

MITCHELL L. STEVENS
Graduate School of Education
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Faculty Appointments

- 2009- Associate to Professor of Education and (by courtesy) Sociology, Stanford University
Convener, Pathways Network, pathways.stanford.edu
Convener, [Education and Learning for Longer Lives](#)
- 2003-09 Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York University; (Associate, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Science)
- 1998-03 Assistant to Associate Professor, Sociology, Hamilton College
- 1996-98 Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology, Hamilton College
- 1995-96 Visiting Lecturer, Sociology, St. Lawrence University (Canton, New York)

Administrative & Visiting Appointments

- 2024-2025 Faculty Fellow, [Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences](#), Stanford University
- 2021- Faculty Co-Director (Education), [Stanford Center on Longevity](#)
- 2019-2022 Faculty Chair of MA/MPP, MA/MBA, and Policy, Organization and Leadership Studies (POLS), Graduate School of Education, Stanford University
- 2015-2018 Director, Center for Advanced Research through Online Learning (CAROL), Stanford University
- 2015-16 Director of Data Policy, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning (VPTL), Stanford University
- 2013-15 Director, Digital Research and Planning, Graduate School of Education and Vice Provost for Online Learning, Stanford University
- 2010-17 Director, Scandinavian Consortium for Organizational Research (SCANCOR)

Education

Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University, 1996

Thesis: "Kingdom and Coalition: Hierarchy and Autonomy in the Home Education Movement"

M.A., Sociology, Northwestern University, 1989

B.A., Sociology, Macalester College, 1988 (Magna Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa)

Thesis: "The Work of Art: A Case Study of a Women's Art Collective"

Scholarship

* Denotes student coauthor. See page 15 for editorials, reports, reviews and short publications.

books (all peer-reviewed)

Mitchell L. Stevens, Cynthia Miller-Idriss, and Seteney Shami. 2018. *Seeing the World: How Universities Make Knowledge in a Global Era*. Princeton: Princeton University Press (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology).

-- Mandarin translation, 2022

-- selected for plenary session at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), San Francisco, April 2019

-- selected for author/critics sessions at the annual meetings of the Social Science History Association, Phoenix, November 2018, and at the Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, April 2018

-- long-form review, Niu Ke, "Area Studies, Disciplinary Systems, and Higher Education Institutions." *China International Strategy Review* 12 (2019): 222-231.

-- long-form review, George Steinmetz, "Methodological Homelandism." *Contemporary Sociology* 48 (May 2019):244-258

-- long-form review, Carolyn Dever, "[The Future of the Global University](#)," *Public Books*, 6 July 2018.

Michael W. Kirst and **Mitchell L. Stevens** (editors). 2015. *Remaking College: The Changing Ecology of Higher Education*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Mitchell L. Stevens. 2007. *Creating a Class: College Admissions and the Education of Elites*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

-- Pierre Bourdieu Award, Education Section, American Sociological Association, 2009

-- Mirra Komarovsky Award, Eastern Sociological Society, 2008

Mitchell L. Stevens. 2001. *Kingdom of Children: Culture and Controversy in the Homeschooling Movement*. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press (Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology).

-- finalist, C. Wright Mills Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2002

-- long-form review, Margaret Talbot, "[The New Counterculture](#)," The Atlantic, November 2002

peer-reviewed journal articles

Ioana Sendriou and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. Forthcoming. "What Was the Cold War? Theorizing a Medium Durée." *Social Science History*.

Emily J. Levine and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2024. "[Neither State nor Market: Competitive Emulation in Higher Education](#)." *Studies in Higher Education*.

Tobias Dalberg, Kalena Cortes, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2024. "[Major Selection as Iteration: Observing Gendered Patterns of Major Selection under Elective Curriculums](#)." *AERA Open*.

Rene F. Kizilcec, Rachel B. Baker, Elizabeth Bruch, Kalena E. Cortes, Laura T. Hamilton, David Nathan Lang, Zachary A. Pardos, Marissa E. Thompson and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2023. "[From pipelines to pathways in the study of academic progress](#)." *Science* 380,6643:344-347.

David Nathan Lang,* Alexander Wang,* Nathan Dalal,* Andreas Paepcke, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2022. "[Forecasting Undergraduate Majors: A Natural Language Approach](#)." *AERA Open*.

Ben Gebre-Medhin, Sonia Giebel,* AJ Alvero,* anthony Antonio, Ben Domingue, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2022. "[Application Essays and the Ritual Production of Merit in US Selective Admissions](#)." *Poetics*.

Monique H. Harrison,* Philip Hernandez,* and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2022. "[Should I Take Math 101? Content Repetition as an Academic Strategy in Elective Curriculums](#)." *Sociology of Education* 95:133-152.

AJ Alvero,* Ben Gebre-Medhin, Sonia Geibel,* anthony lising antonio, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**, and Ben Domingue. 2021. "[Essay content and style are strongly related to household income and SAT scores: Evidence from 60,000 undergraduate applications](#)." *Science Advances* 7(42).

Mitchell L. Stevens and Ekaterina Shibanova. 2021. "[Varieties of State Commitment to Higher Education since 1945: Toward a Comparative-Historical Social Science of Postsecondary Expansion](#)." *European Journal of Higher Education* 11:219-238.

Alex Kindel* and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2021. "[What is Educational Entrepreneurship? Strategic Action, Temporality, and the Expansion of US Higher Education](#)." *Theory & Society* 50:577-605.

