizat prin video-conferință de către Victor Groza și echipa pe care o conduce. Odată cu acest program, Victor Groza a pus la dispoziția studenților o amplă informație în domeniul adopției.

Acordarea titlului de Doctor Honoris Causa vine ca o recunoaștere a meritelor sale, dar și ca o consolidare a relațiilor și implicărilor sale profesionale cu Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara.

Sintetizând toate aceste date expuse în Laudatio-ul de față, vom sublinia faptul că Profesorul Victor Groza este larg recunoscut pentru suportul acordat Asistenței Sociale din Timișoara și România. În același timp, el se distinge ca un militant pentru democratizarea vieții științifice în domeniul socio-uman, prin deschiderea sa fără rezerve spre centre universitare și de cercetare și intervenție din zone mai puțin favorizate ale lumii și prin promovarea și sprijinirea accesului colegilor săi, cercetători de pretutindeni, la publicații și schimburi de idei. Ținta întregii sale activități de cercetare, formare, promovare a unor idei și servicii eficiente a fost în permanență copilul și familia.

Victor Groza este un strălucit exemplar al generațiilor de români emigrați în SUA și reprezintă nu doar visul american de realizare a unei vieți prospere pentru toată lumea, ci visul lumii de a asigura o bunăstare și protecție a copiilor și familiilor din toată lumea

LAUDATIO

In honor of

Professor Victor Groza

Victor Groza is in the field of child welfare and family functioning in social work at the Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel School of Applied Social the Sciences (MSASS), Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Since 2007 he holds the Professor Grace F. Brody Professorship, an official recognition of his work over 25 years in research and teaching. In this world where changes occur in traditional patterns, sometimes it is difficult to accept, research, disclose and understand new forms that the family takes. The family is the primary group that underlies any society and difference in families are not deficits but what makes the family unique, a message you will read in Professor Victor Groza's writings and hear in his teaching & training. Early in his career, almost 30 years ago, he was an administrator in an outpatient child & family mental health center. His entire activity, as is reflected in his CV, is defined by his thinking about social work with families and children. He has international expertise in areas such as adoption, the reform of child welfare systems including the development of foster family care in low resource countries, and the development of the child welfare workforce in the public/state system and the nongovernmental/private not-for-profit system. This expertise has developed as a result of his work in Romania, the Ukraine, India, Kazakhstan, Ethiopia, Belize and Guatemala.

Victor Groza the man is a warm, frank, honest person, with a fine sense of humor and a deep generosity in relationships with others. This portrait combines frankness, honesty and generosity specific to the American people, with warmth, humor, and the culture of the Romanian people. About 100 years ago, during the great immigration of Romanians to the US, his paternal grandparents left villages in Transylvania, attracted by the American dream. No one could have imagined a return to Romania after most of the family left. But Victor remained interested and attached to his Romanian roots; after 1990, once travel to Romania became more open, he began his work in Romania. Many of those present had the opportunity to meet him, to benefit from information and experience, and be part of at least one of his projects focused on improving services for children without family or families in need, and the development of social assistance in Romania.

This honorary award as Professor Doctor Honoris Causa represents not only a honor and a recognition of his many professional and human merits, but also an honor for our university which received over the past years, more or less directly, several benefices in relation to the

statuary personality of the candidate. On the other hand, awarding the Honoris Causa title seals the connection between our university and Professor Victor Groza and indulge hopes for a fruitful collaboration in the future

Training and Formation

Victor Groza's professional background mirrors the interdisciplinary training that addresses his subsequent research, training and intervention.

He graduated with a Bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Tulsa (1979), made his master studies in social work at the University of Oklahoma (1984) and thereafter at the same University he obtained his doctorate in sociology (1987).

The practical part of his training is chronologically developed as follows:

- In 1987 he was certified as a counselor competent to provide prevention and intervention to people with alcoholism and drug abuse.
- Since 1992 he has been licensed as a social worker and is licensed at the highest level in the State of Ohio, the LISW-S or licensed social work supervisor.
- In 1998 he was certified by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as competent to provide family intervention.

Beyond this formal structured training Victor Groza was constantly in a perpetual process of perfecting his professional formation, which in time brought expertise and internationally recognized professional excellence.

Victor Groza has authored or co-authored 5 books. The books have been written for adoption researchers, others for mental health professionals delivering services to adoptees, adoptive families or birth families, one about Romanian adoption to the US was written for the general public & his latest book was written for adoptive parents. Victor has also published over 75 articles in peer reviewed journals.

In his conference done in 2013 for the academics of our university, Victor Groza drew attention by an original witticism about the dangers and stresses of the status of researcher: " Publish or perish ! Publish and perish ! Publish and flourish ! " The researcher stature of Victor Groza was built gradually through a flourishing publishing activity . His works were born by leveraging the results of research conducted in various parts of the world, as can be seen in the summary record below. All these action- researches carried out by Victor Groza-were born out of real needs and had as outcomes some proposals, or at least suggestions with practical applicability. All of his work was and is put in the service of children, family and those people excluded or socially discriminated.

Victor Groza: The International Dimension

- 2011 Presenter, BSSK- India. Presented the results of the first study of domestic adoptees now young adults to adoptive parents, adoption professionals, adoptees and staff. Worked with BSSK on implications of results for policy and practice (Pune & Mumbai).
- 2011 Trainer, Holt International-Guatemala. Lead a team of social work professionals to provide training on family preservation, domestic adoption, and domestic foster care at 3 sites (Guatemala City, Zacapa & Quetzeltanango).
- 2010 Trainer- Ethiopia, Family Health International & UNICEF. Provided training and technical assistance on family based alternatives to institutional care.
- Co-writer/Ghost writer, UNICEF Innocenti Research Center, monograph The Best Interests of the Child and Intercountry Adoption.
- 2009 Speaker, US Department of State-Kazakhstan. Providing training on why American's adopt safeguards in place in the US Child Welfare System to protect adopted children; spoke in Almaty, Taraz, and Taldykorgan.
- 2009 Consultant, Holt International-Guatemala. Provided training on negative effects of institutionalization on child, child assessment, permanency planning and team building to child welfare professionals in Zacapa.
- 2008 Consultant, UNICEF-Better Care Network. Developed a series of advocacy and information briefs on foster care, deinstitutionalization, domestic adoption, kinship care, kafala, HIV/AIDS and children in emergencies.
- 2007-2008 Consultant, UNICEF-Guatemala. Provided assessment, technical assistance and training on family preservation, domestic adoption, domestic foster care, and international adoption at the policy and program level; make recommendations at the system level for improving the child welfare/child protection system. Was the inaugural speaker/trainer for building skills in working with child and families in child welfare as part of Guatemala implementing the Hague and the Convention on the Rights of Children.
- 2005-2007 Technical Advisor, Ministry of Children Youth and Sports, Kiev-Ukraine. Provided technical assistance, training and consultation on domestic adoption, domestic foster care, and international adoption at the policy and program level; made recommendations at the system level for improving the child welfare/child protection system. Role was part of a USAID project awarded to Holt International Children's Services.

- 2003 Researcher--Norway. Pilot tested adoption questionnaire previously used in adoption research in India, Romania and the U. S. in Bergen. In-depth pilot interviews conducted with Norwegian families who adopted from India in Bergen and Oslo.

- 2001 Researcher-India. Conducted research on Indian families who adopted Indian children in Pune. Role: Project Leader. Collaborated with Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra (BSSK) to provide technical assistance and conduct interviews with families. This project was part of my sabbatical.

- 2000 Project Leader-Belize. Conducted key informant interviews in order to develop an agency-university partnership in child welfare research. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with the National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Belize, Central America.

- 1999 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Egypt. Lectured and provided technical assistance on curriculum development, presented at Helwan University, Cairo, February 15-26. Also, was ambassador from CWRU to further explore building a university-to-university partnership.

Victor Groza: The work in and for Romania

Victor Groza’s activity in Romania is mirrored in the numerous articles and reports that share the results of his research. The beneficiaries of his devoted activities are the professionals in child protection system in Romania, within governmental and nongovernmental structures as well as the academic and research staff. But the final target of his generous and permanent activities in Romania and in the world remain the child and the family.

An impressive financial Report prepared by Victor Groza shows that its activities in Romania and with Romanian and only in the period 1990-1999, has involved total donations of \$ 948,545 . Thinking that these funds often required an extra activity of fundraising this value of nearly a million dollars is even more significant .

- 2005 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Romania. Trained Social Workers on conducting case reviews in Bistrita. Provided technical assistance on developing a family therapy program and services. Collaborated with Ovidiu Gavrilovici from the University of Iasi.

