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Education Research for the Public Good

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Out-of-School Time Newsletter

A Publication of the AERA Out-of-School Time Special Interest Group (OST SIG)

AERA 2011 in New Orleans

Education Research for the Public Good



By Bettina Dahl Søndergaard, OST SIG Chair

The theme of this year’s Annual Meeting is “Inciting the Social Imagination: Education Research for the Public Good.” Through this theme, AERA wants to put focus on innovative approaches to education research that benefit the public good. Among the foci areas are what new tools or social arrangements promote expansive and suitable learning, and how research can influence public policies that pursue educational quality while supporting and promoting local and regional innovation. I believe that this SIG has a lot to offer here. Many OST programs are community-based organisations, and research tells us that well-planned OST programs can help enhance the learning in school. One important aspect in OST programs is that they can be a place to reach more youth and a place where the youth can not only develop knowledge, but also see new opportunities and directions for their lives; this is what Skovsmose calls ‘foregrounds,’ as being different from a person’s ‘background.’

The organisation Peace Jam, that visited us at last year’s business meeting in Denver, does this by bringing youth together with Nobel Peace Laureates. This year, we will get a presentation at our business meeting from The Young Planners Network, which canvasses post-Katrina New Orleans in order to create a database of youth-friendly community resources supporting the engagement of young people in urban planning. Learn more about YPN on the next page.



I am very happy to invite all of you to our SIG sessions in New Orleans. You can find more details about them in pages 4-6 of this newsletter. I look forward to our discussions of the reported findings as well as how it relates to the overall theme of AERA this year.

My term as a Chair is at the end. It has been a really great year which most of all is thanks to my co-officers. We have worked hard, had very fruitful discussions, and very enjoyable times! I am so happy to have had this opportunity and I have made many new friends and colleagues. I would therefore personally like to thank them all: David Shernoff (Program Chair, and Chair-elect), Hayal Kackar (Co-Program Chair), Joy Connolly (Secretary/Treasurer), Sarah Pitcock (Newsletter Editor), and Sara Hill (Website Manager). Jrene Rahm unfortunately had to resign as Membership Director due to illness, but I would also like to thank her for all her work this year, as well as last year. I also want to thank our Award Selection Committee for being willing to serve: Sara Hill, Ellen Markowitz, and Joy Connolly (head of committee).

Finally, thanks to all of you who were willing to serve as an OST SIG Officer. This SIG needs people like you who are willing to serve as officers. I would like to welcome the newly elected OST officers:

David Shernoff (Chair), Joy Connolly (Program Chair), Sara Hill (secretary/treasurer), Femi Vance (Membership Director), Christopher Smith (Newsletter Editor), and finally me as the new Website Manager. I am thrilled to be able to continue working in this SIG and do my piece. See you all in New Orleans!

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Visit the SIG [website](#)



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Youth Program Profile

The Young Planners Network

The Young Planners Network (YPN) is a national network of young planners and adult allies working to “create a place at the table” for youth in planning processes, by both incorporating planning content into K – 12 education and by advocating for change in planning practice.

Young Planners are predominantly high school students, engaged in urban planning, policy or action in their communities either through a school project, internship, afterschool program or community organization. Youth are key participants in this organization – as researchers, activists, and advocates for important issues in their communities. Adult Allies are teachers, mentors, employers, and community members supporting the work of Young Planners.

In each of these cities, youth are engaged in urban planning with support from local institutions, universities, schools, communities, and non-profit organizations. Chapters serve to connect youth and adult allies working in the field, through monthly meetings that provide a venue for partnership and community-building, a place to share work and ideas, to plan and implement local projects that better their communities and cities.

Through their participation in the national Network, Young Planners and Adult Allies connect with peers also working to create change in their communities. While contributing to our monthly newsletter and online resources, they also gain access to information about job opportunities and internships, case studies and best practices in the field of youth engagement in planning, and information about local and national conferences and events. Through dialogue and feedback, members are linked into a community of practice that is working to increase youth voice in city and regional planning.

PLANet Youth

Each year, network participants attend **PLANet Youth** – a national conference bringing together hundreds of civically engaged people (of all ages) to reflect on the past year’s work, share lessons learned, and build a plan for the upcoming year.

Conferences include youth-led mobile and participatory workshops, a film festival, open mic night and annual planning session. PLANet Youth changes location and focus each year, based on prevalent themes and lessons learned.



