

Stephen R. Sommer

School of Education
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Education

Dual Ph.D. Candidate (Learning Sciences & Human Development; Institute of Cognitive Science), School of Education, University of Colorado at Boulder 2014-Present
Dissertation Chair: Joseph L. Polman

B.A. *cum laude* (Philosophy & Sociology/Anthropology), Lewis & Clark College 2007
Thesis: *"Implicit Metapragmatics, Indexed Ideologies, and Limits of Awareness in Reflexive Discourse; the Political Economy of Semiosis."* and *"The Necessity of a Concept/Conception Distinction to Develop and Adequate Account of Truth Absorption."*

Professional Experience

Graduate Lead Instructor, Leadership Studies Program Spring 2016 - present
School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

Research Assistant; STEM Literacy Through Infographics Fall 2014 - present
School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

Course Director, Instructor, Staff Trainer; 2007-present
Colorado Outward Bound School, Moab, UT

Graduate Research Assistant; Growing Up Boulder Fall 2015

Graduate Administrative Assistant; CU Engage Fall 2014
School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

Graduate Teaching Assistant; Leadership Studies Program Spring 2014
School of Education, University of Colorado Boulder

Wilderness Instructor, Curriculum Designer 2012-2013
Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center; Estes Park, CO

Teaching Fellow; Public Allies Fellowship 2011-2012
Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center; Estes Park, CO

Chief Justice of Discipline & Student Affairs; Associated Students of Lewis & Clark 2006-2007
Lewis & Clark College; Portland, OR

Student Volunteer Coordinator; Office of Student Leadership & Service 2004-2006
Lewis & Clark College; Portland, OR

Refereed Conference Proceedings

Sommer, S. Hinojosa, L., Traut, H., Polman, J., & Weidler-Lewis, J. (2017). Integrating eye-tracking activities into a learning environment to promote collaborative meta-semiotic reflection and discourse. In B. K. Smith, Borge, M., Mercier, E., & Lim, K. Y., *Making a Difference: Prioritizing Equity and Access in CSCL, 12th International Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning, Volume 2* (pp. 648-651). Philadelphia: International Society of the Learning Sciences.

Sommer, S., & Polman, J. L. (2017). Embodied activities as entry points for science data literacy. In B. K. Smith, Borge, M., Mercier, E., & Lim, K. Y., *Making a Difference: Prioritizing Equity and Access in CSCL, 12th International Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Learning, Volume 2* (pp. 849-850). Philadelphia: International Society of the Learning Sciences.

Sommer, S., Graville-Smith, C., Polman, J., & Hinojosa, L. (2016). Iterative curricular design of collaborative infographics for science literacy in informal learning spaces. In C. K. Looi, Polman, J., Cress, U., & Reimann, P., *Transforming learning, empowering learners: The International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS) 2016, Volume 2* (pp. 954-957). Singapore: International Society of the Learning Sciences.

Sommer, S., Hinojosa, L., & Polman, J. L. (2016). Utilizing eye tracking technology to promote students' meta-cognitive awareness of visual STEM literacy. In C. K. Looi, Polman, J., Cress, U., & Reimann, P., *Transforming learning, empowering learners: The International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS) 2016, Volume 2* (pp. 1231-1232). Singapore: International Society of the Learning Sciences.

Weidler-Lewis, J., Hinojosa, L., Sommer, S., & Polman, J. L. (2016). Organizing to cultivate personal relevance, science literacy, and equity through data journalism. In C. K. Looi, Polman, J., Cress, U., & Reimann, P., *Transforming learning, empowering learners: The International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS) 2016, Volume 2* (pp. 1177-1178). Singapore: International Society of the Learning Sciences.

Refereed Conference Papers and Presentations

Polman, J. L., Weidler-Lewis, J., Sommer, S., Shade, C., Rubin, A., & Gebre, E. (2017, June). Representations all the way down: How infographic symbol systems traverse the levels of a distributed activity system for learning. Poster presented at the Jean Piaget Society. San Francisco, CA.

Sommer, S. (2017, April). Collaborative professional development through role changing in a sociotechnical space. Poster presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX

Hinojosa, L., Polman, J., Sommer, S. (2016, April). The design and structure of activities for infographics authoring in a secondary science curriculum. Paper presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC.

Polman, J. L., Gebre, E., Rubin, A., Hinojosa, L., Sommer, S., and Graville, C. (2016, April). Organizing data journalism activity in school and community learning environments to contextualize science in life. In Yip, J., *Connecting Learners to Place, Space, and Personal Experience with Technology and New Media*. Symposium conducted at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC.

