

# MIRA DEBS

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Yale University  
Department of Sociology  
P.O. Box 208265  
New Haven CT 06520-8265

mira.debs@yale.edu  
<http://miradebs.com>  
(585) 214-9524

## EDUCATION

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- 2016 **Yale University**, New Haven, CT  
PhD Candidate, Sociology  
*Anticipated completion December 2016*  
*Committee:* Frederick Wherry (Chair), Ron Eyerman, Marcus Hunter (UCLA), Kimberly Goyette (Temple University)
- 2002 **Oxford University**, Oxford, England  
MPhil, European Politics and Society
- 1999 **The University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL  
BA with high honors, General Studies in Humanities

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- Yale University  
January 2017-  
Post-Doctoral Scholar  
Political Science and Education Studies Program
- Yale University  
Policy Lab  
Project Leader, Education Working Group

## PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

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- 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

## ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

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- "A Conflicted Fit: Choosing, Belonging and Exclusion in Theme-based Public Schools." Under Review at *City and Community*.

“Students of Color and Public Montessori Schools: A Review of the Literature.” Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Montessori Research* (with Katie Brown).

### **WORKING PAPERS**

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“Untouchable Carrots: Parental Perceptions of School Choice policies on the ground.”

“The challenge of a desirable school choice: Public Montessori between Social Reform and Elite Schooling”

“Black and Latino Parents' Experience of Discipline at No Excuses and Montessori schools”  
(with Joann Golann)

“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”

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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2016      **Lecturer**, Education Studies Program, Yale University  
 “Advanced Topics in Education Studies”  
 “Cities, Suburbs and School Choice” Seminar  
<https://citiessuburbsschoolchoice.wordpress.com/>

2015      **Lecturer**, Sociology Department, Wesleyan University  
 “Education Policy” <https://soc399b.wordpress.com/>

**Teaching Fellow**, Education Studies Program, Yale University  
 Foundations in Education Studies, Elizabeth Caplan

2013-14    **Teaching Fellow**, Sociology, Yale University  
 Methods of Inquiry, Matthew Mahler  
 Sociology of the Arts and Popular Culture, Ron Eyerman  
 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**

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2013      American Montessori Society Research Grant, \$2900

2011      Yale University George Camp Grant for Little Rock, AK field research \$800

1999        Rhodes Scholarship

## **AWARDS**

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- 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

## **POLICY BRIEFS**

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- 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.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2016        "Untouchable Carrots: Marketing School Choice and Realities in Hartford's Inter-district Magnet Program," American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Seattle, August 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

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- 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

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- 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

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Frederick Wherry, Professor of Sociology  
 Yale University  
 P.O. Box 208265  
 New Haven CT 06520-8265  
 (203) 432-3793  
 frederick.wherry@yale.edu

Ronald Eyerman, Professor of Sociology  
 Yale University

P.O. Box 208265  
New Haven CT 06520-8265  
(203) 432-5998  
ronald.eyerman@yale.edu

Kimberly Goyette, Associate Professor of Sociology  
Temple University  
1115 West Berks Street  
Gladfelter Hall, 7th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19122  
(215) 204-0134  
kgoyette@temple.edu

Marcus Hunter, Assistant Professor, Sociology and African American Studies  
University of California at Los Angeles  
264 Haines Hall  
375 Portola Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1551  
(310) 825-1313  
hunter@soc.ucla.edu