Founded in 2007, the Young Planners Network currently has chapters & partners in:

- ***New York, NY***
- ***New Orleans, LA***
- ***Chicago, IL***
- ***Bay Area, CA***
- ***Sacramento, CA***
- ***Los Angeles, CA***
- ***Washington, DC***
- ***Portland, OR***
- ***Seattle, WA***
- ***Toronto, Canada***

To learn more about the Young Planners Network, visit:

www.youngplannersnetwork.org



Email:

info@youngplannersnetwork.org

Call: (510) 665-1558



AERA Conference in New Orleans, 2011

Making a Difference in Out-of-School Time

By **David J. Shernoff**, *Program Chair/OST SIG Chair-Elect* and **Hayal Z. Kackar**, *Co-Program Chair*

A hearty welcome to all SIG members as we take our show on the road to the Big Easy for the 2011 Annual Meeting of AERA in New Orleans. This year there are nine sessions that the SIG is sponsoring or co-sponsoring, featuring a variety of innovative research projects pushing the frontiers of OST research – and along with it, our understanding of the difference OST programs can make in the lives of youth, as well as the difference that youth can make in their communities through their participation. The diverse and varied topics range from the factors that are most salient for effective programming; to supporting youth work education; to the academic, developmental, and vocational outcomes associated with OST participation. Informal and semi-formal environments for learning, especially in science or STEM education, is a growing area of research, and thus we will have several sessions co-sponsored with the Informal Learning Environments SIG.

This year we believed that it was important for us to connect with youth who have taken leadership roles in their coordinated efforts with youth programming and community agencies to provide relief and support in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Please come to the OST SIG Business Meeting for a presentation by The Young Planners Network (see further details in the program session information, p.5). Also, consider joining the SIG officers, members, and friends/affiliates in going to dinner in New Orleans after the business meetings. Details will be announced at the meeting.

We owe much gratitude for this year’s program to the veritable army of OST experts who reviewed submissions to our SIG, reducing the reviewing burden on all. Our Review Panel included: Brett Anderson, Janine Bempechat, Ruchi Bhanot, Britte Cheng, Bernadette Chi, Sednem Cilisiz, Joy Connolly, Kimberly Dadisman, Bettina Dahl Søndergaard, Sarah Deschenes, Rena Dorph, Mickey Fenzel, Michael Gasper, Horace Hall, Seunghee Han, Danielle Hayes, Anne-Marie Hoxie, Denise Huang, Jeffrey Jones, Maya Levanon, Hsien Lin, Ellen Markowitz, Susan Matloff-Nieves, Paul Matthews, Patricia Miller, Erika Patall, Deinya Phenix, Sarah Pitcock, Anne Rothstein, Camillia Sandford, Peggy Semingsong, Lee Shumow, Natalie Tran, Michael Trevisan, Hope Wilson, Steven Wojcikiewicz, Nga-Wing Wong. We would also like to thank our Emerging and Early Career Scholars Awards selection

CELEBRATE OUR HONOREES

NEW EMERGING SCHOLARS AWARDS

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE OST SIG BUSINESS MEETING!



Meet the two emerging scholars who have been selected to receive an award for their outstanding work in out-of-school time research!

Saturday, April 9, 6:15pm - 7:45pm

Astor Crowne Plaza/Bienville

committee, who included Sara Hill, Ellen Markowitz, and Joy Connolly.

Due to the number of strong submissions we received this year, and the number of sessions that we were allotted, there were a number of papers that could not be accepted despite the reviewers’ recommendation and our desire to accept them. The positive news is that a strong program emerged from this process. You can find all of the essential OST SIG program information on pages 4-6 below.



OST SIG SESSIONS

AERA 2011

Friday, April 8, 4:05pm - 6:05pm

Symposium, Co-Sponsor: Informal Learning Environments Research SIG

Astor Crowne Plaza / Iberville

Learning Science in Out-of-School Time: Research Directions for Generalized Understanding of OST

Chair: Larry E. Suter, National Science Foundation

Discussants: Robert H. Tai, University of Virginia; Kevin Crowley, University of Pittsburgh

Theory and Action of Science Education Found in the National Science Foundation (NSF) Out-of-School Time (OST) Awards. *Sylvia Margaret James, National Science Foundation*