Sommer, S., Suarez, E., Renga, I., Langdon, L., Grover, R. (2016, April). Pre-service teacher discursive bids for epistemic agency amongst veteran practitioners in collaborative inquiry research. Paper presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC

Renga, I., Suarez, E., Langdon, L., Grover, R., Sommer, S., Marsh, C. (2015, April). Investigating the epistemic activity and agency of preservice teachers within a model of collaborative inquiry. Paper presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.

Invited Presentations

Sommer, S., Weidler-Lewis, J. Mountain Studies Institute invited teacher workshop on utilizing infographics in STEM education. (2016, November). Durango, CO.

Sommer, S., Hinojosa, L., Weidler-Lewis. Data organization & visualization strategies. (2016, July). Presented on behalf of the University of Colorado Science Discovery Program to summer high school students.

Polman, J., Hinojosa, L., Sommer, S. Designing a learning environment to foster visual metacognition. (2016, February). Presented at the University of Colorado Center for Innovation & creativity at the invitation of the Institute of Cognitive Science

Contracts

-Random Acts of Kindness social and emotional intelligence curriculum reviewer (2015, June)

Courses Developed and Taught

LEAD 4000, A Capstone. (2015 - present)

Leadership Studies Minor, University of Colorado, Boulder; I have been involved in this course since its inception in Spring of 2015. In S'2015 I worked as a Graduate Teaching Assistant. I have been the instructor of record in S' 2016, F' 2016, S' 2017, F' 2017, and S' 2018. Aside from facilitating this four credit course I have been involved in the curriculum design, coordination of the out of school practicum component, and establishing long term community partners to work with students.

Colorado Outward Bound School; Various Courses (2007-present)

I have designed & facilitated a variety of courses in the desert Southwest in river, canyon, and mountain environments. Courses I have designed and led range from 3-50 days largely centering on curriculum related to teamwork, communication skills, leadership development, technical skills, and personal growth. Courses are built for 'open enrollment' students or contract clientele with specific outcomes in mind. I continue to work as a field instructor, staff trainer and course designer for more novice educators. Over 750 days logged in the field.

Wilderness 101; (2011-2013)

Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, Estes Park, CO. This is a mandatory introductory course for new high school students entering the school. 24 days are spent in the wilderness with approximately 10 days 'front country'. Curriculum focuses on conflict resolution, communication, leadership, diversity, inclusion, community building, and technical wilderness skills. Over 150 days in the field.

Grad-Wild; (2011-2012)

Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, Estes Park, CO. This is a wilderness based 'short course' I facilitated three times that focused on students reflecting on their high school careers and developing plans for post-graduation. Particular attention was paid to character development, ethical commitments, and strategies for post-graduation success.

Know Your Code (2012)

Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, Estes Park, CO. I worked as co-instructor of a five week course with an enduring understanding of developing a moral and ethical code as students engaged with texts regarding ethics & morality.

People & Places of Colorado (2012)

Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, Estes Park, CO. I worked as a co-instructor of a five week course related to human geography, the history of Colorado, and ethnographic interviewing techniques. Primary responsibilities included organizing & planning logistics for a 10 day field study with students & teaching ethnographic methods.

Service and Committees

Member, Institute of Cognitive Science Executive Committee, Institute of Cognitive Science, University of Colorado Boulder 2017 to present

Voting Member, Institute of Cognitive Science Grants & Funding Review Board, University of Colorado Boulder 2016 to present
Reviewer, American Education Research Association, Learning Sciences SIG 2016 - present
Student Department Representative, United Governance of Graduate Students, University of Colorado Boulder, 2015-2016
Personal Growth Committee Founding Member, Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, Estes Park, CO 2011-2012
Risk Management Committee Member, Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, Estes Park, CO 2011-2012
Student Advisor & Mentor, Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center, Estes Park, CO 2011-2012
Chief Justice, Associated Students of Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, 2006-2007
Executive Council Member, Associated Students of Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, 2006-2007
Student Academic Affairs Board Representative, Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, 2006-2007
Student Representative; Curriculum Committee; Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, 2005-2006
Voting Member; Academic Integrity Board; Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR, 2005-2006
Volunteer Coordinator; Christian Service Core Team, St. John's Jesuit High School, Toledo, OH 2001-2003
Proctor; Kairos Senior Retreat, St. John's Jesuit High School, Toledo, OH 2003

Membership in Professional Organizations & Certifications

International Society of the Learning Sciences (ISLS),	2014-present
American Educational Research Association (AERA),	2014-present
AERA Special Interest Group-Learning Sciences,	2014-present
State of Utah Whitewater Boating Captain	Valid through June, 2020
Wilderness First Responder	Valid through Feb, 2019
Adult/Child CPR & AED	Valid through Feb, 2019
Swiftwater Rescue Technician	