

# RISING

Ed.D. Leadership Program  
San José State University

SPRING 2019



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# Message from the Director

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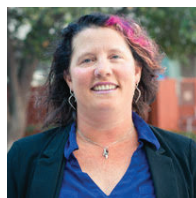
The third cohort of the Ed.D. program started in Summer 2016 and is now preparing to graduate on May 22nd. Congratulations, Cohort 3 students!



**Radha Aravamudhan**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Bridging the English Language Divide and Building Self-Confidence in Marginalized Communities: An Exploratory Study in Tamil Nadu, India*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Robert Gliner, Ph.D.



**Anji Buckner-Capone**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Assessing School Climate Assessment Processes in California Public Schools*

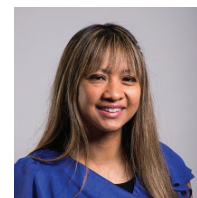
**Dissertation Chair:**  
Brent Duckor, Ph.D.



**Sara Douglas**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Understanding Communication Exchanges in Online Learning Environments*

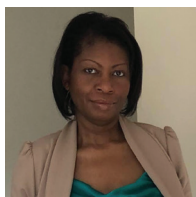
**Dissertation Chair:**  
Emily Slusser, Ph.D.



**Analiza Filion**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Experiences of Adolescent Refugee Students Who Attend After School Programs for Reading Comprehension Support*

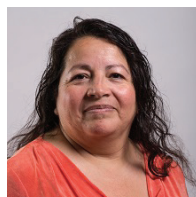
**Dissertation Chair:**  
Robert Gliner Ph.D.



**Annette Kennedy**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Students of Black or African American Ancestry in Grades 10th-12th Perceptions of Their Schooling Experiences*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Amy Leisenring, Ph.D.



**Elida MacArthur**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*The Possible Potential of Formative Assessment to Impact Teaching and Learning for English Language Learners*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Brent Duckor, Ph.D.



**Rebecca O'Brien**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Critical Spirituality and Educational Leadership*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Kathleen McConnell, Ph.D.



**Suzanne Paulazzo**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Teacher Motivation and Professional Development*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Elaine Chin, Ph.D.



**John Schilling**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Multi-Tiered Systems of Support in California Rural School Settings*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Arnold Danzig, Ph.D.



**Hyon Chu Yi-Baker**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*Asian American Community College Students and Impact of Civic Engagement*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Ellen Middaugh, Ph.D.



**Catherine Voss-Plaxton**

**Dissertation Title:**  
*A Text-Message Intervention to Increase Student Professional Development Engagement*

**Dissertation Chair:**  
Elaine Chin, Ph.D.

# Cohort 5

## *Illuminating the Path of Education*

The fifth cohort of Ed.D. students began in the Summer of 2018 and are moving into their second year and international field experience.

**Ivan Alcaraz Suarez**



**Hometown:** Watsonville, California

**Undergraduate:** BA in Business Management Economics at UC Santa Cruz

**Graduate:** MA in Education: Administration and Supervision & MA in Education: Counseling and Student Personnel, both at San José State University

**Research Interests:** I am interested in the experiences of high school students as they transition to college and researching the new accountability system college and career readiness indicator (CCI).

**Personal Interests:** I enjoy traveling and spending time with my loved ones.

**Carrie Bosco**



**Hometown:** Coldwater, Michigan

**Undergraduate:** BS in Education and Special Education with a Minor in Group Social Sciences at Western Michigan University

**Graduate:** MA in Educational Leadership and Administration at San José State University

**Research Interests:** Social-emotional learning, strategies to support wellness, balance, and belonging, and tiers of intervention focused on school staff.

**Personal Interests:** Spending time with four year old son Anthony and husband Joe, food and wine, baking, reading, traveling.