Soranthan Chaturapruek, Tobias Dalberg, Monique H. Harrison,* Marissa E. Thompson,* Ramesh Johari, **Mitchell L. Stevens**, and Rene F. Kizilcec. 2021. "[Studying Undergraduate Course Consideration at Scale](#)." *AERA Open* 7: 2332858421991148.

Krystal Laryea,* Andreas Paepcke, Kathy Mirzaei and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2021. "[Ambiguous Credentials: How Learners Use and Make Sense of Massively Open Online Courses](#)." *Journal of Higher Education* 92(4):596-622.

- Charlie Eaton and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2020. "Universities as Peculiar Organizations" (w/ Charlie Eaton), *Sociology Compass* 14(3): e12768.
- Ethan Hutt* and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2017. "From Soldiers to Students: The Tests of General Educational Development (GED) as Diplomatic Measurement." *Social Science History* 41:731-755.
- Mitchell L. Stevens** and Ben Gebre-Medhin. 2016. "Association, Service, Market: Higher Education in American Political Development." *Annual Review of Sociology* 42:121-142.
- Arik Lifschitz, Michael Sauder, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2014. "Football as a Status System in US Higher Education." *Sociology of Education* 87:204-219.
- Wendy Nelson Espeland and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2008. "A Sociology of Quantification." *European Journal of Sociology* XLIX:401-436.
- Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2008. "Culture and Education." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 619:97-113.
- Mandarin translation, 2019
- Mitchell L. Stevens**, Elizabeth A. Armstrong, and Richard Arum. 2008. "Sieve, Incubator, Temple, Hub: Empirical and Conceptual Advances in the Sociology of Higher Education" (34:127-151).
- Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2003. "The Normalisation of Homeschooling in the United States," *Evaluation & Research in Education* 17:90-100.
- Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2002. "The Organizational Vitality of Conservative Protestantism." *Research in the Sociology of Organizations* 19:337-360.
- Wendy Nelson Espeland and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 1998. "Commensuration as a Social Process." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24:313-343.
- Carol A. Heimer and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 1997. "Caring for the Organization: Social Workers as Front-Line Risk Managers in Neonatal Intensive Care Units." *Work and Occupations* 24:133-163.
- Mitchell L. Stevens**. 1992. "Susan Krieger's The Mirror Dance: Lessons of a Deficient Sociology." *Studies in Symbolic Interaction* 13:83-100.

peer-reviewed conference publications

- AJ Alvero,* Noah Arthurs,* anthony antonio, Ben Gebre-Medhin, Sonia Geibel, Ben Domingue, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2020. "AI and Holistic Review: Informing Human Reading in College Admissions." Proceedings of the 2020 AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES).
- Nathaniel V. Gruver,* Ali Malik,* Brahm Capoor, Chris Piech, **Mitchell L. Stevens**, and Andreas Paepcke. 2019. "Using Latent Variable Models to Observe Academic Pathways." Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Educational Data Mining (EDM).

Geoffrey Angus,* Richard Martinez,* **Mitchell L. Stevens** and Andreas Paepcke. 2019. “Via: Illuminating Academic Pathways at Scale” In Proceedings of the Sixth Annual ACM Conference on Learning at Scale (L@S).

Soranthan Chaturapruek,* Thomas S. Dee, Ramesh Johari, Rene F. Kizilcec, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2018. “How a Data-Driven Course Planning Tool Affects College Students’ GPA: Evidence from Two Field Experiments” In Proceedings of the Fifth Annual ACM Conference on Learning at Scale (L@S).

-- Best Paper Award, L@S 2018

book chapters and publications of practice

Mitchell L. Stevens, Mitchell L. Stevens, Galeana Drew Alston, Marie Cini, Sean Gallagher, Ilana Horwitz, Cathrael Kazin, Pamela Clouser McCann, Zach Pardos, Elizabeth A. Roumell, Hadass Sheffer, Holly Zanville, Richard Settersten. 2022. [*An Applied Science to Support Working Learners*](#). Report to the National Science Foundation re Award # 2128165.

Emily J. Levine and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2022. “[Negotiating the Academic Social Contract](#).” *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning* 54:2-7.

Ilana M. Horwitz and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2022. “[Reimagining Education for a New Map of Life](#).” Stanford Center on Longevity.

Mitchell L. Stevens and Mikkael Börjesson. 2021 “[Digitization and Strategic Renewal of Higher Education](#).” Sweden-USA Project for Collaboration, Academic Leadership and Innovation in Higher Education.

Richard Arum and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2020. [*Building Tomorrow's Workforce Today: Twin Proposals for the Future of Learning, Opportunity and Work*](#). Washington, D.C.: Hamilton Project/Brookings Institution.

Mitchell L. Stevens and Sonia Giebel. “The Paradox of the Global University.” Pp. 123-137 in Sharon Rider, Michael Peters, Mats Hyvönen and Tina Besley, editors, *World Class Universities: A Contested Concept*. Singapore: Springer Nature.

Mitchell L. Stevens. 2018. “Higher Education Politics after the Cold War.” *Change* 50:3-4:13-17.

Mitchell L. Stevens. 2018. “[Research Universities and the Future of Work](#).” *Issues in Science & Technology* 35(Fall):45-52.

Martin Kurzweil and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2018. “[Setting the Table: Responsible Use of Student Data in Higher Education](#)” (w/ Martin Kurzweil). *EDUCAUSE Review* 53.

