



ILLINOIS | College of Education

12th Annual College of Education Graduate Student Conference



2021

Friday, March 5, 2021

education.illinois.edu

James D. Anderson



The motto for our College is “Great Minds Think Illinois” and nowhere is that more apparent than in the caliber of the graduate students we attract. Our annual Graduate

Student Conference, conceived and organized in every detail by our stellar graduate students, showcases not only the progress of their scholarship but their ever-evolving professionalism.

This year’s theme, The Changing Face of Education, reflects our students’ deep understanding of the relationship between research and practice. It also indicates their awareness, as educators are always operating in complex conditions of constant change, and by their choices contribute to shaping futures for

individuals and for society. Our graduate students are prepared in every way to make a significant difference in the world not only by the knowledge they gain during their time at Illinois, but also by knowing how to collaborate productively, engage in difficult dialogues, search out the truth when it comes to complex, and at times, conflicting human agendas, and act with honesty and dignity.

They wrestle with difficult ideas and practices as they explore the ways in which educators, the programs they design, and the systems and policies they enact are capable of transforming learners of all backgrounds. This conference demonstrates the level of commitment of our graduate students, their sense of purpose, and the scholarly community they create in our College.

James D. Anderson is dean of the College of Education, the Edward William and Jane Marr Gutgsell Professor of Education, and affiliate professor of History, African American Studies, and College of Law at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

His scholarship focuses broadly on the history of U.S. education, with a subfield on the history of African American education. His book, *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935*, won the American Educational Research Association outstanding book award in 1990. Anderson was elected to the National Academy of Education in 2008.

In 2012, he was selected as a Fellow for Outstanding Research by the AERA and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. In 2013, he was selected a Center for Advanced Study Professor of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. From 2006 to 2016, Anderson served as senior editor of the *History of Education Quarterly*. He served as an adviser for and participant in the PBS documentaries *School: The Story of American Public Education* (2001), *The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow* (2002), *Forgotten Genius: The Percy Julian Story* (2007) and *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities* (2018). In 2016, he was awarded AERA’s Palmer O. Johnson Award for best article. In 2019, he was awarded the IMPACT award from the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois. The AERA awarded him a Presidential Citation in 2020, its highest award. Additionally, Anderson was sworn into the Board of Trustees at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and inducted into the Stillman College Educator Hall of Fame—both in 2020.



OUR HISTORY AND MISSION

The College of Education Graduate Student Conference started with the aim of building community and encouraging collaboration among graduate students in the college. Initiated by graduate students who desired to create a more inclusive and collaborative research environment, the first fully-fledged graduate student conference was held in April 2010. Each year since then graduate student committees have looked to advance this mission of building and strengthening a collaborative research community. In many ways, the conference has become a space to build networks between faculty, colleagues, and graduate students within the field of education. For the Twelfth Annual Conference, the committee worked to strengthen and expand this mission of highlighting faculty and student research. We conscientiously worked to form a committee inclusive of students and departments across the college as well as reaching out to, and including students from, the larger campus.

In following with tradition of broadening the conversations that are happening here at Illinois, we are excited

to have students from multiple universities across the United States.

In an effort to further our professional development efforts and connections between current students, alumni and faculty, we have provided students with a collaborative panel discussion that includes alumni, faculty, and an Illinois State Senator.

The Graduate Student Conference aims to create space in which we encourage bravery and risk-taking through fearless approaches and innovative practices in education. Our theme, 2021 Learning Reconsidered: The Changing Face of Education seeks to explore modifications to our approaches to education and research in order to effectively reach all students and provide support to educators across age groups with presented initiatives, introduced policies, and changed practices for an ever evolving field.

OUR SPONSOR: DR. K. PATRICIA CROSS

We extend special gratitude to Dr. K. Patricia Cross, a distinguished alumna of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Professor Emerita at the Graduate School of Education at the University of California at Berkeley. She credits her time as a graduate student at the University of Illinois for laying out the foundation for her commendable career, and in that spirit she has continued to make this conference possible through her generous donation. Her career began as Assistant Dean of Women at the University of Illinois, and as Dean of Women and Dean of Students at Cornell University, after which she continued as a Director of College and University Programs and also as a distinguished research scientist at ETS (Education Testing Service).



Dr. Cross then served as Professor of Education and Chair of the Department of Administration, Planning, and Social Policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education before assuming her position at Berkeley, from which she retired in 1995. She authored nine volumes and over 200 other works on classroom teaching and assessment, and has contributed significantly to the theory of adult higher learning. The committee would like to thank Dr. Cross for her continued support in strengthening the community and expanding the conversations that are happening here at Illinois.

