

## **DANA L. MITRA, PH.D.**

Assistant Professor  
Department of Education Policy Studies  
The Pennsylvania State University  
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### **EDUCATION:**

Ph.D., Stanford University, Administration and Policy Analysis, School of Education, 2002  
- Dissertation: "Makin' It Real: Involving Youth in School Reform" Advisor: Milbrey McLaughlin

M.A., Stanford University, Sociology, 2000.  
- Focus on organizational theory.

A.B., Brown University, Educational Studies/Public Policy and American Institutions, 1994  
- Honors Thesis: "Integrating Social Services and Schools: The Story of Melody" Advisor: Theodore Sizer  
- *Magna Cum Laude*  
- Meiklejohn Prize for Academic Excellence and University Service, 1994  
- McGraw Prize for Excellence in Research on Children and Youth, 1994

Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden, 1992  
- Coursework and independent research on social policy and education in Sweden and the rest of Europe.

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### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

Educational policy, school reform, student voice, youth development, school-community collaboration, high school reform, qualitative methods

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### **EMPLOYMENT IN RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND POLICY:**

The Pennsylvania State University, *Assistant Professor of Education*, University Park, PA, 2003–present.

- Assignment is 50% research, 50% teaching.
- Design and conduct research and evaluation projects as individual researcher and as a member of flexible collaborative research teams comprising faculty, graduate students, and other qualified members from the College, University, and beyond.
- Teach courses in the program in Educational Theory and Policy, including American Education and Public Policy, Issues in Policy Analysis, Perspectives on School Reform, Education Policy and Politics, Foundations of Education, and Improving Educational Writing: Getting it Done and Doing It Well.
- Advise students in masters and doctoral programs in Educational Theory and Policy. Serve on doctoral dissertation and honors theses committees as chair and reader

Center for Research on the Context of Teaching, *Research Assistant*, Stanford, CA, 1997–2002.

- Member of collaborative team that conducted a five-year evaluation of the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative. Maintained ongoing communication with schools; developed interview, observation, and focus group protocols; developed coding systems using NUD\*IST software program; collected and analyzed data; wrote analytic and synthesis reports and scholarly papers; and presented findings at national conferences.
- Member of Theory-based Reform and Problems of Change Project exploring teacher learning, scale, and sustainability in four theory-based reforms. Developed and administered interview protocols; conducted and analyzed qualitative data; wrote synthesis report and journal articles; and presented findings

St. Patrick's Episcopal Day School, *Teacher*, Washington, D.C., 1996–1997.

Taught fifth grade and first grade (homeroom teacher for half the year in each grade), including reading, mathematics, social studies, and computer skills.

Norwood School, *Assistant Teacher*, Bethesda, MD, 1995–1996.

Taught and assisted with sections of grades K-5—including fifth grade history, geography, and math, second grade poetry, third and first grade reading, and pre-kindergarten science. Researched documents for self-study process.

The George Washington University, *Research Assistant and Managing Editor*, Washington, D.C., 1994–1995.

- Researcher for Amitai Etzioni. Wrote and edited articles, briefings, and reports focusing on social policy, with a particular focus in education.
- Managed and edited quarterly scholarly journal, *The Responsive Community*, including soliciting articles, selecting manuscripts, editing essays, and writing columns.
- Organized two White House Conferences on Character Education, including planning logistics, recruiting presenters, writing materials, serving as liaison for approximately 500 organizations, and managing staff.

“Her House” Project, DC Habitat for Humanity, *Project Director*, Washington, D.C., 1994–1996.

Directed an all-women organization that built two homes with single-mother families. Raised more than \$100,000; served as spokesperson; directed development of strategic plan; and created organizational structure.

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## REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Mitra, D.L., Sanders, F.S., and Perkins, D.F. (Forthcoming) Providing spark and stability: The role of intermediary organizations in establishing school-based youth-adult partnerships. *Applied Developmental Science*.

