

# MIRA DEBS

Department of Sociology  
Yale University  
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## EDUCATION

- 2010-present **Yale University**, New Haven, CT  
PhD Candidate, Sociology  
*Dissertation title:* "Diverse Parents, Desirable Schools: 'Conflicted Fit', Belonging and Exclusion at Public Montessori Schools"  
*Anticipated completion December 2016*  
*Dissertation Committee:* Frederick Wherry (Chair), Ron Eyerman, Marcus Hunter (UCLA), Kimberly Goyette (Temple University)
- 1999-2002 **Oxford University**, Oxford, England  
MPhil, European Politics and Society  
Post-Graduate Certificate in Education, History
- 1995-1999 **The University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL  
BA with high honors, General Studies in Humanities

## PUBLICATIONS

- Debs, Mira. Forthcoming. "Racial and Economic Diversity of Public Montessori Schools."  
*Journal of Montessori Research*.
- Debs, Mira. 2013. "The Suffering of Symbols: Giotto Frescoes and the Cultural Trauma of Objects." *Cultural Sociology* 7(4):479-94.  
**Sage Prize Finalist** for the top 4 *Cultural Sociology* articles (of 27 published in 2013.)
- Debs, Mira. 2013. "The Uses of Cultural Trauma: Gandhi's Assassination, Partition and Secular Nationalism in Post-Independence India," *Nations and Nationalism*, 19(4): 635-653.
- Debs, Mira and Eric Woods. 2013. "Toward a Cultural Sociology of Nationalism" and Co-editor with Eric T. Woods, Special issue on Cultural Sociology for *Nations and Nationalism*, 19(4): 607-614

## UNDER REVIEW

- "A Conflicted Fit: Choosing, Belonging and Exclusion in Theme-based Public Schools." Under review at *City and Community*.
- With Katie Brown. "Students of Color and Public Montessori Schools: A Review of the Literature." Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Montessori Research*.

## WORKING PAPERS

“The challenge of a desirable school choice: Public Montessori between Social Reform and Elite Schooling,” intended journal *American Journal of Education*.

With Joanne Golann. “Black and Latino Parents' Experience of Discipline at No Excuses and Montessori schools”

“Rehabilitating a difficult memory? White Students Narrating the Integration of Central High School 1957-58”

“Beyond Bricks and Mortar: dynamic commemoration, divergent memories and memory entrepreneurs in Little Rock Central High’s desegregation crisis”

“Remember Little Rock?: White Segregationists, Backlash Social Movements and the Civil Sphere”

“The Gandhi Problem’: Social Movement Audience and Oppositional Framing”

## POLICY BRIEFS

Debs, Mira. 2015. “PreK availability and Access in Hartford’s Magnet and Open Choice Schools.” A Sheff Movement Brief. *Sheff Movement Coalition*. Hartford, CT.

Debs, Mira. 2014. “Simplifying the Lottery Process: Preferences.” A Sheff Movement Brief. *Sheff Movement Coalition*. Hartford, CT.

National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector. 2014. “Growth of Montessori in the public sector: 1975-2014.” West Hartford, CT: National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2016        **Lecturer**, Education Studies Program, Yale University “Cities, Suburbs and School Choice” Seminar <https://citiessuburbsschoolchoice.wordpress.com/>
- 2015        **Lecturer**, Education Policy, Sociology Department, Wesleyan University <https://soc399b.wordpress.com/>
- Teaching Fellow**, Education Studies Program, Yale University  
Foundations in Education Studies, Elizabeth Caplan
- 2013-14    **Teaching Fellow**, Sociology, Yale University  
Courses: Methods of Inquiry, Matthew Mahler  
Sociology of the Arts and Popular Culture, Ron Eyeran  
Cultural Sociology, Jeff Alexander
- 2006-7     **History and English Teacher**, MATCH Charter School, Boston

2002-06     **History Teacher**, Acton-Boxborough Regional High School, Acton, MA

### **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2013         American Montessori Society Research Grant, \$2900  
 2011         Yale University George Camp Grant for Little Rock, AK field research \$800  
 1999-         Rhodes Scholarship  
 2002

### **AWARDS**

2013         Sage Prize Finalist for one of the top 4 *Cultural Sociology* articles (of 27 published in 2013.)  
 2012         Yale Graduate School Community Service Award for the creation of schoolHaven, <http://kidhaven.com/schoolhaven>, school information for parents by parents created on the New Haven community website kidHaven

### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

2016         “Conflicted Fit: Black and Latino Parents Experience of Public Montessori Schools” American Educational Research Association, Washington DC, April 2016

2015         “Minority Parents, Montessori Schools: Negotiating Cultural Fit in Theme Based Public Schools” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, August 2015.

               “Untouchable Carrots: Marketing School Choice and Realities in Hartford's Inter-district Magnet Program,” American Educational Research Association Roundtable, Chicago, April 2015.

               “Untouchable Carrots...” Trinity College Education Studies Department, Invited Talk, 7 April 2015.

2014         “‘No One was Marketing to Us’: Cultural Coding, School Choice and Parent Involvement” Northwestern University Ethnography Workshop, Invited Talk, September 2014

               “Parent Choice and Involvement on the Ground”, Trinity College Education Studies Department, Invited Talk, February 6

2013         “‘The Gandhi Problem” Social Science Historical Association (SSHA), Chicago, November 21-24

2011 “Rehabilitating a Difficult Memory?” Social Science Historical Association (SSHA), Boston, November 17-20

--- American Studies Association, Baltimore, October 18-23, 2011

“The Suffering of Symbols,” Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism, London School of Economics, April 5-7, 2011

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Spring 2011 **Research Assistant**, Jeffrey Alexander, (2011) *The Performative Revolution in Egypt: An Essay in Cultural Power*. New York: Bloomsbury.

Member American Sociological Association (Sections on Sociology of Education and Cultural Sociology), American Education Research Association

Reviewer *Sociological Forum, American Journal of Cultural Sociology, Cultural Sociology, Environment and Planning A*

### OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

2014-present **Research Fellow**, *National Center for Montessori in the Public Sector*, West Hartford, CT

2014-present **Research Fellow**, *Sheff Movement Coalition*, Hartford, CT

2013- present **Founding Board Member**, Elm City Montessori School, New Haven’s first public Montessori school, opened 2014

2007-2009 **Assistant Director**, *University of Rochester Office of College Enrollment*, Rochester, NY

### REFERENCES

Frederick Wherry, Professor of Sociology  
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Ronald Eyeran, Professor of Sociology  
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Temple University  
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