

MIRA DEBS

Yale University
Education Studies Program
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EDUCATION

- 2016 **Yale University**, New Haven, CT
 PhD, Sociology, December 2016
- 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

- Yale University Executive Director, Education Studies Program
August 2017- Lecturer, Sociology Department
- Yale-NUS
January-May 2020 Visiting Professor, Global Affairs
- Yale University Post-Doctoral Scholar
January 2017-July 2017 Political Science and Education Studies Program

BOOKS

Diverse Families, Desirable Schools: Public Montessori in the era of school choice. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press, 2019.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Golann, Joanne, Mira Debs and Anna Weiss. 2019. "‘To be Strict on your own’: Black and Latinx parents evaluate school discipline" *American Education Research Journal*. 56(5): 1896-1929.
- Debs, Mira and Katie Brown. 2017. "Students of Color and Public Montessori Schools: A Review of the Literature." *Journal of Montessori Research*. 3(1): 1-15.
- Debs, Mira. 2016. "Racial and Economic Diversity of Public Montessori Schools." *Journal of Montessori Research*. 2(2):15-34.

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.

WORKING PAPERS

With Cheung Hoi-Shan, "Kiasu parents go to school: Primary School Choice and Educational Inequality in Singapore" Under Review.

"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

2020 **Visiting Professor**, Yale-NUS,
"Comparative International Education"

2016-present **Lecturer**, Education Studies Program, Sociology and Political Science Department (2016), Yale University
"Foundations in Education Studies"
"Comparative International Education"
"Public Schools and Public Policy"
"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 Carroll

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

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019	Wend Ventures & Brady Foundation, Community Reading Grant for Public Montessori Schools
2013	American Montessori Society Research Grant
2011	Yale University George Camp Grant
1999	Rhodes Scholarship

AWARDS

2020	American Montessori Society Montessori Innovator Award.
2013	Sage Prize Finalist for one of the top 4 <i>Cultural Sociology</i> articles (of 27 published in 2013.)

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

Media Publications

Mira Debs, Joanne Golann and Chris Torres. August 29, 2019. "Some No Excuses Charter Schools Say They are Changing. Are they? Can They?" *Washington Post*.

Mira Debs, August 3, 2019. "Global Adaptation: Montessori in India." *Harvard Education Press Blog*.

Debs, Mira, September 23, 2018, "Jeff Bezos and the Trap of the Charitable-Industrial Complex." *New York Times*.

Media Interviews

Jennifer Berkshire and Jack Schneider, May 2, 2019, "Different Strokes for Different Folks?" *Have you Heard* podcast.

Matt Barnum, April 30, 2019, "What does Montessori mean in the age of school choice? Researcher Mira Debs explains." *Chalkbeat*.

Selected Media Coverage

Jay Matthews, August 2, 2019 "No Excuses make no excuses for updating their approach." *Washington Post*.

Nora Fleming, April 28, 2019, "A Public School Makes the Case for Montessori for All." *Edutopia*.

Emily Langhorne, March 27, 2019 "The Montessori Comeback." *Forbes*.

Goldstein, Dana Sept. 21, 2018 “Jeff Bezos Cites a Big Number, but Few Details, in Plan for Low-Income Montessori Preschools.” *New York Times*.

Meckler, Laura, Nov. 5, 2018 “Montessori, long a favorite for wealthy families, struggles to expand its reach.” *Washington Post*.

Stacy Khadaroo, 2018. “More than ‘beautiful words’: How one school fights to keep racial equity.” *Christian Science Monitor*.

Sarah Sparks, 2016. “In Charter School Era, Montessori Model Flourishes.” *Ed Week*.

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.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2017 “A Fine Line between Autonomy and Structure: How Parents of Color Perceive Discipline at Public Montessori and No-Excuses Schools” with Joanne Golann and Anna Weiss. American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, August 2017.
American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, Texas, April 2017
- 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
- Member American Sociological Association, American Education Research Association, Society for the Study of Social Problems

SERVICE

- 2020 Yale Prison Education Review Committee

REVIEWER

American Sociological Review, Sociology of Education, Social Problems, Qualitative Sociology, Sociological Forum, American Journal of Cultural Sociology, Cultural Sociology, Environment and Planning A