2021 KEYNOTE SPEAKER & DISTINGUISHED PANELIST

Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Ph.D.



Cristina Pacione-Zayas, PhD, was appointed to the Illinois Senate in December 2020. Before joining the Senate, she was the Associate Vice President of Policy for Erikson Institute, an academic institution focused on child development where she led Erikson's policy agenda to generate systemic

solutions and equitable opportunities for young children, families, and communities. Dr. Pacione-Zayas is credited with establishing Erikson's Early Childhood Leadership Academy and Community Data Lab—two statewide initiatives designed for Illinois leaders to foster deeper understanding of the importance of a child's early years and how to apply child development science to policies that yield positive outcomes for children and families.

Her prior experience at the Latino Policy Forum as director of education advanced policy informed by research and lived experiences of Latinx and immigrant communities across Illinois. Her service in Chicago Public Schools and Enlace Chicago built a track record for leveraging community partnerships, implementing restorative justice practices, and supporting the leader-

ship of young people, parents, and educators.

Dr. Pacione-Zayas serves on the Illinois Early Learning Council executive committee, Illinois State Team of the BUILD Initiative, and Title V Needs Assessment Advisory Committee for the State's federally-mandated Maternal and Child Health Services. She previously served as board secretary on the Illinois State Board of Education, co-chaired the Kindergarten Transition Advisory Committee of the P-20 and Early Learning Councils, and served on the Governing Board of the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Educational Success Committee of Governor J.B. Pritzker's Transition Team, and the Education Committee of Mayor Lori Lightfoot's Transition Team. She co-chaired The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago for six years, a non-profit organization of local Puerto Rican leaders who influence policy for the self-determination of Puerto Ricans and provided political commentary on WGN TV Chicago during election cycles.



2021 DISTINGUISHED CONFERENCE PANELISTS



Dr. Megan Bates is the Director of the Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC), housed at the Discovery Partners Institute at University of Illinois. She leads IWERC's mission to conduct research on the most pressing statewide educational issues from cradle to career. Before coming to IWERC, Bates spent 11 years developing and researching educational innovations at UChicago STEM Education. Her most notable expertise was in teacher professional learning and educational technology, as she led development and research on the widely-used Everyday Mathematics Virtual Learning Community. Her other R&D work spanned the preK-12 spectrum, including projects in elementary math, financial literacy, early childhood, and science. Bates has served as a leader on numerous federal, foundation, and private grants. She has published extensively on teacher learning, educational technology, and classroom instruction. She holds Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Educational Psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a B.A. in English Secondary Education

from Millikin University.

Dr. Dawn Williams is Professor and Dean of the Howard University School of Education. Her teaching experience spans over two decades where she has taught elementary students, high school students, undergraduate students, graduate students, and Ph.D. STEM faculty. Prior to serving as dean, she served as a department chair and program coordinator of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Dr. Williams is author and co-author of articles and book chapters that highlight the impact of K-12 macro educational policies targeted for urban school reform. She has also published largely in the emergent interdisciplinary field of engineering education. Over the past decade, she has been a recipient of several federal grants totaling approximately \$4.3 million. Her research in the STEM and Educational Policy arena are focused on issues of access and diversity while promoting a conscious social justice agenda. Dr. Williams earned her Ph.D. and M.A. degrees at the University of Illinois and a B.S. degree at NC A&T State University.



Dr. Alisha Lewis is the Director of University Primary School, The College of Education's Preschool-5th grade lab school on campus at The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She was a K-8th classroom teacher for over 10 years, in public, private, rural, and small-urban school communities, often serving as a cooperating teacher for U of I undergrads. Ali instructs elementary social studies methods courses at Illinois and is a 2010 graduate of the Education Policy, Organization and Leadership program. A mother of public high schoolers, a middle schooler, and a grade schooler during the pandemic, Ali is in the thick of it with remote and in-person challenges and opportunities both personally and professionally. Her commitment to democratic practices and meaningful, co-constructed learning with children and adults brings joy to her work, and she is honored to spend time with conference panelists and attendees today.

2021 CONFERENCE PANEL MODERATOR



Dr. Christopher M. Span, received his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2001. He is the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs in the College of Education and Professor in the Department of Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership (EPOL) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is an historian of education and specializes in the educational history of African Americans in the 19th century. He is the author of *From Cotton Field to Schoolhouse: African American Education in Mississippi, 1862-1875* (University of North Carolina Press, 2009), and has published numerous articles and book chapters on the educational history of African Americans. He was a co-editor for the *History of Education Quarterly*, is the immediate past Vice President of Division F (History of American Education) for the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and is the President of the

History of Education Society (2020).

