

- Independent study (brenda and group)

## **Bethy Leonardi, Ph.D.**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Associate Professor  
Educational Foundations, Policy, & Practice  
Co-Director, A Queer Endeavor  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, Colorado 80309

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Website: [aqueerendeavor.org](http://aqueerendeavor.org)

## **EDUCATION**

2014 Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder Educational Foundations, Policy, and Practice.  
Dissertation: *Tilling the soil for LGBTQ inclusive policies: A case study of one school's attempt to bring policy into practice*. Committee Members: Drs. Margaret Eisenhart (co-chair), Michele Moses (co-chair), Kenneth Howe, Elizabeth Dutro and Elizabeth Meyer

2008 M.A., University of Colorado Boulder, School of Education, Educational Foundations, Policy, and Practice. Master's Thesis: *Head in the game: Rethinking intelligence. A study of the effects of the social construction of intelligence on students in schools*.

1996 Bachelor of Arts, Nicholls State University, English Education/Math Education (minor).

## **AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Education Policy and Implementation  
Queer, Trans, & Democratic Theories  
Gender and Sexual Diversity  
LGBTQ Youth in Schools  
Critical, Transformative, and Queer Pedagogies  
Qualitative Methods  
Professional Development  
Teacher Education

## **ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS**

2022- present

*Associate Professor*, Educational Foundations, Policy, & Practice, School of Education,  
University of Colorado Boulder

2020- 2022

*Assistant Professor*, Educational Foundations, Policy, & Practice, School of Education,  
University of Colorado Boulder

2014- present

*Co-Founder/ Director, A Queer Endeavor, University of Colorado Boulder*  
Co-lead A Queer Endeavor's initiatives and programs on gender and sexual diversity for pre-service and in-service educators; develop and implement curriculum and work in collaboration with the dean and faculty to develop the School of Education's efforts and improve teacher preparation with respect to commitments around gender and sexual diversity; collaborate with local PK- 12 school communities, administrators, and teachers in professional development settings around topics of gender and sexual diversity; conduct research and evaluation on the initiatives.

2019-2020

*Assistant Research Professor, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder*

2014- 2019

*Research Associate and Co-Founder/ Director, A Queer Endeavor, University of Colorado Boulder*

2017-present

*Affiliate Faculty, LGBTQ Studies, University of Colorado Boulder*

2013

*Research Consultant, Colorado Legacy Foundation*  
Analyzed open-ended teacher survey responses from twelve Colorado school districts (N ~ 1400) as part of a \$20M grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, designed to integrate initiatives related to standards, assessments, and evaluation connected to Senate Bill 10-191. Prepared and presented a final report to CLF to support implementation and identify successes and challenges.

2011-2013

*Research Assistant, University of Colorado Boulder, School of Education*  
Under the supervision of Dr. Michele Moses, conceptualized research design and conducted research on local I Have a Dream Program.

2012

*Research Consultant, Colorado Department of Education*  
Collected, prepared, and analyzed qualitative and quantitative data from Colorado Department of Education's teacher evaluation rubric for Rubric Comparison Study; analyses include inferential and descriptive statistics. Prepared and presented reports to facilitate CDE's decision-making processes related to teacher evaluation.

2011-2012

*Graduate Student Outreach and Assessment Coordinator, LGBTQ Resource Center*  
University of Colorado Boulder

2009-2012

*Research Assistant*, National Education Policy Center and IDEAL: Initiative on Diversity, Equity, and Learning, University of Colorado Boulder  
Communicated extant research to assist the Gill Foundation and local LGBTQ political and community groups to create anti-bullying policies and to evaluate state-wide programming related to LGBTQ youth and issues.

## AWARDS

- 2024 **Community Perspectives Cohort**, selected to be a member of a professional development program offering each cohort the opportunity to deepen their knowledge and skills as publicly and community-engaged scholars.
- 2021 **Women Who Lead** Recognition, University of Colorado Boulder Alumni and Students.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwSi7J4VKhk>
- 2021 **Marinus Smith Awards** Nomination, University of Colorado Boulder.  
<https://www.colorado.edu/orientation/marinus-smith-awards>
- 2018 **NBC Out #Pride30 Award** (with Sara Staley)  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/pride30-bethy-leonardi-sara-staley-are-redefining-how-students-learn-n877956>
- 2018 **Best Should Teach Gold** Award, University of Colorado Boulder  
<https://www.colorado.edu/gtp/BestShouldTeach>
- 2018 **Kalpana Chawla Alumni Award**, University of Colorado Boulder (with Sara Staley)  
<https://www.colorado.edu/homecoming/kalpanachawla>
- 2018 University of Colorado **President's Diversity Award** (with Sara Staley)
- 2017 National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) **Alan C. Purves Award**, Honorable Mention
- 2016 The Jean and Jack Hodges **"Big Hearts Award"** (with Sara Staley), Out Boulder, Boulder, Colorado.
- 2014 **Outstanding Doctoral Graduate**, School of Education. University of Colorado Boulder.