Syvertsen, A.K., Stout, M.D., Flanagan, C.A with Mitra, D. L., Oliver, M.B., Sundar, S. S. (forthcoming). Using elections as teachable moments: A randomized evaluation of the Student Voices civic education program. *American Journal of Education*.

Mitra, D. L. & Gross, S. J. (2009). Increasing student voice in high school reform: Building partnerships, improving outcomes. *Educational Management, Administration, and Leadership*, 37(4), 452-473.

Mitra, D. L. (2009). Collaborating with students: Building youth-adult partnerships in schools. *American Journal of Education*, 15 (3), 407-436.

Mitra, D. L. (2009). Student voice and student roles in education policy and policy reform. In D. N. Plank, G. Sykes & B. Schneider (Eds.), *AERA Handbook on Education Policy Research* (pp. 819-830). London: Routledge.

Mitra, D. L. (2009). Strengthening student voice initiatives in high schools: An examination of the supports needed for school-based youth-adult partnerships. *Youth and Society* (40), 3, 311-335.

Mitra, D. L. (2009). The role of intermediary organizations in sustaining student voice initiatives. *Teachers College Record* (111), 7, 1834-1868.

Mitra, D. L. (2008). *Student voice in school reform: Building youth-adult partnerships that strengthen schools and empower youth*. Albany, NY, State University of New York Press.

Mitra, D. L., Frick, W. C., & Movit, Marcela A. (2008). Brain drain in the Rust Belt: Can educational reform help to build civic capacity in struggling communities? *Educational Policy*, 22, 731-757.

Mitra, D. L. (2008). Balancing power in communities of practice: An examination of increasing student voice through school-based youth-adult partnerships. *Journal of Educational Change*, 9 (3), 221-324.

- Sanders, F., Movit, M., Mitra, D., & Perkins, D. F. (2007). Examining ways in which youth conferences can spell out gains in positive youth development. *LEARNing Landscapes*, 1(1), 49-78.
- Mitra, D. L. (2007). The role of administrators in enabling youth-adult partnerships in schools. *NASSP Bulletin*, 91(3), 237-256.
- Mitra, D. L. (2007). Student voice in school reform: From listening to leadership. In D. Thiessen & A. Cook-Sather (Eds.), *International Handbook of Student Experience in Elementary and Secondary School*. (pp. 727-744). Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Springer.
- Mitra, D. L. (2006). Student voice or empowerment? Examining the role of school-based youth-adult partnerships as an avenue toward focusing on social justice. *International Electronic Journal for Leadership in Learning*, 10(22), <http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~icjll/>.
- Mitra, D. L. (2006). Youth as a bridge between home and school: Comparing student voice and parent involvements as strategies for change. *Education and Urban Society*, 38(4), 455-480.
- Mitra, D. L. (2006). Educational change on the inside and outside: The positioning of challengers. *International Journal of Leadership Education*, 9(4), 315-328.
- Mitra, D. L. (2005). Adults advising youth: Leading while getting out of the way. *Educational Administration Quarterly*, 41(3), 520-553.
- Mitra, D. L. (2004). The significance of students: Can increasing “student voice” in schools lead to gains in youth development. *Teachers College Record*, 106(4), 651–688.
- Mitra, D. L. (2003). Student voice in school reform: Reframing student-teacher relationships. *McGill Journal of Education*, 38(2), 289–304.
- McLaughlin, M., & D. L. Mitra. (2001). Theory-based change and change-based theory: Going deeper, going broader. *Journal of Educational Change*, 3(1), 301–323.