- 2003 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Romania. Trained Social Workers on behavior management techniques to use with Romanian foster families in Bistrita. Provided technical assistance in program evaluation and logic modeling to a program providing services to families with children with HIV/AIDS. Collaborated with Fundatia Inocenti/Romania Children's Relief in Bistrita and Alaturi de voi in Iasi .
- 2002 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Romania. Trained Social Workers and disseminated research conducted the previous year on Romanian foster families in Bistrita, Romania. Provided technical assistance on developing a foster parent advisory group. Collaborated with Fundatia Inocenti/Romania Children's Relief.
- 2001 Researcher and Project Leader-Romania. Conducted research/program evaluation on families who are fostering Romanian children in Bistrita. Project included graduate students and collaborating with Fundatia Inocenti/Romania Children's Relief to conduct interviews with families.
- 2000 Trainer and Project Leader-Romania. Trained Social Workers and disseminated research conducted the previous year on Romanian Families who Adopted Romanian Children in Bucharest & Constanta. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with Holt International to provide training and technical assistance.
- 1999 Project Leader-Romania. Trained Social Workers and conducted research on Romanian families who adopted Romanian children in Bucharest & Constanta. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with Holt International to provide training, technical assistance, and conduct interviews with families.
- 1998 Trainer and Project Leader-Romania. Trained Social Workers and Conducted Research on Street Children of Romania in Bucharest. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with medical school faculty to provide training, technical assistance, and conduct interviews with key informants and street children.
- 1997 Project Leader-Romania. Conducted Community Assessment of Issue for Women and Children with or at-risk of HIV/AIDS in Iasi. Project included graduate students, recent alum, and collaboration with medical school faculty to conduct interviews with key informants and pregnant women.

- 1996 Project Co-Leader-Romania. Asset Mapping of Communities, Fundraising for local Nongovernmental Agencies in Child Welfare, and Lecturing on Adoption Outcomes of Children Adopted from Romania to the United States. Project included a dozen graduate students, recent alums, and community volunteers. Project involved traveled throughout the entire country of Romania.
- 1995 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Trained on assessing and strengthening families, held in Bucharest and Iasi, in collaboration with Holt International and the University of Iasi. Project included graduate students from Case Western Reserve University and a recent alum.
- 1994 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Trained on assessing and strengthening families, held in Bucharest, in collaboration with Holt International. Project included graduate students from Case Western Reserve University.
- 1993 Co-Director and Trainer-Romania. Curriculum Development Project in Romania (CDROM), located in Oradea and Iasi. Project included graduate students from the University of Iowa, bachelor level graduates from the University of Oklahoma, a graduate student from Case Western Reserve University, Social Work faculty members from universities around the country, and one community volunteer. We developed curriculum, taught the trainers (university professors and students) and distributed thousands of social work and psychology books to universities throughout the country.
- 1992 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Assisted in child welfare planning by assessing children and developing program recommendations in Videle and Suceava. Collaborated with the Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange and the Ministry for the Handicapped. Project included social work graduate students from the University of Iowa.
- 1993 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Assisted in child welfare planning by assessing children and developing program recommendations in Videle. Collaborated with the Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange and the Ministry for the Handicapped. Project included social workers from the community.

Professor Victor Groza meritorious work with and within the West University of Timisoara

All projects developed by Victor Groza in Romania between 1991-2005 have had among multiple Romanian beneficiaries, academics from the Department of Social Work within the

University of the West in Timisoara. The setting-up of Social Work Department within WUT has benefited from the considerable support generously provided by Victor Groza, his students & colleagues from Cleveland. Hundreds of books for social workers and psychologists filled the empty then library of social work in our university. Prof. Viorel Prelici, who was that time the chief of the new born social work department, received a hearty exchange of experience in the United States in Victor Groza's organization. Other colleagues as well have had access to specialized information and experience exchanges in the US, thanks to the generous work and efforts done by Prof. Victor Groza.

Starting with 2011, Victor Groza focused his work in Romania on our university.

In 2012 Victor Groza made a working visit to our University. The visit aimed to prepare on all levels, including on the governmental level, the implementation of a training program focused on mental health in adoption. This program is a continuation of curriculum development for social work in Romania, done in 2000, by Professor Victor Groza and his team.

Since 2013, prof. Victor Groza became a constant presence in our University. In 2013 he participated in an international conference organized by the Social Work Department. In addition, Victor Groza delivered to the academic staff of our university a lecture on the rigors of academic research and publication.

In the period 2013-2014, Victor Groza ensured the provision of post-graduate training program for professionals (social workers and psychologists) in the field of adoption. The students within the training belonged to the state as well as NGO's structures and services. 30 professionals across the country have graduated from this program which was provided by video conferencing by Victor Groza and the team he leads. Two of his team are with him today, Dr. Zoe Breen Wood & Ms. Karen Rosenberg. Within this program, Victor Groza made available to professionals in the field of adoption an up-dated and most used information in the world regarding mental health practice in the adoption practice community.

Doctor Honoris Causa Award comes as recognition of Professor Victor Groza's merits as well as consolidation of his professional relationships and involvement with West University of Timisoara.

Synthesizing all that data exposed above in this Laudatio, we emphasize that Professor Victor Groza is widely recognized for supporting the development of Social Work education and practice in Timisoara and Romania. At the same time, he stands out as an advocate for democratization of science in social sciences, through his unreserved opening to universities and

research and intervention in less favored areas of the world, and by promoting and supporting access of his fellow researchers everywhere, to information, publications and exchanges of ideas. The target of his entire research, training, promotion of ideas and support for efficient services has always been the child and family.

Victor Groza is brilliant representative of generations of Romanians immigrated to the US and signify not just the American dream of achieving a prosperous life for everyone, but the dream of the world to ensure the welfare and protection for children and families around the world.

Comisia de evaluare și de elaborare a Laudatio

Președinte:

Prof. univ. dr. MARILEN GABRIEL PIRTEA – *Rectorul Universității de Vest din Timișoara*

Membri:

Prof. univ. dr. MARIA ROTH – *Universitatea „Babeș- Bolyai” din Cluj-Napoca*

Prof. univ. dr. ȘTEFAN COJOCARU – *Universitatea „A. I. Cuza” din Iași*

Prof. univ. dr. ALIN GAVRELIUC - *Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara*

Prof. univ. dr. ANA MUNTEAN- *Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara*

Conf. univ. dr. COSMIN GOIAN- *Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara*

PRELEGERE
susținută de Domnul Prof. univ. dr. Victor GROZA
cu prilejul decernării titlului de
DOCTOR HONORIS SOCIALIUM SCIENTIARUM
al Universității de Vest din Timișoara

În copilărie am fost foarte apropiat de bunica mea, mama tatălui meu. Ea nu vorbea prea bine engleza și-mi spunea niște povești fantastice despre România (pe atunci parte a Imperiului Austro-Ungar). Știam atunci ca odată voi merge să văd țara despre care povestea ea. Dar niciodată nu am putut să-mi imaginez în ce fel voi ajunge aici, și nici aventurile de care voi avea parte. Am început să-mi văd viața ca alcătuită din două părți: viața mea americană și viața mea română. Lăsați-mă să vă spun despre întâia mea călătorie în România.

În toamna lui 1990, am văzut o emisiune televizată despre copiii aflați în instituțiile din România. Când s-a întâmplat asta eu aveam deja o carieră academică de succes, și-mi construise o reputație bazată pe munca mea centrată pe copiii adoptați la varste mai mari. Am dat un telefon la Directorul Centrului Național de Resurse pentru Adopție, iar acesta m-a pus în legătură cu Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange, care dispunea de un sprijin financiar USAID pentru a lucra în instituțiile de copii din România. În vara lui 1991, sub auspiciile Secretariatului de Stat pentru Persoane cu Handicap, am mers să muncesc și să trăiesc în Videle. Călătoria aceasta mi-a schimbat pentru totdeauna viața. Pană atunci, nici măcar nu aveam pașaport; nu călătorisem niciodată înafara Statelor Unite. Până atunci, România era doar un loc îndepărtat cu povești despre o viață grea petrecută înainte de sosirea în America. Toate acestea s-au schimbat și eu m-am schimbat prin experiențele ce le-am trăit.

Mai întâi, am văzut imagini și am auzit cuvinte care-mi erau atât de familiare. Aveam un profund sentiment al familiarității și o stare de confort chiar și în cele mai teribile circumstanțe, așa cum ar fi cele specifice vieții în instituție. Mă simțeam de parcă pășeam într-o lume veche, care acum îmi părea nouă, dar nu într-un tot nou.

