

**BEN KIRSHNER**  
**Curriculum Vitae**

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School of Education  
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**EDUCATION**

- 2005 Ph.D. Stanford University School of Education, Psychological Studies in Education  
Dissertation: "Democracy now: Activism and learning in urban youth organizations"  
Chair: Dr. Na'ilah S. Nasir
- 1999 M.A. Harvard University Divinity School, Theological Studies
- 1993 B.A. Brown University, History and Religious Studies

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| Youth organizing and civic engagement | Community-based participatory research |
| Urban education                       | Out-of-school learning                 |
| Culture and learning                  | Youth development                      |

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2004-current Assistant Professor, School of Education, University of Colorado at Boulder
- 2000-04 Research Assistant, Stanford University, John W. Gardner Center for Youth and their Communities (PI: Dr. Milbrey W. McLaughlin)
- 2001 Research Assistant, Stanford University, Center on Adolescence (PI: Dr. William Damon)
- 1998-99 Research Assistant, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Program in Afterschool Research and Education (PI: Dr. Gil Noam)
- 1993-97 Program Manager, San Francisco Conservation Corps, San Francisco, CA

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND INVITED SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES**

- 2011 Invited participant, Working Group on Service and Activism in the Digital Age, funded by the Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory (HASTAC) at UC Irvine, with the support of the MacArthur Foundation.
- 2010 Invited participant, Advisory Committee, Funders Collaborative on Youth

Organizing Occasional Paper Series, New York, NY.

- 2010 Invited participant, Conference on Youth Civic Activity, hosted by Stanford University's Center on Adolescence, Stanford, CA (Sept. 11-12).
- 2009 Invited participant, Civic engagement among non-college bound youth, Spencer Foundation, Chicago, IL (March 25-26).
- 2009 Ernest A. Lynton Citation for Distinguished Engaged Scholarship for Early Career Faculty, New England Resource Center for Higher Education
- 2006 Participant, Junior Faculty Consortium, International Conference of the Learning Sciences and the National Science Foundation (\$500)
- 2006 Junior Faculty Development Award, University of Colorado (\$4000)
- 1999-2002 Potter Fellow, Stanford University Graduate Fellowship (full tuition and living stipend)
- 1998 Teaching Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education (\$5000)
- 1998 Roothbert Fellow, the Roothbert Fund (\$2000)

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***Refereed Journal Articles***

- Kirshner, B., & Pozzoboni, K. (in press). Student interpretations of a school closure: Implications for student voice in equity-based reform. *Teachers College Record*.
- Kirshner, B., & Geil, K. (2010). "I'm about to bring it!" Access points between youth activists and adult policymakers. *Children, Youth Environments*, 20(2). Available from <http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye/>
- Kirshner, B., Gaertner, M., & Pozzoboni, K. (2010). Tracing transitions: Understanding the impact of a school closure on displaced students. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 32(30), 407-429.
- Kirshner, B. (2009). Power in numbers: Youth organizing as a context for exploring civic identity. *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, 19(3), 414-440.
- Kirshner, B. (2008). Guided participation in three youth activism organizations: Facilitation, apprenticeship, and joint work. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 17(1), 60-101.
- Strobel, K., Kirshner, B., McLaughlin, M.W., & O'Donoghue, J. (2008). Qualities that attract urban youth to after-school settings and promote continued participation. *Teachers College Record*, 110(8), 1677-1705.
- Michalides, M., & Kirshner B. (2005). Graduate student attitudes toward grading systems. *The College Quarterly*, 8(4). Available online from <http://www.senecac.on.ca/quarterly/2005-vol08-num04-fall/index.html>.

Kirshner, B., Strobel, K., & Fernandez, M. (2003). Critical civic engagement among urban youth. *Penn GSE Perspectives on Urban Education*, 2(1). Available online from <http://www.urbanedjournal.org/archive/Issue3/issue3contents.html>.

