



# Anthropology *for* Education

October 20 - 21, 2023

Joint Programs in Anthropology  
Teachers College, Columbia University

Fourth Conference  
on Anthropology and Education



# Overview

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The 4th Conference on Anthropology & Education considers how anthropological epistemologies and methodologies contribute to and expand research for education. We highlight ethnography as a tool for inquiry and instruction. Ethnographic research provides a means to better understand peoples' lives and conditions and a way to raise critical questions, which work against automatic, mechanically predictable responses. Many conference presentations explore the value of anthropology and ethnography for educators and policy makers and ask how ethnography can be of use to those with whom we research.

## Land Acknowledgement

We recognize the injustices that Indigenous peoples have faced and continue to face in the United States.

Teachers College acknowledges that we live and learn on the ancestral and traditional homelands of the Lenape people, who were displaced when Dutch settlers stole the Native American land of Manahatta, now known as Manhattan.

We honor and pay respect to all Indigenous peoples, by recognizing their relationship with this land.

# Welcome

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Welcome to the Fourth Conference in Anthropology and Education, hosted by the Programs in Anthropology at Teachers College, Columbia University!

Our programs have been central to the field and include one of the oldest Anthropology and Education programs in the United States. We build on this tradition by trying to understand the ways of knowing of this discipline, to apply those ways of knowing to academic and practical issues, and to become better scholars, practitioners, and activists.

In this spirit, we are glad to welcome scholars from across the country and across the globe to come together to discuss this year's conference theme.

We hope these next two days lead to rich conversations with colleagues, conversations that can extend beyond our time together here at Teachers College, and that will further support anthropology *for* education and vice-versa.



PROGRAM WEBSITE

## Contact Us

Programs in Anthropology  
375 Grace Dodge Hall  
Teachers College, Columbia University  
525 W. 120th St., New York, NY 10027  
Phone: 212-678-3309  
Email: [anthropology@tc.edu](mailto:anthropology@tc.edu)



CONFERENCE WEBSITE

# Schedule at a Glance

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## Friday, October 20

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>REGISTRATION, CHECK-IN</b>	EVERETT LOUNGE
9:00 AM - 9:30 AM	<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; GREETINGS</b>	MILBANK CHAPEL
9:30 AM - 10:45 AM	<b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b> LALITHA VASUDEVAN, "TAKING A MULTIMODAL STANCE IN ETHNOGRAPHY"	MILBANK CHAPEL
10:45 AM - 11:00 AM	<b>BREAK</b>	
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	<b>PAPER SESSION 1A</b> EDUCATION WITHOUT WALLS: ETHNOGRAPHY OF LEARNING BEYOND CLASSROOMS	THOMPSON 136
	<b>PAPER SESSION 1B</b> ETHNOGRAPHY FOR THE SENSES	MACY 130
12:15 PM - 1:15 PM	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	EVERETT LOUNGE
1:15 PM - 2:45 PM	<b>PAPER SESSION 2A</b> QUESTIONING PREDOMINANT LANGUAGE IDEOLOGIES	THOMPSON 136
	<b>PAPER SESSION 2B</b> ETHNOGRAPHIC RELATIONS: ANTHROPOLOGY FOR WHOM? (PART 1)	MACY 130
2:45 PM - 3:00 PM	<b>BREAK</b>	
3:00 PM - 4:15 PM	<b>PAPER SESSION 3A</b> ANTHROPOLOGY FOR POLICY CHANGES AND CHALLENGING POLICIES (PART 1)	THOMPSON 136
	<b>PAPER SESSION 3B</b> ETHNOGRAPHIC RELATIONS: ANTHROPOLOGY FOR WHOM? (PART 2)	MACY 130
4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:30 PM - 5:30 PM	<b>EVENING RECEPTION</b>	EVERETT LOUNGE