Mitchell L. Stevens. 2018. “What Next for the Sociology of Education?” In Jal Mehta and Scott Davies, editors, *Education in a New Society: Renewing the Sociology of Education*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Mitchell L. Stevens. 2015. "The Changing Ecology of US Higher Education" Pp. 1-18 in Michael W. Kirst and Mitchell L. Stevens, editors, *Remaking College: The Changing Ecology of Higher Education*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Mitchell L. Stevens and Josipa Roksa. 2011. "The Diversity Imperative in Elite Admissions." Pp. 63-73 in Lisa M. Stulberg and Sharon Lawner Weinberg, editors, *Diversity in American Higher Education*. New York: Routledge.

in progress

"Diversity Culture in US Higher Education" (with Krystal Laryea* and Philip Gorski)

"Navigating Complexity: Academic Selection in Elective Curriculums" (w/ Leon Marbach*, Cait Hayward and Rene Kizilcec)

"University-wide Intervention Promotes Intellectual Breadth through Academic Exploration" (w/ Tum Chaturapruerk, Rene Kizilcec, and Ramesh Johari)

Guest editorships

Mitchell L. Stevens and Ioana Sendriou. Forthcoming. "What Was the Cold War?" Special issue of *Social Science History*.

Mitchell L. Stevens and Emily J. Levine. 2022. "[Hard Bargains: The Truman Commission Report at 75](#)," a special issue of *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*.

Mitchell L. Stevens and Ekaterina Shibanova. 2021. "[Higher Education and State-Building since 1945: Comparative Perspectives](#)," a special issue of *European Journal of Higher Education*.

Grants, fellowships, honors, awards

2022 Office of Community Engagement, Stanford University, "A Living Lab for Sustainable Employment among Stanford's Working Learners, \$50,000

College Futures Foundation, "Student Engagement with and Experiences of University Chatbot Communication" (co-PIs Lindsey Page [Brown] and Sebastian Munoz-Najar [Harvard]), Stanford sub-award \$253,087

Strada Education Network, "Envisioning Postsecondary Research and Policy for a New Era," \$326,087

Stanford Impact Labs, "A Peninsula Partnership to Serve Working Learners," \$50,000

2021 National Science Foundation, "Framing an Applied Science to Support Adult Working Learners" (co-PI Dan Schwartz), \$49,828

Stanford University, Cultivating Humanities and Social Sciences Program, "Recovering the University as a Public Good (co-PIs Emily Levine and Caroline Winterer), \$30,000

- 2019 The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, “Preparing the New Teacher Workforce to Foster Deeper Learning,” \$1,200,000
- The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, “China in the World: Rethinking International Regional Inquiry for the Twenty-first Century,” \$37,962
- 2018 Institute for Research in the Social Sciences at Stanford University, “A Distributed Program for Studying College Pathways” (co-PIs Ramesh Johari and John C. Mitchell), \$10,000
- Stanford University, “Carta: Studying College Pathways at Scale” (co-PI w/ Ramesh Johari, \$200,000
- 2017 Stanford University, “Carta: Studying College Pathways at Scale” (co-PI w/ Ramesh Johari), \$170,000
- UPS Endowment at Stanford University, "Project on the Future of Work and Learning in Northern California," \$50,000
- Institute for Research in the Social Sciences at Stanford University, "Stanford FLOW," \$10,000
- 2016 UPS Endowment at Stanford University, “Seeding a Bay Area Human Capital Lab at Stanford University,” \$50,000
- Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University, “Seeding a Bay Area Human Capital Lab at Stanford University,” \$18,365
- Spencer Foundation, "Psychometric Considerations of Item Quality in a Digitally Mediated Learning Environment" (co-PI; PI Ben Domingue), \$50,000
- College Futures Foundation, "Measuring Postsecondary Regional Capacity in California," \$5,000
- 2015 Hewlett/Stanford Cyber Initiative, “Academic Records in the Digital Era” (Principal Investigator; co-PI’s Tom Black and Dan Boneh), \$55,000
- 2010 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, “Reform and Innovation in the New Ecology of U.S. Higher Education” (Principal Investigator; Co-PI Michael W. Kirst), \$1,433,133
- 2005 American Sociological Association Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, “A New Research Agenda for the Sociology of Higher Education” (with Richard Arum and Elizabeth A. Armstrong), \$7,000; matching funds from NYU / Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy, \$7,000
- International Visitors Program, New York University, to support the residency of Yasemin Soysal (University of Essex), \$5,000
- 2000 National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow, “Commensuration and Decision Making in College Admissions,” \$45,000

- 1999 Class of 1963 Excellence in Teaching Award, Hamilton College, \$9,000
- 1993 Dissertation Year Grant, Northwestern University, \$1000
- 1993 Indiana University Center on Philanthropy, “Ideology and Organization in the Home Education Movement,” \$4,750
- 1992 MacArthur Dual Authorship Grant, for collaborative research with faculty, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, \$2,500
- 1992 Spencer Foundation Dissertation Year Fellowship, \$15,000
- 1988 University Fellow, Northwestern University, full tuition and stipend
- 1988 Phi Beta Kappa

Invited/keynote lectures (selected):