Studying the Out-of-School Time Setting: Toward a Research Agenda That Accounts for Learning and Development in the Context of Science. *Bronwyn Bevan, Exploratorium; Vera Safa Michalchik, SRI International*

Investigating the Social Capital Supporting After-School Science Activities. *Barbara M. Means; Ann House; Carlin Llorente (All: SRI International)*

Quality of Science Learning in Out-of-School Time Settings: The Vision, the Reality and How to Bridge the Two With the Help of Assessment and Research. *Gil G. Noam, Harvard University*

Saturday, April 9, 8:15am - 10:15am

Symposium

Astor Crowne Plaza / Toulouse A

Building the Discipline to Support Youth Work Education

Chair: Dana R. Fusco, York College – CUNY

On Becoming an Academic Profession. *Dana R. Fusco, York College – CUNY*

Youth Work Core Competencies: A Review of Existing Frameworks and Purposes. *Ellen Gannett, National Institute for Out-of-School Time*

Youth Work Education at a Community College: Lessons Learned. *Pete Watkins, Community College of Philadelphia*

Youth Work Education in Australia. *Judith Bessant, RMIT University*

Building an Informed Curriculum. *Ross R. VeLue Roholt, University of Minnesota*

Putting Our Questions at the Center: Practitioner Research as a Field-Building Enterprise. *Sara L. Hill, National Institute on Out-of-School Time; Joy Camara Langford Connolly, University of Wisconsin – Madison*

Saturday, April 9, 10:35am - 12:05pm

Roundtable Session

Sheraton, Grand Ballroom E

Promising Practices of Out-of-School Programs: Supporting Science Education, Student Engagement, and Academic Outcomes

Chair: Bettina Dahl Soendergaard, Aarhus University

How Out-of-School Programs Effectively Engage Underrepresented Students in Science: Youth Development, Science, and Project Exploration. *Bernadette S. Chi, University of California - Berkeley; Juna Z. Snow, University of California – Berkeley; Shirley Lee, University of California - Berkeley; Gabrielle Lyon, Project Exploration*

No Experience Required: Best Practices From a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Training Program for Out-of-School Time Youth Workers. *Christopher Smith; Anne-Marie Hoxie (Both: The After-School Corporation)*

Examining the Effectiveness of the California After School Safety and Enrichment for Teens (ASSETs) Programs. *Denise Huang, University of California - Los Angeles*

"People Like Us Back Then...": Releasing the Social Imagination Through Inclusive Out-of-School Time Practices. *Anne Bernadette O'Byrne; Ann Mary Higgins (Both: Mary Immaculate College)*

Saturday, April 9, 4:05pm - 6:05pm

Symposium, Informal Learning Environments SIG. Co-Sponsor: Out-of-School Time SIG

New Orleans Marriott / Mardi Gras Salon A

Informal Learning Across Sites and Disciplines: What Do We Know, Where Do We Need to Go?

(cont.)



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Chairs: Jrene Rahm, Universite de Montreal, Canada; Molly Phipps, Science Musuem of Minnesota

Discussants: Doris B. Ash, University of California - Santa Cruz; Sara L. Hill, National Institute on Out-of-School Time

Informal Learning Environments That Build Connections to Local Communities While Engaging Citizens. *Joseph L. Polman, University of Missouri - St. Louis*

Developing a Research Methodology for the Study of the Adult Visitor's Learning in a Art Museum. *Anne-Marie Emond, University of Montreal*

More Than Exposure: How to Think About Learning in Art Museums. *Karen Knutson, University of Pittsburgh*

Fitting Math Into Zoos and Aquariums: Making Use of Data -Rich Environments. *Andee Rubin, TERC*

Imagining Environments That Spark Creative Production: Lessons From Longitudinal and Comparative Research Designs. *Brigid J.S. Barron, Stanford University*

A Case Study of a School Garden: An Informal Setting That Is Fertile Ground for Instructional Practice. *Carley Fisher-Maltese; Sharon Ryan; Timothy D. Zimmerman (All: Rutgers University)*

Saturday, April 9, 6:15pm - 7:45pm

Business Meeting

Astor Crowne Plaza / Bienville

Out-of-School Time SIG Business Meeting

Session Organizer: David J. Shernoff (Northern Illinois University); Chair: Bettina Dahl Soendergaard (Aarhus University)

Come to the OST SIG Business Meeting for the presentation of the OST Scholar Awards as well as The Young Planners Network (www.youngplannersnetwork.org) based at the Greater New Orleans Afterschool Partnership, which canvasses post-Katrina New Orleans in order to create a data base of youth-friendly community resources. The new OST officers will also be introduced, and there will be time to chat with SIG colleagues over light appetizers, cookies, and coffee/soda. Details will be given for an informal dinner afterwards with SIG officers, members, and friends/affiliates of the OST SIG.