În al doilea rând, ideile mele despre asistența socială, justiția socială, schimbarea sistemului și bunăstarea copilului s-au lărgit. România m-a transformat într-un dascăl mai bun, deoarece mi-a pus la încercare modul de a gândi și de a-i pregăti pe ceilalți să practice asistența socială în raport cu familia, comunitatea sau la nivel de țară.

În al treilea rând, m-a determinat să lucrez în Ucraina, India, Kazahstan, Etiopia, Belize și Guatemala. România mi-a deschis orizontul colaborărilor în Egipt, Anglia, Olanda și Norvegia.

Începând cu anul 1991, am continuat să vin în România aproape în fiecare an, și am rămas la fel de devotat muncii în România ca în prima zi. Munca mea aici a început în instituțiile pentru copii, s-a extins apoi la universități și NGO-uri din diferite zone ale țării, pentru ca în ultimii ani să se concentreze pe Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara. Inițial, mi-am făcut un angajament de 10 ani pentru a mă implica și a sprijini. Apoi am extins planul meu la 15 ani, iar acum am decis că nu pot limita în timp devotamentul meu. Atâta vreme cât voi fi capabil și voi putea fi de ajutor, voi continua să vin aici. Mai mult încă, fiecare drum a fost o aventură, o experiență plină de învățăminte și un timp pentru a mă apleca reflectiv asupra mea însumi.

Voi fi pe veci recunoscător pentru ceea ce am învățat în călătoriile mele în România. Am învățat ce înseamnă a capacita pe cineva și cum funcționează acest concept într-o țară în curs de dezvoltare a sistemului de bunăstare a copilului. Am învățat cum pot fi construite punți peste prăpăstiile dintre culturi diferite. Am înțeles ce norocos sunt să fiu născut în America, dar să am șansa de a vizita țara mea de origini. Experiența în România m-a determinat să-mi schimb numele de familie din cel de Groze, așa cum fusese schimbat în Ellis Island, atunci când bunicii au emigrat, în cel actual: Groza, numele original. M-a determinat să-mi caut familia rămasă în România, persoane cu care deja de 50 de ani, familia mea pierduse contactele. M-a făcut să-mi dau seama ce greu e la varstă adultă să înveți să stăpânești o nouă limbă. Dar mai presus de toate, mi-a dat sentimentul conectării la un popor, la o cultură, la o istorie. Sunt un român americanizat.

Fiecare detaliu al implicării mele din ultimii 25 de ani în România, mi-a făcut plăcere. Am avut norocul să-mi împărtășesc experiența cu familia mea (unul dintre frații mei m-a însoțit în două rânduri), cu studenții, cu alumni având rădăcini în România, cu colegi de facultate și prieteni. Știu că implicarea mea în România nu s-a încheiat. Doar că munca mea se schimbă, dar nu încetează! Eforturile mele s-au deplasat dinspre NGO-uri și dezvoltarea unor programe de asistență socială în cadrul unor universități din România spre programe de formare post universitară. După succesul proiectului de formare în Sănătatea Mentală în Adopție, acum explorăm posibilitățile de replicare și extindere a lui. Evaluăm modul în care am putea să construim la nivel doctoral un program de cercetare în bunăstarea copilului.

Avem în discuție construirea unui program de formare doctorală în cercetarea în domeniul bunăstării copilului. Avem deja posibilitatea unor schimburi prin programul european Erasmus Plus. Personal am aplicat pentru o bursă Fulbright, pentru o poziție de specialist în coordonarea cercetării și a formării în bunăstarea copilului, specificând România ca prima mea opțiune. Călătoria mea își schimbă poate direcția, dar continuă să avanseze. Acum eu sunt persoana în varstă care povestește despre experiențele mele fantastice din România.

Doresc să aduc mulțumiri speciale unor persoane care au făcut parte, o perioadă, din viața mea în România. Mulțumesc familiei mele și prietenilor care mă însoțesc azi, aici. Mulțumesc d-nelor Dr. Zoe Breen Wood și Karen Rosenberg care m-au însoțit în ultimele călătorii în România și care au făcut parte din echipa programului de formare în Sănătatea Mentală în Adopție. Mulțumesc Profesorilor Muntean, Goian și Prelici de la Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, d-nei Profesor Roth, de la Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai din Cluj, Profesorului Cojocaru din Iași și prietenului meu drag, Profesor Gavrilovici din Iași; unii dintre aceștia au făcut parte din viața mea românească de după 1993. Mulțumesc universității și studenților de la Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara pentru această mare onoare. E ca și cum viața familiei mele a făcut un cerc complet - de la părăsirea României în căutarea unei vieți mai bune, la întoarcerea în România pentru a contribui la crearea unei vieți mai bune, aici.

Aceasta este una dintre cele mai frumoase zile ale vieții mele.

Din adâncul inimii mele, vă mulțumesc pentru onoarea ce mi-ați acordat-o.

Victor Groza

Child Welfare and Adoption Policies and Practices in Romania: Where do we go from here?²

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Child Welfare and Adoption Policies and Practices in Romania: Where do we go from here?

Unique Perspective

I am a social worker and a child welfare researcher. While a doctoral student I was conducting home studies for adoption and supervising post-adoption placements of families adopting older children. I published my first article on adoption the year before I completed doctoral studies, focusing on negative adoption outcomes. Almost immediately I began a long-term project with my colleague, Jim Rosenthal from the University of Oklahoma, to study successful adoptive families since most adoption outcomes were positive. By 1991 I was an Assistant Professor at the University of Iowa, having had published over a dozen articles and 1 book about various aspects of adoption. I first went to Romania to work in the Spitalpentrucopii in Videle for the Ministry for the Handicapped in 1991, at a time when the majority of adoptions in Romania were intercountry. This led to my next research initiative, studying early outcomes of Romanian adoptees in the US, a project that now is examining early adult outcomes for the Romanian

² Paper and presentation prepared for Honoris Causa, West University of Timisoara, Romania, November, 2015.

adoptees. Since my first visit to Romania in 1991, almost every year since then I have worked on various projects, including studies of domestic adoption in Romania. I have also had the privilege and pleasure of working on projects related to adoption including research in India and Ukraine as well as technical assistance in Kazakhstan, Guatemala, Belize and Ethiopia that has led to an information opinion and reports or scholarship in these other countries. These experiences serve as the basis for this paper and my lecture accompanying this paper.

Issue 1: “Orphaned”, Abandoned Children and Children living outside their family

Most of the children in low resource countries living out of the birthfamily have at least one birth parent that is alive but the parent is unwilling or unable to provide appropriate. Globally, 85-90% of children in institutional, group or foster care have at least one living parent (Bilson & Cox, 2006; Davis, 2006; Meitjes, Moses, Lizette&Mampane, 2007; Williamson & Greenberg, 2010). There are family factors, community factors, political factors, and social service factors that have an impact on the number of children not living with their birth family or in their extended kin networks.

The circumstances leading to abandonment or living out of the birth family is primarily due to extreme poverty compounded by parental problems such as substance abuse, physically or sexually abusive behavior, or domestic violence. There are also child factors that place children being at risk for not being raised in their family such as chronic or severed medical problems or developmental disabilities of the child.

Community problems such as extreme drought, famine, civil conflict, or war put children more at-risk of leaving their families (Family Health International, 2010). Certain communities are more at-risk for children being in out-of-home care. In Romania, under the communist political system, there was not strong community values in impoverished communities that contained marginalized groups, such as the Roma, against abandoning children at the maternity hospital, placing a children in group care if parenting became overwhelming, or for a functionary at the maternity hospital to refuse to allow children to leave if the parent was poor and had too many children. At the same time this was occurring there was widespread propaganda that the Romanian government could take as good of care of children as parents. Also, children with even minor illnesses often required prolonged hospitalization, might be moved from a hospital to a group home without notifying the parents, and place logistical obstacles for parents to remain involved with their child while out of the home (Groza, Ileana & Irwin, 1999).

The family, community and political system factors are compounded by a social service system that does not have adequate gatekeeping mechanisms. Gatekeeping is assessment driven decision-making that targets services to at-risk children (Bilson&Harwin, 2003) as well as policies, procedures and services to restrict the flow of children into institutions or other out-of-home care settings (Tolfree, 1995). Most low resource countries have very poor or under-developed gatekeeping.

The child factors, family factors, community factors, political system factors and social service system factors collide to create risk to children being raised outside of their birth families. Solutions that focused only on one element of the problem will never be enough to create permanent, long-term solutions. Even as the government systems changed in Romania experienced in 1989/90, changing a government system did not remedy the problem of “orphaned” or abandoned children. The difficulties that put children at-risk are exponential and not cumulative. So, risks cannot be simply added to understand them and solutions require multiple levels of intervention.

