

## JANET MANCINI BILLSON, PH.D.

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### EDUCATION

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- PhD, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, 1976; sociology with specializations in qualitative research methods, organizational theory, group dynamics, and social theory; MA, Brandeis University, 1972; sociology.
- BA, Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, OH, 1965; major in sociology; minors in philosophy, psychology.
- Gender in Development/Immigration-Migration/Marginality/Social Change/Resettlement Policy
- Evaluation Research, Social Policy Research, Qualitative Methodologies, Refugee Resettlement and Integration

### HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS

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- External Affiliate, Centre for Refugee Studies, York University, Toronto, Canada
- Affiliate Member, Canadian-American Center, University of Maine, Orono
- Killam Visiting Professor in Canadian Studies, Minnoch Center for Global Exchange, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA, 2021.
- Lester F. Ward Distinguished Contributions to Applied and Clinical Sociology Award (significant contribution to applied sociology over ten years), Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology, 2008.
- Stuart A. Rice Career Achievement Award, District of Columbia Sociological Society, 2001
- Lifetime Award for Sociological Practice, Society for Applied Sociology, 2000
- Alumni of the Year Award, Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, 1999
- Visiting Scholar, Well-Being in Developing Countries Research Group, University of Bath, UK, 2003.
- 2004
  - Honorary Research Fellow, University of Exeter, England, 1981
  - National Institute of Mental Health Field Work Fellow, 1966-1968
  - Woodrow Wilson Fellow, 1965-1966
  - Keynote Speaker, Association for Applied and Clinical Sociologists, Portland, Oregon, October 2019, “Sociology in Practice: The Sustainable Development Goals” and “A Positive Climate for Sociological Practice: Forty Years Later.”
  - Invited speaker: “Strengthening the Mixed Methods Approach: A Systematic and Scientific Approach to Focus Group Discussions,” Organisation for Economic Cooperation in Development (OECD), Paris, 2016.
  - Ministry of Regional Development, Czech Republic, European Union Cohesion Fund, Operational Programme Technical Assistance, 2016: Keynote address, “The Foundations of Focus Group Research: A Systematic and Scientific Approach to Support Evaluation”; Chair, “Evaluation as the Sword of Damocles – How to Use Conclusions and Recommendations”; and “Maximizing Credible Results from Focus Group Discussions.”
  - Invited speaker: “How Program Challenges Affect Program Evaluation,” National Science Foundation ADVANCE Program Workshop, Alexandria, Virginia, 2010.
  - Invited participant: Gender Expert Meeting, UNIFEM-CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States), Istanbul, November 2008: “Enhancing Accountability for Gender Equality Advancement.” Presented “Establishing baseline data and indicators for the gender goals: Harmonized indicators for the MDGS, BPFA, and CEDAW.”

### EXPERIENCE

Group Dimensions International, Director-Owner, 1981 to present. Private consulting firm specializing in evaluation research, policy analysis, and impact assessments using focus groups, key informant and executive interviews, and thematic evaluations. Extensive international and development research experience for both public and private sector clients, including research design, development of instruments, data analysis, reporting, and developing recommendations for organizational, policy, program, and planning strategies. Clients include The World Bank Group, African Development Bank, and Inter-American Development Bank; International Development Research Centre (IRDC Canada) and other Canadian government agencies; Foundation for Advanced Studies in International Development (FASID) Japan; United Nations (UN Women, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, UN Development Program); NGOs; universities, hospitals, and think tanks; US federal, state, and local government agencies; and corporations.

