

Dr. Stephanie Berzin Named Dean of College of Social Sciences, Policy, and Practice

Appointment Comes as Simmons Acquires University Designation

Boston, Mass., August 29 – Simmons, one of the first institutions of higher education in the United States to focus on preparing women for leadership, announced today the appointment of Dr. Stephanie C. Berzin as Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Policy, and Practice. The appointment comes as Simmons College announces it will become Simmons University effective September 1, 2018.

In her new position, Dr. Berzin will work with faculty, students, and the Simmons community to build the future of the College of Social Sciences, Policy, and Practice, capitalizing on Simmons historically strong social work program, while integrating the other programs within the College to inform practice and policy and educate students to go in to their chosen field with a deep understanding of the importance of working across fields to realize social change.

“Simmons University is taking on many of the challenges facing higher education institutes and I am very impressed by the work Helen Drinan and Katie Conboy have done to rethink not just the sustainability of Simmons, but also what successful college and universities need to look like in the future,” said Berzin. “I am very much looking forward to joining the Simmons team in preparing the university and our graduates for continue success.”

Before joining Simmons University, Dr. Berzin served as Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of the Doctoral Program at the Boston College School of Social Work, where she co-led a curriculum redesign as well as the development of the strategic vision for the Macro: Social Innovation & Leadership Program. A chartered academic, Dr. Berzin also served as co-director of the Center for Social Innovation, a Boston College initiative which works to build the evidence-base for social innovation and promote the capacity of existing agencies to respond on social issues; and has developed coursework around social innovation, social entrepreneurship, leadership, and resource development.

“Dr. Berzin’s skills and experience uniquely match the requirements of this inaugural dean position,” said Helen Drinan, President of Simmons University. “She is a proven academic leader, she is deeply involved and knowledgeable about all aspects of the social sciences. We know she will be a strong and innovative leader of the faculty, staff, and students of this new College. We are delighted to welcome Dr. Berzin to campus with high hopes and anticipation of her future initiatives and successes.”

Dr. Berzin graduated *cum laude* from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology, earned her M.S.W. from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. from the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkley.

About Simmons University

Simmons University (www.simmons.edu) is a nationally recognized private college located in the heart of Boston. Founded in 1899, Simmons is the only undergraduate women’s college in Boston, and maintains a history of visionary thinking and a focus on social responsibility. Follow Simmons on Twitter at [@SimmonsUniv](https://twitter.com/SimmonsUniv) and [@SimmonsNews](https://twitter.com/SimmonsNews).