

Curriculum Vitae  
Derric Ivan Heck  
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## EDUCATION

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**STANFORD UNIVERSITY**, *Stanford, CA*  
Graduate School of Education  
Doctor of Philosophy  
(*expected 2025*)  
and Bryan A. Brown, PhD

Race, Inequality, and Language in Education (RILE) & Social Sciences, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary Policy Studies in Education (SHIPS) – Advisors: F. Alvin Pearman, PhD

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**, *Pittsburgh, PA*  
Graduate School of Education  
Master of Education  
(August 2020)  
Advisors: T. Elon Dancy II

Social and Comparative Analysis in Education with Specialization in Comparative and International Education Policy – Department of Administrative and Policy Studies

**FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY**, *Tallahassee, FL*  
School of Architecture and  
Engineering Technology  
Bachelor of Science  
(August 2004)

Architectural Studies  
Division of Architecture & Architectural Studies

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research examines equity and justice in education, focusing on identity development, culturally sustaining pedagogy, and the lived experiences of educators and marginalized youth. I explore these dynamics within U.S. schools and global contexts that have historic and contemporary ties to the African Diaspora. Through narrative and qualitative methodologies, I center community voices and co-construct solutions to systemic inequities, drawing connections between local and transnational struggles for educational equity.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2021- Present	Research Assistant – John W. Gardner Center for Youth & Their Communities
2021– 2022	Social Impact Consultant – Common Group
2019 – Present	Research Assistant – Race, Inequality, and Language in Education/ Social Sciences, Humanities, and Interdisciplinary Policy Studies in Education
2016 – 2019	Research & Teaching Assistant - Center for Urban Education
2013 – 2016	Director - Waverly Development Group (Grantwriting and Administration, Strategic Planning, Communications)
2010 – 2013	Director of Strategic Initiatives - The Propel Foundation & Propel Schools
2009 – 2010	Design Consultant – The Reinvestment Fund   Hill District Community Development Corporation
2004 – 2008	Associate Architect – John A. Tuten & Associates, Architects

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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Geiser, K., Ren, V., **Heck, D.**, & Lowe, A. (2023). *Redwood City School District Mental Health Counseling Program: Year 2 Implementation Study. Executive Summary*

Geiser, K., Ren, V., **Heck, D.**, & Lowe, A. (2023). *Redwood City School District Mental Health Counseling Program: Year 2 Implementation Study. Research Brief.*

Geiser, K., Elliott, E., **Heck, D.**, & Jackson, K. (2022). *Redwood City School District mental health counseling program: Year 1 Implementation study. Executive summary.*

Geiser, K., Elliot, E., **Heck, D.**, & Jackson, K. (2022). *Redwood City School District mental health counseling program: Year 1 implementation study. Research brief.*

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Graham, D., Alvarez, A., **Heck, D.**, Rand, J., & Milner, H.R. (2019). Race, violence, and teacher education: An overview of critical race theory in teacher education. In Laughter, J. & Tao, H. K. (Eds.), *Critical race theory in teacher education: Coalitions for the future* (pp 13-25). Teachers College Press.

Porter, M., Karnes, A., **Heck, D.**, & Rand, J. (In progress). *Liminal moments in an ethnographic, community-based folk-life research project in Ethiopia: Encounters with culture.*

## **SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS**

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**Heck, D.** (2024, November 6–9). *The salience of silence: Navigating teachers' analyses and disciplinary responses to benign student behaviors* [Conference presentation not attended]. 2024 International Conference on Urban Education Biennial Meeting, Cancun, Mexico.

**Heck, D.** (2024, October). *The salience of silence: Navigating teachers' analyses and disciplinary responses to benign student behaviors* [Conference presentation not attended]. International Colloquium on Black Males in Education, Pittsburgh, PA.

**Heck, D.** (2018). Titled, *Through an African lens: Positive racial identity development*. Presented at the 2018 Teach Africa Conference at the University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.  
<https://pittnews.com/article/125391/news/student-connects-african-cultures/>

**Heck, D.** (2017). Titled, *Identity, culture & education: Examples from Kenya and Ethiopia*. Presented at the 'Let's Talk Africa' series hosted by the Department of African Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Porter, M., **Heck, D.**, Karnes, A., Lombard, J., & Vilella, V. (2017). Titled, *Modern African culture, alive! – Engaging millennials in interdisciplinary, multi-media global education*. Presented at the 2017 Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Council for International Education. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Murray, I., Graham, D., **Heck, D.**, & Rand, J. (2017). Titled, *White teachers' beliefs about discussing racial violence in the classroom*. Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Studies Association. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## **ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

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Selected Participant, Black European Summer School (BESS), Amsterdam, Netherlands (2024)

Community Engagement Facilitator & Visiting Student Fellow – CUESEF – Center for Urban Education Summer Educator Forum (July 2020)

K. Leroy Irvis Fellow - University of Pittsburgh School of Education (2016 – 2019)

Fulbright-Hays/U.S. Department of Education Research and Curriculum Development Grant in partnership with Sodo-Wolaita University. Sodo, Ethiopia. PI: Maureen Porter, PhD. (2017)

Fellow – Urban Design Regional Employment Action for Minorities (UDREAM) – An interdisciplinary, critical urban design program hosted by the School of Architecture and the Remaking Cities Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. (2009-2010).

