

Bruce Jansson

Professor, Department of Social Change and Innovation at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Los Angeles, CA, US

Scholarly interests focus on advancing case & policy advocacy in social work, and examining the history practice of social welfare policy

Description

Bruce Jansson joined the USC faculty in 1973 after working as a community organizer and planner for tenants' rights in the state of Michigan and a stint as the Moses Distinguished Research Professor at the City University of New York Graduate Center.

His scholarly interests focus on advancing case advocacy and policy advocacy in social work, as well as examining the history and practice of social welfare policy. He invented the term "policy practice" in the 1984 release of *The Theory and Practice of Social Policy*, which was succeeded by *Social Welfare Policy: from Theory to Practice* (1990), *Social Welfare Policy: from Theory to Policy Practice* (1994), and *Becoming an Effective Policy Advocate* (1999, 2003, 2008 and 2011). Policy practice has since emerged as a recognized intervention, with the Council on Social Work Education now requiring social work schools to teach policy practice. Additionally, the *Journal of Policy Practice* was established by a group Jansson founded.

In 2011, Jansson published *Improving Healthcare Through Advocacy: A Guide for the Health and Helping Professions*, which uses new case advocacy and policy frameworks and more than 100 case studies to explain how health care professionals, including social workers, can better navigate the U.S. health care system for their clients and patients.

In his historical tomes, such as *The Reluctant Welfare State: Engaging History to Advance Social Work Practice in Contemporary Society* (1988, 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2000 and 2011), Jansson takes a chronological look at America's social welfare system, offering insights into an ambivalent social welfare policy and its impact on vulnerable groups – African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, women, and others – that are often overlooked in other texts.

Jansson is probably most well-known for *The Sixteen Trillion Dollar Mistake: How the U.S. Bungled Its National Priorities from the New Deal to the Present* (2001), which *Publishers Weekly* praised as a "lucid, remarkably flowing critical history of American government spending." From Franklin D. Roosevelt to Richard Nixon to Bill Clinton, Jansson writes that America's past 11 presidents have squandered trillions of taxpayer dollars on innumerable useless projects. Jansson spent more than a decade researching and analyzing social and domestic policy through the prism of the federal budget.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research

Topics

Politics and Social Policy, Mental Health, Social Welfare Policy, Behavioral Health, Health Care Policy, Social Service Planning

Affiliations

Who's Who in America, Marquis

Education

University of Chicago
PhD

University of Chicago
MA

Harvard University
MA

Oberlin College
BA

Accomplishments

Jefferson Award, "Influencing State Policy"
2004

Sterling Franklin Award for Excellence in Research, University of Southern California
2004

Named External Examiner for the Department of Social Work, Chinese University of Hong Kong
2002

Driscoll/Clevenger Professor of Social Policy and Social Administration (2001), USC School of Social Work
2001

Outstanding Achievement Award, Social Welfare Policy and Policy Practice Association, Council on Social Work Education
1999

Granted Research Office at Library of Congress, Research Work on National Budget Priorities
1998

**Distinguished Social Work Scholar Award, University of Southern California
1996**

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