Nasir, N. & Kirshner, B. (2003). The cultural construction of moral and civic identities. *Applied Developmental Science*, 7, 138-147.

### **Refereed Book Chapters**

Kirshner, B. (2010). Productive dilemmas in youth participatory action research. In W. R. Penuel & K. O'Connor (Eds.), *Learning research as a human science* (pp. 238-251). *National Society for the Study of Education Yearbook*, 109 (1).

Hart, D., & Kirshner, B. (2009). Promoting civic participation and development among urban adolescents. In J. Youniss & P. Levine (Eds.), *Constructive policy for youth civic engagement* (pp. 102-120). Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press.

O'Donoghue, J., & Kirshner, B. (2008). Engaging urban youth in civic practice: Community-based youth organizations as alternative sites for democratic education. In J. Pace & J. Bixby (Eds.), *Educating democratic citizens in troubled times: Qualitative studies of current efforts* (pp. 227-251). Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

Kirshner, B. (2006a). Apprenticeship learning in youth activism. In P. Noguera, S. Ginwright, & J. Cammarota (Eds.), *Beyond resistance: Youth activism and community change: New democratic possibilities for policy and practice for America's youth* (pp. 37-57). Oxford, UK: Routledge.

### **Refereed Conference Proceedings**

Kirshner, B. (2006). The social formation of youth leadership. In S. Barab, K. Hay, & D. Hickey (Eds.), *Proceedings of the International Conference of the Learning Sciences* (pp. 349-355). Bloomington, IN.

### **Editor of Special Issues of Journals**

Kirshner, B. (Ed.). (2007). Special Issue: Youth activism as a context for learning and development. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 51(3).

Kirshner, B., O'Donoghue, J., & McLaughlin, M.W. (Eds.). (2003). *Youth participation: Improving institutions and communities*. New Directions for Youth Development (Vol. 96). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

### **Invited Articles and Chapters**

Kirshner, B. (in press). Youth activism. In R.J. Levesque (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Adolescence*. New York: Springer.

Mitra, D., & Kirshner, B. (in press). Insiders versus outsiders—Examining variability in

student voice initiatives and their consequences for school change. In J. Portelli & B. McMahon (Eds.), *Student engagement in urban schools: Beyond neoliberal discourses*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishers.

Kirshner, B. (2007). Introduction: Youth activism as a context for learning and development. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 51(3), 367-379.

Kirshner, B. (2007). Supporting youth participation in school reform: Preliminary notes from a university-community partnership. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 17(2), 354-363. Available online from <http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye>.

Kirshner, B. (2006b). Moral voices of politically-engaged urban youth. In D.B. Fink (Ed.), *Doing the right thing: Ethical developmental across diverse environments*. New Directions for Youth Development (Vol. 108, pp. 31-43). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Kirshner, B., O'Donoghue, J., & McLaughlin, M.W. (2005). Youth-adult research collaborations: Bringing youth voice to the research process. In J.L. Mahoney, R.W. Larson, & J.S. Eccles (Eds.), *Organized activities as contexts of development: Extracurricular activities, after-school and community programs* (pp. 131-156). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.

O'Donoghue, J., Kirshner, B., & McLaughlin, M.W. (2003). Introduction: Moving youth participation forward. In B. Kirshner, J. O'Donoghue, & M.W. McLaughlin (Eds.), *Youth participation: Improving institutions and communities*. New Directions for Youth Development (Vol. 96, pp. 15-26). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

### **Book Reviews**

Kirshner, B. (2005). Book review. [Review of the book, *Successful prevention and youth development programs: Across borders (2004)*, L. Ferrer-Wreder, New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers]. *Children, Youth and Environments*, 15(1). Available online from <http://www.colorado.edu/journals/cye>.

Kirshner, B. (2003). Reflecting on moral development and education. [Review of the book, *Education in the Moral Domain (2001)*, L. Nucci, New York: Cambridge University Press]. *Mind, Culture, and Activity*, 10(3), 260-265.

