

# A UNIQUE LIFE'S WORK

**Researcher, author, photographer  
and humanist Helene Tremblay  
has shared the daily lives of  
families in 116 countries**

Pioneer of the view that to know one another is essential to human evolution, **Helene Tremblay**, initiated the ambitious journey of *presenting Humanity to Humanity*, an adventure unfolding over 3 decades. In 111 countries she has lived with a family representative of the living conditions of the majority. From sunrise to sunset, hour by hour, she has shared the small events that shape daily lives globally.

This innovative research has provided Helen with an intimate knowledge of the people and societies of humanity and those cultural values and environmental factors that inform their being and striving. In this unique work, Helene invites us to challenge existing notions of family and community and in so doing reconstruct a global outlook that holds each citizen of planet earth central to a shared experience. This project has received support from CIDA, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO as well as companies such as Olympus and Body Shop International.

**Author** of 15 books depicting an intimate portrait of daily life worldwide, Helen's books are published and distributed in Canada, USA, Australia and France.

**Photographer** of a series of thematic works narrating life's ritualized moments as lived across cultures, Helene's photographs have been exhibited in France, Germany, twice at the United Nations in New York and at the Cultural Foundation of Abu Dhabi.

**Speaker** Helene Tremblay has engaged over 100,000 participants in conferences spanning Europe, Africa the Middle East and North America through her inspired ability to bring audiences into the homes, lives and heart of humanity.

*A global outlook on the world and a unique comparative reportage on the societies, the families and their ways of life.*



*"This is a documentary of great importance for present and future examination of the family as the central societal focus of mankind at this juncture in our time on earth as we make the Historic transition to a new millennium. "*

**Jan Ralph**  
**Former Chief**  
**Communications & Project Management Division**  
**Department of Public Information, United Nations**



Recognized as one of the activities of UNESCO's World Decade for Cultural Development.



Site: [helenetremblay.ca](http://helenetremblay.ca)  
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# FAMILIES OF THE

# CONFERENCES and Workshops

## “Journey into the heart of humanity”

Wandering the world with a discerning eye of a visitor welcomed in the families of 116 countries, Helene Tremblay invites you to take an extraordinary journey of human discovery. Using evocative photographs this gifted storyteller transports us through timeless human experiences with paradigm shifting impact.

Helene instills a sense of hope, pride and belonging increasing immeasurably our understanding of our human potential. She inspires us to engage in our commitment and act locally and ultimately challenges us to participate in the “humane” evolution.

Bringing us a new way to see the citizen of planet earth, Helene’s conferences propose important reframing and leaves no one indifferent. We come away uplifted, compelled to reach within and beyond.

Helen speaks to congresses, educational institutions and to the public in both French and English. She has spoken to more than 100,000 people worldwide in The Netherlands, England, France, Belgium, United Arab Emirates, Mali, Burkina Faso, the USA and Canada

*Helene’s powerful stories and perspectives are fresh, piercing, funny, and ultimately heart-stirringly human. This is her passion and life’s work; to bring Humanity to Humanity.*  
**Nancy Trites Botkin**



## Conference themes

- The wealth of the Human Spirit - our sense of belonging
- And if we cared for our men first? -Stories of women and men
- A taste of elsewhere - Poverty, wealth and misery
- A journey into the heart of Humanity -
- A journey within



<http://helenetremblay.ca>  
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***It’s an adventure, its awakening and its human.***

*I can tell you that you have had a profound impact on my students. They really appreciated your lecture. One student wrote, “...an absolutely breathtaking and conscious raising experience. I was deeply enthralled and dare I say conspicuously invigorated. I learned something I will take and use for the rest of my life: THINK GLOBALLY.”*

**Michele Companion, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Professor of Sociology**  
**University of Colorado at Colorado Springs**

*Great impact on the way we perceive the meaning of poor and rich and the implication of the notion in our everyday life. Much appreciated.*