# Schedule at a Glance

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## Saturday, October 21

8:30 AM - 9:00 AM	<b>REGISTRATION, CHECK-IN</b>	EVERETT LOUNGE
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM	<b>PLENARY SESSION 2</b> SUSAN D. BLUM, "MAKING SCHOOLISHNESS STRANGE: LOOKING ANTHROPOLOGICALLY AT A FAMILIAR INSTITUTION"	MILBANK CHAPEL
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	<b>BREAK</b>	
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	<b>PAPER SESSION 4A</b> ETHNOGRAPHY IN THE CLASSROOM: TEACHING, USING, AND LEARNING FROM ETHNOGRAPHY AS A METHOD	THOMPSON 136
	<b>PAPER SESSION 4B</b> EXPANDING ETHNOGRAPHIC APPROACHES	MACY 130
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	EVERETT LOUNGE
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM	<b>PAPER SESSION 5A</b> COMPLICATING SCHOOLS: WHERE AND HOW DOES LEARNING HAPPEN	THOMPSON 136
	<b>PAPER SESSION 5B</b> ANTHROPOLOGY FOR POLICY CHALLENGES AND CHALLENGING POLICIES (PART 2)	MACY 130
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	<b>BREAK</b>	
2:30 PM - 3:45 PM	<b>PAPER SESSION 6A</b> COMPLICATING SCHOOLS: WHAT ARE SCHOOLS FOR?	THOMPSON 136
	<b>PAPER SESSION 6B</b> CIVIC AND COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES	MACY 130
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	<b>BREAK</b>	
4:00 PM - 5:15 PM	<b>PLENARY SESSION 3</b>	MILBANK CHAPEL
5:15 PM - 5:30 PM	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	MILBANK CHAPEL

# Plenary Session

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Friday, October 20 9:30 am - 10:45 am



## Lalitha Vasudevan

Vice Dean for Digital Innovation  
Professor of Technology and Education  
Teachers College Columbia University

### ***Taking a Multimodal Stance in Ethnography***

Advances in mobile technologies have widened the palette of “tools” for communicating and documenting in ethnographic research. These digital tools open up where, how, and with whom questions can be pursued and phenomena can be examined. They may also lower barriers to participation by participants who can enter into roles as co-researchers and research collaborators. A multimodal stance in ethnography invites researchers to not merely employ digital methods within existing methodological frameworks, but also to reframe an orientation to research multimodally by attending to affect, relationships, temporality, and related contours of ethnography.

#### **Introduced by**

**Mako Miura**

Ph.D. Student, Anthropology and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

#### **Discussants**

**Amina Tawasil**

Lecturer, Programs in Anthropology  
Teachers College, Columbia University

**Ariana Mangual Figueroa**

Associate Professor, Urban Education and Latin American, Iberian and Latino Cultures  
City University of New York

# Plenary Session

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**Saturday, October 21 9:00 am - 10:15 am**



**Susan D. Blum**

Professor of Anthropology  
The University of Notre Dame

## ***Making Schoolishness Strange:***

### ***Looking Anthropologically at a Familiar Institution***

Drawing on her forthcoming book, Susan D Blum presents ten dimensions of what she calls "schoolishness," the familiar—but contingent—structures that are common to prototypical schooling. Despite good intentions, many of these dimensions harm both learning and wellbeing. Anthropological perspectives provide tools for analysis, and critical pedagogy provides suggestions for improving each of these dimensions, using the key concepts of alienation and authenticity to guide the inquiry.

#### **Introduced by**

**Skylar Hou**

Ph.D. Student, Anthropology and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

#### **Discussants**

**Hervé Varenne**

Gardner Cowles Professor of Anthropology and Education  
Teachers College, Columbia University

**Denni Blum**

Professor, Educational Foundations  
Oklahoma State University

# Plenary Session

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**Saturday, October 21 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm**



**Marjorie Elaine Faulstich Orellana**

Professor of Urban Schooling

University of California, Los Angeles

## ***Mind, Heart, and Action***

### ***Ethnographic Orientations for Educational Transformation***

In her 2020 book, *Mindful Ethnography: Mind, Heart and Activity for Transformative Social Research*, Marjorie Faulstich Orellana calls for integrating scholarship and social activism with a contemplative and heart-centered approach that can help us see beyond problems to possibilities. In this talk, she applies this approach to the particular challenges of educational research. She draws examples from her work both inside and outside of schools across the last 30 years, as well as with families during the recent COVID-19 shut down (when the familiar was made strange to all of us!). She suggests how conjoining an ethnographic orientation to stepping away from our own perspectives and cultural understandings in order to see in new ways, with an activist's commitment to equity and social change - layered with a contemplative approach to "looking for the good" - may help us re-imagine education in profound and transformative ways.