## INVITED ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND REPORTS

- Mitra, D. L. (2009). Amplifying student voice. In M. Scherer (Ed.), *Engaging the whole child: Reflections on best practices in learning, teaching, and leadership*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
- Mitra, D. L. (2008). Making it ‘real’: The role of student voice in reforming classroom practice. *Educational Leadership*, 66 (3), pp. 20-25.
- Mitra, D. L. (2008). Student voice or empowerment? Examining the role of school-based youth-adult partnerships as an avenue toward focusing on social justice. In A. Normore (Ed.), *Leadership for social justice: Promoting equity and excellence through inquiring and reflective practice* (pp. 193-212). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- Mitra, D., Perkins, D., Movit, M. (2006, June) *Second Mile Leadership Institute 2006: Report from the evaluation’s open ended questions*. The Pennsylvania State University, College of Education.
- Mitra, D., Movit, M., Perkins, D. (2006, June) *The Make a Difference Conference 2006 Executive Summary*. The Pennsylvania State University, College of Education.
- Mitra, D. L. (2005). Increasing student voice and moving toward youth leadership. *The Prevention Researcher*, 13 (1), pp 7–10.
- McLaughlin, M. & D. L. Mitra. (2003). *The cycle of inquiry as the engine of school reform: Lessons from the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative*. Stanford, CA: Center for Research on the Context of Teaching.

Mitra, D. L. (2001) Opening the Floodgates: Giving Students a Voice in School Reform. *Forum*. United Kingdom. September.

Stites, R. & D. L. Mitra. (2001). Palo Alto Unified School District Team. In Penuel, W. R., & Korbak, C. (Eds.). *Silicon Valley Challenge 2000 Longitudinal Case Studies Final Report*. Menlo Park, CA: SRI International.

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## PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Mitra, D. L. (under review). *Civic capacity in educational reform efforts: Finding agency in a time of globalization*.

Mitra, D. L. & Boggess, L. (under review). *Lifelines and barricades: District responses to high-stakes accountability pressures*.

Mitra, D. L. & Halabi, S. (under review). Pathways beyond high school in a globalized economy: A view from the Rust Belt. Submitted to *American Educational Research Journal*.

Boggess, L. & Mitra, D. L. (under review). The magic of mentoring: William Lowe Boyd. Submitted to *Peabody Journal of Education*. **(First author is student of candidate; candidate contributed 50% to article)**.

Boyd, W.L. Mitra, D. L and Duncan, A. (under review). *Re-visioning the American High School*. Book submitted for peer review to Routledge Falmer. **(Candidate contributed 70% to book editing; third author is student of candidate)**.

Mitra, D. L., Serriere, S., Hernandez, A. (under review). Student voice and youth development. For the *Handbook on Teacher and School Development*

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## REFEREED AND INVITED CONFERENCE PAPERS

Mitra, D. & Gross, S. J. (2009). Engaging Students as a Form of Democratic Ethical Education. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA, April.

Mitra, D. (2009). Pathways beyond high school in a globalized economy: A view from the Rustbelt. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA, April.

Mitra, D. (2009). In the Trenches: Public scholarship efforts to build student voice Paper presented at the 3rd Annual International New Democratic, Ethical Leadership Conference. Philadelphia, PA, February.

Mitra, D. & Gross, S.J. (2008). Increasing student voice in high school reform: Building partnerships, improving outcomes . Paper presented at the University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Orlando, FL, November.

Mitra, D., Sanders, F., & Perkins, D. F. (2008). *Shifting responsibilities: The role of community-based organizations in educating youth about civic engagement and democracy*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Mitra, D. (2008). *Civic capacity in globalized times*. Paper presented at the 2nd Annual International New Democratic, Ethical Leadership Conference. Philadelphia, PA, February.

Boyd, W., Grier, T., Mitra, D, Shouse, R., Siskin, L. (2007). *Re-visioning and reinventing the American high school: What needs to be done?* Symposia presented at the Waterbury Summit on Secondary Education, State College, Pennsylvania, June.

