

# AVA JACKSON

abj12@bu.edu

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Ethnographic and interactional study of learning environments; social, cultural, political, and ethical dimensions of teaching and learning; critical pedagogies; disciplinary education; history learning & political education; hip-hop & arts education; embodiment & embodied cognition; identity & participation; relationality & collectivity; collaborative ethnography & community-based research; educational dignity & justice.

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

---

- Fall 2023 Assistant Professor in the School of Education, Loyola University
- 2021-2023 AACTE Holmes Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wheelock College of Education & Human Development, Boston University, *Mentor*: Dr. Beth Warren.

## EDUCATION

---

- 2015-2021 **Ph.D.** Northwestern University, School of Education & Social Policy: Learning Sciences. *Dissertation Committee*: Drs. Shirin Vossoughi, Na'ilah Nasir, James Spillane, & Jolie Matthews.
- 2017-2018 **Certificate**, Northwestern University, Searle Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning. *Advisor*: Dr. Paula Hooper.
- 2011-2015 **B.A.**, Duke University, Trinity School of Arts & Sciences. *Majors*: Cultural Anthropology & History. *Study Abroad*: Oxford University, England.

## AWARDS/GRANTS

---

- 2020-2021 Northwestern Buffett Institute Global Impacts Graduate Fellow
- 2020 Outstanding Paper Published in *Journal of the Learning Sciences* Award
- 2019 The Graduate Research Grant, funded by the Graduate School of Northwestern University
- 2017 The Community Building Grant, funded by the Graduate School of Northwestern University.

## GRANT PROPOSALS

---

- 2023 "Decolonizing and Reimagining Museums for the Future." Co-PIs: Drs. Eli Tucker-Raymond, Beth Warren, Ava Jackson, Boston University; Dr. Christopher Wright, Drexel University; Mia Shaw, PhD Candidate, University of Pennsylvania. National Science Foundation –Advancing Informal STEM Learning Grant: **Awaiting Response.**
- 2022 "Racial Equity: Reimagining Educator Learning Pathways Through Storywork in STEM." Co-PIs: Drs. Beth Warren, Ann Rosebery, & Ava Jackson, Boston University; Carrie Tzou, University of Washing; Megan

Bang, Shirin Vossoughi, & Paula Hooper, Northwestern University. National Science Foundation – Racial Equity in STEM Education Grant: **Awaiting Response.**

## **PEER-REVEIWED PUBLICATIONS**

---

- Jackson, A. (under review). Expansive History Education: Exploring the relational and cognitive processes of learning in a liberation-oriented U.S. history class. Potential Journal: *Journal of the Learning Sciences*.
- Jackson, A & Winchester, C. (in preparation). Critical Disciplinary Apprenticeship: Relationality, axiology, and intentionality in the development of critical pedagogy in history education. Potential Journal: *Journal of Teacher Education*.
- Jackson, A. (2021). Critical History Education: A Case-Study of Design, Learning, and Identity in a High School History Class (Order No. 28769966). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (2614805277).
- Jackson, A. (2021) Design Principles as Cultural Resources: pedagogical improvisation and bridging critical theory and practice. *Mind, Culture, and Activity*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10749039.2021.1882500>
- Vossoughi, S., Davis, N., Jackson, A., Echevarria, R. & Muñoz, A., & Escudé, M. (2021). Beyond the binary of adult versus child-centered learning: A close analysis of third-way pedagogies in the context of making. *Cognition and Instruction*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/07370008.2020.1860052>
- Vossoughi, S., Jackson, A., Chen, S., Roldan, W., & Escudé, M. (2020). Embodied pathways and ethical trails: Studying learning in and through relational histories. *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 29(2), 183-223. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10508406.2019.1693380>
- Jackson, A. (2020). The Impact of Critical History Practices on History Learning. *International Conference of the Learning Sciences, 1*. International Society of the Learning Sciences. [ISLS].
- Jackson, A., Vogelstein, L., Clark, H., Linberg, L., Thompson, N., Uttamchandani, S. (2020). Learning Together: Reflections at the Intersection of Friendship, Research, and Learning Processes. *International Conference of the Learning Sciences, 1*. International Society of the Learning Sciences. [ISLS].
- Vossoughi, S., Jackson, A., Bang, M., Rosebery, A. S., Warren, B., & Philip, T. M. (2018). Attunements to the Ethical in Design and Learning. *International Conference of the Learning Sciences, 1*. International Society of the Learning Sciences. [ISLS].