Issue 2: Child rights framework for promoting family preservation, family reunification, and adoption

When children cannot remain in their birth family or extended kinship network, adoption is the most permanent solution. Adoption has occurred for centuries. Adoption started as a way to preserve family lineage, secure inheritance, and forge alliances (Derrett, 1957; Gardner, 1998). It progressively evolved from a process design to meet the needs of adults to focusing on the child’s need for a permanent family environment. Until the mid-twentieth century adoption was mainly practiced between children and adults within similar cultures, communities and states. The practice is what is commonly referred to as domestic or national adoption. Intercountry adoption is now part of fabric of adoption practice worldwide.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC) and The Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect to Intercountry Adoption (The Hague) provide legal frameworks to protect children (see Brown & Groza, 2013; Groza & Bunkers, 2014). These human rights policies specify country’s obligations to keep families together and to reunify them when they have become separated (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). If that is not possible or not in the best interests of the child as determined by a professional assessment, then a country is compelled to provide alternative family-based options such as kinship care (with related or fictive kin), foster family care (United Nations CRC, 1989; Guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children, 2009) or other permanent family-based option such as adoption are consistent with cultural norms and values (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989).

According to UN principles, priority should be given to placement in national adoption before intercountry adoption (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). The Subsidiarity principle is a key part of the CRC and The Hague (Belser, Hanson & Hirt, 2009). Subsidiarity requires countries to assess the best interests of a child on a case-by-case basis to make decisions (Liss & McKinley-Pace, 1999) as well as provide a continuum of care for children needing social protection (Rotabi & Gibbons, 2012). The subsidiarity principle outlines the preference for suitable domestic alternatives as a priority (Carlson, 2010/11; Katz, 1995). Domestic solutions such as family support, cash transfer programs and alternative family care such as kinship care must be developed, funded, provided and monitored/evaluated to children and families before inter-country adoption is explored as an option. There are significant differences in how the interpretation of subsidiarity is practiced among countries (see Groza & Bunkers, 2014). It is not clear how services such as long-term foster care should be evaluated against the intercountry adoption programs. This is compounded by that fact that there is little social science research for the Subsidiarity principle. It is largely based on values (Brown & Groza, 2013).

The one study comparing Indian children adopted domestically and internationally found children adopted to Norway and the US were perceived by their parents to be functioning significantly better behaviorally than children adopted domestically, while controlling for age of child and gender of adoptive parent. While how to weigh different options lacks clarity, it is clear that it is far better for children to be placed in a family than in group care, particularly infants and toddlers. Consistently, group care has long-term negative impacts on the majority of infants, toddlers and young children placed in them (The Leiden Conference on the Development and Care of Children without Permanent Parents, 2012). Yet, institutions are the main placement options for orphaned, abandoned or vulnerable children in low resource countries (Rosas & McCall, 2009).

Implications

As advocates, social planners and professionals in child welfare, we must support anti-poverty programs to be consistent with The CRC, The Hague, and with the social work profession. Family support services designed to strengthen and preserve families, cash transfer programs and alternative family care such as kinship care must be developed, funded, provided and monitored/evaluated. In respecting the subsidiarity principle, domestic adoption should be considered as the permanent care option only after all efforts for the child to remain within or return to the family of origin or the extended kinship family have proven unsuccessful, not possible or not in the best interests of the child on a case-by-case basis (Vité & Boéchat, 2008; UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Resolution 44/25, 1989; The Hague Convention on

Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Inter-country Adoption, 1993). Adoption must expand beyond the placement of infants to include placing older children, sibling groups, and children with disabilities. Such an effort requires continual public education campaign, financial subsidies to offset the costs, social services to support families after adoption, and professionals trained in contemporary adoption mental health practice (see Bosco-Ruggiero, Wassell & Groza, 2014).

There is nothing in any of the human rights policies that prohibit intercountry adoption. When a country like Romania has more children abandoned or growing up in foster care without an adoptive family, intercountry adoption becomes a viable option. However, to prevent corruption, trafficking or other questionable activities, intercountry adoption must: (1) have a strong policy framework for how decisions are made about individual children; (2) have strong and enforced sanctions against individuals and organizations that do not follow both the stated purpose and intent of policies managing intercountry adoption; (3) use only licensed and Hague approved organizations that provide pre-adoption preparation and post adoption services (not just support); and (4) include routine evaluation of processes and outcome in intercountry adoption.

To date, few countries have been able to meet this standard. However, there are several models of successful intercountry adoption programs such as that in Korea and China that could be replicated and modified.

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Groza, V., & Cannavo, J. (2007). *American Families Adopting Children from India.* Prepared for Holt International Children's Services, Eugene, Oregon and Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra, Pune, India.

Groza, V., Chenot, D., Holtedahl, K., & the team from Children of the World, Norway. (2004). *The Adoption of Indian Children by Norwegian Parents.* Prepared for Children of the World, Oslo, Norway.

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Landsman, M. J., Tyler, M., Malone, K., Gruenewald, A., & **Groze, V.** (1996). *REPAIR: Reasonable Efforts to Permanency Through Adoption and Reunification Endeavors, Final Report*. Prepared with Four Oaks, Inc., Cedar Rapids, Iowa and the Iowa Department of Human Services for the Children's Bureau, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Washington, D. C.

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Groze, V. (1991). *Subsidized Adoption in Iowa: A Longitudinal Study of Adoptive Families and Special Needs Children, Year 2.* Prepared for the State of Iowa, Department of Human Services, Des Moines, Iowa.

Groze, V., & McMillen, J. C. (1991). *Families Who Foster Children with HIV: A Maryland Pilot Study.* Prepared for the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration, Division of Child Welfare, Baltimore, Maryland.

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Prepared with the State of Iowa, Department of Human Services, Des Moines, Iowa, for the Department of Health and Human Services, Adoption Opportunities, Washington, D. C.

Groze, V., & Rosenthal, J. (1989). *Subsidized Adoptions in Illinois: A Survey of Special Needs Children and their Intact Families.* Prepared for the State of Illinois, Department of Children and Family Services, Springfield, Illinois.

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Groze, V., & Rosenthal, J. (1989). *Special-Needs Adoption Survey: An Analysis of Oklahoma's Intact Adoptive Families and Children.* Prepared for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma City, OK.

Groze, V. (1988). *Institutional Mistreatment.* Prepared for the Office of Advocate Defender, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma City, OK.

Groze, V. (1987). *Family Influence on Delinquency,* Professor Robert Bursik, advisor. Prepared for the Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma, in partial fulfillment for requirements for Ph.D.

Grasmick, H., Morgan, D., & **Groze, V. (1986).** *Application of a Theory of General Prevention to Drinking-and-Driving: An Assessment of Oklahoma's 1983 Administrative Per Se Legislation.* Prepared for Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Grasmick, H., & **Groze, V. (1985).** *Taxpayer Attitude Items from the 1985 Oklahoma City Survey.* Prepared for the IRS, Washington, D.C.

Groze, V., & Anderson, S. C. (1984). *Child Abuse and Neglect in Oklahoma: An Update of Central Registry Data.* Prepared for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

GRANT ACTIVITY-EXTERNALLY FUNDED

Child Welfare Fellows, funded by the U. S. Children's Bureau, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, 2015-2018 (\$550,000 plus \$1.4 million match from MSASS). **Role: Principal Investigator.**

Ability-Based Child Welfare Training Program for Public System Employees, funded by the U.

S. Children's Bureau, National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, 2009-2014 (\$550,000 plus \$1.2 million match from MSASS). **Role: Principal Investigator.**

Partners for Forever Families, written for Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Families Services and funded by the U. S. Children's Bureau, Adoption Opportunities, Diligent Recruitment, 2008-2013 (\$2 million over 5 years with subcontract of 35% per year [\$140,000] to CWRU/MSASS for evaluation and project management). **Role: Principal Investigator.**

Supporting Adoption of Children from the Public System, funded by the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, 2004-2005 (\$15,000). **Role: Investigator.**

Developmental PARTners: Prevention, Referral and Transition for Adopted Infants and Toddlers, funded by Department of Education, 2003-2005 (\$700,000). **Role: Co-investigator** with G. Mahoney.

Adoption Home Study Assistance Project: A Service and Training Endeavor, funded by Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 2003-2004 (\$62,092). **Role: Co-investigator** with Z. Breen-Wood.

Adoption Home Study Assistance Project: A Service and Training Endeavor, funded by Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 2000-2001 (\$59,990). **Role: Co-investigator** with Z. Breen-Wood.

Adoption Home Study Assistance Project: A Service and Training Endeavor, funded by Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 1999-2000 (\$51,777). **Role: Co-investigator** with Z. Breen-Wood.