HONG KONG GRADUATE STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In cooperation with the College of Education Office of International Programs and the University of Hong Kong Faculty of Education, we are pleased to announce the participation of two Illinois graduate students to present their research in the Annual Hong Kong Graduate Student Exchange Program. Following a competitive process within the College of Education, these students were chosen as exchange winners of the 2020 Graduate Student Conference.

2020 HONG KONG STUDENT EXCHANGE RECIPIENTS | ILLINOIS



Roberto Rojas Alfaro, is a fifth-year doctoral candidate in Curriculum and Instruction, a Fulbright-LASPAU scholar, and a Technology Innovation in Educational Research and Design (TIER-ED) fellow. His current research focuses on English for specific purposes and

informal L2 learning in mobile environments. Through collaborative and interdisciplinary work, he has designed, co-created, and measured the impact of text-based (e.g., a co-authored textbook for students of Ecotourism published in 2018) and digital (e.g., a mobile App prototype for providing occupational English training to airport customs officials in Costa Rica) tools, mediated over available technologies, to facilitate English language learners' success toward a multilingual education. Also, he is leading two projects, one of them funded through a 2020 COVID-19 grant by the US Embassy in Costa Rica, around co-creating digital tools to help teachers teach in gameful distance learning environments. Finally, he is an active member and speaker of TESOL International Association, a teaching assistant in the College of Education, and co-chair for the 12th Annual College of Education Graduate Student Conference.



Nathan Tanner, M.Ed. As a doctoral student in Education Policy, Organization, and Leadership (EPOL) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Nathan Tanner's research critically examines Whiteness in historic and contemporary educational contexts, as well as illuminates its pernicious influence on ed-

ucational opportunity structures. A major focus of Nathan's research agenda is drawing educators' and policymakers' attention to the influence and intersections of place, race, and religion on schools, past and present. Nathan transitioned to doctoral studies and educational research after working as an ESL Teacher in Tianjin, China, and as a social studies teacher and student government advisor in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is currently finishing up his second year as a Ph.D. student, and recently submitted his Early Research Project. Also, in 2020, Nathan co-authored and published a book chapter on challenging Whiteness in P-20 educational leadership in Springer's *Handbook of Social Justice Interventions in Education*.

2021 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All times listed represent Central Time

March 4

VIRTUAL MEET & MINGLE

7:00 p.m.	Introduction
7:05 p.m.	Trivia and Ice Breakers
7:40 p.m.	Hollywood Squares
7:50 p.m.	Closing Remarks
7:55 p.m.	Networking & Mingling

March 5

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Organizer: Dora Kourkoulou
Introduction by Dr. Yoon K. Pak
Keynote Speaker: State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Ph.D.

TRACK 1 - DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Chair: Dr. Liv T. Dávila
Organizer: Esther Nam

9:35 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.

Translanguaging Practices Among Bi/Multilingual MENA Students in U.S. Schools - **Ayah Issa, Michigan State University**

9:58 a.m. - 10:18 a.m.

Moving Across Trans-sectional Identities: Intersectional & Transnational Identities by Taiwanese Graduate Students in the U.S. - **Meng-Hsien Neal Liu, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign**

10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Patchwork and Paying it Forward: Undocumented Students' Access to Social Capital - **Julie Stuckey, Purdue University**

2021 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All times listed represent Central Time

TRACK 2 - TEACHER AND PARENT TRAINING

Chair: Dr. Catherine D. Tissenbaum
Organizer: Roberto Rojas Alfaro

9:35 a.m. - 9:55 a.m.

Capacity Building Practice of Mongolian Parents of Children with Autism - **James Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

9:58 a.m. - 10:18 a.m.

Conflicting Values: The misalignment of the edTPA to Modern Framings of English Education - **Carrie James, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

10:20 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

Creating digital storybooks and distance learning guidelines to support primary-school English language teachers' reading comprehension skills teaching - **Natalia Ramirez Casalvolone, Indiana University Bloomington and Roberto Rojas Alfaro, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**



2021 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

TRACK 1 - TECHNOLOGY

Chair: Dr. H Chad Lane
Organizer: Dora Kourkoulou

10:45 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.

I Can Tell You What Earth Would be Like without a Moon: Capturing Science Knowledge through Self-Explanations in Minecraft - **Matt Gadbury, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

11:08 a.m. - 11:28 a.m.

Connected and Reflective: The Use of Social Media in an Online Sport and Exercise Psychology Classroom - **Karisa Kuipers, Northern Illinois University**

11:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Disruption and Entrepreneurial Opportunity: Understanding How the Edtech Industry Imagines Education After Coronavirus - **Julie Fitz, The Ohio State University**

TRACK 2 - DEVELOPMENT AND COGNITION

Chair: Dr. Cynthia D'Angelo
Organizer: Sanchari Banerjee

10:45 a.m. - 11:05 a.m.