**Joe Bosco**



**Hometown:** Kalamazoo, Michigan

**Undergraduate:** BS in Education at Western Michigan University

**Graduate:** MA in Educational Leadership and Administration at San José State University

**Research Interests:** SEL, social accountability, assessment.

**Personal Interests:** Family, travel, sports.

**Nikki Dang**



**Hometown:** San José, California

**Undergraduate:** BS in Mathematics/Applied Science at UC Los Angeles

**Graduate:** Masters of Education at UC Los Angeles, and MA in Education, Schooling Counseling at CSU Dominguez Hills

**Research Interests:** Trust in educational leadership and its effect on systemic change; efficacy of school counselors in the high school system.

**Personal Interests:** Travel, indoor volleyball, food adventures, and fostering interpersonal relationships.

**Scott Heil**



**Hometown:** San José, California

**Undergraduate:** BA in Social Anthropology and History at University of Michigan

**Graduate:** MA in Education at San Francisco State University

**Research Interests:** Higher education, quantitative research.

**Personal Interests:** Hiking, travel.

**Jen Izant Gonzales**



**Hometown:** Newark, California

**Undergraduate:** BA in Political Science with a Minor in History at UC Santa Barbara

**Research Interests:** Alternative education efforts that engage students and teachers in learning and the roles of county offices of education.

**Personal Interests:** Spending time with my boys, walking, eating, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.

**Taunya Jaco**



**Hometown:** Des Moines, Iowa

**Undergraduate:** BA in Political Science at San Diego State University

**Graduate:** MA in Journalism at Regent University

**Research Interests:** The evaluation of racial and social justice within education, understanding the benefits of ethnic studies and culturally relevant pedagogy in teacher professional development programs, along with the role of teacher unions in education reform.

**Personal Interests:** Attending sporting events and concerts, photography, blogging, and spending time with family and friends.



**Mike Mansfield**

**Hometown:** Austin, Texas  
**Undergraduate:** BA in History and BA in Politics, both at UC Santa Cruz  
**Graduate:** MA in Education at UC Santa Cruz  
**Research Interests:** Student efficacy, student motivation testing, and data.  
**Personal Interests:** Watching my three daughters do what they love, hiking with my wife, watching the San José Sharks, Texas Longhorns, and Warriors, and playing soccer!



**Gerald Nwafor**

**Hometown:** Nigeria  
**Undergraduate:** BA in Philosophy and BA in Theology, both at Bigard Memorial Seminary, Enugu, Nigeria  
**Graduate:** MA in Pastoral Ministries and MA in Educational Leadership, both at Santa Clara University  
**Research Interests:** Effects of corporal punishment.  
**Personal Interests:** Education and development.



**Michelle Poirier**

**Hometown:** Santa Cruz, California  
**Undergraduate:** BS in Agricultural and Managerial Economics at UC Davis; BA in Mathematics at UC Santa Cruz  
**Graduate:** Master of Education Coursework at San José State University  
**Research Interests:** Improving preparedness for underrepresented students in STEM preparation for post-secondary opportunities, increasing teacher efficacy in mathematics, curriculum design.  
**Personal Interests:** Family, outdoors, any body of water, hiking, travel, math, games.



**Richard Ruiz**

**Hometown:** Gilroy, California  
**Undergraduate:** BA in Physical Anthropology with a Minor in Naval Science at Oregon State University  
**Graduate:** MA in Leadership Education and Development at George Washington University  
**Research Interests:** Disproportionate disciplinary trends of Latinx students and its effect on their academic identity and performance.  
**Personal Interests:** Farming, ranching, vineyard, community outreach, leadership speaking events, physical fitness training, and writing kids books.



**Tricia Ryan**

**Hometown:** Fremont, California  
**Undergraduate:** BA in Psychology at San Francisco State University  
**Graduate:** MS in Counseling Psychology at CSU East Bay; MA in Philosophy at San José State University  
**Research Interests:** Value and philosophy of education, higher education and policy, critical leadership theories, political dynamics of higher education administration.  
**Personal Interests:** My family, theorizing about *Game of Thrones*, collecting tea sets, decorating dessert tables, crafts, writing poetry, and reading.