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

- Echevarria, R., Vogelstein, L., & Jackson, A. (2022, June). Moments of Pedagogical Feedback with Explanations: Interactional Foundations for Supporting Educational Dignity [Symposium]. International Conference of the Learning Sciences, Hiroshima, JPN.
- Echevarria, R., Jackson, A., Hooper, P., & Vossoughi, S. (2022, April). Humanizing Research Labs: How Faculty Use Their Labs to Dismantle, Redesign, and Reconstruct Oppressive Systems [Symposium]. AERA Annual Meeting San Diego, CA  
<https://www.aera.net/Publications/Online-Paper-Repository/AERA-Online-Paper-Repository>.

- Jackson, A. (2020, April) Relational Apprenticeship as Consequential to Collective Forms of Learning [Roundtable Session]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/s6brbhzh> (Conference Canceled)
- Jackson, A. & Winchester, C. (2020, April) Collaboration as Expansive Practice: Exploring the Learning Potential of Collaborative Action Partnerships [Symposium]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/w4cfwj4> (Conference Canceled)
- Vossoughi, S., Jackson, A., Muñoz, A., Echevarria, R. (2019, April). A Close Analysis of the Pedagogical Architecture in a Making and Tinkering Setting [Symposium]. American Educational Research Association Conference, Toronto, CAN
- Vossoughi, S. & Jackson, A. (2018, June). Gestural pathways and ethical trails: Attuning to the axiological dimensions of embodied learning [Symposium]. International Conference of the Learning Sciences, London, ENG
- Jackson, A. & Vossoughi, S. (2018, April). Epistemic Openness and Heterogeneity as Relational and Ethical Practices within Critical Pedagogy [Symposium]. American Educational Research Association Conference, New York City, NY
- Jackson, A. (2017, October). Learning and Identity in Critical Pedagogy: Understanding the role of the educator in mediating youth learning and development [Paper Presentation]. Learning Sciences Graduate Student Conference, Bloomington, IN
- Berry, A. & Jackson, A. (2017, November). Analyzing the Praxis of Critical Pedagogy: Understanding the Formation and Development of Critical Consciousness [Symposium]. American Studies Association Conference, Chicago, IL
- Jackson, A. (2017, July). Learning and Identity within Critical Pedagogy [Paper Presentation]. Free Minds, Free People Conference, Baltimore, MD

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

---

- 2021-Present      *Reimagining Alternative Education: Designing for Geographies of Care and Responsibility, Funded by the Spencer Foundation.* In this project, colleagues and myself explore the design and sustaining of geographies of care and responsibility to support the positive development of young people in an alternative school. The research team, teachers, students, and community members collaboratively design activities to support new forms of relationality in understanding disciplinary systems within and across contexts.
- 2018-2021      *Critical History Education: A Case-study of Design, Learning, and Identity in a High School History Class.* In this dissertation, I engaged a collaborative ethnography exploring the intersections of critical pedagogy and history education. Drawing on micro-ethnographic, interactional, and critical discourse analyses, I traced the emergence of new forms of expansive history learning.
- 2017-2019      *The Moore Research Project: Learning Through Youth Community Tinkering, funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.* In this position, I documented the expansive forms of disciplinary learning and teacher pedagogy emergent in a tinkering after-school program using interactional and micro-ethnographic methods.
- 2019      *Cultivating Political & Ethical Perspective on Learning Virtual Lab, funded by the Spencer Foundation.* In this position, I supported Drs. Vossoughi,

Hooper, Booker, McKinney de Royston on the development and organization of resources and network connections across participating research institutions.

2017-2019 *The Hands & Eyes Research Lab, funded by Dr. Vossoughi's Spencer/NAED Post-Doctorate Fellowship.* In this position, I documented micro-interactional forms of learning and joint activity in a tinkering after-school program using interactional analysis and micro-ethnographic methods.

2017 *Academic and Racial Identity Project, PI: Dr. Leoandra Rogers.* In this position, I used discourse analysis to document instances of identity enactment and sense-making to build an analytic framework for understanding the ways students conceptualize their academic identities.

2016-2018 *Ethnography of a Critical Hip-Hop Program.* In this project, I observed an after-school critical arts program exploring pedagogical processes support political and hip-hop disciplinary practices. Data collection included the development of field notes, video recordings, and interview with educators and adolescent young people.

## **UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

Wheelock College of Education & Human Development, Boston University

2023 *Culture, Language, & Learning.* This course introduces graduate students to sociocultural and critical learning theories. Through attention to research articles, public media, and personal reflections, my goal is to support students to think critically about conceptions of learning, cognition, culture, and politics and their role in education research, and also offer training in academic writing.