[https://info.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek09/1023/1023rc\\_diversity\\_carnegiemellon.htm](https://info.aia.org/aiarchitect/thisweek09/1023/1023rc_diversity_carnegiemellon.htm)

## **FUNDED GRANTS**

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Co-Principal Investigator: Expansion of existing program (academic enrichment through after-school programming) specifically targeting Housing Authority/City of Pittsburgh residents, ages 13 to 18, Youth Services Investment Fund/The Pittsburgh Foundation (2016-2018, Funded \$511,050)

Co-Principal Investigator: Programmatic merger of Higher Achievement and Center That CARES' Hill District sites, BNY Mellon Foundation (2017, Funded \$50,000)

Principal Investigator: Center That CARES - Establish morning transportation loop for high school students in an under-served neighborhood, McAuley Ministries (2016, Funded \$10,000)

Principal Investigator: Center That CARES - The BridgeBuilder, STEAM curriculum development, Public Allies (2016, Funded \$60,000)

Principal Investigator: Western PA Community of HOPE - Intensive services capacity building, PACE - Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise (2016, Funded \$20,000)

Principal Investigator: Center That CARES - Civically engaging youth for tomorrow, The Heinz Endowments (2015, Funded \$25,000)

Principal Investigator: Development and expansion of the Jeron X. Grayson Community Center - Support the second phase of capital costs and a matching grant for the expansion of technology and infrastructure upgrades, R.K. Mellon Foundation (2015, Funded \$200,000)

Principal Investigator: Expansion of the Jeron X. Grayson Community Center - Support the second phase of capital costs for renovation, The Pittsburgh Foundation (2013, Funded \$100,000)

Principal Investigator: Center That CARES - Intensive services capacity building, PACE - Program to Aid Citizen Enterprise (2013, Funded \$10,000)

Principal Investigator: The Propel Foundation & Propel Schools, Project H.O.P.E. (Healthy Opportunities to Pursue Excellence), African American Men & Boys Task Force, The Heinz Endowments (2011, Funded \$750,000)

Co-Principal Investigator: Hill District Community Development Corporation, Analysis of urban redevelopment of the New Granada Theatre, The Reinvestment Fund (2010, Funded \$75,000)

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES**

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**Heck, D.** (2019), *Education and Poverty*. Urban Schools & Social Policy, University of Pittsburgh (01/15/19).

**Heck, D.** (2015). Titled, *The value and necessity of tension in advancing progress and civil rights in the United States*. Presented as the keynote speech for the annual Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. call to service day at the California University of Pennsylvania. California, Pennsylvania.

**Heck, D.** (2014) Titled, *Leadership development and community engagement*. Presented at the 2013 leadership development series of the CORO Center for Civic Leadership. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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ARC 1301 and 1302 - Architectural Design (Fall, 2008; Spring 2009), School of Architecture & Engineering Technology, Florida A&M University, Graduate Teaching Associate

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Educational Research Association (2016 – Present)

American Educational Studies Association (2016 – Present)

100 Black Men of Western Pennsylvania (2010 – Present)

American Institute of Architects (Associate) (2004 – 2010)

## **SERVICE**

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Advisor, Black Men's Guild (2022 – Present)

Editorial Staff Assistant, *Urban Education*, SAGE Publications (2016 – 2018)

Member, Advisory Board, Carter G. Woodson Academy (2012 – 2019)

Member, Board of Directors, Young Preservationists Association (2010 – 2013)

Member, Board of Directors, Afro-American Music Institute (2010 – 2012)

Member, Board of Directors, Harmony Square/Harmony Kids Learning Center (2007-2009)

Commissioner, Brunswick Housing Authority (2007 – 2008)

Member, Dean Search Committee, Florida A&M College of Law (2002)

Member, Florida Governor's Equal Opportunity Educational Task Force (2000 – 2001)

## **COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

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Cystic Fibrosis Foundation & Whirl Magazine – 50 Finest of Pittsburgh (2013)

New Pittsburgh Courier – Top 40 Under 40 (2013)

CORO Center for Civic Leadership – Fellow – NEXT Leaders of Green Communities (2010)

Golden Isles Magazine – Top 20 Under 40 (2006)