Exploration Preschool Play Behaviors in an Inclusive Setting - **Amanda Passmore, University of Illinois at Chicago**

11:08 a.m. - 11:28 a.m.

Communication training in Residence - **Ramona Dorough, University of Texas at Arlington**

11:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

Continue learning during the pandemic. High school students' skills and conceptions - **Natalia Fernández, Northern Illinois University**

2021 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

LUNCH PANEL

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Moderator: Dr. Christopher Span

Organizer: LaTanya Kurney

LUNCH SPEAKERS

Dr. Megan Bates

Dr. Alisha Lewis

State Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas, Ph.D.

Dr. Dawn Williams

TRACK 1 - COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Chair: Dr. Denice W. Hood

Organizer: Emily Malouf

1:15 p.m. - 1:36 p.m.

The College Experience in the Time of COVID-19 - **Jenna Fesemyer, and Evan Lorenz, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

1:38 p.m. - 1:58 p.m.

Examining the factors that affect noncredit community college completion rates - **Rhonda Williams, Claremont Graduate University**

2:01 p.m. - 2:21 p.m.

Preliminary Investigation of Undergraduate Research Experience and Associated Outcomes - **Ibukun Phillips, Purdue University**

2:23 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Striving to be Excellent in STEM: Insights from Underrepresented Graduate Students - **Yao Yang, Purdue University**

TRACK 2 - SOCIAL JUSTICE

Chair: Dr. Yoon K. Pak

Organizer: Julia Snider

1:15 p.m. - 1:36 p.m.

Overdisciplined: A Photovoice Study with Black High School Girls - **Jadyn Laixely, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

2021 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

1:38 p.m. - 1:58 p.m.

#Virtually_Woke: Using Digital Media in a Social Justice Literacy Workshop to Support Elementary Students' Development of Critical Consciousness - **Meghan Gowin, Texas A & M University-Commerce**

2:01 p.m. - 2:21 p.m.

A racialized lens to achievement goal theory: Past, Present, and Future Directions - **Destiny Williams-Dobosz, and Hannah Valdiviejas Cohn, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

2021 CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

3:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m

Chairs: Dr. William T. Trent and Dr. Paul Bruno
Organizer: Julia Snider and Ruqayyah Perkins-Williams

Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation: The Landscape of Collaboration Following WIOA, **Hannah Brenner, Emily Malouf, and Ricky Price, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Reshaping dual language teacher training with study abroad experience, **Alicia Cabrera, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Perceptions of Access to Higher Education, **Shawn Hampton, Nicole DelMastro-Jeffery, Brianna Nesbitt, and LaRae Snoddy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Student Perceptions of Helpfulness in Online Course Discussion Forums, **Amos Jeng, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

The Underrepresentation of Minorities in STEM Education, **Kate Neally, Illinois State University**

2021 CONFERENCE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Investigating the relationship of the i-Ready 3rd–grade Computer-based Mathematics Formative Assessment and student achievement as measured by the Maryland College and Career Readiness Standards (MCCRS/PARCC) Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Career 3rd-grade Mathematics end-of-year state summative assessment, Freddie Smith, Notre Dame of Maryland University

Toward the radical reimagining of healthcare systems: An exploration of Black women’s analogous experiences in organizational hierarchy and external social contexts, Cecila Vaughn-Guy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Diversity in Children’s Fraction Explanations in Relation to Teachers’ Reflections, Yeo Eun (Grace) Yun, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

CLOSING REMARKS & AWARDS CEREMONY

4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Organizer: Emily Malouf

Closing Remarks: **Dr. Christopher Span, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs**

Awards Presenter: **Dr. Jessica Li, Interim Associate Dean for Research**



 [#coegsc2021](https://twitter.com/coegsc2021)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Graduate Student Conference committee was a team of graduate students who pulled together in providing a space for the presenting of some of our colleagues' best and brightest research. All committee members have volunteered a large amount of time to make this year's conference possible. Our call for abstracts invited research in education from every discipline of education and our committee is a representation of just that.

We would like to recognize and thank the following graduate students and committee members for their help, hard work, diligence and dedication:

Co-Chairs

- Sanchari Banerjee
- Roberto Rojas Alfaro

Logistics

- Julia Snider
- Angelique Evans

Technology & Communications

- Melissa Kisubika
- Santana Gonzalez
- Bianca Lopez

Awards

- Esther Nam

Selection

- Laura Valderrama
- Ruqayyah Perkins-Williams
- Dora Kourkoulou

Scheduling

- Emily Malouf

Design

- Jenia Allen
- LaTanya Kurney

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