### **Evaluation/Technical Reports**

Kirshner, B. (2009). First Graduate evaluation report: Analysis of college student interviews (Tech. Rep. No. 7). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

Kirshner, B. (2009). First Graduate evaluation report: Analysis of 2008-9 qualitative and quantitative data (Tech. Rep. No. 6). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

Kirshner, B. (2008). *First Graduate evaluation report: Analysis of staff and parent interviews* (Tech. Rep. No. 5). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

Kirshner, B. (2008). *Spencer Foundation final report: A mixed-methods examination of the impact of a school closure on students* (Grant number: 200800053). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

Kirshner, B., & Bueschel, A. (2007). *First Graduate evaluation report: Analysis of wave five interviews and focus groups* (Tech. Rep. No. 4). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

Kirshner, B., & Gehlbach, H. (2006). *First Graduate evaluation report: Analysis of wave four surveys and achievement data* (Tech. Rep. No. 3). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

Kirshner, B., & Bueschel, A.C. (2006). *First Graduate evaluation report: Qualitative analysis of 2005 interviews and focus groups* (Tech. Rep. No. 2). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

Kirshner, B. (2004). *First Graduate evaluation: Qualitative analysis of 2004 interviews and focus groups*. (Tech. Rep. No. 1). Boulder, CO: University of Colorado.

### ***Publications for Practitioner Audiences***

Kirshner, B., Pozzoboni, K., Fitch, B., Lerma, A., Lewis, S., & Lewis, S. (2007, Fall). Tracing Transitions. *Education View: Eye on Research*, 5-6.

O'Donoghue, J., Kirshner, B., & McLaughlin, M.W. (2006). Youth participation: From myths to effective practice. *The Prevention Researcher*, 13(1), 3-6.

McLaughlin, M.W., Kirshner, B., Strobel, K., et al. (2003). *Youth voices on learning after school: A qualitative evaluation of the San Francisco Beacons Initiative*. Stanford, CA: John W. Gardner Center for Youth and Their Communities.

### ***Manuscripts in Progress***

Kirshner, B., & Ginwright, S. (under review). Youth organizing as a developmental context for Latino and African American youth. *Child Development Perspectives*.

Kirshner, B., Pozzoboni, K., & McGreevy, A. (under review). Tools for social innovation: Student learning in community-based research. In B. Paul & T. Thorne (Eds.), *Student learning for social change: Interdisciplinary community-based research*.

Kirshner, B., Pozzoboni, K., & Jones, H. (under review). Cognitive development outside of school: Learning to manage bias in participatory action research. *Applied Developmental Science*.

Kirshner, B., Saldivar, M. G., & Tracy, R. (under review). How after-school programs help students learn to navigate education systems. *New Directions for Youth Development*.

Mitra, D., Serriere, S., & Kirshner, B. (under review). Issues and contexts of citizenship: Studying student voice in the United States. *Comparative Education*.

Saldivar, M. G., Maull, K. E., Kirshner, B. R., Sumner, T. R. (under review). A two-dimensional framework for evaluating teachers' technology adoption. *Educational Media and Technology Yearbook*.

Jurow, S., Tracy, R., & Kirshner, B. (under review). Bringing the learning sciences into teacher education: Changing the contexts for studying learning in an Educational Psychology course. *Journal of Teacher Education*.

#### **SELECTED REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS**

Kirshner, B. (2010). *Youth participatory action research as a context for development*. Presentation at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Philadelphia, PA.

Kirshner, B. (2009, December). *Dilemmas and strategies in youth participatory action research*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Anthropological Association, Washington, DC.

Kirshner, B., Pozzoboni, K., & McGreevy, A. (2009, April). *Tools for social innovation: Student learning in community-based research*. Presentation at the convening of the National Community-based Research Networking Initiative, Princeton, NJ.

Kirshner, B., Gaertner, M., & Pozzoboni, K. (2009, April). *Tracing Transitions: Understanding the impact of a school closure on displaced students*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Education Research Association, San Diego, CA.

