Stanford

Sam Wineburg

Margaret Jacks Professor of Education, Emeritus

GSE Faculty Affairs

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Admin. Support**

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Bio

BIO

Sam Wineburg is the Margaret Jacks Professor of Education and, by courtesy, of History & American Studies, Emeritus, at Stanford University. Educated at Brown and Berkeley, he holds a doctorate in Psychological Studies in Education from Stanford and an honorary doctorate from Sweden's Umeå University. He is the co-founder of the nonprofit Digital Inquiry Group (inquirygroup.org). In 2002, Wineburg founded the Stanford History Education Group, whose curriculum and assessments have been downloaded over 17 million times, making it one of the largest providers of free curriculum in the world. Since 2016 his research has focused on how people judge the credibility of digital content, research that has been reported in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, Time Magazine, BBC, and Die Zeit, and translated into dozens of languages. His research and public scholarship have appeared in such diverse outlets as Cognitive Science, Journal of American History, Smithsonian Magazine, The New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, USA Today and the Los Angeles Times. In 2002 his book, "Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past" won the Frederic W. Ness Award from the Association of American Colleges and Universities for work that makes the most important contribution to the "improvement of Liberal Education and understanding the Liberal Arts." In 2013, he was named the Obama-Nehru Distinguished Chair by the US-India Fulbright Commission and spent four months crisscrossing India giving lectures about his work, and in 2020, his work on digital literacy was honored by UNESCO's "Global Media and Information" award. His latest book, with co-author Mike Caulfield, is "Verified: How to Think Straight, Get Duped Less, and Make Better Decisions About What to Believe Online" (University of Chicago Press, 2023).

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Emeritus Faculty, Acad Council, GSE Faculty Affairs

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Director, Stanford History Education Group, (2002-2023)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 87th Cubberley Endowed Lecturer, Stanford University (2025)
- APA Editor's Choice, American Psychological Association (2022)
- Hewit Distinguished Lecturer, University of Northern Colorado (2022)
- Global Media & Information Literacy Award, UNESCO (2020)

- William and Edwyna Gilbert Award, American Historical Association (2019)
- Inducted, National Academy of Education (2015)
- Honorary Doctorate, Umea University, Sweden (2014)
- Nehru-Obama Distinguished Chair, US-India Fulbright Commission (2013)
- Best of the Best Book Award, Association of American University Presses & the American Library Association (2012)
- James Harvey Robinson Award, American Historical Association (2012)
- Distinguished Lecturer, Organization of American Historians (2009)
- Frederic W. Ness Book Award, Association of American Colleges and Universities (2002)
- Outstanding Contribution Relating Research to Practice, American Educational Research Association (2000)
- Exemplary Research Award, National Council for the Social Studies (1999)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Advisory Board, Center for the Study of Historical Consciousness, Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC (2018 - present)
- Member, Advisory Board, How People Learn, Targeted Report for Teachers, National Research Council Committee (2018 - present)
- Member, Editorial Board, Cognition and Instruction, Journal of the Learning Sciences (2018 - present)
- Trustee, National Council for History Education (NCHE) (2018 - present)
- Fulbright-Nehru Distinguished Chair, Univ. of North Bengal, India (2014 - present)
- Assistant Professor to Professor, Educational Psychology, & Professor of History, Univ. of Washington (1989 - 2002)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- American Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Stanford University , Psychological Studies in Education
- BA, University of California/Berkeley , History of Religion, summa cum laude
- ., Brown University
- L.D.H. Doctor of Humane Letters, Umeå University

LINKS

- samwineburg.com: https://samwineburg.com
- Digital Inquiry Group: https://inquirygroup.org/
- LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/sam-wineburg-40452519/

Research & Scholarship

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Assessment & Evaluation
- Civic Education
- Curriculum Studies & Design
- History of Education
- Learning Technologies
- Teacher Learning