- 2014  
**Graduate Student Teaching Excellence** Award. The Graduate School. University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2013  
 The **Joanne Arnold Courage and Commitment** Award: For a faculty, staff, student or alumni who inspires the community with courage, good cheer, unflagging optimism and commitment to find justice for all, GLBTQ Resource Center, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2013  
**Travel Scholarship**, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2012  
**GLBTQ Alumni Scholarship**: For excellence in academic work and contributions to the LGBTQ and allied community on campus, GLBTQ Resource Center, University of Colorado.
- 2011  
**Top Graduate Part-time Instructor** Award. United Government of Graduate Students, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2010  
**Women Who Make a Difference** Nomination, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2008  
**Outstanding Masters Graduate**, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder.

#### SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

(\*Co-authors listed in alphabetical order.)

#### Articles/ Chapters in Peer-reviewed

**Leonardi, B\***. & Staley, S. (2022). Disrupting Damage-Centered Approaches to LGBTQ+ Inclusion: Finding Queer Possibilities. In E. Dutro and B. Pacheco (Eds.), *Special Issues Series, Trauma-Informed Teaching: Toward Responsive, Humanizing Classrooms*. (Vol. 2). NCTE.

Meyer, E.J., **Leonardi, B.**, & Keenan, H.B. (2022). *Transgender students and policy in K-12 public schools: Acknowledging historical harms and taking steps toward a promising future*. Boulder, CO: National Education Policy Center. Retrieved [April 6, 2022] from <http://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/transgender>.

**Leonardi, B.** & Staley, S. (2021). Cultivating a Queer mindset: How one elementary school

teacher is ‘rattling common sense.’ *Teachers College Record Volume 123* (7).  
<https://www.tcrecord.org> ID Number: 23784 [AR: 8%]<sup>1</sup>

**Leonardi, B., & Moses, M. S.** (2021). Understanding democratic education policy queerly: Toward a queer democratic framework. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 29(90).  
<https://doi.org/10.14507/epaa.29.5600> [AR: 9%]

**Leonardi, B., & Farley, A., Harsin Drager<sup>+</sup>, E., & Gonzalez<sup>+</sup>, J.** (2021). Unpacking the T: Understanding the Diverse Experiences Trans Students Navigating Schools. *Berkeley Review of Education*, 10(2). <http://dx.doi.org/10.5070/B810245267>. Retrieved from <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/10v091bm>

Farley, A. N. & **Leonardi, B.** (2021). Beyond bathroom bills and the gender identity debate: Complicating the policy conversation about supporting trans students in schools. *Educational Policy*, 35(2), 274-303. [AR: 10%]

Staley, S. & **Leonardi, B.** (2020). A Pretty Queer Thing: Thinking Queerly About Teachers’ Gender and Sexual Diversity–Focused Professional Learning. *Journal of Teacher Education*, DOI: 0022487120971588. [AR: <5%]

\***Leonardi, B. & Staley, S.** (2019). Complicating what we know: Focusing on educators’ processes of becoming gender and sexual diversity inclusive. *Theory into Practice*. 58(1). 29-38. [AR: <10%]

**Leonardi, B. & Staley, S.** (2018). What’s involved in ‘the work’? Understanding administrators’ roles in bringing trans-affirming policies into practice. *Gender and Education*, 1-20. [AR: 13%]

Meyer, E. J. & **Leonardi, B.** (2017). Teachers’ professional learning to affirm transgender, non-binary, and gender-creative youth: Experiences and recommendations from the field *Sex Education*. DOI:10.1080/14681811.2017.1411254 [AR: 31%]

**Leonardi, B.** (2017) Navigating the relationship between policy and practice: Competing discourses of fear and care in teachers’ sense-making about the FAIR Education Act, *Journal of Education Policy*, DOI: 10.1080/02680939.2017.1320730 [AR: 10%]

**Leonardi, B.** (2017). The “box” ing match: Narratives from queer adults growing up through the heterosexual matrix. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 14(1), 93-117. [AR: 41%]

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<sup>1</sup> AR = Acceptance Rate

+ = graduate students

\*co-authored piece

*Before 2017*

Staley, S. & **Leonardi, B.** (2016). Leaning in to Discomfort: Preparing Pre-service Teachers for Gender and Sexual Diversity. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 51(2), 209. (Alan C. Purves Award, Honorable Mention)

### **Edited Volumes**

**Leonardi, B.**, & Farley, A. N., (co-editors), Special Issue: Educational Leadership for Social Justice and Inclusion, *Education Sciences* (in process; invited)

Farley, A.N., **Leonardi, B.**, & Donner, J. (Co-editors), 2021 *Politics of Education Yearbook*, selected through a competitive CFP and published as a special issue of *Educational Policy*

### **Invited Articles**

Leonardi, B., Skinner-Thompson, S., Staley, S. (2025). Learning About LGBTQ Topics in School <https://nepc.colorado.edu/publication/newsletter-mahmoud-taylor-090925>

Staley, S. & **Leonardi, B.** (2021). Educators moving toward collective liberation.: Reflections on the #EIEJ2021. *The Assembly* 4(1), 1-4.

Farley, A. N., **Leonardi, B.**, & Donnor, J. K. (2021). Perpetuating Inequalities: The Role of Political Distraction in Education Policy. *Educational Policy*, 35(2), 163-179.

**Leonardi, B.**, Farley, A. N., & Donnor, J. K. (2021). A Reflection on Engaged Scholarship. *Educational Policy*, 35(2), 383-392.

\***Leonardi, B.** & Staley, S. (2019). Gender and sexual diversity in teacher education. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Education*. Oxford University Press.  
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264093.013.281>

\***Leonardi, B.** & Staley, S. (2015). Affirm Gender and Sexual Diversity Within the School Community. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 97(3), 69-73.