**Anne Tran**

**Hometown:** San José, California  
**Undergraduate:** BS in Psychobiology at UC Los Angeles  
**Graduate:** MA in Educational Leadership at Santa Clara University  
**Research Interests:** Effects of social media on teens development, gender dichotomy of social media representation.  
**Personal Interests:** Spending quality time with friends and family.



**Mara Williams**

**Hometown:** San Francisco, California  
**Undergraduate:** BS in Biological Sciences at UC Davis  
**Graduate:** MS in Biology at UC Irvine  
**Research Interests:** Student success, determining overt and covert requirements for admissions to graduate programs.  
**Personal Interests:** Salsa dancing, hiking, reading.



**Rafael Zavala**

**Hometown:** Soledad, California  
**Undergraduate:** BA in History and Religious Studies at Santa Clara University  
**Graduate:** MA in Early Modern European History at Saint Louis University; Ed.M. in School Leadership Program at Harvard Graduate School of Education  
**Research Interests:** Organizational leadership, change, development.  
**Personal Interests:** Read and discuss...love to learn new computer programs...

## Ed.D. Achievements

### Students

Whether they are presenting at a workshop or conference, winning awards, or joining the faculty at SJSU, Ed.D. students incorporate what they learn from this program into their work and leverage it in their roles as leaders.



#### Cutting Edge Research on School Climate Assessments Anji Buckner-Capone

Anji gave a presentation in April at the Berkeley Evaluation and Assessment Research (BEAR) Center Seminar, in collaboration with her dissertation committee chair Dr. Brent Duckor, which was her first public sharing of findings and recommendations from her dissertation study. This study explored the practices and beliefs of California School District Superintendents in their efforts to meet the state accountability mandate to assess school climate. The study used an explanatory sequential mixed method design that began with quantitative data collection followed by qualitative data collection. The focus of this presentation is to discuss the findings from the multidimensional modeling and the stability of the instrument in measuring superintendent beliefs.



#### Joining the Faculty at SJSU Heidi Eisips

Heidi recently joined the faculty of SJSU's Lucas College of Business, in the marketing and business analytics department where she teaches business statistics and an upper division business analytics course. Heidi also has a faculty appointment in the Aerospace Engineering department to work with graduate students on their masters-level science writing.

Finally, she continues to work with the SJSU Writing Center, having received a promotion to a faculty-level project: working on pedagogy and resource development, especially focused on STEM and business writing resources for SJSU students, staff, and faculty.



#### Empowering Leaders to Advocate for Children and Families Heidi Emberling

Heidi was accepted to present a workshop at the statewide annual conference of the California Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAEYC) in April 2019 entitled "Use your leadership skills to create or join a citywide early learning advocacy committee." She will lead a panel discussion of seven diverse voices from city administration, local health and parenting communities, preschool directors, university liaisons, and the local school district to discover how to partner with others to become an effective and powerful voice for issues affecting children and families in their communities.



#### Phyllis H. Lindstrom Scholarship Winner Kevin Wan

Every year, the Lindstrom Scholarship is awarded to Ed.D. students pursuing their goals of becoming public school administrators. This year, that award has been given to cohort 4 student Kevin Wan, who is an Assistant Principal of Instruction at Lincoln High School in San José. Kevin aspires to one day become superintendent of a school district and feels that the courses he has taken through the Ed.D. Leadership Program have given him the preparation necessary to achieve this goal.

### Faculty

The Ed.D. faculty featured here have chaired associations, received faculty fellow appointments, won awards from Lurie College and the Santa Clara County Office of Education, and given presentations nationally and internationally. Additionally, they have been published across a wide range of topics, including critical race theory, multilingual students, argumentation, disability studies research, and early childhood, among other topics.