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- *Peace Corps Training Program, Sénégal and Côte D'Ivoire: Field Assessment Officer, 1966*
- *Harvard Graduate School of Education, Pathways to Identity Project, Cambridge, MA: Chief Research Associate, 1967-1969. Funded by U.S. Office of Education and Ford Foundation*
- *Rhode Island College, Providence, RI: Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, 1973-1990; Assistant Dean, Arts and Sciences, 1984-1986*
- *The American Sociological Association, Washington, DC: Assistant Executive Officer; Director, Academic and Professional Affairs, 1991-1994*
- *The George Washington University, Washington, DC: Professor, Sociology and Women's Studies, 1992-1994; Visiting/Professorial Lecturer, 1994-present*

### **CONSULTING: INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT/POLICY ANALYSIS/PROGRAM EVALUATION (selected)**

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Evaluation research, program evaluation, and policy analysis conducted for various clients on policy implementation, gender equity, education and health sector development, and M&E processes. Participatory research, focus groups, and surveys for international development conferences. Strategic planning. EXAMPLES:

- “Needs Assessment: Rural Health Centres, Schools in Northern India,” Solar Village Project, 2024-25.
- “Engagement with Global Civil Society Organizations, World Bank Education Specialists, International Finance Corporation Management/Education Sector Staff, and Global Education Experts” (evaluation of the IFC’s investment role in private education. developing countries), World Bank Independent Evaluation Group, 2021.
- “Qualitative Analysis: Mid-Term Review of the World Bank Group’s Global Gender Strategy,” in-house and virtual focus groups and key informant interviews across all Bank practices and regions, by position/title, World Bank Independent Evaluation Group, Washington, DC, 2020.
- “What Works in Higher Education? An Analysis of Indicators Supported by Research,” Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank, Washington, DC; rapid assessment desk review to isolate critical indicators that will shape the Bank’s work related to the Sustainable Development Goals, 2016; includes gender indicators.
- “The Research Scholars Initiative: Evaluation of the Pilot Program,” Harvard University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,” Cambridge, MA, 2014, 2015.
- “Evaluation of the Innovation Challenge Grant: Organizational Strategies Going Forward,” World Bank Institute, Dale Hill Team Leader, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2014.
- “Enhancing Collaboration, Independent Evaluation Group,” World Bank, Washington, DC, 2014.
- “Staff Learning Needs: Perceptions of Global Health, Nutrition, and Population Practice Staff and Managers,” Health, Nutrition and Population Division, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2014.
- “Strengthening Evaluation to Improve Development Results (Evaluation of IDB’s Evaluation Group)” (Bruce Murray, Team Leader), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Focus groups and executive interviews in IDB Field Offices and with government counterparts in Peru, Guatemala, Jamaica, 2011.
- “Internal Organizational Development Study—Dislocation and Stress,” African Development Bank, Tunis, Tunisia, 2010-11.
- “The CIS Gender Mosaic: Establishing Baseline Data and Indicators for the Gender Goals—Harmonized Indicators for the MDGS, BPFA, and CEDAW,” UNWOMEN (UNIFEM-CIS—United Nations Development Fund for Women, Almaty, Kazakhstan), 2008-2009.
- “Review of the Women’s Rights and Citizenship Program Research Agenda—Latin America and the Caribbean, South/Southeast Asia, Middle East and North Africa,” International Development Research Centre--IDRC (with Ranjita Mohanty and Shoa Asfaha), Ottawa, Canada, 2009.
- “Linking Knowledge to Action: Moving the Millennium Development Goals toward 2015,” Evaluation of the Project Supporting the Achievement of the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific (Phase II), UNESCAP, in partnership with UNDP and the Asian Development Bank, Bangkok, Thailand, 2007.
- “Thematic Evaluation of the WFP Emergency School Feeding Program” (with Martin Steinmeyer), UN World Food Program (UNWFP), Pakistan, Sudan, Congo, 2006-2007.
- “Evaluation of UNESCAP’s Flagship Publication: The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific with Martin Steinmeyer, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (2005, UNESCAP) (Thailand plus survey/telephone interviews throughout region). Follow-up, Bangkok, 2007.
- “Monitoring and Evaluating the Development Effectiveness of World Bank Activities—Progress, Status, and Prospects: Perceptions of World Bank Staff and Managers,” Independent Evaluation Group, Knowledge and Evaluation Capacity Development Unit (IEGKE); for the Annual Review of Operations Evaluation, 2006.