- “The New World of Alternative Credentials,” Human Resources Policy Institute, Questrom School of Business, Boston University, 3 May 2024
- “Between Stanford and America: Negotiating the Academic Social Contract” (with Emily J. Levine), Stanford Board of Trustees, Carmel, CA, 8 April 2024
- “What is a University? Higher Education as a Peculiar Institution,” Copenhagen Business School, 15 December 2023
- “Pathways: Building a Social Science of Sequences in Schools and Labor Markets,” University Bologna, 12 December 2023
- “The Evolving Politics of US Selective Admissions,” SciencesPo, Paris, 4 December 2023
- “The Politics of Nationhood: A Theory of Diversity Culture in the United States,” SciencesPo, Paris, 1 December 2023
- “After Triple Helix: Hard Facts about ‘Soft’ Factors in Regional Economic Development,” Peking University, 19 December 2023; Chen Yidan Foundation, Shenzhen, China, 22 April 2023
- “Three Scenarios for the Future of the Academic Metropole,” at Peking University, 4 December 2022
- “Five Accounts for the Provision of Higher Education in the United States,” at the Department of Sociology, The Johns Hopkins University, 29 November 2022; at the Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, 29 April 2022
- “Whose Data Are They?” Keynote address to Workshop on Data Governance, Colorado University System, 29 October 2021
- “Massive: How MOOCs Changed the Landscape of Education Research,” at the University of Toronto, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, 27 October 2021
- “Digitization and Strategic Renewal of Universities,” CALIE/Sweden-USA Project for Collaboration, Academic Leadership and Innovation in Higher Education, conference 18 May 2021
- “Learning and the Life Course,” at the Copenhagen Business School, 4 March 2021
- “Application Essays and the Performance of Merit in Selective Admissions,” at UC-Davis, 28 October 2020
- “What’s up with the Elective Curriculum?” at the Graduate School of Education, UC-Berkeley, 30 September 2019
- “Universities as Peculiar Organizations,” at Peking University, 25 May 2019; at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow, 24 October 2019
- “Carta: Navigating Academic Anarchy,” at Harvard University, 25 October 2018

- “Intramural Advocates in Selective Admissions,” at Harvard University, 25 October 2018
- "Building a Lifelong Learning Marketplace," at Peking University, 12 June 2017; at the Copenhagen Business School, 18 May 2017
- “What in the World is Happening to Higher Education?” at the American Sociological Association Chairs' Conference, Montreal, 11 August 2017; at the OpenEdx Conference, Stanford University, 15 June 2016; at ATX, Stanford University, 3 October 2016; at ITHAKA, New York City, 20 November 2016
- “The Paradox of the Global University,” at Uppsala University, 6 October 2017; at Stockholm University, 27 April 2016
- “Education without States,” at Online EDUCA Berlin 6 December 2013; at the Science Council of Japan 26 February 2014; at the University of Michigan 31 October 2014; at Coursera 26 March 2015; at Noodle Education 17 July 2015
- “Two Academic Revolutions,” at the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, April 2014; Coursera 12 September 2013; at UC-Merced 21 March 2013
- “Learning Research in the Digital Era,” at Stockholm School of Economics, 19 April 2013; at the AERA annual meetings, San Francisco, 30 April 2013
- “Organized Anarchies in an Age of Accountability,” opening keynote, Chairs Conference, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, 19 August 2011
- “Preserving Knowledge,” at various universities throughout Scandinavia, May/June 2010; at the University of British Columbia 6 September 2011
- “A Sociology of Quantification,” at NYU Abu Dhabi, 21 January 2009 (w/ Wendy Nelson Espeland); at the University of Haifa, 21 April 2009; at Hebrew University, 4 May 2009
- “Universalism, Individualism, and Categorialism in Academic Evaluation,” at Science Po, Paris, 17 June 2009; at the University of Lausanne (conference keynote), 19 June 2009
- “Is College Welfare?” at Skidmore College 2 October 2008; at Hamilton College 30 October 2008
- “Pecking Orders, World Wars, and Big Changes in U.S. Higher Education,” at Gresham College, London, 25 November 2004
- “Three Lessons of Home Education,” keynote address for the seminar, “l'Éducation à Domicile Dans une Société de Savoirs: Enjeux Politiques, Pédagogiques et Sociaux,” at the 72nd Congrès de l'ACFAS, University of Quebec at Montreal, 13 May 2004
- “If Home Education Were a School Reform Movement,” at the Columbia University Seminar on Innovation in Education, 9 March 2004
- “Taking Chances with Ethnography,” opening keynote at the 4th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference, 23 February 2002

Other presentations (selected)

- "How College Degrees Divide America," at the Comparative History and Theory Colloquium (online) 28 January 2021
- “Building Tomorrow's Workforce Today: Twin Proposals for the Future of Learning, Opportunity and Work” (w/ Richard Arum), Washington, D.C.: Hamilton Project/Brookings Institution, 8 October 2020
- “Framing a Historical Sociology of U.S. Higher Education,” invited session at the meetings of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), Portland, OR, 15 November 2019
- “Doing Things with MOOCs: Utilization Strategies of Stanford’s California MOOC Learners,” at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 26 October 2018
- “How US Social Scientists Neglect the Rest of the World,” at Stanford University Department of Sociology, 5 April 2018

"Three Schemes for Representing the World in US Universities," at the University of Peking, 10 June 2017

"Ambivalent Internationals, or, How US Social Scientists View the Rest of the World," at the Department of Sociology, UC-San Diego, 4 May 2017

"Puzzles of the New Education Analytics," at the New York University conference "Algorithms and Accountability, 28 February 2015, and at SXSWedu 11 March 2015

"Stone Soup: How Academic Humanists and Social Scientists Make Knowledge," at UC-Davis 22 March 2014

"Wither Accountability: The Second Academic Revolution," at Stanford University, 9 May 2012

"Football: Field Ordering and Status Marking in US Higher Education," at UC Berkeley, 12 March 2012; at Yale University, 16 November 2010

"What are Universities, and Who Should Pay for Stanford?" American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, 23 August 2011