Adoption Outcome and Cost Effectiveness Planning Grant, funded by the Dave Thomas/Wendy's Foundation for Adoption, 1996 (\$5,000). **Role: Principal Investigator**

A Family-Centered and Community-Based Transagency Model for Children with AIDS, HIV Infection, or Drug Exposure, funded by the Abandoned Infants Assistance Program, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Baltimore, Maryland, 1993-1996 (\$435,303 per year for 2 years; subcontract of 11% per year [\$48,000] for research and evaluation). **Role: Principal Investigator**

Curriculum Development Project in Romania (CDROM), funded by World Vision as part of an U.S.A.I.D. grant, 1992-1993 (\$100,000). **Role: Co-Director**

Partnership Spreads Post Legal Supportive/Educational Services Across the Hawkeye State, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the Iowa

Department of Human Services, Des Moines, Iowa, 1991-1993 (\$100,000 per year for 2 years; subcontract of 14% per year [\$14,000] for research and evaluation). **Role: Principal Investigator**

A Family-Centered Transagency Model for Children with AIDS, HIV Infection, or Drug Exposure, funded by the Abandoned Infants Assistance Program, in collaboration with the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Baltimore, Maryland, 1991-1993 (\$435,303 per year for 2 years; subcontract of 14% per year [\$63,000] for research and evaluation). **Role: Principal Investigator**

Post Adoption Resources for Treatment, Networking and Evaluation Services (PARTNERS), funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with Four Oaks, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1989-1991 (\$200,000 for 2 years; subcontract of 13% per year [\$26,000] for research and evaluation). **Role: Principal Investigator**

A Follow-up Study of Intact Special Needs Adoptions: The Family and Child's Perspectives, funded by the Iowa Department of Human Services, 1990, (\$6,400). **Role: Principal Investigator**

Adoptive Placement of Special Needs Children Who Reside in Foster Care, funded by the Department of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with Iowa Department of Human Services, 1989-1990 (\$71,900 for 1 year; subcontract of 7% [\$5000] for research and evaluation). **Role: Principal Investigator**

GRANT ACTIVITY-INTERNALLY FUNDED

ACES Grant. Funded by the Office of the Provost, 2012 (\$2800) to travel to Pune, India and work with agency & interview team to present preliminary results from the first study of adult domestic adoptees. **Role: Principal Investigator.**

Research Initiative Grant. Funded by the Office of Research Administration, 2000-2002 (\$50,000/year for 2 years) to MSASS for faculty research development to complete grant applications to federal agencies. **Role: Administrator.**

The Relationship of Institutionalization to the Development of Latency-Age Romanian Children Adopted Internationally. Funded by the Schubert Center for Child Development, 1999-2000, (\$10,700). **Role: Principal Investigator.**

A Follow-up Study of Children Adopted from Romania, funded by the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Dean's Discretionary Account, Fall 1994, (\$2500). **Role: Principal**

Investigator

Assisting Romania in Modernizing the Child Welfare System, funded by the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities [MUCIA], University of Iowa, Summer, 1992 (\$1500). **Role: Consultant and Trainer**

Assisting Romania in Permanency Planning, funded by the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities [MUCIA], University of Iowa, Summer, 1991 (\$1500). **Role: Consultant and Trainer**

Recruiting Foster and Adoptive Families for Children with AIDS and HIV Infection: A Pilot Study, funded by the Spelman Rockefeller Seed Grant for Research on Children, University of Iowa, 1990 (\$5,000). **Role: Principal Investigator**

Family Functioning in Special-Needs Adoptions, funded by Old Gold Fellowship, University of Iowa, Summer, 1990 (\$3500). **Role: Principal Investigator**

A Follow-up Study of Special Needs Adoptions, funded by Old Gold Fellowship, University of Iowa, Summer, 1989 (\$3500). **Role: Principal Investigator**

Institutional Maltreatment awarded from the Undergraduate College, University of Oklahoma, for undergraduate research project with Oklahoma Department of Human Services, 1987-1988 (\$3700). **Role: Principal Investigator**

Pilot Study: Psychosocial Adjustment of AIDS Patients, awarded for undergraduate research from the Dean of Arts and Sciences, University of Oklahoma, Spring, 1988 (\$200). **Role: Consultant**

GRANT ACTIVITY-UNFUNDED

National Adoption Competency Mental Health Training Initiative	Children's Bureau	2014	Lead Evaluator; \$500,000
R01: Stress Reducing and Health Promoting Interventions for Kinship and Adoptive Mothers	NIH	2014	Co-Investigator, 10% of salary
A studying of emerging adulthood in Romanian Adoptees	W. T. Grant Foundation	2014	\$204,000; Principal Investigator
An Evaluation of the GHR Foundation Projects at 5 sties (Nepal, Azerbaijan, Guatemala,	GHR Foundation	2012	\$150,000 including \$30,000 waiver of indirect costs from MSASS

Ukraine & Vietnam)			
Effectiveness of Case Management for Kin Caring for Child Affected by HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia	NICHD	2011-2016	\$2,000,000; Principal Investigator
Indonesian Ministry of Social Affairs linkage with MSASS to develop an effective Child Protection system linked with the Social Welfare System	UNICEF	2011-2012	Would have been negotiated if initial proposal was funded; Principal Investigator
Fulbright Senior Specialists on Kinship Adoption	Fullbright/US AID	2008	\$3,000; collaborated with the University of Barcelona on the proposal
A study of post-adoption influences on attachment patterns over time in international adoptees under the age of 5	NICHD	2006-2011	\$2.9 million
A study of Indian children adopted to Norway: Family Interviews	Jacobs Foundation in Vienna, Austria	2004-2006	\$50,000
Special Education Leadership Training Project	Department of Education	2004-2008	\$800,000
A pilot study of attachment in international adoptees	NICHD	2004-2006	\$100,000; Score 263, 54.6 percentile; resubmitted July 1, 2003 & unscored
Community-based dental project: A Pilot Study	NIDCR	2003-2005	\$306,000; Co-investigator (proposal revised & resubmitted twice)
Permanency for Teens	Children's Bureau	2003-2006	\$250,000/year for 3 years; CB decided not to fund University-based adoption opportunity grants

BOOKS AND BOOK PROPOSALS REVIEWED

Expert Assessment in Parenting and Child Protection Assessments. (2014). Book proposal reviewed for Bentham Science Books, ebook Department.

Bergquist, K. J. S., Vonk, M. E., Kim, D. S., & Feit, M. D. (2007). *International Korean Adoption: A Fifty-Year History of Policy and Practice*. New York: Haworth Press, Inc. Reviewed for Haworth Press (2007) and *Adoption Quarterly*, 2007, 10(2):92-94.

Bhargava, V. (2005). *Adoption in India: Policies and Experiences*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications. Reviewed for *Social Services Review*, 2006.

Weisner, T. S. (Ed.), *Discovering Successful Pathways in Children's Development. Mixed Methods in the Study of Childhood and Family Life*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2005. Reviewed for *Sociology and Social Welfare*, 2005.

Vecchiato, T., Malucchiom, A. N., & Canali, C. (Eds). (2003). *Evaluation in Child and Family Services: Comparative Client and Program Perspectives*. New York: Aldine de Gruyter. Reviewed for *Sociology and Social Welfare*, 2003.

McCurdy, K., & Jones, E. D. (2000). *Supporting Families: Lessons from the Field*. Thousand Oaks, Ca: Sage Publications. Reviewed for *Child and Family Social Work*, 2001, 6:195-196..

Burns, B. J., Hoagwood, K., & English, M. (1998). *A Guide to Community-Based Clinical Interventions for Youth with Serious Emotional Disorders*. Book proposal reviewed for Oxford University Press.

Edlestein, S. B. (1997). *Children with Prenatal Alcohol and/or Other Drug Exposure: Weighing the Risks of Adoption*. Washington, D. C.: Child Welfare League of America Press. Reviewed for *Journal of Applied Social Sciences*, January 1996.

Lindsey, D. (1992). *The Welfare of Children* by D. Lindsey. Reviewed for Columbia University Press.

Child Welfare for the 1990's: Integrating Practice and Policy. Reviewed for Sage Publications, Inc., March, 1992.

Lindsey, D. (1991). *Tapping the Dreams of All Our Children*. Reviewed for D. Lindsey, August.

Lowenberg, F. & Dolgoff, R. (1989). *Ethical Decisions for Social Work Practice*, 3rd edition. Reviewed for Peacock Publisher for 4th edition.