### **Book Chapters**

*Before 2017*

**Leonardi, B.** & Meyer, E.J. (2016). Internal safety in Rodriguez, N., Martino, W., Ingrey, & Brockenbrough, E. (eds.) *Critical Concepts in Queer Studies and Education*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Staley, S., & **Leonardi, B.** (2016). Remaining Stubborn Faithful: What Queering Academia Does to Queer Teacher-Scholars in Miller, s. & Rodriguez, N. *Educators Queering Academia: Critical Memoirs*. New York: Peter Lang

**Leonardi, B.** & Saenz, L. (2014). Conceptualizing Safety from the Inside Out: Heteronormative Spaces and Their Effects on Students' Sense of Self in Carlson, D. & Meyer, E. (eds.) *Gender and Sexualities in Education: A Handbook*. New York: Peter Lang.

### **Manuscripts In Progress**

Staley, S., Nowell, Z. **Leonardi, B.** Depathologizing First-Year Teachers' Negative Feelings Through Collectivity: A Case Study On Feeling Bad (with graduate students) (in process)

**Leonardi, B.**, Peña, N., Griffin, K. Family Chosen: Queer and Trans Reflections, Tender Moments, and Sticking With Families of Origin (with graduate students) (in process)

**Leonardi, B.**, Hedrick-Shaw, D., Peña, Nelia. Disrupting Damage Centered Narratives in Educators' Perceptions of Inclusive Policy (submitted to EPAA, Revise and Resubmit, 2025, under review) (with graduate students)

**Leonardi, B.**, Hedrick-Shaw, D., Peña, Nelia. Disrupting Damage Centered Narratives in Educators' Perceptions of Inclusive Policy (submitted to EEPA, Revise and Resubmit, Declined) (with graduate students)

Staley, S., & **Leonardi, B.** Bridging the Gap: Practices of Queer-Inclusive, Anti-Oppressive Teacher Educators.

**Leonardi, B.**, Staley, S., Hernandez, B.L. Humanizing Practice: Identity as a Starting Point for Intersectional Community- and Coalition-Building.

\***Leonardi, B.** & Staley, S. "It Hurts to Become:" Two teachers' processes of negotiating gender and sexual diversity-inclusive practices.

Staley, S. & **Leonardi, B.** Feelings are not the enemy: Queer teacher-scholars' reflections on queering academia.

### **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP**

2024

Screening Reclaiming the Narrative, Longmont Museum

Interview with Ed Week:

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/heres-how-many-high-schoolers-are-transgender-and-how-theyre-faring-in-schools/2024/10>

Interview with KUNC Podcast - The Colorado Dream "Ending the Hate State"

<https://www.kunc.org/podcast/the-colorado-dream>

Interview with Voice of America (VOA) in Washington, DC.

2023

Produced feature film in partnership with Denver Public Schools. *Reclaiming the Narrative: A Documentary about LGBTQ+ Youth.*

2021

Colorado Public Radio: There's A Big Fight Going On Over Equity and Diversity In Colorado Schools. In The St. Vrain Valley District, The Sides Are Colliding Loudly:  
<https://www.cpr.org/2021/09/13/st-vrain-valley-district-critical-race-theory-colorado-schools-in-the/>

2019- present

A Queer Endeavor's quarterly newsletter: <http://aqueerendeavor.org/newsletter/>

2018

Colorado Public Radio: How Do You Make The Classroom LGBTQ-Inclusive? These Teachers Went To Summer School To Find Out:  
<http://www.cpr.org/news/story/how-do-you-make-the-classroom-lgbtq-inclusive-these-teachers-when-to-summer-school-to>

National Public Radio, *Morning Edition*: 5 Ways to Make Classrooms More Inclusive  
<https://www.npr.org/2018/10/26/659571443/5-ways-to-make-classrooms-more-inclusive>

2017

Guests, *Outsources*, KGNU Community Radio, The role of allies in schools.  
Guests, *Outsources*, KGNU Community Radio, The role of allies in schools, take 2.

2016

Guest Commentator, *Colorado Matters*, *Colorado Public Radio*, "Two Worms in Love Spark Dialogue About Anti-Bias Curriculum in Colorado Preschools."

2015

Opinion Columnist, *Times Call*, In Evan Young case, learning and identity are inextricably linked.

2014

Contributing Editor, *Allies in Diversity Guide*, The Colorado Education Initiative.

2013

Producer and Director, *Breaking the silence: Honoring the voices of queer youth and allies in supporting our teachers*. This documentary film highlights the voices of LGBTQ youth and allies and puts these youth in conversation with pre-and in-service teachers.

2011

Guest Commentator, *Patt Morrison Show*, 89.3 KPCC, Southern California Public Radio, Dan Savage to Gay Teens: "It Gets Better."

2009-2011

Bllogger: Teaching and Learning, *Ed News Parent Colorado*.