Sunday, April 10, 8:15am - 9:45am

Roundtable Session

Sheraton / Grand Ballroom E

The Impact of Out-of-School Programs on Literacy Development, Workplace Learning, and At-Risk Student Success

Chair: Joy Camara Langford Connolly, University of Wisconsin - Madison

Enhancing the Life Chances of Urban Youth Through Work-Based Learning. *Maureen E. Kenny, Boston College; Lynn Y. Walsh-Blair, Boston College; Janine Bempechat, Wheelock College; Joanne Ruane Seltzer, Curry College; David L. Blustein, Boston College*

Transforming Literacy Learning Opportunities: Summer Reading as a Third Space. *Lisa A. Scherff, The University of Alabama*

The Academic Benefits of Expanding Students' Learning Opportunities. *Anne-Marie Hoxie, The After-School Corporation; Lisa DeBellis, Fordham University*

Sunday, April 10, 10:35am - 12:05pm

Paper Session

Astor Crowne Plaza / Iberville

Advances in Out-of-School Time Research: Examining the Variables Important for Successful OST Programming and Experiences

Chair: David J. Shernoff, Northern Illinois University

Discussant: Deborah L. Vandell, University of California - Irvine

Broadening the View: First Steps Toward Mapping the National Landscape of Out-of-School-Time Science Education. *Rebecca Crane; Heather L. Thiry; Sandra Laursen (All: University of Colorado - Boulder)*

Multisite Evaluation of AmeriCorps-Staffed After-School Programs. *Mickey Fenzel; Rebecca J. Dean (Both: Loyola University Maryland)*

Linear Relationships Between Instructional Quality and Youth Engagement in Out-of-School Time Programs. *Tom Akiva, University of Michigan; Quentin Brummet, Michigan State University; Samantha Sugar, Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality; Charles Smith, Center for Youth Program Quality*

When Black Males Aren't at School: A Qualitative Study of Promising Out-of-School-Time (OST) Programs Serving Black Males. *Margary Martin; Naomi Jefferson (Both: New York University)*

(cont.)



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Adolescents' Experiences in Community-Based Service-Learning in Relation to Their Reasons and Intentions for Future Involvement. *Hayal Zeynep Kackar, University of Notre Dame*

Sunday, April 10, 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Poster Session

Sheraton / Grand Ballroom C

Promoting Positive Developmental, Academic, and Vocational Outcomes Through Out-of-School Time Activities

Perceptions of Personal Growth and Maturity: High School Graduates' Reflections of Their Corporate Work-Study Experiences. *Janine Bempechat, Wheelock College; Christine Catraio, Boston College; David L. Blustein, Boston College; Maureen E. Kenny, Boston College; Joanne Ruane Seltzer, Curry College; Janna Hruby, Wheelock College; Alyssa Cecchetelli, Wheelock College*

Relationship Quality and Academic Outcomes in 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) Elementary and Middle School After-School Programs. *Lisa DeBellis, Fordham University*

Sunday, April 10, 2:15pm - 3:45pm

Roundtable Session, Informal Learning Environments SIG.
Co-Sponsor: Out-of-School Time SIG

Sheraton / Grand Ballroom C

Partnerships and Across Site Studies: Informal and Semiformal Learning

Chair: Allison Gonsalves, Université de Montréal

Partnerships for Out-of-School Science Programs. *Ruchi Tirumala Bhanot, SRI International; Julie Remold, SRI International; Vera Safa Michalchik, SRI International; Bronwyn Bevan, Exploratorium*

Informal Learning Initiative: An Evaluation of a Three-Site Zoo-Based Conservation and Leadership Program. *Melinda R. Hess, Research, Evaluation, and Assessment of Living and Learning; Mary Corrine Lowenstein-Degood, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo*

Moving Beyond the Paper Report: Communicating Research and Evaluation Findings in a Web 2.0 World. *Camellia Wynona Sanford, Rockman et al; John Y. Baek, Oregon State University; Molly Phipps, Science Museum of Minnesota*