Kirshner, B., & Pozzoboni, K. (2008, November). *Collective interests and counter-narratives: The emergence of civic identities in youth participatory action research*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Kirshner, B., & Pozzoboni, K. (2008, April). *Student interpretations of a school closure*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.

Kirshner, B., & Geil, K. (2006, April). *"I'm about to bring it!" Access points between youth activists and adult policymakers*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

Kirshner, B. (2006, March). *Opportunities to learn through joint work*. Paper presented at the biennial conference of the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Francisco, CA.

Kirshner, B. (2006, March). *"Power in numbers": The social construction of civic identities in a youth organizing campaign*. Paper presented at the biennial conference of the Society for Research on Adolescence, San Francisco, CA.

Kirshner, B. (2005, April). *Teaching without teaching*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada.

Kirshner, B. (2004, April). *Collective agency*. Paper presented at the annual conference of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.

Kirshner, B. (2004, March). *Practices supporting civic development in community-based youth organizations*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for

Research on Adolescence, Baltimore, MD.

Kirshner, B. (2003, November). *The social formation of youth voice*. Paper presented at the International Conference on Civic Education Research, New Orleans, LA.

Kirshner, B., Strobel, K., & Fernandez, M. (2002, April). *Civic involvement and social context among urban youth*. Paper presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, New Orleans, LA.

Kirshner, B. (2001, November). *Moral voices of politically engaged urban youth*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Moral Education, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Kirshner, B., Strobel, K., McLaughlin, M., & O'Donoghue, J. (2004, March). *Youth perspectives on the value of after-school settings*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence, Baltimore, MD.

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Kirshner, B., & York, A. (2010, November). Youth-participatory action research as a vehicle for equitable school reform. Workshop presented at the Teachers of Color and Allies Summit, Boulder, CO.

Jurow, S., Kirshner, B., Tracy, R., & Hotchkiss, J. (2010, September). *Service learning and the learning sciences*. Faculty workshop organized by the CU-Boulder Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement.

Kirshner, B., (2008, November). *Developing relationships with community partners*. Presentation at The Nuts and Bolts of Service Learning, a one-day conference for faculty and instructors organized by the CU-Boulder Institute of Ethical and Civic Engagement.

Escobedo, R., Lewis, S., Mack, D., & Kirshner, B. (2007, April). *Tracing Transitions: Displaced students speak out*. Presentation to the Research Collaborative on Youth Activism, Knoxville, TN.

Fitch, B., Lerma, A., & Kirshner, B. (2007, November). *Youth's right to relationships*. Presentation at a Hearing of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Washington, DC.

Kirshner, B. (2005, November). *Generalizability and adaptive expertise*. Presentation at colloquia series organized by the University of Colorado Institute of Cognitive Sciences, Boulder, CO.

### GRANTS

2010 Women Investing in the School of Education, "Student Voice Summer Institute," (PI, \$5000)

2010 Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement, "Incorporating service-learning into

- teacher preparation” (continuation) (co-PI with Susan Jurow and Kris Gutiérrez, \$18000)
- 2010 The Surdna Foundation, White paper on “Youth organizing as a vehicle for civic engagement” (PI, \$7500).
- 2010 The Spencer Foundation, “Critical civic inquiry among non-college bound youth: A design-based research study” (PI, with Co-PIs Shelley Zion and Carlos Hipolito-Delgado, \$360,025)
- 2009 Office of Service Learning and Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement, “Incorporating service-learning into teacher preparation” (co-PI with Susan Jurow, \$13000)
- 2007-8 Carson Foundation: “School Closure Study (phase 2)” (PI, \$12,000)
- 2007-8 Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement, University of Colorado: “Community-based Research for Youth Development” (PI, \$25,000) [New course developed, taught, and studied in fall 2007 and spring 2008]
- 2007-8 The Spencer Foundation: “Mixed-Methods Examination of the Impact of a School Closure on Students” (PI, \$38,775)
- 2007-8 Innovative Seed Grant, University of Colorado: “Colors of Socialization: Pathways to Civic Identity” (Co-PI, \$44,000)
- 2006 Carson Foundation: “School Closure Study” (PI, \$8,000)
- 2006 Diversity and Excellence, University of Colorado: “Youth Participation in Policymaking (phase 2)” (PI, \$3,500)
- 2005 Diversity and Excellence, University of Colorado: “Youth Participation in Policymaking” (PI, \$2,900)
- 2005 IMPART Award, University of Colorado: “Youth Participation in Policymaking” (PI, \$2,950)
- 2005 Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement, University of Colorado: New course development: “Youth Development, Citizenship, and Social Justice” (\$5,400) [course taught in spring 2006]
- 2003 Spencer Foundation Research Training Small Grant Program, Stanford University: “Activism and Learning in Urban Youth Organizations” (\$2,000)