#### Critical Race Perspectives and Education Theodorea Berry

##### Publications

- Jupp, J.C., Berry, T.R., Morales, A., & Mason, A.M. (2018). What is to be done with curriculum and educational foundations' critical knowledges? Toward critical and decolonizing education sciences. *Teaching Education*, 29(4), 305-317.
- Berry, T.R. & Cook, E.J.B. (2018). Black on Black Education 2.0: A Critical Race Perspective on Personally Engaged Pedagogy for Black Pre-Service Teachers. *Teaching Education*, 29(4), 343-356.
- Berry, T.R. & Bowers Cook, E.J. (2019). Critical Race Perspectives on Narrative Research in Education: Centering Intersectionality. In J. DeCuir-Gunby, T. Chapman, & P.Schutz, (Eds.) *Critical Race Theory: Research Methods and Methodology in Education*. New York: Routledge.

##### Presentations

- Berry, T.R. & Cook, E.J.B. (2019, April). Critical Race Perspectives on Narrative Research in Education: Centering Intersectionality. Paper presentation at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Berry, T.R. (2019, March). Spirit Murder and the Black Woman Academic: Surviving in Places Not Meant for Us. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the National Council for Black Studies, New Orleans, LA.
- Skiffer, L., Berry, T.R., & Easter, M. (2019, March). Unstoppable: An Auto-ethnography. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the National Council of Black Studies, new Orleans, LA.



## On Bilingual Education and Emergent Literacy

**Allison Briceño**

### Publications

- Briceño, A., Rodríguez-Mojica, C. & Muñoz-Muñoz, E. (2019, March). The bilingual teacher shortage: A vicious cycle. *Multilingual Educator*.
- Briceño, A. & Klein, A.F. (2019). A second lens on formative reading assessment with multilingual students. *The Reading Teacher*. Published online only as of February 2019; soon to be in print.

### Presentations

Dr. Briceño gave the following presentations on emergent literacy as a featured speaker at the Billie J. Askew Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Institute in Hurst, TX.

- Briceño, A. (2018, November). Exploring emergent reading and writing from a language lens. Billie J. Askew Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Institute, Hurst TX.
- Briceño, A. (2018, November). Reading instruction and assessment with biliterate students. Billie J. Askew Reading Recovery and K-6 Literacy Institute, Hurst, TX.



## Faculty Fellow and Champion of Educational Pipeline Expansion

**Rebeca Burciaga**

Dr. Burciaga was recently appointed as a faculty fellow for the SJSU Climax/Latinx Student Success Center to develop academic programming to provide academic engagement and leadership development through high-impact educational practices.

Additionally, Dr. Burciaga also co-authored a chapter using Critical Race Quantitative Intersectionality (CRQI), a framework and methodological approach that utilizes quantitative methods to account for the material impact of race and racism at its intersections with other forms of subordination. This chapter explores theoretical considerations and methodological innovations of ongoing research on educational pipelines (visual representations of educational outcomes).

- Covarrubias, A., Nava, P., Lara, A., Burciaga, R., & Solorzano, D.G. (2018). Expanding educational pipelines: Critical race quantitative intersectionality as a transactional methodology. In J. DeCuir-Gunby, T.Chapman, & P.A. Schultz (Eds.), *Understanding critical race research methods and methodologies: Lessons from the field*.



## Argumentation Trends Among Teacher Credential Candidates

**Mark Felton**

- Villarroel, C., Felton, M. & Garcia-Mila, M. (2019). The effects of argumentative task on the quality of dialogue and writing. *Infancia e Aprendizaje (Childhood and Learning)*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/02103702.2018.1550162>

This publication looked at teacher credential candidates arguing to consensus vs. arguing to persuade with their peers and the quality of their reasoning before and after these arguments. Consistent with our findings with middle school and college students, beginning teacher are less biased and more inclusive in their thinking when they've argued to consensus, pointing to the benefits of setting up contexts that foster genuine communication and careful consideration of opposing views.