## **GRANTS & GIFTS**

2025

CU Boulder, Office for Public and Community Engaged Scholarship (PACES) (2025-26), Creating a Colorado-based coalition for LGBTQ youth-serving organizations, Co-PIs B. Leonardi, E.J. Meyer, & S. Staley

PACES Microgrant in collaboration with BUENO (\$2,000)

PACES small grant \$(5000)

PACES small grant with Leilani Arthurs, Science (\$5000)

Boulder Community Foundation (\$10,000)

Gift, Melony Lewis (\$25,000)

WISE in collaboration with BUENO (applied, not granted)

Spencer Research Practice Partnership in collaboration with BUENO (awaiting decision)

2024

Community Foundation Endowment (\$61,000)

Jean and Jack Hodges Endowment (\$10,000)

Outreach Grant (\$5000)

Seed Grant (\$2,000)

2023

Recipient, Root Ed, Post-production *Reclaiming the Narrative: A Documentary about LGBTQ+ Youth*. (\$8,000)

Individual donors and gifts upward of \$61,000

Recipient of campus wide grant to bring more Colorado Borderland History to courses at CU in partnership with the Latin American and Latinx Studies Center and professors representing various departments across campus. Funding for undergraduate students to do research and create archive of LGBTQ+ Latinx Colorado History.

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley, Co-Investigator), *Looking Back, Forging Ahead: A Retrospective Study of One University-District Partnership for LGBTQ+-Focused Equity*, School of Education Partnership Seed Grant,(\$19,340.00.)

2022

Recipient (with Sara Staley and A Queer Endeavor) *Educator Institute for Equity and Justice* gift from The Colorado Health Foundation to organize an intersectional team of student-scholars and colleagues. (\$24,500)

Recipient (with Sara Staley and A Queer Endeavor) Creating community with LGBTQ+ Educators from Boulder Community Foundation. (\$3,250)

Co-Investigator (with Sara Staley and Noreen Naseem Rodríguez), *House Bill 19-1192: Bringing the Promise of Inclusive Educational Policy into Practice*. Women Investing in the School of Education (WISE), University of Colorado Boulder. (\$9,278.35)

Co-Investigator (with Sara Staley), House Bill 19-1192: Bringing the Promise of Inclusive Educational Policy into Practice, CU Outreach & Engagement. (\$8,200)

Co-Investigator (with Sara Staley and Siomara Valladares) *Supporting Ourselves and Our Students in Hostile Times*. Rose Foundation. (\$50,000)

Recipient, Root Ed, Developing Doing Intersectional Research Together (D.I.R.T) a program serving queer and trans youth. (\$19, 593)

Gift. Twisted Foundation in support of film project with Denver Public Schools. (\$10,000)

2022 Total: \$124, 821

2021

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Disrupting Heteronormativity through “Professional Development” Project directed by A Queer Endeavor; funded by Twisted Foundation, (\$50,000)

Gifts. Donations to cover 150 educators after St. Vrain Valley School District withdrew funding for the Educator Institute for Equity & Justice. (\$19,000)

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Equify: Building LGBTQ+-Inclusive Capacity in Greeley-Evans District 6 through University-District Partnership.” Greeley-Evans District 6, \$19,833

Recipient (with Sara Staley and A Queer Endeavor) *Educator Institute for Equity and Justice* gift from The Colorado Health Foundation to organize an intersectional team of student-scholars and colleagues, \$24,500.

Gifts. Donations for A Queer Endeavor’s Kelley Therese Wylder Anderson scholarship, \$25,000 (**Endowed**, Summer 2021)

2020

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Disrupting Heteronormativity through “Professional Development” Project directed by A Queer Endeavor; funded by Twisted Foundation, \$50,000

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley). “Teaching and Learning to Queer the Curriculum.”, Office of Outreach & Engagement, University of Colorado Boulder, \$7,000

Recipient (with Sara Staley). *Queering Practices in Education*, Community Foundation, \$5,000

Gifts. Scholarships for *Queering Practices in Education*, Community Foundation, \$7,500

Gifts. Scholarships for *Queering Practices in Education*, Individual Donors, \$10,000.

Recipient (with Sara Staley), Center for Outreach and Engagement, CU Boulder, in support of LGBTQ State-wide Institute, \$2,000.

2019

Recipient (with Sara Staley), Odell Brewing Company, Seasonal Partner, \$10,000.

Recipient (with Sara Staley), Center for Outreach and Engagement, CU Boulder, in support of LGBTQ State-wide Institute, \$3,200.

Recipient (with Sara Staley), Saint Vrain Valley School District, in support of LGBTQ State-wide Institute, \$1,000.

2018

Recipient (with Sara Staley), The Jared Polis Foundation, in support of LGBTQ State-wide Institute, \$1,000.

Recipient (with Sara Staley), Center for Outreach and Engagement, CU Boulder, in support of LGBTQ State-wide Institute, \$1,200.

Recipient (with Sara Staley), Out Boulder County, in support of LGBTQ State-wide Institute, \$1,000.

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Learning Through Practice: How Teachers Engage Students in Gender and Sexual Diversity-Focused Instruction.” The Spencer Foundation, \$50,000.

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “But, What Does it Look Like?”: Documenting the Practices of Inclusive Educators.” WISE: Women Investing in the School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder, \$9,196.

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Supporting educators to create and enact gender and sexual diversity focused lessons.” The Community Foundation, \$3,000.

2017

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “*But, What Does it Look Like?* ”: Documenting the Practices of Inclusive Educators, Women Investing in the School of Education, \$17,196 (2017-19).

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Building LGBTQ-Inclusive Capacity Through University-District Partnership” Outreach & Engagement, CU Boulder, \$8,523.