"Ambivalent Internationals, or, How Academic Reproduction Reinforces Disciplinary Boundaries in the Social Sciences," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, 21 August 2011

"What is Area Studies?" Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, 20 March 2009

"Toward a Historical Sociology of U.S. Higher Education," at the Institute of Higher Education, University of Georgia, Athens, 30 May 2008

"Five Higher Educations," at the University of Michigan School of Education, 16 January 2008

"Individualized Consideration and Social Inequality in Selective College Admissions," at the RAND Corporation, 3 August 2007, and at the University of Michigan (ICOS seminar), 9 November 2007; and at Columbia University (Department of Sociology), 27 February 2008

"How Do Universities Absorb New Fields of Knowledge?" at the conference "Bookishness: Reading and Writing after Print Culture," Newsweek World Headquarters, New York City, 6 November 2007

"Sports and Status in U.S. Higher Education," Stanford University School of Education, 21 March 2007

"Marks of Excellence: A Theory of Status in U.S. Higher Education," Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 24 January 2007; Department of Sociology, Yale University, 1 March 2007

"Cultural Explanations in the Sociology of Education," 2nd Annual UC-San Diego conference on the Sociology of Culture, 5 May 2006

"Individualized Evaluation as Myth and Ceremony in Selective College Admissions," Culture and Inequality Workshop, Princeton University, 10 April 2006

Panelist, "The Moving Edge: The Place of Downtown Art in New York City" (w/ Harvey Molotch, Laurin Raiken, and Sharon Zukin), The Fales Library, New York University, 16 February 2006.

"Race, Class, and Individualism in Selective College Admissions," Department of Sociology, Rutgers University, 8 February 2006

"Individualism and Evaluation," Culture and Social Analysis Workshop, Department of Sociology, Harvard University, 18 November 2005

"Thinking Backwards about Higher Education," Center for Advanced Social Science Research, New York University, 27 April 2005

"When Character Doesn't Count: Technical and Ceremonial Evaluation in Selective College Admissions," at the 99th annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, 14 August 2004.

"On Stability in U.S. Higher Education, or, The Virtues of Being Old-Fashioned," at the conference "Institutions, Conflict, and Change," Kellogg School of Management/Northwestern University, 6 September 2003.

- “Five Affirmative Actions,” at the 98th annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, 2003; and at UC-San Diego (January 2003); and New York University (February 2003)
- “Peculiar Symbols: *The U.S. News and World Report* Rankings of Institutional Quality” (with Wendy Nelson Espeland), at the 97th Annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, 2003
- “Managing Privilege in College Admissions,” Sociology Department, Northwestern University, 4 April 2002
- “Love, Numbers, and the Social Organization of Value in Higher Education,” at the NAE Fellows retreat, Tucson, 8 March 2002
- “Inside College Admissions,” Spencer/NAE Fellows Conference, New York City, 14 March 2001
- “Efficiency and Legitimacy in College Admissions,” at the Institute for Educational Initiatives, University of Notre Dame, 20 February 2001
- “Faith, Family, and Organization in the Home Schooling Movement,” at the Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame, 19 February 2001
- “Kingdom of Children: Culture and Controversy in the Home Schooling Movement,” at the Department of Sociology, Indiana University, Bloomington, 16 February 2001
- “Lessons of America’s Homeschool Movement,” at the Department of Sociology, Loyola University, Chicago, 14 February 2001
- “Culture and Organization in the Homeschooling Movement,” Political Culture Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 13 February 2001
- “Sensibility and Social Structure in the Homeschooling Movement,” at the School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, 25 February 2000
- “Commensuration at Institutional Intersections,” at the workshop “Institutions, Conflict, and Change,” Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, 12 December 1999
- “‘Culture Shock’: Black Students Account for Their Distinctiveness at an Elite College” (w/ Kimberly C. Torres) at the 93rd Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, 21 August 1998
- “Neoinstitutionalism and Social Movement Research: Hierarchy and Autonomy in the Home Education Movements,” at the 91st Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York City, 20 August 1996
- “Women, Children, and the Persistent Mystification of Mothering,” at the 89th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, 9 August 1994
- “Advertising AIDS,” at the Second National Graduate Student Conference on Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Studies, Urbana, 3 April 1992; presented under title “Imaging AIDS” at the 56th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, 4 April 1992
- “The Limits of Community,” at the Fifth National Conference of Lesbian and Gay Studies, Rutgers University, 2 November 1991
- “Tastemakers and the Micropolitics of Urban Change,” at the colloquium “Good Taste/Bad Taste: Blurring the Boundaries of Aesthetics and Politics,” Center for Interdisciplinary Research in the Arts, Northwestern University, 23 February 1990

Teaching

Courses taught: Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Education, Comparative Education, Higher Education and Society, Higher Education Leadership Seminar, Professions, Sociology of Religion, Sociological Theory, Sociology of Art, Art and the City, Urban Sociology, Foundations of Case Study Research, Approaches to Qualitative Inquiry, Advanced Seminar in Qualitative Methods, Principles of Empirical Research, Research Seminar in Higher Education, Education’s Digital Future, Organizational Behavior and Analysis, MA/MBA Proseminar,

Qualitative Methods in Education Research, Research Seminar in Higher Education, Sciences of Learning, Stanford POLS Seminar, Social Science History Workshop, Stanford and Its Worlds: 1885-Present