## Advocacy and Recognition for Disability Research

**Saily Kulkarni**

### Presentations

- American Educational Research Association (AERA) 2019 Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
  - Panel Talk entitled: *Overlooked and Underserved: A Special Education Teacher of Color and the Social Positioning of Smartness*, part of Division B Panel-New Directions in Curriculum Inquiry: Pushing Against the Margins
  - A DisCrit Analysis of Special Education Teacher Beliefs About the Intersections of Dis/ability and Race*, part of Division G Paper Session: Queering, Crippling, and Trans-ing Educational Inquiry
- Pacific Sociological Association 2019 Conference, Oakland, California
  - Disproportionate Representation of Students of Color in Special Education and Segregated Disciplinary Spaces*, co-presented with two master's students from Special Education: Joanna Gaeta, San José State University & Ashley Higsmith, San José State University
  - Elementary School Teachers' Implementation of Restorative Practices for Students With and Without Disabilities*: co-presented with a master's student in Special Education who received LCOE research award, Melanie Chong, San José State University

### Awards

- Lurie College of Education (LCOE) Alumni Fund Award (\$500 to start a Zoom Equity Series on Disability)
- University Grants Academy (UGA) Awardee

### Nominations

- Nominee for the AERA Division K Early Career Scholar Award
- Nominee for the AERA Disability Studies in Education Special Interest Group (SIG) Program Co-Chair



## A Voice for Contingent Labor in Higher Education

**Kathleen McConnell**

Dr. McConnell recently published an essay in *Communication Education*, part of a forum on contingent faculty in higher education.

- McConnell, Kathleen F. "Teaching and Learning in an Age of Precarity: Toward a Pedagogy of the Transitory," *Communication Education* 68.2 (2019): 252-258.



### Shedding Light on Care Practices

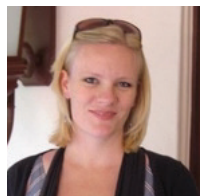
**Colette Rabin**

#### Publication

Rabin, C. (2019). "I Already Know I Care!" Illuminating the Complexities of Care Practices in Early Childhood and Teacher Education. In *Theorizing Feminist Ethics of Care in Early Childhood Practice: Possibilities and Dangers*. Bloomsbury Academic, London, England.

#### Presentation

Rabin, C. & Smith, G. (October 2019). Co-Teaching Relationships from a Care Ethics Perspective. Paper presented at the Critica; Questions in Education Conference, Kansas City, Missouri.



### Award-Winning Research on Early Childhood Development

**Emily Slusser**

#### Publications

Slusser, E., Ribner, A., & Shusterman, A. (2019). Language counts: Early language mediates the relationship between parent education and children's math ability. *Developmental Science*.

This work represents long term effort to explore the role of early language in developing number and math concepts. The longitudinal study includes data collected with SJSU students here in San José and in collaboration with local early childhood centers. We are thrilled that it is now published and we are working now to ensure that our stakeholders are informed of the findings and have an opportunity to think collectively about the implications.

Slusser, E. (2018). Counting and Basic Numerical Skills. In A. Fritz, V. Haase, & P. Rasanen (Eds.). *International Handbook of Mathematical Learning Difficulties: From the Laboratory to the Classroom*. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing. [attached]

This chapter presents a basic overview of how children acquire early math and number skills. Several studies that I have conducted over the years are discussed in relation to a broad review of relevant literature. The chapter is written for a general audience and is presented within a handbook on mathematical learning difficulties.

#### Presentation

Hosseini, D. & Slusser, E. (March 2019). Digital literacy in the era of the Common Core: Affordances and constraints for early elementary school teachers. Poster to be presented at the Biennial Meeting for the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.

Delnaz, a recent Ed.D. graduate, and I are very excited to travel to Baltimore in March to present the key findings from her dissertation at the signature conference for studies on development and early education. This work represents an extensive effort to better understand technology use in early elementary classrooms and will serve as the next step towards publication in an academic journal.