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Disrupting Heteronormativity through “Professional Development” Project directed by A Queer Endeavor; funded by Twisted Foundation (\$150,000 over three years)

2014-2019

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Disrupting Heteronormativity through “Professional Development.” Twisted Foundation, \$330,000.

2016

Principal Investigator, CU Engage Outreach Fellow, \$4,000.

2014-2015

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), A Queer Endeavor, The Gill Foundation, \$1,000.

2014

Principal Investigator (with Sara Staley), “Breaking the Silence” University of Colorado Crowdfunding Project, \$23,860.

#### **PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS**

Leonardi, B. & Hedrick-Shaw, D. (2023) Disrupting Damage Centered Narratives in Educators’ Perceptions of Inclusive Policy. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, Illinois.

Leonardi, B. & Farley, A. (2022). Bathroom Bills and LGBTQ+-Inclusive Policies: Is There Promise? Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (online). (Invited Presidential session)

Staley, S. & Leonardi, B. (2021). A Pretty Queer Thing: Thinking Queerly About Teachers’ Gender and Sexual Diversity–Focused Professional Learning. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (online).

Farley, A. & Leonardi, B. (2021). Transgender Youth in Schools: Bathroom Bills as a Distraction From Larger Structural Issues. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (online).

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021) Cultivating a Queer mindset: How one elementary school teacher is ‘rattling common sense.’ Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (online).

Staley, S., & Leonardi, B. (2020, Apr 17 - 21) Learning Through Practice: How Teachers Engage Students in Gender and Sexual Diversity–Focused Instruction. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/rdcdy9b> (Conference Canceled)

Leonardi, B., & Farley, A, Harsin Drager+, E. & Gonzalez, J.+ Unpacking the T: Sharing the diverse experiences of parents/guardians navigating schools for trans youth. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, ON.

Farley, A. & Leonardi, B. Bathroom bills and the gender identity debate: Complicating the policy conversation about supporting trans students. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, ON.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2017). What's Involved in 'the work'? Understanding Administrators' Roles in Bringing Trans\*-Affirming Policies Into Practice. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.

*Before 2017*

Leonardi, B. (2016). Understanding Democratic Education Queerly. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, D.C.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2016). It Hurts to Become: Two Teachers Processes of Negotiating Gender And Sexual Diversity-Inclusive Practices. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, D.C.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2015). Breaking the Silence: Affirming Gender & Sexual Diversity in Educational Contexts. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Studies Association, San Antonio, TX.

Staley, S., & Leonardi, B. (2015). Remaining Stubbornly Faithful: What Queering Academia Does to Queer Teacher-Scholars. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Carlsbad, CA.

Leonardi, B. (April, 2013). Tilling the Soil for LGBTQ Inclusive Policies: Learning Lessons from Desegregation to Cultivate Communities of Safety and Inclusivity. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Leonardi, B. (December, 2013). Fear flares and caring commitments: Exploring teachers' struggles in professional development opportunities related to gender and sexual diversity. Presented as part of the session: Embodied Literacies, Visceral Analysis and the (Un)framing of Data at the annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Dallas, TX.

Staley, S., & Leonardi, B. (December, 2013). Breaking the Silence: Preparing Pre-service Teachers to Disrupt Heteronormativity. Presented at the annual meeting of the Literacy Research Association, Dallas, TX.

Leonardi, B., & Saenz, L. (April, 2013). Conceptualizing Safety from the Inside Out: Heteronormative Spaces and Their Effects on Students' Sense of Self. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

Saenz, L. & Leonardi, B. (April, 2013). Cultural Responsivity in LGBTQ-Related Evaluation Work: Theoretical Tensions and a Democratic Framework for Practice.” Presented at the annual Culturally Responsive Evaluation and Assessment Conference, Chicago, IL.

Saenz, L. & Leonardi, B. (October, 2012). Evaluating queer experiences in a “What Works” culture: A democratic framework for advancing equal educational opportunity. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Leonardi, B. (April, 2012). The “box”ing match: Gender identity, positioning, and agency in straight spaces. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada.

Leonardi, B., & Saenz, L. (April, 2012). Reimagining school safety from a perspective of care and opportunity: Considerations for policy, research, and evaluation. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada.

Dutro, E., & Leonardi, B. (April, 2011). The lure and lore of trauma in the film *Precious*: Urban schools and Hollywood’s narratives of children in peril. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. New Orleans, LA.

Leonardi, B. (October, 2011). Outside in: Challenging the inside out policies that constrain “at-risk” youth. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Studies Association, Denver, CO.

#### **INVITED COMMUNITY AND ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

◆Indicates session collaboration with in-service educators.

Invited Talk, University of Denver, *Reclaiming the Narrative* (2024)

Keynote Speaker, University of Colorado Denver, Policy Actor Conference (2024)

Invited Talk Metro State University, *Reclaiming the Narrative* (2024)

Professional development, Denver Public Schools (August 2024)

CONAME Conference participation with graduate students (August 2024)

Invited Talk DU Leonardi, B., Staley, S., & Nowell, Z. Queering Literacies. (2023, November). Workshop delivered for attendees at the National Council of Teachers of English annual convention, Columbus, OH.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2023, January). Creating Affirming Spaces for Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity. Professional development delivered for staff at Nederland Middle/Senior High School, Boulder, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S.,(2023, January). Queering Pedagogy, Queering Practice. Professional

development delivered for College of Media, Communication, and Information, University faculty and instructors, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S.(2022, May). Conversations for Change: Queering Leadership. Virtual session delivered at the 2022 NCWIT Summit. (Invited session)

Leonardi, B., Staley, S., & Hernandez, B. (2022, March). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity at the Eton School. Professional development delivered for staff at the Eton School. Bellevue, WA.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, August). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for educators Douglas Elementary School, Boulder Valley School District.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, August). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for educators Steck Elementary, Denver Public Schools.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, August). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for educators Willow, Montclair, and Swigert International Elementary Schools, Denver Public Schools.

