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A scientific advisor at the Institute of Social Sciences Ivo Pilar and full professor of Developmental Psychology, University of Zagreb. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Zagreb in 2002. Her research interests include psychosocial adjustment of children and youth, family and parenting, well-being of children and adults, quality of family and school life, and she has particular expertise in survey research. She is a research team member in project "Determinants of parenting, family relationships and children's well-being", (2007-2013) funded by the Croatian Ministry of Science and in project "Third European quality of life survey: country analyses" funded by Eurofund (2013 - May 2014). Research is aimed at a comprehensive analysis of trends and changes in quality of life in Croatia based on EuroFound's data on Quality of Life surveys conducted in 2007 and 2012 on the representative samples of citizens.

She is the member of management committee of the COST' project "Childbirth Cultures, Concerns, and Consequences: Creating a dynamic EU framework for optimal maternity care" (2011-). She was a principal investigator of project 'Situation analysis of children's and women's rights in Croatia" (2011-2012) and External evaluation of the "For safe and enabling school environment" project in Croatia (2012) (both funded by UNICEF). She was a member of the Croatian research team in "Implementation of children's rights in foster families" (2008-2010), funded by SIDA and EU. She was a member of Youth Research Network and Croatian representative in EU's European Network of Experts on Youth Knowledge (2007-2010). Also, she has collaborated in five national scientific projects financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and about twenty other scientific research projects, eight of which were international.

Since 2007 she is member of the Standing Committee on Ethics of European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA). She is president of Sections in psychology of marriage, family and partnerships of the Croatian Psychological Association. She is member of the expert working group for drafting the National Family Policy of the Ministry of Social Policy and Youth. In 2004 she received the state annual prize in science for significant scientific achievements and 2012 annual prize from Croatian Psychological Chamber. She is member of Editorial Board of Journal of General Social Issues (Društvena istraživanja).

She has published a scholarly monograph independently and is the co-author of another scientific monograph. In addition, she is the co-author of professional books and also the editor of another. She has published 37 scientific papers and 13 expert papers and about ten professional popular papers and reviews. She has participated with 27 papers at international conferences as well as 25 papers at national scientific and professional meetings. Recent relevant publications include: Brajša-Žganec, A., Franc, R. Merkaš, M., Radačić, I., Šerić, M., Šikić-Mičanović L. (2012) The situation of children's and women's rights in Croatia. UNICEF Office for Croatia; Brajša-Žganec, A. Ivanović, D.; Kaliterna Lipovčan, Lj. (2011). Personality traits and social desirability as predictors of subjective well-being. Psihologijske teme. 20, 2; 261-276.; Merkaš, M.; Brajša-Žganec, A. (2011). Children with Different Levels of Hope: Are There Differences in Their Self-esteem, Life Satisfaction, Social Support, and Family Cohesion?. Child Indicators Research. 4, 3; 499-514. Brajša-Žganec, A.; Merkaš, M.; Šverko, I. (2011). [Quality of life and leisure activities : How do leisure activities contribute to subjective well-being?](#) Social indicators research. 102, 1; 81-91.; Raboteg-Šarić, Z.; Brajša-Žganec, A.; Šakić, M. (2009). [Life satisfaction in adolescents: the effects of perceived family economic status, self-esteem and quality of family and peer relationships](#). Društvena istraživanja. 18, 3; 547-564.