#### Award

Slusser, E., Fusaro, M., & Golloher, A. (2019). Early Childhood STEM Education: Training and Ambassador Program. \$7000

The founders of SJSU's Early Childhood Initiative were awarded a grant from the Santa Clara County Office of Education Local Planning Council to provide a series of workshops to Title V State Subsidized Child Care Providers. The workshops are designed to enhance participants' understanding of STEM education in early learning environments and we anticipate that the program will provide an excellent opportunity to build relationships with local practitioners.

## Alumni

The alumni listed here have been recognized for their educational administration leadership, presenting on technology use in elementary schools, and by NBC Universal for strengthening communities.



### Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year

**Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah**

Dr. Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah has been selected as the 2019 Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year for Region 10. This award, which she will formally receive next month, is awarded to an administrator who has demonstrated outstanding professional achievement in curriculum and instruction.

Dr. Baltazar-Sabbah has been the Salinas Union High School District Associate Superintendent of Instructional Services for three years and has worked in the district for sixteen years of her career. She has demonstrated relentless advocacy for all students, especially those who have been historically disenfranchised.

Some of her major accomplishments have been the alignment of financial and human resources in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of students. This has included supporting math teachers by providing them with professional development in Complex Instruction as well as in addressing issues of status in the classroom. Dr. Baltazar-Sabbah has also implemented policies that increase student access to Advanced Placement courses, allow students to take the exam at no cost to them, and increase mental health services for all students at every school site. Finally, she has also increased Career Technical Education pathways and implemented dual enrollment with the local community college.



### Cutting Edge Research on Technology Use in Elementary Schools

**Delnaz Hosseini**

This presentation, which is based on Dr. Hosseini's dissertation research, specifically explores teachers' views and attitudes about digital literacy instruction in early elementary school classrooms. Findings reveal existing barriers to digital literacy instruction and point to the need for additional support systems to facilitate instruction.

Hosseini, D. & Slusser, E. (March 2019). Digital literacy in the era of the Common Core: Affordances and constraints for early elementary school teachers. Poster to be presented at the Biennial Meeting for the Society for Research in Child Development, Baltimore, MD.



### Advocating and Representing California School Administrators

#### Shawn Tennenbaum

Dr. Tennenbaum has been selected to serve as the Vice President of Legislative Action, for Region 10, for the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) for the second year in a row (2017/18 and 2018/19). He is also the ACSA Legislative Committee Representative for Region 10 (2018/19 and 2020/21). As the Superintendent of the San Benito High School District, Dr. Tennenbaum also presented at the ACSA Superintendent's Academy on "Career Advancement and Preparation" on March 1st.



### Winner of the City Year Comcast NBCUniversal Leadership Award

#### Melissa Urbain

Dr. Urbain, a 2006 alumna of City Year San Jose/Silicon Valley, has received the City Year Comcast NBCUniversal Leadership Award, the highest recognition offered to City Year alumni for their outstanding dedication to service and strengthening community. Dr. Urbain was recognized for her tireless dedication to improving public education and advocacy for students, families, and fellow teachers to build a more just, equal, fair, and compassionate world. She carries out this work as a Language Arts Teacher & Instructional Coach at the San Jose Unified School District, as well as in her capacity of a Representative for the California Teachers Association State Council.

## Updates

### Ed.D. Students at Conferences



An exciting moment for Ed.D. student Radha Aravamudhan (right) who met Tara Yosso (center), whose research her dissertation was based on, at the AERA conference!

Cohort 3 student Annette Kennedy was recently invited by her school district to attend the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) Conference. Notable educators such as State Superintendent Tony Thurmond and Dr. Channa Cook-Harvey and many others were there for this conference as well as many educators from district sites sharing what they are doing to change the trajectory of underserved students. Annette left inspired with many great ideas to implement in her current school setting.

**Ed.D. Spring Kick-Off at Maggiano's Little Italy**



**Dinner & Discussion with Alena Filip**