- “Public Sector and Private Sector Perceptions of Tourism Development in Savannakhet Province, Laos,” Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Laos Office, and the Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development (FASID) Evaluator’s Workshop (Savannakhet, Laos), training and research), 2006.
- “Impact of Decentralization and Women’s Political Empowerment on Public Expenditures and Community Development in Rwanda,” Africa Technical Families, World Bank, Kigali and provinces, Rwanda, 2005.
- “Implementing Effective Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Systems: Perceptions of Task Managers and Mid-Level Managers,” Office of Policy and Country Services, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2004.
- “Listening to the City,” citizen input focus groups on plans to rebuild site of the former World Trade Center site, New York City, America Speaks, New York City, 2002.
- “Methodology Review: Assessing the Sustainability of Small-Scale Infrastructure funded by the Tanzania Social Fund (TASAF) through Focus Group Discussions,” World Bank, Washington, DC, 2001.
- “Part 2. Voices of Uganda Stakeholders—Focus Group Perceptions of the World Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy.” In Jayati Datta Mitra, Uganda: Policy, Participation, People. Independent Evaluation Department, World Bank, Washington, DC, 2001.
- “Country Assistance Review—Uganda: Focus Groups for Public and Private Sector Stakeholders on the Impact of Donor Assistance since the Fall of Idi Amin,” Independent Evaluation Department, World Bank, Kampala, Uganda, 1999.
- “Evaluation of the Asia Development Forum (Philippines),” Economic Development Institute, World Bank, Washington, DC, 1997.
- “Perceptions of The World Bank’s Evaluation Methods, Processes, and Products (‘The Billson Report’),” Operations Evaluation Department (now IEG), World Bank: Washington, Colombia, Indonesia, and Zimbabwe). Conducted focus groups and executive interviews in Washington, DC with task team leaders, sector managers, division chiefs, and Board members, and in Colombia, Indonesia, and Zimbabwe with national planning department staff, government ministers, World Bank resident mission staff, and NGOs on attitudes toward the Bank’s monitoring and evaluation approaches; responsible for all phases of the research, from design through interviews to data analysis and report preparation/presentation, 1996.
- “The Research Process in World Bank Projects: The Perspectives of Task Managers,” on research issues in studying girls’ education in Asian and African countries, Asia Technical Division, World Bank (Washington, DC), 1995.
- “Complexities of Involuntary Resettlement Policies in World Bank Projects,” Environment and Social Policy Division, World Bank, Washington, DC, 1993.

#### **GENDER/WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT/MINORITIES/EDUCATION (over 20 studies in Canada, UK and US)**

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Program evaluations, needs assessments, strategic analysis/planning. Details upon request.

#### **RELATED TRAINING WORKSHOPS (recent—systematic, scientific qualitative focus group research)**

**For the World Bank, United Nations agencies, government agencies, universities, hospitals, other non-profits, and corporations. Includes organizing training modules for qualitative research (and one for SPSS) and developing 120-page training manual on research methods, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, executive interviews, research design, data analysis, and report preparation for international organizations:**

#### **International Development Agencies/Foundations/NGOs**

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- ♦ OECD, Paris, France; European Union, Paris, France; Foundation for Advanced Studies on International Development, Laos and Japan; Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (Regional Competence Building for Think Tanks in the South Caucasus and Central Asia, Kazakhstan Institute for Management, Almaty, Kazakhstan; The World Bank/Carleton University International Program for Development Evaluation Training, Ottawa, Canada (10 years); The World Bank Group (Washington, DC--Independent Evaluation Group; Health, Nutrition, & Population/Human Development Network, and Bank departments)
  - ♦ United Nations’ UNESCAP (Participatory Research and Gender Workshop), Bangkok, Thailand
  - ♦ Nexo Bolivia (improving public education), Santa Cruz, Bolivia; US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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## BOOKS/MONOGRAPHS