Cohen, J. S., & Westhuse, A. (1988). *How to Reduce the Risk: Healthy Functioning Families for Adoptive and Foster Children*. Reviewed for University of Toronto Press.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

- 2013-14 Program Developer—Romania. Developed a collaborative project with the West University of Timisoara to provide web-based training to public child welfare workers on contemporary adoption practice and mental health practice in adoption.
- 2011 Presenter, BSSK- India. Presented the results of the first study of domestic adoptees now young adults to adoptive parents, adoption professionals, adoptees and staff. Worked with BSSK on implications of results for policy and practice (Pune & Mumbai).
- 2011 Trainer, Holt International-Guatemala. Lead a team of social work professionals to provide training on family preservation, domestic adoption, and domestic foster care at 3 sites (Guatemala City, Zacapa & Quetzeltanango).
- 2010 Trainer- Ethiopia, Family Health International & UNICEF. Provided training and technical assistance on family based alternatives to institutional care.
- Co-writer/Ghost writer, UNICEF Innocenti Research Center, monograph The Best Interests of the Child and Intercountry Adoption.
- 2009 Speaker US Department of State-Kazakhstan. Providing training on why American's adopt safeguards in place in the US Child Welfare System to protect adopted children spoke in Almaty, Taraz, and Taldykorgan.
- 2009 Consultant, Holt International-Guatemala. Provided training on negative effects of institutionalization on child, child assessment, permanency planning and team building to child welfare professionals in Zacapa.
- 2008 Consultant, UNICEF-Better Care Network. Developed a series of advocacy and information briefs on foster care, deinstitutionalization, domestic adoption, kinship care, kafala, HIV/AIDS and children in emergencies.
- 2007-2008 Consultant, UNICEF-Guatemala. Provided assessment, technical assistance and training on family preservation, domestic adoption, domestic foster care, and international adoption at the policy and program level; make recommendations at the system level for improving the child welfare/child protection system. Was the inaugural speaker/trainer for building skills in working with child and families in child welfare as part of Guatemala implementing the Hague and the Convention on the Rights of Children.
- 2005-2007 Technical Advisor, Ministry of Children Youth and Sports, Kiev-Ukraine.

Provided technical assistance, training and consultation on domestic adoption, domestic foster care, and international adoption at the policy and program level; made recommendations at the system level for improving the child welfare/child protection system. Role was part of a USAID project awarded to Holt International Children's Services.

- 2005 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Romania. Trained Social Workers on conducting case reviews in Bistrita. Provided technical assistance on developing a family therapy program and services. Collaborated with Ovidiu Gavrilovici from the University of Iasi.
- 2003 Researcher--Norway. Pilot tested adoption questionnaire previously used in adoption research in India, Romania and the U. S. in Bergen. In-depth pilot interviews conducted with Norwegian families who adopted from India in Bergen and Oslo.
- 2003 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Romania. Trained Social Workers on behavior management techniques to use with Romanian foster families in Bistrita. Provided technical assistance in program evaluation and logic modeling to a program providing services to families with children with HIV/AIDS. Collaborated with Fundatia Inocenti/Romania Children's Relief in Bistrita and Alaturi de voi in Iasi .
- 2002 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Romania. Trained Social Workers and disseminated research conducted the previous year on Romanian foster families in Bistrita, **Romania**. Provided technical assistance on developing a foster parent advisory group. Collaborated with Fundatia Inocenti/Romania Children's Relief.
- 2001 Researcher-India. Conducted research on Indian families who adopted Indian children in Pune. Role: Project Leader. Collaborated with Bharatiya Samaj Seva Kendra (BSSK) to provide technical assistance and conduct interviews with families. This project was part of my sabbatical.
- 2001 Researcher and Project Leader-Romania. Conducted research/program evaluation on families who are fostering Romanian children in Bistrita. Project included graduate students and collaborating with Fundatia Inocenti/Romania Children's Relief to conduct interviews with families.
- 2000 Trainer and Project Leader-Romania. Trained Social Workers and disseminated

research conducted the previous year on Romanian Families who Adopted Romanian Children in Bucharest & Constanta. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with Holt International to provide training and technical assistance.

- 2000 Project Leader-Belize. Conducted key informant interviews in order to develop an agency-university partnership in child welfare research. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with the National Organization for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Belize, Central America.
- 1999 Project Leader-Romania. Trained Social Workers and conducted research on Romanian families who adopted Romanian children in Bucharest & Constanta. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with Holt International to provide training, technical assistance, and conduct interviews with families.
- 1999 Trainer and Technical Advisor-Egypt. Lectured and provided technical assistance on curriculum development, presented at Helwan University, Cairo, February 15-26. Also, was ambassador from CWRU to further explore building a university-to-university partnership.
- 1998 Trainer and Project Leader-Romania. Trained Social Workers and Conducted Research on Street Children of Romania in Bucharest. Project included graduate students, alums, and collaborating with medical school faculty to provide training, technical assistance, and conduct interviews with key informants and street children.
- 1997 Project Leader-Romania. Conducted Community Assessment of Issue for Women and Children with or at-risk of HIV/AIDS in Iasi. Project included graduate students, recent alum, and collaboration with medical school faculty to conduct interviews with key informants and pregnant women.
- 1996 Project Co-Leader-Romania. Asset Mapping of Communities, Fundraising for local Nongovernmental Agencies in Child Welfare, and Lecturing on Adoption Outcomes of Children Adopted from Romania to the United States. Project included a dozen graduate students, recent alums, and community volunteers. Project involved traveled throughout the entire country of Romania.
- 1995 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Trained on assessing and strengthening

families, held in Bucharest and Iasi, in collaboration with Holt International and the University of Iasi. Project included graduate students from Case Western Reserve University and a recent alum.

- 1994 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Trained on assessing and strengthening families, held in Bucharest, in collaboration with Holt International. Project included graduate students from Case Western Reserve University.
- 1993 Co-Director and Trainer-Romania. Curriculum Development Project in Romania (CDROM), located in Oradea and Iasi. Project included graduate students from the University of Iowa, bachelor level graduates from the University of Oklahoma, a graduate student from Case Western Reserve University, Social Work faculty members from universities around the country, and one community volunteer. We developed curriculum, taught the trainers (university professors and students) and distributed thousands of social work and psychology books to universities throughout the country.
- 1992 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Assisted in child welfare planning by assessing children and developing program recommendations in Videle and Suceava. Collaborated with the Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange and the Ministry for the Handicapped. . Project included social work graduate students from the University of Iowa.
- 1991 Consultant and Trainer-Romania. Assisted in child welfare planning by assessing children and developing program recommendations in Videle. Collaborated with the Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange and the Ministry for the Handicapped. Project included social workers from the community.

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2008-current Director, Child Welfare Fellows program

Responsible for securing the grant through a competitive process to fund 25 public child welfare workers in Northeast Ohio to receive their master's degree in social work through the Intensive Weekend Program. Added field enhancements of monthly meetings at each agency and integrated Fellows in Diligent Recruitment Grant (Partners for Forever Families) in one county. Yearly evaluations of the program including monitoring Fellows requirement to complete a year of continued employment in public child welfare for every year funded by the project.

2002 to 2005

Interim 2010

Chair, Doctoral Program, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University.

Responsible to provide leadership, administration and coordination in the planning of the Doctoral Program. Administration of doctoral budget related to doctoral fellowships, tuition waiver, mentorship program, and doctoral training colloquia. Supervision of administrative staff. Involved in creating and implementing the Strategic Plan for the Doctoral Program.

1998 to 2001

Associate Dean of Research and Training, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University (Interim from 1998-2000, permanent Spring 2000)

Responsible to provide leadership, administration and coordination in the planning of research and training programs. Administration of discretionary budget related to research development, year-long seminar on methodology, budget review and approval for external government funding, and oversight of Human Subjects Review process. Work with faculty to locate consultants or technical assistance for their proposals.

Supervision of Director/Coordinator of Research & Training and administrative staff.

1995 to 1998

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University.

Administration of discretionary budgets related to faculty research development, curriculum development, and the international committee. Responsible to coordinate the planning of curriculum in full time, part time and intensive semester weekend program, curriculum development, research development, and overall functioning of the academic programs. Negotiate faculty workload and deployment including hiring, training and monitoring of adjunct faculty. Directly responsible for Master's Program, Doctoral Program, Field Education Program, Library Services and Computer Services/System Support.

Supervision of Director of Library Services, Director of Field Education, Director of Doctoral Program, Director of Intensive Semester Program, and administrative staff.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2007 to current: Grace F. Brody Professor in Parent-Child Studies, inaugural chair.

Graduate courses: Social Work with Groups, International Travel and Study Ethiopia and Guatemala.

2000 to current: Professor, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University.

Graduate courses: Adoption Practice & Policy, Family Systems Intervention, Child Welfare Practice, Social Work with Groups, International Travel and Study to Romania, Belize, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Guatemala.