- Branch, G., Cate, J., Mitra, D., Sanders, F., Whisenhut, G., Wilbur, S. (2007). *Dialogue across community borders: Increasing stakeholder voice*. Symposium presented at the University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Alexandria, VA, November.
- Chen, M., Gross, S. J., & Mitra, D., Portelli, J., Shapiro, J., Zaretsky, L. (2007). *The New DEEL on a world stage: Interpreting the challenge and promise of democratic ethical educational leadership*. Symposium presented at the University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Alexandria, VA, November.
- Mitra, D. (2007). *Civic capacity in educational reform efforts: Finding agency in a time of globalization*. Paper presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Values and Leadership Conference, State College, Pennsylvania, September.
- Mitra, D. (2007). *Lifelines and barricades: District responses to threats of legitimacy and ambiguity*. Paper presented at the University Council for Educational Administration Annual Convention, Alexandria, VA, November.
- Mitra, D. (2007). *Increasing student voice in high school reform: Building partnerships, improving Outcomes*. Paper presented at the Waterbury Summit on Secondary Education, State College, Pennsylvania, June.
- Mitra, D. (2008). *Shifting responsibilities: The role of community-based organizations in educating youth about civic engagement and democracy*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY, March.
- Mitra, D. (2008). *Civic capacity in educational reform efforts: Finding agency in a time of globalization*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY, March.
- Mitra, D., Sanders, F., Movit, M., & Perkins, D. F. (2007). *Examining ways in which youth conferences can spell out gains in positive youth development*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Mitra, D. (2007). *Student voice and student roles in education policy and policy reform*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Mitra, D. L. (2006). *Examining the role of student voice initiatives as an avenue toward democracy and social justice*. Paper presented at the UCEA Annual Convention, San Antonio, Texas, November.
- Mitra, D. L., Perkins, D. F., & Sanders, F. (2006). *The inclusion of students in the definition of socially responsible leadership: An examination of the goals of school-based youth-adult partnerships*. Paper presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Values and Leadership Conference, Victoria, British Columbia, September.
- Schafft, K. A., Demi, M. A., McLaughlin, D., Mitra, D., & Snyder, A. (2006). *The community context for rural youth educational and residential aspirations*. Paper presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Louisville, Kentucky.
- Mitra, D. L. (2006). *Student voice in school reform: From listening to leadership*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, California, April.
- Mitra, D. L. (2006). *Sustaining student voice initiatives—What really matters?* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, California, April.
- Bertleson, A., Flanagan, C. Mitra, D. (2006). *Findings from the evaluation of Student Voices social studies curriculum*. Poster presented at the Biannual Meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Francisco, California, March.

- Mitra, D. L. (2005). *From listening to leadership: Increasing student voice in school reform Maximizing the potential of student voice initiatives through the development of adult-youth partnerships*. Paper presented at the UCEA Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee, November.
- Mitra, D. L. (2005). *Maximizing the potential of student voice initiatives through the development of adult-youth partnerships*. Paper presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual International Values and Leadership Conference, State College, Pennsylvania, October.
- Mitra, D. L. (2005). *The political implications of positioning in student voice activities*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada, April.
- Mitra, D. L. (2005). *The youth factor: Examining how youth become partners in school and community reform*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada, April.
- Mitra, D. L., A. Bertelsen, C. Flanagan, M. B. Oliver, & S. Sethuraman. (2005). *Making youth voice heard in the political process: Fostering youth civic development through social studies instruction*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada, April.
- Mitra, D. L., W. C. Frick, & M. A. K. Movit. (2005). *Brain drain in the rust belt: Can communities reinvent themselves in the globalized economy?* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada, April.
- Mitra, D.L. with W.C. Frick. (2004) *A typology of student voice in school reform: From listening to leadership*. Feature paper presented at the ‘Student Voice’ Online Conference, hosted by the International Networking for Educational Transformation (INET) England. [www.sst-inet.net](http://www.sst-inet.net), September.
- Mitra, D. L. (2003). *Adult advisors: Leading while getting out of the way*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Civic Education, New Orleans, Louisiana, November.
- Mitra, D. L. (2003). *The moral dilemma of working with youth: Providing assistance and getting out of the way*. Paper presented at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Values and Leadership Conference, State College, Pennsylvania, October.
- Mitra, D. L. (2002). *Makin’ it real: Involving youth in school reform*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, April.
- Mitra, D. L. (2002). *Inquiry as the engine for school reform*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, April.
- Mitra, D. L. (2001). *Going to the source: Student participation in high school reform*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Seattle, Washington, April.
- Mitra, D. L. & S. Beese. (2001). *School-wide inquiry in high schools*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Seattle, Washington, April.
- Mitra, D. L. & S. Beese. (2001). *Opening the floodgates: Building student voice and participation into high school reform*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Seattle, Washington, April.
- Mitra, D. L. (2000). *Students as bridges between parents and schools*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. New Orleans, Louisiana, April.
- Mitra, D. L. & M. McLaughlin. (2000). *Sustaining theory-based change: What’s needed?* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. New Orleans, Louisiana, April.
- McLaughlin, M. with D. L. Mitra & L. Stokes. (1999). *Theory-based change: Going deeper, going broader*. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Professional Association and the Culture of Teaching, Hong Kong. Papers published by UNESCO, January.