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Sam Wineburg's work engages questions of identity and history in modern society: how today's youth use the past to construct individual and collective identities. His current work focuses on how young people learn about world through digital media; specifically, in the digital Wild West what do they decide to believe or reject? Over the last twenty-five years his interests have spanned a wide terrain, from how adolescents and professional historians interpret primary sources to issues of teacher assessment and teacher community in the workplace. His book, Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts, won the 2002 Frederic W. Ness Award from the Association of American Colleges and Universities for the book "that best illuminates the goals and practices of a contemporary liberal education." From 2007-2009 he was the Executive Director of the Department of Education's National Clearinghouse for History Education, a collaboration between George Mason University, Stanford, and the American Historical Association. With the late Roy N. Rosenzweig, he created the award-winning website, historicalthinkingmatters.org. In 2002 he founded the Stanford History Education Group, a research and development outfit dedicated to improving history instruction in the US and abroad, whose materials have been downloaded over 16 million times. In 2013 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from Sweden's Umeå University and the following year he was named the Obama-Nehru Distinguished Chair by the US-India Fulbright Commission. In 2015 he was inducted into the National Academy of Education. And in 2020, he was presented with UNESCO's "Global Media and Information" Award for his work on digital literacy.

Teaching

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral (Program)

Jon Ball

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Toolbox of individual-level interventions against online misinformation.** *Nature human behaviour*
  Kozyreva, A., Lorenz-Spreen, P., Herzog, S. M., Ecker, U. K., Lewandowsky, S., Hertwig, R., Ali, A., Bak-Coleman, J., Barzilai, S., Basol, M., Berinsky, A. J., Betsch, C., Cook, et al
  2024

- **Critical Ignoring as a Core Competence for Digital Citizens.** *Current directions in psychological science*
  Kozyreva, A., Wineburg, S., Lewandowsky, S., Hertwig, R.
  2023; 32 (1): 81-88

- **Verified: How to Think Straight, Get Duped Less, and Make Better Decisions about What to Believe Online**
  Caulfield, M., Wineburg, S.
  University of Chicago Press.2023

- **Lateral Reading on the Open Internet: A District-Wide Field Study in High School Government Classes** *JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY*
  Wineburg, S., Breakstone, J., McGrew, S., Smith, M. D., Ortega, T.
  2022

- **Students' Civic Online Reasoning: A National Portrait** *EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHER*
  Breakstone, J., Smith, M., Wineburg, S., Rapaport, A., Carle, J., Garland, M., Saavedra, A.
  2021

- **Lateral Reading and the Nature of Expertise: Reading Less and Learning More When Evaluating Digital Information** *TEACHERS COLLEGE RECORD*
  Wineburg, S., Mcgrew, S.
  2019; 121 (11)

- **Improving university students' web savvy: An intervention study** *BRITISH JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY*
  McGrew, S., Smith, M., Breakstone, J., Ortega, T., Wineburg, S.
  2019; 89 (3): 485–500
- **What's Difficult About Difficult History? Afterword** *TEACHING AND LEARNING THE DIFFICULT PAST: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES*
  Wineburg, S.
  edited by Gross, M. H., Terra, L.
  2019: 290–92
- **Why we need a new approach to teaching digital literacy** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  Breakstone, J., McGrew, S., Smith, M., Ortega, T., Wineburg, S.
  2018; 99 (6): 27–32
- **What Is Learned in College History Classes?** *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY*
  Wineburg, S., Smith, M., Breakstone, J.
  2018; 104 (4): 983–93
- **Can Students Evaluate Online Sources? Learning From Assessments of Civic Online Reasoning** *THEORY AND RESEARCH IN SOCIAL EDUCATION*
  McGrew, S., Breakstone, J., Ortega, T., Smith, M., Wineburg, S.
  2018; 46 (2): 165–93
- **Why Learn History (When It is Already on Your Phone)**
  Wineburg, S.
  University of Chicago.2018
- **Why historical thinking is not about history** *History News*
  Wineburg, S.
  2016; 71 (2): 13-16
- **Disciplinary Literacy in History A Toolkit for Digital Citizenship** *JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT & ADULT LITERACY*
  Wineburg, S., Reisman, A.
  2015; 58 (8): 636-639
- **Beyond the bubble in history/social studies assessments** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  Breakstone, J., Smith, M., Wineburg, S.
  2013; 94 (5): 53-57
- **Undue Certainty: Where Howard Zinn's** *American Educator*
  Wineburg, S.
  2013; 36 (4): 27-34
- **Between Veritas and Communitas: Epistemic Switching in the Reading of Academic and Sacred History** *JOURNAL OF THE LEARNING SCIENCES*
  Gottlieb, E., Wineburg, S.
  2012; 21 (1): 84-129
- **Reading like a historian: Teaching literacy in middle and high school history classrooms**
  Wineburg, S. S., Martin, D., Monte-Sano, C.
  Teachers College Press.2012
- **Sam Wineburg, critic of history education** *AMERICAN HISTORY*
  Carlson, P., Wineburg, S.
  2011; 46 (5): 28–29
- **Was Bloom's Taxonomy Pointed in the Wrong Direction?** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  Wineburg, S., Schneider, J.
  2009; 91 (4): 56-61
- **Goodbye, Columbus** *SMITHSONIAN*