Leonardi, B. (2021, August). Cultivating a Queer Mindset. Professional development facilitated for staff of St. Vrain Community Montessori School.

Leonardi, B. and Regan, P.+ (2021, August). Expanding Gender through the AIC Program. Professional development facilitated for staff of National Center for Women & Information Technology.

Leonardi, B. (2021, August). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for staff of Orange County Wraparound Program.

Leonardi, B. (2021, August). Digging In to Act Out Creating expansive and affirming classrooms. Professional development session for Arcadia University Faculty.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, May). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for educators in Cherry Creek School District.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, May). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for Greeley, District 6 Equify Team.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, April). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for educators at Colorado Mountain College.

- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, April.) Queer Pedagogy workshop. Professional development facilitated for College of Communication, Media, and Information faculty Equity Team. University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2020, March.). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for staff at TARA High School.
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2020-2021). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for all middle schools in Adams 12 School District.
- Leonardi, B. & Hernandez, B.L. (2020-2021). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development series facilitated for all GSA sponsors in Adams 12 School District.
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2021, February). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for Greeley, District 6 Instructional Coaches.
- Leonardi, B. (2021, January). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for Greeley West High School, District 6.
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (December, 2020). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for Greeley West High School, District 6.
- Leonardi, B. (2020, October). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for Special Needs Advocacy Network.
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2020, November). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for Denver Public Schools Elementary schools and parents.
- Leonardi, B. (2020, December). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for International Society for Technology in Education.
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2020). Auburn University. Distinguished Lecture Series. [Canceled due to Covid]
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2020, November). Queering the Keynote: It Hurts to Become. Inaugural Gender and Sexuality Educational Alliance Keynote Address delivered at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English. (Invited presentation)
- Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2019, November). Taking a queer approach to leading. Professional

development facilitated for College of Communication, Media, and Information faculty leadership team, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2019, October). Affirming Gender, Sexual, and Family Diversity in Our Schools. Professional development facilitated for elementary education teacher candidates, Boston University, Boston, MA.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2018, March). Digging in to act out: Creating spaces of security for LGBTQ students. Presentation at the 37th Annual Gender Studies Symposium, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR. (Invited presentation)

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2018, January). Creating safe, affirming schools for gender, sexual, and family diversity. Professional development facilitated for Denver Teach Today teacher licensure candidates, University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO.

◆Leonardi, B., Stegall, T., Moore, A., Hunter, S. (2018). #aqueerendeavor: Affirming Family, Gender, Sexual Diversity across Three Local School Districts. Presentation at the Colorado Association of School Executives, Westminster, CO.

◆Leonardi, B., Staley, S., Stegall, T., Knauer, S., Meyer, C., Fretz, M., Stone, J., McCann, C., Gilreath, M. (2017). #aqueerendeavor: Affirming Family, Gender, Sexual Diversity District-wide. Presentation at the Learning Forward Conference, Orlando, Florida.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2017, June). Affirming gender, sexual, and family diversity in PK-12 schools. Professional development facilitated for elementary and secondary administrators and teacher leaders, Adams 12 Five Star School District, Thornton, CO.

#### *Before 2017*

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2016, November). Breaking the silence: Queer-affirming pedagogy and practice in the English classroom. Classroom demonstration at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English, Atlanta, GA.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2016, October). Affirming gender and sexual diversity in K-12 and higher education. Professional development facilitated for school of education faculty, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2016, October). Creating safe schools through inclusive and affirming policy and practice. Professional development facilitated for counseling and mental health staff, Adams 12 Five Star School District, Thornton, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2016, October). Complicating “the work”: Moving beyond legal frameworks. Professional development facilitated for elementary and secondary principals, St. Vrain Valley School District, Longmont, CO.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2016, August). Breaking the silence: Affirming gender and sexual diversity in education contexts. Professional development facilitated for the school of education and human development faculty, University of Colorado Denver, Denver, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2016, August). School climate and culture: Taking stock and taking action. Professional development facilitated for elementary and secondary principals, Boulder Valley School District, Boulder, CO.

◆Leonardi, B., Staley, S., Stegall, T., Barr, J., Dimiziani-Cascio, V., Clay, E. Hamasaki, R., Williams, S. (2016). #aqueerendeavor: Affirming Family, Gender, Sexual Diversity District-wide. Presentation at the Learning Forward Conference, Vancouver, Canada.