### **CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS**

Critical Civic Inquiry and Student Voice: A three-year study that examines processes of civic development through student action research in three high schools. (Funded by the Spencer Foundation).

Understanding Paths to College for First Generation Students: Longitudinal study that examines how first generation youth navigate critical transitions related to college

access. (Funded through evaluation contract with college access program in California.)

Incorporating Service Learning into Teacher Preparation: A study of pre-service teachers' learning about learning through engaging in service with youth. (Funded by the University of Colorado).

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2008 – current American Anthropological Association
- 2003 – current American Educational Research Association
- 2002 – 2007 Society for Research on Adolescence

## SERVICE

### ***National***

- 2010 Chaired youth-led town hall at American Educational Research Association annual conference (“Nothing for us without us”).
- 2008 – 2009 Treasurer, Adolescence and Youth Development Special Interest Group, American Educational Research Association.
- 2007 Reviewed conference proposals for the Society for Research on Adolescence (Panel 14: Applied Research, Program Evaluation, and Public Policy).
- 2006 – current Affiliate Editor, *Children, Youth and Environments*.
- 2006, 2009 Reviewed conference proposals for the International Society of the Learning Sciences.
- 2004 – current Reviewer for multiple journals, including: *ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies*; *Applied Developmental Science*; *Child Development*; *Children, Youth Environments*; *Education Researcher*; *Human Development*; *Journal of Comparative Family Studies*; *Journal of Research on Adolescence*; *Journal of Teacher Education*; *New Directions for Youth Development*; *Review of Educational Research*; *Urban Education*.
- 2004 – current Reviewed conference proposals for the American Educational Research Association (Division G and Adolescence/Youth Development SIG).

### ***University of Colorado***

- 2008 – current Fellow, Education and the Public Interest Center, School of Education, Boulder, CO.
- 2005 – current Member of Advisory Board: Children, Youth and Environments Center for Research and Design.

- 2005 – current Member of Steering Committee: Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement.
- 2008 Participant in IMPART review, organized by the Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Diversity and Development.
- 2007 Invited workshop (“Authentic learning”) at the Graduate Teacher Preparation conference.

***Community***

- 2010 Presentation (“Youth participatory action research and equity-based school reform”), at the Teachers of Color and Allies Summit, a one-day conference for teachers organized by the School of Education, Boulder, CO. (With Adam York).
- 2008 – current Board Member, Project VOYCE, Denver, CO.
- 2007 – 2008 Developed partnerships with three non-profit youth programs in Boulder County as part of course (Boulder I Have a Dream, Project YES, and Access Colorado).
- 2007 Invited presentation (“Student responses to a school closure”) at the Teachers of Color and Allies Summit, a one-day conference for teachers organized by the School of Education, Boulder, CO.
- 2006 – current Board Member, Sage Community Partnerships, Boulder, CO.
- 2006 – 2008 Developed and carried out participatory research study with local high school students about closure of their school.
- 2006 Member, Research subcommittee, The Child- and Youth-Friendly City Initiative, Denver, CO.