**Comments to a MacKenzie University - May 2012**

*Our view of the world changed in one morning....*

**Gloucester County Human Relations Commission,  
New Jersey**

# PUBLICATIONS

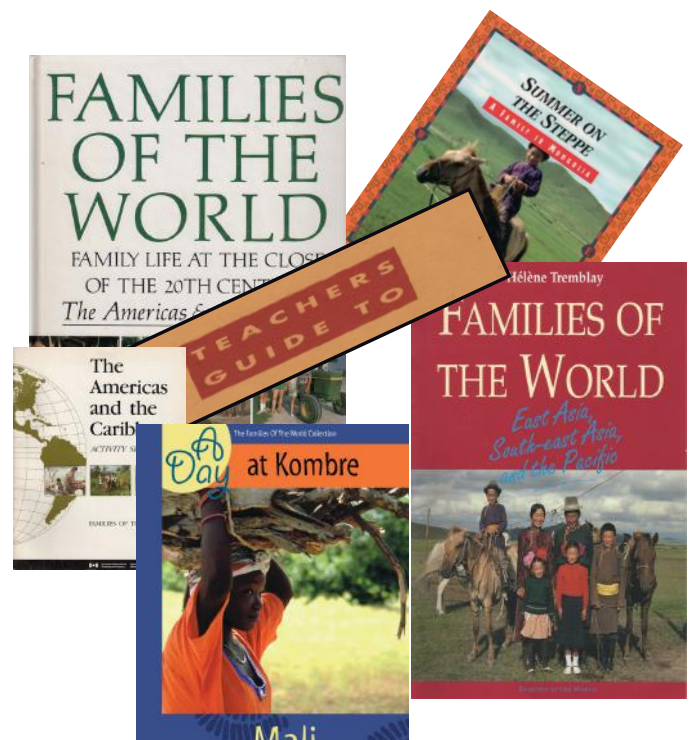
*Documents of human encounters and discoveries*

## A Unique and original concept

In her work *The Families of the World Collection*, Hélène Tremblay documents daily life across 4 continents through that one experience common to almost everyone: the family. She shares her observation in her writings and through her photography. Helene has shared the daily life of families in 116 countries.

- *Journey into the heart of Humanity*, e-book, Human Space, Quebec, Canada, 2012.
- *The Africa Series: A Day at Kombre*, Mali, Families of the World, Quebec, Canada, 2003.
- *Collection of 12 children's books*. Portage & Main Press, Winnipeg, Manitoba, 1997. (english only)
- **The Families of the World Collection,**  
*Family Life at the Close of the 20th Century. Volume 1: The Americas and the Caribbean.* Farrar Strauss & Giroux, New York, USA ,1988.  
*Family Life at the Close of the 20th Century. Volume 2: East Asia, South-east Asia and the Pacific.* Farrar Strauss & Giroux, New York, USA, 1990.

**Notes: Publications are also in French.**



...If there is a collection of books everyone should have in their home it is Families of the World, then maybe we could learn stories about each other that would spark our empathy and let us better understand the value of human diversity.

**The late Anita Roddick,  
Founder, The Bodyshop International**



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# EXHIBITIONS



**Photo library: Every day life in 116 countries.**

- . A very powerful exhibition....
  - . You have done a wonderful and dedicated work for mankind.
  - . You've brought a somewhat ignored and unnoticed world closer to my understanding.
  - . These pictures show your depth in human emotions.
  - . Your exhibit is awesome! The best of the best!
- Cultural Foundation of Abu Dhabi**

2015: Ahuntsic Library, *Montreal*

2010: Maison Théâtre, *Montreal*.

2006: Abu Dhabi Cultural Foundation, *United Arab Emirates*

2005: "La semaine de la Francophonie," *Jordan*

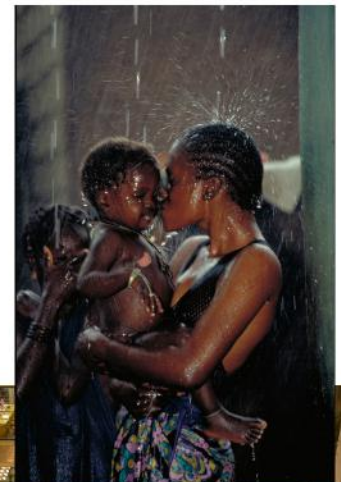
2003: Launching of the Alliance for a New Humanity, *Puerto Rico*

1994: Photo Exhibitions *France and Germany* (AIF)

1988 and 1990: Exhibitions held at the *United Nations' Secretariat, New York*

- . Tremblay's work as a photographer has more potential for changing the world than do many politicians...
- . Helene used her talent and photography to give the world warmth and the feeling that we live together on the Earth.
- . Her pictures were absolutely amazing but what was even more amazing was her analysis of the families and how just through one photo you could envision her entire visit to that family.

**Students comments to pictures, Colorado**



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United Nations' secretariat, New York



Cultural Foundation of Abu Dhabi

# RESEARCH

## Presenting Humanity to Humanity

## LIVING IN THE HEART OF FAMILIES

### FAMILY SELECTION PROCESS

Helene Tremblay's families are carefully researched and selected from detailed statistical profiles provided by experts that reflect the common features of the people in each country, based on income, age and the current housing situation. If the majority of a country's population is rural, the family chosen to represent it is rural. The chosen family earns the average national income and has a number of children that matches the national average.

Other factors that influence choice are lifestyle variables such as access to electricity and other amenities, child-care and basic family structure, are taken into account. A country's major problems, such as deforestation and other environmental issues, population problems, generational conflicts and so on, are also taken into consideration and touched upon.

Once the statistical profile of the family is established, the author then visits the selected city or rural area and makes contact with professionals working at the local level (social workers, nurses, teachers etc). It is through these people that the initial contact with a family is made.