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- *Refugee Pathways to Freedom: Escaping Persecution and Statelessness*, London: Bloomsbury, 2024. Individual and focus group interviews with Russian Doukhobors, Rohingya, Nepali-speaking Bhutanese (Lhotshampa), and Kurds. Focus on marginalizing impacts of refugee status, camps, policies.
- *Refugee Pathways to Peace: Escaping the Chaos of War*, London: Bloomsbury, 2025. Individual and focus group interviews with Syrian, DR Congolese, Liberian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese refugees. Focus on refugee integration and resettlement policies, and future of the UNHCR and relevant global frameworks.
- *People of Peace: The Doukhobor Story of Persecution, Protest and Reconciliation*, Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press; Spring 2026. Interviews with descendants of pacifists who came to Canada 1899-1902 under the auspices of Leo Tolstoy and the Quakers. Emphasis on marginalization of this sect through attempts to force their assimilation against the original agreements, which eventually led to birth of a terrorist faction (Sons of Freedom) and internal divisions; attention to women's empowerment in traditional and modern society.
- *Inuit Women: Their Powerful Spirit in a Century of Change*, with Kyra Mancini (Boulder: Rowman & Littlefield, 2007; Kindle/amazon.com). A study of the impact of rapid social change and Canadian resettlement policy on Inuit culture, marginality, and women's status and roles in Baffin Island, Nunavut.
- *Female Well-Being: Towards a Global Theory of Social Change*, with Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (London, New York: ZED Books/Bloomsbury, 2006; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005; Kindle/amazon.com). Chapters on Sudan, South Africa, Bangladesh, Thailand, Japan, Colombia, Canada, United States, Iceland, Croatia, and UK.
- *Keepers of the Culture: The Power of Tradition in Women's Lives*. (New York: Jossey-Bass/Lexington Books, 1995/Ottawa: Penumbra Press, 1999).
- *Pathways to Manhood: Young Black Males Struggle for Identity*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers (1996; Routledge). Understanding how interpersonal styles lead to conformity or deviance.
- *Cool Pose: Dilemmas of Black Manhood in America*, with Richard Majors (New York: Lexington Books, 1992; Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, paperback, 1993; 9th printing). Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize; reviewed in Science section, *The New York Times*, and by Andrew Hacker in *The New York Review of Books*. Adolescent identity in the context of post-slavery America.
- *Strategic Styles: Coping in the Inner City* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England, 1980) Identity-formation among African American adolescents; based on Harvard's Pathways to Identity project.

## ARTICLES, REVIEW ESSAYS (selected from 28)

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- "Refugee Camps as Inherently Marginalized Settlements: Rethinking Critical Policies and Essential Outcomes," forthcoming, 2025.
  - "The Failure of Education in Refugee Camps: Gaps, Lifelong Deficits, and Violation of the Rights of Children," with Sophia Catsambis, forthcoming, 2026.
  - "The Sustainable Development Goals as a Roadmap for Sociological Practice," *Journal of Applied Social Sciences*, 2021.
  - "Shifting Gender Regimes: The Complexities of Domestic Violence among Canada's Inuit," *Etudes Inuit Studies*, 30 (2) 2006.
  - "Inuit Dreams, Inuit Realities: Shattering the Bonds of Dependency," *American Review of Canadian Studies*, special issue on aboriginal issues, (Spring/Summer 2001): 283-299.
  - "Changing the Resettlement and Development Equation: Sociology and Social Policy at The World Bank," *The Rural Sociologist*, 1996.
  - "Bringing New Knowledge into the Development Program: The World Bank's Sociologists--An Interview with Michael Cernea," *Development News Weekly Supplement (World Bank)*, Feb. 10, 1995: 43-45.
  - "Keepers of the Culture: Resisting Change and the Women's Movement in Canada," *Women and Politics*, Vol. 14, 1994: 1-34.
  - "The Progressive Verification Method: Toward a Feminist Methodology for Studying Women Cross-Culturally," *Women's Studies International Forum*, 14, 3, 1991: 201-215.
  - "Opportunity or Tragedy? The Impact of Canadian Resettlement Policy on Canadian Inuit Families," *The American Review of Canadian Studies*, 20, 2, Summer 1990: 187-218.
  - "No Owner of Soil: The Concept of Marginality Revisited on Its Sixtieth Birthday," *International Review of Modern Sociology*, Autumn 1988, 18: 183-204.
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### **Chapters and Lectures (group dynamics, marginality, and qualitative research) selected:**

