

SUZANNE STRICKLAND
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EDUCATION

MA, Sociology, Boston College
BA, Sociology and Economics, University of Massachusetts

TEACHING AND MANAGEMENT

Queens College, The City University of New York, Department of Sociology: Visiting Professor, 2006-2007;
Chancellor's Lecturer (Certificate of Continuous Employment), 2007-Present.

- *Department management positions, e.g., Associate Chair, Department of Sociology.*
- *Chair, Curriculum Committee.*
- *Nominee, President's Award for Teaching Excellence.*

RESEARCH

Queens College, Investigator and Content Expert, Grant, Stevens Institute, Collaborative Online International Learning Initiative (COIL) 2021. Teach remote classes in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region. U.S. State Department, Stevens Institute-funded initiative finances pedagogical strategies for faculty to instruct CUNY and MENA region students.

Queens College, Principal Investigator: Multiple Professional Staff Congress Grants (PSC) (2008-Present):
Designed and managed a seminal study of the Afghan community in Queens, New York, the densest Afghan community in the U.S. and the repository for the bulk of new Afghan immigrants. The study investigates Afghan attitudes towards assimilation; determines the optimal delivery of public services to facilitate Afghan assimilation; and proposes specific policy recommendations to bridge the culture gap. Multiple grants funded hundreds of qualitative interviews, a survey of respondents from each Afghan ethnic group, a series of focus groups, and scores of participant observations. Results will be used to act as a catalyst for policymakers and U.S. institutions to increase understanding and promote legislative and programmatic responses to immigrant transition.

Queens College, Principal Investigator: Immigration Summer Research Award (IRSA) (2017): The struggle of new Afghan immigrants, a disaffected generation of American-born or American educated children of these immigrants, is increasingly in the headlines. These young people—particularly men—often face a crucible in forming an Afghan American identity, one that can all too often entertain radicalism instead of assimilation. Seven convicted terrorists emerged from the Afghan community, the majority Afghan-born. Only person granted access to these prisoners outside of law enforcement because of the importance of this project.

Queens College, Principal Investigator: PSC Enhancement Grant: (2017) Funded interviews, data collection, and an editorial advisor for the Afghan community study.

Queens College, Mellon Grant. Co-Principal Investigator (2018). Along with Afghan interpreters, designed a series of interviews with Afghan Halal cart, coffee truck workers, and City University of New York (CUNY) principals to investigate the reasons behind low college attainments of Afghan males in Queens, compared to their counterparts in the New York Metropolitan Region. Data suggests more effective recruitment strategies for CUNY, as well as federal and state policy changes that would increase enrollment among this population.

Afghan Investment Group 2006- 2011. Helped organize investment funds and a consortium of companies to jump start the gas and oil sectors, build the biofuel sector, create a venture capital fund and build compatible parts housing for Afghanistan.

- Argued before select U.S. Senate and House committees for a decentralized political structure for Afghanistan and a shift in development policy from spending on *creating unsustainable programs to building economic sectors, “invest not spend.”*

- Presented to Defense Department; private equity investors; the Obama Administration, e.g., Special Advisor to the President on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Afghanistan; selected members of the U.S. press corps, directors of NATO coalition partner development agencies, e.g., The Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD).
- Organized visit for Afghan parliamentary and tribal leaders to Washington, D.C. to meet with select congressional committee chair.
- Attended development conference in London, meeting with Afghan government ministers.
- Helped develop proposal for a Congressional Special Purpose Vehicle to provide funding to offset investor risk in gas, oil, and biofuel sectors.
- Helped develop a House of Representatives Resolution to engage U.S. policy makers to consider a federal system (decentralization) for Afghanistan.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Service (2005). Member of a social science research team charged with creating a “next step” blueprint for federal poverty policy. Findings were incorporated into the congressional reauthorization of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA).

Massachusetts Legislature. Engineered passage of a bill through the Massachusetts Legislature that provided \$350,000 to investigate a Canadian project that used welfare funds as investment capital to start businesses in an area where there was no private investment. These businesses, in turn, hired welfare recipients and did so at less cost to government than direct income transfers.

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS/ PRESENTATIONS

Presenter: Urban Clinic, Hebrew University, “Including Disenfranchised Groups in Higher Education,” 2019.

Panel: Women for Afghan Women, Afghanistan and the Queens Afghan Community.

Moderator: “What Are They Thinking, Palestinian and Israeli Public Opinion on Peace,” with Professor Khalil Shikaki, Brandeis University and Director, The Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research; and Professor Tamar Hermann, Academic Director, The Guttman Center for Surveys at the Israel Democracy Institute, 2017.

Presenter: Mellon Conference, Queens College, “Afghans in Higher Education, 2018.”

Co-Presenter: Eastern Sociological Meeting, “The Technique of Working with Oral Histories,” Eastern Sociological Meetings, New York, 2015.

Presenter: Eastern Sociological Meeting, “Afghan Assimilation, “Preliminary Findings,” Boston, 2012

Presentation: Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center, Graduate Center, City University of New York, “Kill the Paradigm, Win the War,” December 2011.

Presented: “Selected Preliminary Findings, Afghan Assimilation,” Eastern Sociological Meetings, New York, 2010.

Presented: “A First Look into the Afghan Community” Eastern Sociological Meetings, New York 2009.

ARTICLES

Women’s Studies Quarterly, “Three Women Changing the Contours of Their Society” *Spring/Summer 2010*.

APPOINTMENTS AND AWARDS

- ***President Bill Clinton’s Welfare Reform Task Force.*** Advised key congressional committee members and a task force on welfare employment and business investment policies. Also provided consultancy to the Council of Economic Advisors on the finance reforms needed to achieve the proposed employment benchmarks of welfare reform legislation.
- ***Better Government Competition, Pioneer Institute.*** Awarded for a proposal to start a Welfare Reinvestment Initiative (WRI) in Massachusetts, using welfare funds as investment capital to start small businesses that would create permanent jobs for welfare recipients.