

# **Bree Akesson**

**Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University**

Brantford, ON, CA

Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University who conducts research with children and families affected by war and global social work

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## **Biography**

Dr. Akesson's program of research focuses broadly on international child protection, ranging from micro-level understandings of the experiences of children and families affected by war to macro-level studies on child protection systems strengthening. Her past research projects include an evaluation of psychosocial programs for children in Chechnya (2005) and northern Uganda (2008), a mapping of social work education in West and Central Africa (2014), a place-based study on the experiences of Palestinian children and families living in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (2014), and an eight-country baseline study to determine child protection practices and social service workforce needs in southeast Europe (2015-2016).

She is currently the principal investigator for two research projects with families displaced by the war in Syria: (1) a qualitative study exploring the childrearing experiences of Syrian families, and (2) a SSHRC-funded mixed methods study investigating Syrian families' well-being and mobility.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Research, Social Services, Education/Learning

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Refugee and Human Rights Issues, War and Violence, Children and Families, Social Work, Social Work Education, Crisis and Emergency Mental Health Interventions, Psychosocial Aspects of Health, Refugee Resettlement, Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan, Ghana, Lebanon

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## **Affiliations**

Clinical Treatment Facilitator for the Child Psychiatric Epidemiology Group, Faculty Affiliate with the Child Protection in Crisis (CPC) Learning Network, Research Associate with Columbia Group for Children in Adversity, Research Associate with the International Migration Research Centre (IMRC)

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## **Education**

**McGill University**

PhD Social Work

**Columbia University**

MPH Population and Family Health

**Columbia University**  
MSSW Advanced Clinical Social Work Practice

**Columbia University**  
BA Sociology

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Distinguished Dissertation Award**

Awarded from the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS) and University Microfilms International

### **Prix d'Excellence (Award of Excellence)**

Awarded from L'Association des Doyens des Études Supérieures au Québec (Association of Deans of Graduate Studies in Quebec)

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