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- “Group Dynamics in the College Classroom,” chapter in Jan Remmerswaal, ed., *Supervising Groups: Group Dynamics in Practice [Begeleiden van Groepen: Groeps Dynamic in Praktijk]*. Houten, Netherlands: Bohn Stafleu von Loghum (Springer), 2015.
- “Focus Group Research in the Context of International Development Evaluation and Impact Assessment,” chapter in *Sociological Practice in International Development*, Jan Fritz, ed., New York: Springer, 2008.
- “Conducting Focus Group Research across Cultures: Consistency and Comparability,” Working Paper No. 27, *WeD—Well-Being in Developing Countries Research Group* (Economic and Social Research Council), University of Bath, England, 2007.
- “The Complexities of Defining Female Well-Being,” Chapter 2 in *Female Well-Being: Towards A Global Theory of Social Change*, with Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (London, New York: Zed Books, 2006; New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005; Kindle/Amazon.Com).
- “No Owner of Soil: Redefining the Concept of Marginality,” in *Marginality, Power and Social Structure: Issues in Race, Class, and Gender Analysis*, Rutledge Dennis, ed. Elsevier Science Ltd., 2005.
- “Voices of Uganda Stakeholders—Focus Group Perceptions of the World Bank’s Country Assistance Strategy,” Part 2 in Jayati Datta-Mitra, *Uganda: Policy, Participation, People*. Washington, DC: World Bank, 2001.
- “A Theoretical Approach to the Marginality of Refugee Status,” Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Meeting, Tampa, Oct. 26, 2023.
- “Refugee Camps as Inherently Marginalizing Settlements,” Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology Annual Meeting, Tampa, Oct. 28, 2023.
- “Living In-Between: The Heavy Burden of Marginality for Resettled Refugees,” Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, Washington, DC, Nov. 18, 2023.
- Distinguished Canadian Annual Address, “The Global Refugee Crisis: Can A Broken System Be Fixed?” Edward W. Minnoch Center for Global Exchange, Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA, Fall 2021.
- “Challenges in Refugee Education: Catching up with Integration,” Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA, Sept. 23, 2021
- “Canada and the Global Refugee Crisis: Can a Broken System Be Fixed?” University of Maine—Orono, ME, Oct. 25, 2021.
- “The Growing Refugee Crisis: Global Structures and Human Rights,” Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA, October 29, 2021, Nov. 1, 2021.
- “Canada and the Global Refugee Crisis, Voices Across the Border Panel: Canada, the United States, and the Global Refugee Crisis.” Scholars from Bridgewater State University, Niagara University, and Brock University, Nov. 17, 2021.
- “The Global Refugee Crisis: Focus on Canada and USA,” Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA, Dec. 1, 2021.
- Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology, Annual Meeting, 2019, Portland, Oregon, “The Complexities of Refugee Camps—Implications for Policy and Practice.”
- “Sociological Concepts and the Sustainable Development Goals—Do We Have a Role in Changing the World?”
- “The Kurdish in Canada: Struggling for Identity, Peace, and Freedom,” Association for Canadian Studies in the United States, Annual Meeting, Montreal, 2019.
- “A Gender Analysis of the Millennium Development Goals—The Health Goals and Targets,” Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, 2008.
- “The HIV/AIDS Pandemic: A Gender Analysis of the MDGs,” Public Lecture, The Martindale Center, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 2008.
- “The Millennium Development Goals—Progress and Challenges in Achieving the Gender Targets by 2015,” Public Lecture, The Martindale Center, Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 2008.
- “Female Well-Being: The Male-Female Differential in Developing Countries,” School of Governance, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands, 2007.
- “Gender, Power, and Ethnicity: Methodological Approaches in *Keepers of the Culture*,” Canadian Studies Program, School for Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1995.
- “Group Methods in Conducting Field Research with Native and Minority Populations: The Progressive Verification Method,” Washington Association of Professional and Applied Anthropologists, Fall 1992.

### **FACILITATION OF SOCIAL POLICY MEETINGS, RETREATS, CONFERENCES—1988 to present**

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