1993 to 2000 Associate Professor, Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. Tenured 1996.

Graduate courses: Family Systems Intervention, Child Welfare Practice, International Travel and Study

1988 to 1992 Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Iowa. Graduate Advisor & Chair of the Practice Sequence (1988-1992)

Graduate Courses: Fundamentals of Social Work Practice (offered through distance learning), Social Work Research, Advanced Social Work Research, Interpersonal Communication and Change, Social Work Practice in Interdisciplinary Settings (offered through distance learning).

Undergraduate

Courses: Practice I, Practice II

Combined Graduate & Undergraduate

Courses: Interpersonal Skills Laboratory, Getting a Grant in the 90s.

1987 to 1988 Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Oklahoma. Work with graduate and undergraduate admissions committee as well as ad hoc committees as needed.

Graduate Courses: Research Methods I & II, Family Therapy, Integrative Seminar for Advanced Practicum, Practicum I & II (Field liaison).

Undergraduate

Courses: Research Methods I & II

1985 to 1987 Instructor, Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma. Sole teaching responsibilities for courses from 1985-1987; assisted in teaching 1984-1985. Computer consultant for graduate students and faculty 1985-1987.

Undergraduate

Courses: Social Problems, Introduction to Sociology

1984 to 1985 Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma. Sole teaching responsibilities for courses from 1985-1987; assisted in teaching 1984-1985. Computer consultant for graduate students and faculty 1985-1987.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

2007-current Private Practice (Adoption PARTNERS, LLC)

Four Oaks 5400 Kirkwood Blvd, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Contract staff (10% time): Administrative duties included grant development, program development and program evaluation. Clinical duties included group and family therapy for latency age children in residential treatment, and for adolescent sex offenders.

1985-1988 Lodestar Center, 101 W. Main, Moore, Oklahoma 73160

Adolescent Program Coordinator(3/4 time): Administrative duties include supervision of clinical staff and Practicum students, program development, training and coordination of services. Clinical duties include individual, group, family and multi-family therapy.

1984-1985 Project Adopt
1613 N. Broadway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73103

Supervision counselor (contract work): Duties included supervision of families adopting special needs children and completion of home studies for potential adopting families.

1982-1984 Hope Community Services, Inc.
4500 S. May, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Substance Abuse Counselor: Administrative duties included program planning and development, community outreach, and public relations. Clinical duties included individual, group, family and marital therapy for adult and adolescent clients in a day hospital and outpatient setting. Hotline worker for statewide telephone lines of rape, domestic violence, and substance abuse. Provided crisis intervention, information and referral to appropriate resources in communities.

1978-1982 Shadow Mountain Institute
6262 S. Sheridan, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Treatment Planning Coordinator: Administrative duties included program evaluation, program planning and development, public relations, coordination of services between hospital and education, expressive therapies, and psychology departments, and supervision of Practicum students and volunteers. Clinical duties included individual, group and family therapy for hospitalized adolescents.

Senior Psychiatric Technician: Administrative duties included program planning and development and supervision of psychiatric technicians. Clinical duties included individual and group therapy for hospitalized adolescents.

CONSULTING CONTRACTS

2008-2013 Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services
1997-2010 Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau, Adoption Center
2008-2009 Adoption Network Cleveland
1994-2006 Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services, Adoption Unit
1992-2000 Northeast Ohio Adoption Services, Warren, OH
1992-1999 National Resource Center for Family Based Services, Iowa City, IA
1994-1998 Summit County Children and Family Services, Kellogg Initiative
1991-1992 Institute for Social and Economic Development, Iowa City, IA
1988-1993 Four Oaks, Cedar Rapids, IA

HONORS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

Honorary Member, Association of Schools of Social Work in Romania, Fall 2010.

United Way Certificate of Appreciation for Leadership, Adoption Initiative, December 2003.

Adoption Triad Advocate of the Year Award, Adoption Network, Cleveland, OH, 1996

Volunteer Award, Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange, Denver, CO, 1991-1992

PSI CHI member, University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK, 1978

SERVICE ACTIVITIES—Journals (date first asked to review)

REVIEWER American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 2005

REVIEWER Adoption Quarterly, 2000-2013

REVIEWER Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 2008

REVIEWER Children and Youth Services Review, 1986

REVIEWER Child Welfare, 2001

REVIEWER Developmental Psychology, 2000
 REVIEWER Developmental Psychopathology, 2004
 REVIEWER Families in Society, 1991-2001, 2012
 REVIEWER Family Relations, 1997-2003
 REVIEWER Journal of Applied Social Sciences, 1993-2001
 REVIEWER Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology, 2012
 REVIEWER Journal of Community Practice, 2006
 REVIEWER Journal of Immigrant Health, 2005
 REVIEWER Nonprofit Management and Leadership, 2005
 REVIEWER Pediatric Psychology, 2009
 REVIEWER Research on Social Work Practice, 2005
 REVIEWER Social Work Research, 2002-2004

Advisory Board Harrington Park Press, 2013-current

Advisory Board National Child Welfare Resource Center on Adoption,
 Evidence Based Research Practice Consortium, 2005-2010

Advisory Board National Resource Center on In-home Services, 2009-2014

Advisory Board Romanian Children's Relief/Fundatia Inocenti, 2000-current

Advisory Board *Innovations in Service Delivery and Practice with
 Vulnerable Populations*, Oxford University Press, 1995-
 2002

Advisory Board Research Advisory Committee, The Evan B. Donaldson
 Adoption Institute New York, 1997-2014

Board of Editors *Adoption Quarterly*, 2007-2013

Review of Research and Social Intervention, 2006-current

Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health, 2006-current

Child Welfare, 1996-current

Children and Youth Services Review, 1992-current

Proposal Reviewer National Science Foundation, Spring 2015

Proposal Reviewer Swiss National Science Foundation, 2010

Proposal Reviewer Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
 (SSHRC), February 2007

Proposal Reviewer European Science Foundation, France, Closed Institutions
 for Children and Young People – A Comparative European
 Research Project, June 2006

Proposal Reviewer Nuffield Foundation, England, Longitudinal Study of Hard
 to Place Children and their families, September 2002

REVIEWS OF BOOK-- *Adopting Older Children*

Adoption Today Magazine, December 2014,
[http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?i=231440&p=&l=&m=&ver=&pp=#{"page":46,"issue_id":231440,"numpages":""}](http://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?i=231440&p=&l=&m=&ver=&pp=#{) (subscription required).

MBR: Reviewer's Bookwatch, December 2014,
http://www.midwestbookreview.com/rbw/dec_14.htm#rc

<http://bookviewsbyalancaruba.blogspot.com/2014/12/bookviews-december-2014.html>

Publisher's Weekly, November 2014. <http://www.publishersweekly.com/978-0-88282-482-6>

<http://www.parents.com/blogs/parents-perspective/tag/stephanie-bosco-ruggiero/>

<http://bookviewsbyalancaruba.blogspot.com/2014/12/bookviews-december-2014.html>

REVIEWS OF BOOK-- *Clinical and Practice Issues in Adoption*

Affilia, Spring 2001, 119-121.

Decree, American Adoption Congress, Fall 2000, 8-9.

Adoption Quarterly, 1999, 3(1): 76-79.

REVIEWS OF BOOK-- *A Peacock or a Crow*

Adoption Quarterly, 1999, 3(2):95-96.

Adopted Child Newsletter (September, 1999).

REVIEWS OF BOOK-- *Successful Adoptive Families*

Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal (August 2003, pages 315-316)

Adoption Quarterly (Summer 1998, 98-100).

Social Services Review (September 1997, Volume 71, No. 3, pp. 498-501).

Wisconsin Bookwatch (March 1996).

Adopted Child Newsletter (July 1996).

Choice (September 1996).

Adoption UK (August 1996).

Readings: A Journal of Reviews and Commentary in Mental Health (March 1997).

MEDIA REPORTS

Writers encourage adoption of older children in book,

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/news/local/somerset-county/2015/01/18/book-promotes-adopting-older-children/21822107/>, 1-18-15.

[How I Ended Up Friends With My Daughter's Mom': 1 Mother's Story,](http://thestir.cafemom.com/baby/179525/open_adoption_friends_birth_mom?utm_medium=sm&utm_source=rss&utm_content=baby_rssfeed)

http://thestir.cafemom.com/baby/179525/open_adoption_friends_birth_mom?utm_medium=sm&utm_source=rss&utm_content=baby_rssfeed, 11-14-14.

CWRU program aims to get more Romanian families to adopt orphans. *The Plain Dealer*, July 24, 2014.

