Lene Arnett Jensen received her Ph.D. from the Committee on Comparative Human Development at the University of Chicago, and did a year of postdoctoral work in the Department of Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2005-06, she was a Research Fellow with the Academy for Migration Studies in Denmark. She joined the Department of Psychology at Clark University in 2006. In 2010-11, she held the Nehru Distinguished Chair at the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda in India. In recent years, she has been a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University (2016-17), the University of Bordeaux, France (2017-18), and Tufts University (2019-20).

The aim of Dr. Jensen’s scholarship and professional collaborations is to move research on human development and psychology toward a focus on both what is universal and what is cultural. The central idea is that infants everywhere start out with the same set of psychological tendencies. In the course of development, children learn and respond to the ways of their culture or cultures and become participants in shaping the culture’s future. Dr. Jensen and her colleagues have conducted research with diverse religious, ethnic, and socio-economic groups in countries such as Denmark, India, Thailand, Turkey, and the United States.