

Dr. Ruth Finkelstein

Associate Director at Columbia International Longevity Centre

New York, NY, US

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Biography

Ruth Finkelstein, ScD, translates interdisciplinary scientific knowledge on aging and its societal implications into policy-focused practice. She is Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management, and she is Associate Director of the Robert N. Butler Columbia Aging Center. The goal of her aging policy work is to maximize productivity, quality of life, and health across the life course. She also serves as director of ILC-USA. Prior to joining Columbia, Dr. Finkelstein was the Senior Vice President for Policy and Planning at The New York Academy of Medicine, where she directed the Age-friendly New York City Initiative, which won the 2013 award for "The Best Existing Age Friendly Initiative in the World" from the International Federation on Ageing, as well as the Archstone Award for Excellence in Program Innovation from the American Public Health Association. In 2012, Ruth was named one of the nation's "Game Changers" by Metropolis Magazine for her leadership on the Age-friendly NYC initiative. She also directs the Age Smart Employer Awards program funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Dr. Finkelstein has over thirty years experience in health policy, planning and research, focused on promoting health for vulnerable populations. As an expert in health care financing, HIV/AIDS care, and drug policy, she has led studies that motivated the integration of adherence support and drug treatment into HIV/AIDS care and also authored policy papers that helped provide a public health framework to overturn the Rockefeller drug laws in New York State. She has also provided technical assistance to other cities in the U.S. and around the world on planning, implementation, and evaluation of systems-level aging initiatives. She received her Doctor of Science from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Industry Expertise

Health and Wellness, Public Policy, Research, Writing and Editing

Areas of Expertise

Infectious Diseases, Education and Training, Active Ageing, Lifelong Learning, Ageing in Place, Public Policy

Affiliations

The New York Academy of Medicine Elected Fellow, WHO Advisory Committee on Global Network of Age Friendly Communities, International Longevity Center, Gerontological Association of America, American Society on Aging

Event Appearances

"Longevity, It Takes a City"

SeniorPlanet.org

Education

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

S.c.D Health Policy

Case Western Reserve University

M.A. Anthropology

University of Michigan

B.A. Anthropology

Accomplishments

Best Existing Age Friendly Initiative in the World Award, IFA

2013

Archstone Award for Excellence in Program Innovation

2013

This annual award was created in conjunction with the Aging & Public Health Section of the American Public Health Association. It serves to recognize best practice models in Gerontology and Geriatrics, and is given to innovative programs that effectively link academic theory with applied practice in public health and aging.

Havermeyer Award

2012

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