Wineburg, S.
2008; 39 (2): 98-?

- **Who is a famous American? Charting historical memory across the generations** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  Wineburg, S., Monte-Sano, C.
  2008; 89 (9): 643-648
- **"Famous Americans": The changing pantheon of American heroes** *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY*
  Wineburg, S., Monte-Sano, C.
  2008; 94 (4): 1186-1202
- **THE ROLE OF SUBJECT-MATTER KNOWLEDGE IN TEACHER ASSESSMENT** *ASSESSING TEACHERS FOR PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION*
  Wineburg, S.
  edited by Stake, R. E., Kushner, S., Ingvarson, L., Hattie, J.
  2008; 11: 113–38
- **Forrest gump and the future of teaching the past** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  Wineburg, S., Mosborg, S., Porat, D., Duncan, A.
  2007; 89 (3): 168–77
- **Common belief and the cultural curriculum: An intergenerational study of historical consciousness** *AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL*
  Wineburg, S., Mosborg, S., Porat, D., Duncan, A.
  2007; 44 (1): 40-76
- **Comparative understanding of school subjects: Past, present, and future** *REVIEW OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH*
  Stevens, R., Wineburg, S., Herrenkohl, L. R., Bell, P.
  2005; 75 (2): 125-157
- **What does NCATE have to say to future history teachers? Not much** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  Wineburg, S.
  2005; 86 (9): 658-665
- **Reading and rewriting history** *EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP*
  Wineburg, S., Martin, D.
  2004; 62 (1): 42-45
- **Crazy for history** *JOURNAL OF AMERICAN HISTORY*
  Wineburg, S.
  2004; 90 (4): 1401-1414
- **Slaves on screen: Film and historical vision. (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF SOCIAL HISTORY*
  Book Review Authored by: WINEBURG, S.
  2002; 36 (1): 218-220
- **Toward a theory of teacher community** *TEACHERS COLLEGE RECORD*
  Grossman, P., WINEBURG, S., Woolworth, S.
  2001; 103 (6): 942-1012
- **Knowing, teaching, and learning history: National and international perspectives**
  Stearns, P. N., Seixas, P. C., Wineburg, S.
  NYU Press.2000
- **Historical thinking and other unnatural acts** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  Wineburg, S.
  1999; 80 (7): 488–99
- **Reading Abraham Lincoln: An expert/expert study in the interpretation of historical texts** *COGNITIVE SCIENCE*
  Wineburg, S.

1998; 22 (3): 319–46

- **WRINKLES IN TIME AND PLACE - USING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY TEACHERS** *AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL*
  Wilson, S. M., WINEBURG, S. S.
  1993; 30 (4): 729-769

- **MODELS OF WISDOM IN THE TEACHING OF HISTORY** *PHI DELTA KAPPAN*
  WINEBURG, S. S., Wilson, S. M.
  1988; 70 (1): 50-58

- **Civic Preparation for the Digital Age: How College Students Evaluate Online Sources about Social and Political Issues** *JOURNAL OF HIGHER EDUCATION*
  Breakstone, J., Smith, M., Ziv, N., Wineburg, S.
  2022