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2014/07/case_western_reserve_universit_35.html#incart_river

Q & A: Addressing Abuses in Private Re-Homings. *The Daily Nightly and News Daily*, September 10, 2013 and April 14, 2014.

http://dailynightly.nbcnews.com/_news/2013/09/10/20425911-qa-addressing-abuses-in-private-re-homings

<http://www.newsdaily.com/health/c8cd0a8f3aad85501dbb11e20971733/qa-addressing-abuses-of-informal-private-re-homings>

City Anchor: 10 years best age to inform child of adoptive status: Study. *The Indian Express*, June 18, 2012. <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/city-anchor-10-years-best-age-to-inform-child-of-adoptive-status-study/963266/>

Racial Identity Important After Adoption. *Kansas City InfoZine*, December 14, 2011. <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/50052/>

International Adoption: Are Limits on Foreign Adoptions Hurting Orphans? *CQ Global Researcher*, 5, 23, pp. 573-596, December 6, 2011. www.globalresearcher.com

Fewer Babies Available for Adoption by US Parents. NPR,

<http://www.npr.org/2011/11/17/142344354/fewer-babies-available-for-adoption-by-u-s-parents>, November 17, 2011.

Child-welfare panel says Cuyahoga County agency needs to improve services and practices. Cleveland Plain Dealer, Plain Dealer, http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/10/child-welfare_panel_says_cuyah.html, October 14, 2010.

Stuck in Nepal, Local Woman in Adoption Nightmare. Boston, October 8, 2010, <http://www.wbur.org/2010/10/08/nepal-adoption>

What's the impact on the kid when celebslike Scarlett Johansson, Ryan Reynolds adopt from abroad? New York Daily News, June 29, 2010, http://www.nydailynews.com/lifestyle/2010/06/29/2010-06-29_whats_impact_on_the_kids_when_celebs_like_scarlett_johansson_ryan_reynolds_adopt.htm

Victor Groza—changing live of children.one country at a time. <http://blog.case.edu/case-news/2008/04/03/orphans>

Child Welfare: A Global Crusade. Fall 2007. Case Magazine, featured article.

[Case Prof helping abandoned children abroad find families. May 16, 2006. The Plain Dealer.](#)

[Adoptions: New focus on size of families. March 27, 2006. The Plain Dealer.](#)

[How the Internet changed adoption. January 21, 2006. The Seattle Times.](#)

[Overseas adoptions have a somber side. \(September 15, 2005\). USA Today.](#)

[Adoptions Don't Always Pan Out. \(July 6, 2003\). Pittsburg Post Gazette, http://www.post-gazette.com/localnews/20030706brokenadoptionsreg2p2.asp .](#)

[Home for the Holidays: Celebrating Christmas with your Newly Adopted Child. \(December, 2002\). Iparenting Adoption \(http://iparentingadoption.com/resources/articles/newlyadopted.htm\).](#)

[The Outcome of A Study of Indian Families Adoption Indian Children. \(October, 2002\). Anubandh: House Magazine of Bharativa Samajeva Kendra, Pune, India.](#)

[Romanian Adoption: The Struggle Continues. \(September, 2001\). Adoption Today.](#)

[Eastern European orphans met with open arms. \(August 4, 2001\). Cleveland Plain Dealer.](#)

How well do adopted children fair in their families? (January/February 2001). *Holt International Families Magazine*.

Overwhelmed Families dissolve adoptions. (August 14, 2000). *Washington Post-Gazette*.

Reaching the Breaking Point. (November/December, 1999). *Adoptive Families*.

From Romania, a lesson in resilience. (September 13, 1999). *U. S. News & World Report*.

Children who respond to adversity with resilience have common traits. (June, 1999). *Adopted Child Newsletter*.

Mitigating the Effects of Institutionalization: Factors in Adoptive Families that Make a Difference. (May/June 1999). *Adoptive Families*.

Gay Foster Parenting Study Dispels Doubt. (January 26, 1999). *The Chronicle*.

Today's Orphans: Someone to Love. (November, 1998). *Avenues Magazine*.

Families in Crisis: When Foreign Adoption Goes Wrong. (November, 1998). *Cleveland Today Magazine*.

Richmond Heights mom nurtures Romanian ties for adopted sons. (September 6, 1998). *The Plain Dealer*.

Attachment Theory: The Ultimate Experiment. (May 24, 1998). *The New York Times Magazine*. [Reprinted in *Adoptive Families Magazine*, volume 31, numbers 4 & 5].

Family's Adoption Breaks Barriers. (April 2, 1998). *The Medina County Gazette*.

Building Family Ties. (January 31, 1998). *Newsday* (Nassau Edition).

An Abuse Case Leaves 2 Adopted Girls in Limbo. (October 12, 1997). *The New York Times on the Web*.

To parents, adoption is worth the costs. (October 6, 1997). *The Plain Dealer*.

International adoptions: can love beat the odds. (March 22, 1997). *Woman's Day*.

Into the Heart of Darkness. (October 20, 1996). *The Spokesman-Review*.

Survey Shows Romanian Adoptees Doing Well. (Winter, 1996). *Friend of the Court Newsletter*.

When Children Adopted Overseas Come With Too Many Troubles. (June 23, 1996). *The New York Times*.

The unique challenges of overseas adoptions. (June 23, 1996). *Sunday Press-Telegram*.

Adoptions with unhappy ending. (June 23, 1996). *San Jose Mercury News*.

28 MSASS volunteers head to Romania. (June 13, 1996). *CWRU Campus News*.

When love is not enough. (August 17, 1996). *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Successful siblings. (November 2, 1995). *Burlington County Register News*.

Institutionalized children have problems, show progress after adoption. (November, 1995). *Adopted Child Newsletter*.

And baby makes 3, at last. (September 14, 1995). *The Des Moines Register*.

Were these parents told the truth when they were sold their son? (September 1995). *Marie Claire*.

Progress Report. (August, 1995). *CWRU Alumni Magazine*.

Most adopted Romanian youths doing well in U. S., study finds. (August 5, 1995). *The Virginian-Pilot and Ledger-Star*.

When love can't conquer all. (May 28, 1995). *The Atlanta Journal/The Atlanta Constitution*.

Children bear legacy of bias, neglect. (May 1, 1995). *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Groze airs Romanian orphan situation on national TV. (March, 1995). *CWRU Campus News*.

Florence native on national TV: News program looks at Romanian adoptions. (March 29, 1995). *The Burlington County Times*.

CBS video crew to visit CWRU. (January 26, 1995). *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

MSASS students aid Romanians. (December 15, 1994). *CWRU Campus News*.

Spirit inspires social workers. (September 4, 1994). *The Morning Journal*.

Bridges to Eastern Europe: Case Western Reserve University sets up an extensive array of programs in the region. (June 1, 1994). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Special-needs adoptions require special attention. (March 3, 1994). *CWRU Campus News*.

International LINK. (1994). *CWRU Campus News*.

Special Success. (February, 1994). *CWRU Alumni Magazine*.

UI social workers help Romanian kids. (March 9, 1993). *The Daily Iowan*.

First Book Published. (June 25, 1992). *Burlington County Register News*.

UI team to help Romanian children. (May 1, 1992). *The Daily Iowan*.

Adopted kids adopt to families: Study. (December 22, 1991). *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

Romanian children. (December 7, 1991). *Iowa City Press Citizen*.

Groze is back from Romania. (October 17, 1991). *Burlington County Register News*.

Group sees handicapped victims of Romanian rule. (August 23, 1991). *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

Team turns to forgotten children. (August 10, 1991). *Iowa City Press Citizen*.

Professor to assess Romanian child welfare system (June 25, 1991). *The Daily Iowan*.

Iowans to aid Romanian children. (June 22, 1991). *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

Iowans going to Romania to help children. (June 21, 1991). *Mount Pleasant News*.

4 head to Romania to help abandoned children. (June 21, 1991). *Iowa City Press Citizen*

Annual AIDS conference scheduled for April 24-25. (March 14, 1991). *Waterloo Courier*.

Adoption good for abused children. (November 17, 1990). *Iowa City Press Citizen*.

Spelman Rockefeller grants awarded for child research. (April 15, 1990). *The Cedar Rapids Gazette*.

Desperately seeking families. (December, 1989). *North Star*, Volume 1, Number 6.

Wanted: Adoptive Parents for Special Kids. (Fall 1989). *Spectator*, Volume 23, Number 1.

Singles Wanted. (July 1989). *Iowa Alumni Review*.

UI Researcher: Singles make good adoptive parents. (April 29, 1989). *Iowa City Press Citizen*.

Agencies may recruit gays, singles as adoptive parents. (April 26, 1989). *The Daily Iowan*.

Study: Recruit singles to adopt special children. (April 18, 1989). *Des Moines Register*, p. 2

Last updated 2-15