Doctoral advisement

Juan Alperin, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University, 2011-2015
AJ Alvero, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University, 2020-2022
Loring Cameron Bartlett, Professional Child/School Psychology, Steinhardt/NYU, 2005-2008
Marci Borenstein, Sociology of Education, Steinhardt/NYU, 2005-2012
Tum Chaturapruek, Computer Science, Stanford University, 2017-2019
Eliza Evans, Sociology of Education, Graduate School of Education, Stanford University, 2013-2016
Jonathan Friedman, International Education, New York University, 2015-2017
Sebastian Munoz-Najar Galvez, Sociology of Education, Stanford University, 2019-2021
Sonia Giebel, Sociology of Education, Stanford University, 2019-2022
Jeffrey Guhin, Department of Sociology, Yale University, 2010-2013
Monique Harrison, Sociology of Education, Stanford University, 2018-2022
Philip Hernandez, Science Education, Stanford University, 2019-
Ilana Horwitz, Sociology of Education and Education/Jewish Studies, Stanford University, 2016-2019
Ethan Hutt, History of Education, Stanford University, 2012-2013
David Nathan Lang, Economics of Education, Stanford University, 2018-2022
Krystal Laryea, Sociology of Education, Stanford University, 2018-
Amanda Lu, Education Policy, Stanford University, 2016-2023
Michelle Lynn-Sachs, Education and Jewish Studies, Steinhardt/NYU, 2004-2007
Leon Marbach, Education Data Science, Stanford University, 2022-
Abigail Miller, History of Education, Stanford University, 2020-
Kaylee Tuggle Matheny, Sociology of Education, Stanford University, 2018-2023
Ethan Wolf Ris, History of Education, 2016-2017
Renee Rubin Ross, Education and Jewish Studies, Steinhardt/NYU, 2005-2009
Hoori Santikian, Education Policy, Stanford University, 2013-2016
Keegan Shepherd, History, University of South Florida, 2016-2017
Melanie Shimano, Education Policy & Sociology of Education, Stanford University 2022-
Marissa Thompson, Sociology of Education, Stanford University, 2015-2021

Postdoctoral advisement

Tobias Dahlberg (PhD Sociology of Education, Uppsala University), 2018-2020
Elizabeth Dayton (PhD Sociology, Johns Hopkins), 2012-2013
Charlie Eaton (PhD Sociology, UC-Berkeley), 2016-2017
Ben Gebre-Medhin, (PhD Sociology, UC-Berkeley), 2018-2020
Abby Larson (PhD Sociology, NYU), 2012-2013
Markus Pauku (PhD Management, Aalto University), 2014-2015
Kristopher Proctor (PhD Sociology, UC-Riverside), 2010-2012

Professional service (selected)

Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review*, 2019-22
Co-convener, Responsible Use of Student Data in Higher Education (ru.stanford.edu), 2016-

Member, Committee on Awards for Innovation in Higher Education (California Gubernatorial appointment), 2016
Editorial Advisory Board, *Research in the Sociology of Education*, 2015-
Editorial Board, *Journal of Higher Education*, 2011-2014
Editorial Board, *Sociology of Education*, 2009-2012
University Committee on Activities Regarding Research on Human Subjects (UCAIHS), New York University, 2006-; Chair 2007-8

Referee and review work

Journals: *Academy of Management Review*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *AERA Open*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Contexts*, *Du Bois Review*, *Educational Policy*, *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, *Educational Researcher*, *Gender & Society*, *Higher Education*, *History of Education*, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Higher Education*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Mobilization*, *Poetics*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Regulation and Governance*, *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*, *Research in the Sociology of Organizations*, *Science*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Social Science History*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Sociological Focus*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociological Theory*, *Sociology Compass*, *Sociology of Education*, *Socius*, *Theory and Society*

Presses: University of California Press, University of Chicago Press, Columbia University Press, Cornell University Press, Harvard University Press, MIT Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Princeton University Press, Rutgers University Press, Stanford University Press, Teachers College Press

Foundations: Israel Science Foundation, National Science Foundation (US), Spencer Foundation, W.T. Grant Foundation

Tenure/promotion reviews: Colby College, The College of William & Mary, Columbia University, Harvard University, St. Joseph's University, University of California-Irvine, University of Iowa, Iowa State University, Lafayette College, University of Michigan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Peking University, Purdue University, University of Southern California, SUNY-Stony Brook, Vanderbilt University

Other review work: California Education Learning Lab

Award committees

Distinguished Scholarly Book Award Selection Committee, ASA, 2012-2014
Book Award, ASA Theory Section, 2012
Pierre Bourdieu Book Award, ASA Education Section, 2011, 2015
Mirra Komarovsky Book Award, Eastern Sociological Society, 2009 & 2013
Willard Waller Award for distinguished career, ASA Education Section, 2007
Chair, book award committee, ASA Culture Section 2005
Graduate student paper award, ASA Culture Section, 1998 & 2002
Willard Waller Award for best article, ASA Education Section, 2002