Mitra, D. L. (1999). *Parents as partners in accountability dialogues*. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Montréal, Canada, April.

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## BOOK REVIEWS

Mitra, D. (2007). Focusing on pupil consultation on what matters – The heart of teaching and learning: A review of 'Improving learning through consulting pupils' by Jean Rudduck & Donald McIntyre. *Discourse: Studies in the Cultural Politics of Education*, 28 (3), 421-431.

Mitra, D. L., & J. J. Mishook. (2004). Review of "Critical Voices in School Reform: Students Living through Change, edited by Beth C. Rubin and Elena M. Silva. London: Routledge Falmer, 2003. *American Journal of Education*, 110(4).

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## GRANTS RECEIVED

2006 "Examining the effectiveness of Second Mile's "Youth Leadership Initiative" as a school-based youth-adult partnership strategy." Dana Mitra and Daniel F. Perkins. *The Pennsylvania State University, Children, Youth and Families Consortium* (\$20,000) April 2006-March 2007.

2006 "Examining the effectiveness of Second Mile's "Youth Leadership Initiative" as a strategy for building strong school-based youth-adult partnerships." Dana Mitra *The Pennsylvania State University, College of Education* (\$9,000) April 2006-March 2007.

2006 "Youth brain drain and economic preparedness in Pennsylvania communities." Dana Mitra, Diane McLaughlin, Kai Schafft, Tasha Snyder. *The Pennsylvania State University, Children, Youth and Families Consortium*. (\$5,000) April 2006-April 2007.

2005 ""Reinventing Communities: Connections between School Reform and Community Development in a Globalized Economy." Dana Mitra. *American Educational Research Association-Institute of Education Sciences Research- Grants Program* (\$15,000) January 2005-December 2005.

2004 "Randomized field design of implementation of Student Voices in Pennsylvania schools." Connie Flanagan, Dana Mitra, Mary Beth Oliver, and Shyam Sundar. *Annenberg Public Policy Center* (\$50,000). May 2004-May 2005.

2003 "Enabling Student Voice in Schools: Finding Leverage for Change." Dana Mitra *The Pennsylvania State University, College of Education* (\$9,000) January 2003-December 2004.

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIP

Co-Director, D. J. Willower Center of Leadership and Ethics of UCEA, 2009-present

Contributing Editor and Reviewer, *American Journal of Education*

Executive Committee Member (2008-9), Politics of Education Association

Communications Director (2006-7), Adolescence and Youth Development SIG of AERA

Reviewer, *Alberta Journal of Educational Research American Educational Research Journal, Children, Youth and Environments, Curriculum Inquiry, Educational Policy, Educational Research, International Journal for Leadership*

*Education, International Journal of Educational Leadership, Journal of Research on Adolescence, Journal of Educational Administration, Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*

Reviewer, Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, University Council of Educational Administrator's Annual Convention

Member, American Educational Research Association, University Council of Educational Administration

Public Scholarship Associate, The Laboratory for Public Scholarship and Democracy, Penn State University Office of Undergraduate Education. 2006-present

Affiliate, Center on Rural Education and Communities, Penn State University, 2004-present

Affiliate, New Democratic, Ethical, Educational Leadership Society. 2006-present

Affiliate, Prevention Center, Penn State University, 2008-present