#### **Introduced by**

**Eunice Kang Chun**

Ph.D. Student, Anthropology and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University

#### **Discussants**

**Grey Gundaker**

Senior Lecturer and Program Director, Programs in Anthropology  
Teachers College, Columbia University

**Stacey Lee**

Frederick Erickson WARF Professor of Educational Policy Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

# Documenting Transformations

## Ethnographic Research at Teachers College

### Exhibit Zankel 214



Here at Teachers College, Columbia University, we continue to do the work of ethnography as a means to educate democratically. We pay attention to what people are doing to educate themselves about the world around from seafaring villages, to nursery rooms, to urban street corners, to elderly singing choirs—spaces far removed from classrooms. Our exhibit showcases photographs, sketches, drawings, audiovisual materials, sounds, and artifacts collected, generated and/or produced by faculty and students who are currently doing this kind of work at Teachers College. The exhibit is open to all of Columbia University and the New York City consortium of social science and humanities departments, and will run for the duration of the 4th Biennial Anthropology and Education Conference, October 20th and 21st.







# Conference Organizers

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**Nicholas Limerick**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
ANTHROPOLOGY & EDUCATION



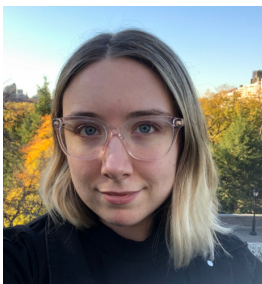
**Elena Peeples**

PH.D. PROGRAM  
ANTHROPOLOGY & EDUCATION



**Reid Pierce**

ED.M. PROGRAM  
ANTHROPOLOGY & EDUCATION



**Caitlin Quinn**

PROGRAM ASSISTANT  
PROGRAMS IN ANTHROPOLOGY

## Volunteers

(alphabetized by last name)

Halah Alsenan  
Emily Bailey  
Suma Cheru  
Eunice Kang Chun  
Caprice Corona  
Fernanda Dias  
Mara Espinoza  
Muyan Guo  
Madeleine Hassankhani  
Krystina Heidelberg  
Skylar Hou  
Kainaat Jah  
Corinne Kentor  
Mako Miura  
Alyssa Mountain  
Kat Norton  
Haley Planicka  
Anna Reed  
Abhishek Shah  
Xi Tao  
Erica Yardyto

**Program book and poster designed by  
Skylar Hou**

**We express our gratitude to the  
anonymous reviewers who provided  
valuable feedback to the panel  
participants.**

# Accessibility

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To request disability-related accommodations, contact OASID at [oasid@tc.edu](mailto:oasid@tc.edu), or 212-678-3689, (646) 755-3144 video phone, as early as possible.

## Low - Sensory Room

A low-sensory room with decreased lighting and noise will be available in Macy Hall Room 261. All attendees are welcome to take a break in this room at any point throughout the conference.

## Wifi

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## TC-Guest

Event attendees of Teachers College can get basic internet access while on campus through the network by entering your Name and Email address when you select TC-Guest.

Eduroam is also available. For more information please follow [this link](#).

For assistance in getting connected to the wireless networks, stop by the TCIT Service Desk (70 Grace Dodge) or call 212.678.3300.



W 121st Street

Broadway

Amsterdam Avenue

W 120th Street

Milbank Chapel

Plenary Sessions

Macy Hall

room 130

Panel B

room 261

Low Sensory Room

Zankel Hall

room 214

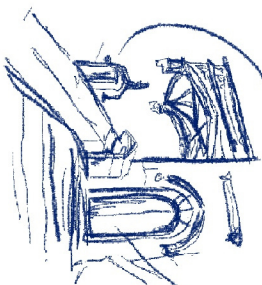
Documenting

Transformations

Thompson Hall

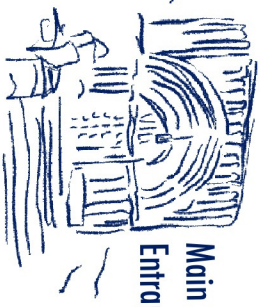
room 136

Panel A



Check in & Breaks

Everett Lounge



Main Entrance

Columbia University Campus

MTA station  
116th St