◆Barr, J., Cabrera, R., Clay, E., Edbrooke, O., Hamasaki, R., Katsampes, P., Leonardi, B., Staley, S., Stegall, T., & Williams, S. (2016, July). One district's journey: Affirming gender and sexual diversity. Presentation delivered at annual meeting of the Colorado Association of School Executives, Breckenridge, CO.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2016, August). Disrupting heteronormativity in the elementary grades. Professional development facilitated for staff, Eisenhower Elementary, Boulder, CO.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2016, May). Affirming gender and family diversity in the school community. Professional development facilitated for staff, Lyons Elementary, Lyons, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2016, May). Disrupting heteronormativity through literacy and literature. Professional development facilitated for library and media specialists, Boulder Valley School District, Boulder, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2016, March). Breaking the silence: Honoring the voices of LGBTQ youth in preparing our teachers. Professional development facilitated for the Seattle Teacher Residency, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2016, February). Affirming gender and sexual diversity in our schools. Professional development facilitated for elementary and secondary principals, St. Vrain Valley School District, Longmont, CO.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2015, August). Affirming gender and sexual diversity in our schools. Professional development facilitated for all administrators and district leadership in Boulder Valley School District, Boulder, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2015, January). Breaking the silence: Honoring the voices of LGBTQ youth and allies in preparing our teachers. Professional development facilitated for staff, Denver West Leadership Academy, Denver, CO.

Leonardi, B. & Staley, S. (2014, October). Breaking the silence: Affirming gender and sexual

diversity in higher education. Presentation delivered at Front Range Community College, Longmont, CO.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2014, October). Gender and sexual diversity-inclusive education: Affirming our youth. Professional development facilitated for New Vista High School staff, Boulder, CO.

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2014, October). Breaking the Silence around Gender and Sexual Diversity: Opening the Conversation. Presentation delivered at Teachers of Color and Allies Summit, Boulder, CO. (Invited presentation)

Leonardi, B., & Staley, S. (2013, October). Breaking the silence: Honoring the voices of LGBTQ youth and allies in preparing our teachers. Presentation delivered at the annual PFLAG national convention, Washington DC.

Leonardi, B. (2011, April). Make It Better... *Now*: Stamina of Queer Youth vs. the Audacity of Action. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE: POSTSECONDARY**

### **University of Colorado Boulder**

2025 Independent study Qualitative Methods (7 students)

2022- present

Instructor Qualitative Methods 1, required course for PhD cohort.

2020-2024

Instructor and new course developer (with Sara Staley & Brittini Laura Hernandez), Queering Practice in Education, Online outreach course designed for in-service educators in the time of Covid-19. (Enrollment 47)

2018-present

Instructor and new course developer, EDUC 5022: LGBTQ Topics in Higher Education (Module course, part of MA in Higher Education)

2016-present

Instructor and new course developer, EDUC 4301/5301: Queer(ing) Topics in Education (undergraduate, masters, doctoral)

2014-2023

Instructor and new course developer, EDUC 5040: Gender and Sexual Diversity: A Collaborative Inquiry (Continuing Education for in-service teachers)

2016-2022

Instructor, EDUC 5005: Advanced Social Foundations of Education (masters)

2009-2022

Instructor, EDUC 3013: School and Society (undergraduate)

2013-2014

University Supervisor (undergraduate + masters)

2013-2014

Teaching Assistant, Qualitative Methods two course sequence (doctoral)

2010-2014

Instructor and Course Developer: Education 3013 +: School and Society, Talking in the Boundaries (undergraduate)

2011-2012

Lead Graduate Teacher for the School of Education, Graduate Teacher Program.

#### **ADVISING AND MENTORING**

- Recruited and mentored a team (3 each semester) of graduate students to work with A Queer Endeavor.
- PhD Students Adviser/Co-Adviser

Robyn Tomiko (started Fall 2021-2023)

Franklin Chilaka (co-advisor with Terrenda White, started Fall 2021-2023)

Page Regan (co-advisor with Elizabeth Meyer) 2022-2025

- MA Advisor
- PhD Comps and Thesis Committees

Erin Stamm

Brianna Magaly Leyva (2025)

Kira Nolan (2025)

Cynthia Coral-Robles

Mike Keldsen, (UC Denver)

Anne Fritzon (Psychology, CU Boulder)(2025)

Jon Sawyer (EFPP)

María Ruiz-Martinez (EBB)

Mary Quantz (EFPP, graduated 2021)

Christine Zabala (Literacy, graduated 2021)

Jax Gonzalez (Sociology, proposal defense Spring, 2021)

Page Regan (EFPP, graduated 2024)

Kody Colvin (University of Utah, dissertation defense, Summer 2021)

Pablo Barrientos Saavedra (Universidad Católica de Chile, proposal defense, Fall 2021)  
Taylor Fallik (STEM)  
Maria Velma (EFPP) (through 2025)  
Laura Meinzen (EBB)

- MA Students (second reader for Capstone)  
Jon Sawyer  
Grace Harkin
- Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee  
Lonni Ewing (Sociology, defense Spring, 2021)

## **SERVICE & OUTREACH**

### **National**

#### **2025**

Editorial Board, Curriculum Inquiry

Reviewer Teachers College Record

Reviewer Curriculum Inquiry

#### **2024**

Editorial Board, Curriculum Inquiry

Reviewer Teachers College Record

Reviewer Curriculum Inquiry

Reviewer International Journal of Qualitative Studies

## **UNIVERSITY**

#### **2025\***

Merit Committee, School of Education

Qualitative Methods Committee, School of Education

PUEC Faith Bonninger

\*I was on FMLA 40% from August- December

2024

Merit Committee, School of Education

Curriculum Committee, School of Education

Awards Committee, School of Education

Qualitative Methods Committee, School of Education

2023

Partnered with the Dennis Small Cultural Center and co-facilitated an on-campus event for LGBTQ+ History Month.