## Helene's Humanity on Flickr

*You are an excellent observer of people and they must have really trusted you as they have spoken very openly to you.*

**Aïcha Bah Diallo**  
**Under secretary-general for Education**  
**Unesco, Paris**

*To be able to meet new people in each country, to enter into their lives and become their friend, and then to have to leave again - that is something which only an exceptional woman could undertake." Families of the World has been years in the making. It shows what one person can do if she has the will. Hélène Tremblay has the will, and she has certainly found the way.*

**Nafis Sadik**  
**Directeur Executif**  
**United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)**

**Recognized as one of the activities of  
UNESCO's World Decade for Cultural  
Development.**

**Recipient of The International Pathfinder  
Award.**

**For an outstanding contribution :  
A Testimonial of IYF Patrons, 1994  
International Year of the Family.**



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# THE PRESS TALKS

*"...it's easy to get hooked."*

**The Times, USA**

*"This unique work offers great insights into contemporary daily life... Highly recommended."*

**Library Journal, USA**

*"Like an ethnographer, though far more fleetingly, Tremblay was privileged to view these lives from inside, and as a result Families of the World is rich in details any novelist would envy."*

**Elle, USA**

*"...my four-year-old son happened upon the book....In my feeble attempts to explain the vast differences among the people of the world, I realized why Tremblay's book ... is important: it satisfies our universal interest in the family."*

**Parenting, USA**

*"Its a wonderful book to cuddle up with children...If ignorance and unfamiliarity are best buds, then knowledge and familiarity are pals too. This book makes steps toward knowing and enjoying people who live very different lives far, far away."*

**The Toronto Star, Canada**

*"This study is, in its own way, the most subversive of these new books..."*

**Boston Woman, USA**

*"Un défi: s'approprier la terre entière pour la redonner, la représenter, à ceux qui l'habitent.. Le Devoir, Quebec*

*"Un projet étonnant, un livre remarquable. Familles du Monde ne vous invite pas à un optimisme systématique et naïf, mais à un extraordinaire voyage dont nous sortons tous remués."*

**Elle, France**

*"Passionnant. Un projet absolument utopique, une idée brillante, un livre de luxe et de référence à la fois, à un prix abordable. Voilà pour les défauts..."*

**Femme Hebdo, France**

## Television and Radio

United States : Good Morning America  
EBusch Show

France : TF1, Ex-Libris  
FR3, Regard de Femme

Belgium : RTL TV1, 13 heures

Switzerland : TVSR, Florence Heiniger

Canada : CBC, Morningside  
CTV, The Dini Petty Show

Québec : SRC,  
- Dutrizac  
- Il fait toujours beau quelque part  
- Indicatif Présent  
TVA , Ad Lib, Deux filles le Matin  
Radio Québec, Table Rase

(and more)

**"Hélène Tremblay's books make Jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days look like a weekend jaunt."  
Daily Herald, USA**



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# PRESTIGIOUS SUPPORT

Since 1983

**We are proud and thankful of the support  
of our prestigious partners.**

## ***INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING***

UNICEF - The United Nations Children's Fund  
UNFPA - United Nations Fund for Population Activities  
UNIFEM - United Nations Fund for Women  
FAO - Food and Agricultural Organization  
IFAD - International Fund for Agriculture Development  
UNESCO - Decade for Cultural Development and  
Education for a Culture for Peace  
CIDA - Canadian International Development Agency  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada  
L'Agence de la Francophonie and Foreign Affairs of Canada  
The ministry of International Relations of Québec  
The European Community - Social Affairs Division  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Sweden  
Le Ministère de la Coopération, France  
Ligue Française de l'Enseignement et de l'Éducation  
Permanente, France  
Institut de l'Enfance et de la Famille, France  
Ministry of the Family, Luxembourg  
NORAD - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation  
United Nations Secretariat for the International Year of the  
Family

**We invite you to become partner**

## ***LOGISTICAL SUPPORT***

UNDP - United Nations Development Programme  
WFP - World Food Programme  
DPI - United Nations Department of Public Information  
IPS - Inter Press Service  
The Asia Society, USA  
The American Forum for Global Education (NGO)  
Canada, Save the Children (NGO)  
Ligue Française de l'Enseignement et de l'Éducation  
Permanente, France (NGO)  
Stageline Canada

## ***FOUNDATIONS***

The Samuel & Saidye Bronfman Foundation, Canada  
Home Foundation, Netherlands  
VSB Funds, Netherlands  
Compton Foundation, USA  
Fondation Paul et Emile Léger, Canada  
COFACE, Brussels

*This is an essential resource, product of an  
exhaustive study, for teaching intercultural under-  
standing. No school, whose goal is education  
for a better world, should be without this book*

**Ian Hill**

**Assistant Director General  
International Baccalaureat Organisation, Geneva**



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