Conference, colloquium, workshop, and session organizing

- Organizer, "[Contentious Curriculums: Pasts, Presents and Possible Futures of an Enduring American Culture War](#)," a forum at Stanford University, 7-8 March 2023
- Co-Organizer (w/ Ioana Sendriou), companion panels for "What Was the Cold War?" at the annual meetings of the Social Science History Association, November 2022
- Organizing committee, Empowering Learners Conference, 2021
- Lead organizer, "An Applied Science to Support Working Learners," a virtual convening with 180+ participants that assembled on 7, 14, 21, and 28 July 2021 via Stanford University
- Co-Organizer (w/ Adam Nelson), China in the World: Rethinking International Regional Inquiry for the Twenty-first Century," at the Stanford University Center at Peking University, 25-26 May 2019
- Chair, "The University and the State: Renewing the Academic Social Contract for the Twenty-first Century," at the 133rd Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association (AHA), Chicago, 6 January 2019
- Organizer (joint with Ithaka S+R), "Asilomar II: Student Data and Records in the Digital Era," Pacific Grove CA, 15-17 June 2016
- Organizer, Author/Critics session for *In Defense of Disciplines* (Jerry Jacobs), American Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago 2015.
- Organizer, "Hard Times and High Hopes for Higher Education," thematic session, American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, August 2014
- Organizer (w/ Susan Silbey), "Digital Learning Data as a Public Good: Forging First Principles and Protocols for Scientific Collaboration," Asilomar, Pacific Grove CA, 1-4 June 2014
- Organizer (w/ Mike Kirst), symposium "Broad-Access Colleges and the Future of US Higher Education," at the AERA annual meetings, San Francisco, 29 April 2013
- Organizer, "Institutions, Networks, Knowledge: An Asilomar Conference in Honor of Woody Powell," 25-27 June 2012
- Organizer (w/ Elizabeth A. Armstrong and Amy Binder), "New Directions in the Sociology of Education," conference, San Francisco, 7 August 2009
- Organizer, Author/Critics session for *How Professors Think: Inside the Curious World of Academic Judgment* (Michèle Lamont), Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, 20 March 2009
- Organizer, "Culture and Stratification," Culture Section Anniversary Conference, Boston, 31 July 2008
- Organizer, "Culture and Education," Culture Section Anniversary Conference, New York City, 15 August 2008
- Organizer, "Symbolic Boundaries and the Quantification of Identity," ASA Annual Meeting, Montreal, 12 August 2006
- Organizer, "A New Research Agenda for the Sociology of Higher Education," w/ Elizabeth Armstrong and Richard Arum, New York University, 24-25 March 2006
- Chair, HMSS colloquium committee, Steinhardt School of Education, NYU, 2004-2008
- Founding organizer, NYU Education Workshop, 2003-2008
- Organizer, "NYU School Books: Recent Scholarship on Education and Human Development," w/ Annette Lareau, Steinhardt School of Education, NYU 2003-04
- Organizer, "The Politics of Comparability," w/ Wendy Nelson Espeland, ASA Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., 2000
- Organizer, "New Research on the Religious Right," Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, 17 April 1999
- Organizer, Culture Section refereed roundtables, ASA Annual Meeting, Toronto, 1997

Consulting

Research consultant, [SkillsFWD](#), January-March 2024

Research consultant, “Internationalization, Inter-disciplinarity and Boundary Crossing: An Evaluation of Title VI National Resource Centers for the Middle East, Eurasia, and South Asia,” a grant awarded to the Social Science Research Council by the U.S. Department of Education. March – August 2008

Editorial consultant, U.S. Department of State, Bureau for International Information Programs (reviewed documents for globally available reports and descriptions of the U.S. education system), June 2005

Scholarly expert for video instructional series “The Way We Live” (2005), appearances in episodes 2 & 18

Stanford University service

Committee on Stanford University Press, 2023-

Equity Forward Task Force (core team), Office of Community Engagement, 2023-

Community of Practice on Working Learners at Stanford, Office of Community Engagement) 2022-2023

Advisory Task Force on the History of Jewish Admissions and Experience at Stanford (Office of the President), 2022

Advisory to the Provost on potential uses of the Notre Dame De Namur campus in Belmont, CA, 2022

Digital Education Strategy Group (Office of the Provost), 2021-

Data Services and Computation Design Team (strategic planning), 2019-2020

Chaired review of the Policy, Organization, and Leadership Studies graduate program, Stanford GSE, 2018

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Education Policy Analysis

Faculty Affiliate, Science and Technology Studies

Organizer (w/ Roy Pea and Candace Thille), “Education’s Digital Future,” GSE forum, AY 2012-13 and 2013-14

Director, Undergraduate Honors Program, School of Education, 2009-2012

Member, Governance Board, Introduction to the Humanities Program, 2009-2012

Co-Organizer, Stanford Higher Education Workshop, 2009-2011

Lead Researcher, self-study of CLAS, CEAS, CLAS, and CREEES area studies centers, 2009-11

Editorials, reports, reviews, and short publications

“Financing Higher Education in America” (review essay), *Contemporary Sociology* 53:103-107.

Richard Arum and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2023. “[For Most College Students, Affirmative Action was Never Enough.](#)” *The New York Times* 3 July 2023; print edition 6 July 2023.

Ari Kelman, Emily J. Levine, and **Mitchell L. Stevens**. 2022. “[Being honest about their histories can help universities regain trust.](#)” *The Washington Post* 12 October 2022.

Anuj Aggrawal, Olivia Hess, Justin L. Lockman, Lauren Smith, **Mitchell L. Stevens**, Janine Bruce, and Thomas Caruso.* 2022. “[Anesthesiologists with Advanced Degrees in Education: Qualitative Study of a Changing Paradigm.](#)” *JMIR Medical Education* 8,2 (April-June).

Indebted: How Families Make College Work at Any Cost (Caitlin Zaloom). *American Journal of Sociology* 126 (2021):1302-1304.

Making the World Global: U.S. Universities and the Production of the Global Imaginary (Isaac A. Kamola). *Journal of American History* 108 (June 2021):204-205.