2023

Recruited, funded, and mentored a team of GRAs to work with A Queer Endeavor

2023

Recruited, funded, and mentored undergraduate students to do research and create archive of LGBTQ+ Latinx Colorado History for Colorado Borderland History and the Latin American and Latinx Studies Center

2023

School of Education Awards Committee  
PUEC Teaching Professors

2022

Invited presentation in collaboration with Dr. Morgan Seamont, "Addressing the needs of LGBTQ students on campus." Presented to chairs and directors, University of Colorado Boulder.

2021

Search Committee Member, Research & Evaluation Methods, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

2021

Graduate Admissions Committee, Education Foundations, Policy, & Practice, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

2021

Miramontes Selection Committee, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

2021

Student Awards Committee, School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

2021

Panelist for Humanizing Education Through Compassion and Dignity -  
A Grounded Knowledge Panel™

2020-present

Faculty support (with Dr. Susan Jurow) for first year doctoral students learning about equity and justice in the School of Education.

2020

Organizer and funder (AQE): Decolonizing your syllabus (3 part series), School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

2020

Faculty Panel Participant, Difficult Dialogues: Unpacking Whiteness (what it means to say that CU Boulder is "so white")

2020

Search Committee Member, Center for Teaching & Learning, University of Colorado Boulder

2016-2018

Faculty mentor for students of color/ first generation students who we recruited into University of Colorado Boulder's School of Education. I was part of a team that developed programming for this cohort to pursue MA degrees and Colorado Teaching Credentials.

2014

Organizer and Facilitator, Breaking the Silence around Gender and Sexual Diversity: Opening the Conversation, Teachers of Color and Allies Summit.

2012

Co-organizer, Doctoral Student Recruitment Weekend Event, University of Colorado.

2012

Search Committee Member, Search for Educational Foundations, Policy and Practice, School of Education, University of Colorado.

2012

Presenter, Talking through the Boundaries: Having difficult conversations in the classroom. A presentation for the Graduate Teacher Program in the School of Education, University of Colorado.

2011

Presenter, Teaching is Scary. A presentation for the Graduate Teacher Program at the Fall Intensive. University of Colorado.

2010-Present

Guest Lecturer, Topics of gender and sexuality diversity in schools: Implications for policy and practice, (throughout the School of Education at the University of Colorado, for undergraduate, Masters classes, and doctoral seminars).

## COMMUNITY

2025

Collaborating and planning with BUENO for Chords of Esperanza, inaugural educator summer conference

2021

Third Annual [Educator Institute for Equity and Justice](#): Longmont Recruited and funded 8 graduate students to collaboratively organize and host two-day hybrid educator institute focused on intersectional movement-building and collective liberation. Over 500 participants and 81 sessions.

2019

Second Annual Institute of LGBTQ-Inclusive Educational Practices: Boulder  
Organized and hosted two-day educator institute for 180 educators and 40 educator-presenters.

2019

Institute of LGBTQ-Inclusive Educational Practices: Greeley  
Organized and hosted one-day educator institute for 110 educators.

2018

Institute of LGBTQ-Inclusive Educational Practices: Boulder  
Organized and hosted 2-day inaugural, state-wide educator institute for 150 educators across the state of Colorado.

2017- 2018

Research and evaluation consultant for Out Boulder County, local LGBTQ community organization. Currently, I am supporting the development and evaluation of a Queer and Trans People of Color Leadership Institute.

2017-2020

Research consultant for Trans Youth Education Support (TYES), state-wide parent advocacy group that supports families of transgender and gender expansive youth. Specifically, I am co-PI on a research project aimed to understand the experiences of families navigating their local school contexts.

2017-2019

Member of Boulder Valley School District Equity Team

2017-Present

Co-developer and co-facilitator, Boulder Valley School District professional development series for school administrators. To date, sessions have included a focus on school discipline and the School to Prison Pipeline, taking stock of individual school contexts through an equity lens, and supporting administrators to engage school staff in conversations around equity and diversity.

2013-Present

Professional Development Facilitator, *Breaking the silence: Honoring the voices of queer youth and allies in supporting our teachers*. Creating research-based, ever-growing, ever-shifting professional development programming for local schools and communities, contextualized in this documentary film and organized around concepts of knowledge, critical self-reflection and dialogue, and action. To date, I have worked with more than 8,000 pre- and in-service educators, administrators, counselors, and school staff in a variety of contexts, including university and community college classrooms and gatherings, invited teacher institutes, an invited teacher cohort, school communities, parent communities, and non-academic community gatherings.

2013-2015

Co-chair, Boulder County Safe Schools Coalition. Consult with schools, administrators, teachers, and the Boulder Valley School District on efforts to create safe and affirming schools for all students. Current member.

2013

Organizer and Facilitator, An Evening with LGBTQ Youth and Allies. Organized and facilitated an evening of conversation between local LGBTQ youth and allies and pre-service teachers from the University of Colorado, hosted by the School of Education.

2011

Guest Speaker, With compassion and safety for all: A humanistic approach to bullying prevention. Van Nuys, CA.

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member, American Education Research Association

Member, Queer Special Interest Group, AERA