- “Challenging Merit from a Place of Privilege” (review of Anthony P. Carnevale, Peter Schmidt, and Jeff Strohl, The Merit Myth: How Our Colleges Favor the Rich and Divide America), *Academe* 107 (Winter 2021), pp. 50-51.
- “What is a College Education in the time of Coronavirus?” (w/ Richard Arum). *The New York Times* (online edition) 18 March 2020.
- “College in the U.S. is at a crossroad. Will it increase social mobility or class stratification?” nbcnews.com 1 January 2020.
- “Is College Worth It?” (review of Anthony Abraham Jack, The Privileged Poor), *Public Books*, 14 October 2019.
- “Training the Foreign Policy Experts We Need” (w/ Cynthia Miller-Idriss), insidehighered.com, 9 October 2019.
- “Educational Entrepreneurship in a Changing America,” forward to new edition of Randall Collins, *The Credential Society*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.
- “US Social Scientists Must Look Beyond Their Own Borders” (w/Cynthia Miller-Idriss), *Times Higher Education* 8 March 2018.
- “The Right Way to Fix Universities” (w/ Emily J. Levine), *The New York Times* 1 December 2017, p. A25 (lead editorial).
- “Measuring Postsecondary Regional Capacity in California” (w/ Charlie Eaton), prepared for the College Futures Foundation, 20 June 2017.
- “The Evaluation Machine” (review of Julie R. Posselt, Inside Graduate Admissions), *Contemporary Sociology* 46 (2017):403-405.
- “What We’ve Learned from MOOCs” (w/ John C. Mitchell and Candace Thille), insidehighered.com, 22 September 2015.
- “College for Grownups,” *The New York Times* 11 December 2014, p. A29 (lead editorial).
- “Toward an ethically ambitious higher education data science,” *Research and Practice in Assessment* 9 (Winter 2014):96-97.
- “Hard Questions about Big Data” (w/ Justin Reich), insidehighered.com, 11 July 2014.
- “The Space of SCANCOR,” *Nordiske Organisasjonsstudier* 4 (2013):51-54.
- “Broad-Access Higher Education: A Research Framework for a New Era” (w/ Michael W. Kirst and Kristopher Proctor). Center for Education Policy Analysis/Stanford University, 2011.
- Wannabe U: Inside the Corporate University (Gaye Tuchmann). *American Journal of Sociology* 116 (November 2010):1042-1043.
- “Academic Internationalism: U.S. Universities in Transition” (w/ Cynthia Miller-Idriss). New York: Social Science Research Council, March 2009.
- “Home Schooling,” pp. 453-456 in *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion*, Richard A. Shweder, editor. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.
- “Higher Education and the Organization of Culture” (w/ Elizabeth A. Armstrong and Richard Arum), *Culture* 22 (Winter 2008), pp. 1+ (newsletter of the ASA Section on Culture).
- Children at Play: An American History (Howard P. Chudacoff), *American Journal of Sociology* 114 (September 2008):544-546.
- “An Admissions Race That’s Already Won,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 11 November 2008, p. A53.
- “Falling in Love with Economics,” *Accounts* 6 (Spring 2007), pp. 8-10 (newsletter of the ASA Section on Economic Sociology).
- “Home Schooling,” *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology* (George Ritzer, editor), pp. 4032-4034 (2007).
- “A New Research Agenda for the Sociology of Higher Education” (w/ Elizabeth Armstrong and Richard Arum), a report on the conference of the same name at New York University, March 2006.
- The Minority Rights Revolution (John D. Skrentny), *American Journal of Sociology* 112 (July 2006):328-9.

- “In Praise of Uncertain Futures,” Newsletter of the Sociology of Culture Section of the American Sociological Association, 19 (Spring 2005), p. 3.
- “Howard Becker,” pp. 42-44 (volume 1), *Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, George Ritzer, editor. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications, 2005.
- “Commensuration” (w/ Wendy Nelson Espeland), pp. 375-378, *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement* San Diego: Academic Press, 2005.
- “Home Schooling,” pp. 153-154 (volume 4), *Dictionary of American History*, Stanley I. Kutler, editor. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2003.
- Inside Charter Schools: The Paradox of Radical Decentralization (ed. Bruce Fuller). *American Journal of Sociology* 108:906-907 (January 2003).
- Dry Bones Rattling: Community Building to Restore American Democracy (Mark R. Warren). *Social Forces* 81:368-370 (September 2002).
- Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life (Nina Eliasoph), *Qualitative Sociology* 23:365-367 (Fall 2000)
- Congregations in Conflict: Cultural Models of Local Religious Life (Penny Edgell Becker), *American Journal of Sociology*, 105:1799-801 (May 2000).
- AIDS: The Challenge (Neil Small), *Contemporary Sociology* 23:613-14 (July 1994).
- Behind the Postmodern Facade: Architectural Change in Late Twentieth Century America (Magali Sarfatti Larson), *American Journal of Sociology* 99:1695-1697 (May 1994).
- Personal Dispatches: Writers Confront AIDS (ed. John Preston) and Writing AIDS: Gay Literature, Language, and Analysis (eds. Timothy M. Murphy and Suzanne Poirier), *In These Times*, 17 May 1993, pp. 34-35.
- Arresting Images: Impolitic Art and Uncivil Actions (Steven C. Dubin), *Art in America*, April 1993, pp. 33-35.
- Social Science and the Self: Personal Essays on an Art Form (Susan Krieger), *American Journal of Sociology* 98:177-179 (July 1992).
- “A Family Affair.” *New Art Examiner* XIX, 9 (May 1992), pp. 17-21.