2022 *Discourse, Narrative & Literacy, Co-Taught with Dr. Beth Warren.* In this course, Dr. Warren and I designed a learning experience focused on theoretical explorations of discourse analysis, teaching and learning, and poetics. As a graduate seminar, we focused attention on slow, collective readings of texts, individual and collective workshopping of data sources, and offering extensive writing feedback and apprenticeship.

School of Education and Social Policy, Northwestern University

2019 *Advanced Research Methods, TA for Dr. Lilah Shapiro.* In this position, I worked with Dr. Shapiro in helping advanced undergraduate students develop thesis proposals, including providing written and verbal feedback, working with students one-on-one, and helping lead class discussions.

2018 *Methods of Observing Human Behavior, TA for Dr. Lilah Shapiro.* In this position, I led discussion groups on course readings, gave feedback on student work, including field note development, interview transcriptions, and project analysis, and met with students one-on-one to provide support on projects and model different approaches to qualitative research.

Department of Learning Sciences, Northwestern University

- 2020 *Community-Based Research Methodologies: Educational Justice, Co-Educator with Drs. Megan Bang and Shirin Vossoughi.* In this position, I was part of the teaching team that helped design and teach classes, graded and gave feedback on student work, and scaffolded methodological approaches to community-based research.
- 2019 *Culture and Cognition: Summer Leadership Program, TA for Dr. Shirin Vossoughi.* In this position, I was part of a teaching team that supported incoming, low-income freshman students of color into university level academic work. On top of supporting student learning on class topics, I also provided socioemotional mentorship during their transition into life at a predominantly white higher education institution.
- 2017 *Culture and Cognition, TA for Dr. Paula Hooper.* In this position, I helped design and teach classes on key learning and critical social theories, gave feedback on student work, including analytic papers and course projects, and met with students one-on-one and in groups to provide support on class presentations and model different approaches to data analysis and manuscript writing.
- 2016 *Culture and Cognition, TA for Dr. Shirin Vossoughi.* In this position, I helped design and teach classes on key learning and critical social theories, gave feedback on student work, including analytic papers and course projects, and met with students one-on-one and in groups to provide support on class presentations and model different approaches to data analysis and manuscript writing.

**SERVICE**

---

- 2023 *Graduate Student Mentor* for the American Education Research Association Special Interest Group: Learning Sciences
- 2022-Present *Journal Reviewer* for the ‘Equity and Excellence in Education,’ ‘American Educational Research Journal,’ and ‘Educational Technology Research and Development.’
- 2021-Present *Committee member*, Sustaining Community Schools’ Anti-Racist Curriculum Steering Committee for Chicago Public Schools
- 2021-Present *Treasurer*, American Educational Research Association, Special Interest Group: Learning Sciences.
- 2018-2021 *Graduate Mentor*, The Graduate School’s Diversity Peer Mentoring program, Northwestern University
- 2017-2021 *Undergraduate Mentor*, Graduates Mentoring Undergraduates organization, Northwestern University
- 2019 *Co-Designer*, Rising Education Scholars Helping Advance Partnerships and Equity (RESHAPE) research organization.
- 2017-2019 *President*, Critical Contexts graduate student organization, Northwestern University.
- 2018-2019 *Co-Chair*, 2019 Learning Sciences Graduate Student Conference.

2018 Volunteer Mentor/Facilitator, (Re)Shape Chicago Youth Program, Alternatives, Inc.

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

- 2022 Guest speaker for *Methods & Techniques of Teaching: Social Science*, Masters in Education seminar taught by Corey Winchester, EdD at Northwestern University.
- 2022 Co-designed and led a virtual workshop titled “Exploring Culturally Relevant Pedagogy through Critical History Education” with Corey Winchester, EdD for the *MSED Instructor Professional Learning Workshop Series* at Northwestern University.
- 2021 Co-designed and led a virtual workshop titled “Cultural Relevant Pedagogies” with Corey Winchester, EdD for the *Career and Technical Educator (CTE) Community of Practice Webinar Series*, Illinois New Teachers Collaborative at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.
- 2021 Guest speaker for *Methods & Techniques of Teaching: Social Science*, Masters in Education seminar taught by Corey Winchester, EdD at Northwestern University.
- 2020 Designed and led virtual workshop on equitable teaching practices for the *Illinois Professional Educator Competency Steering Committee*, Illinois Department of Education.
- 2020 Designed and led a virtual professional development for the “APUSH: Addressing White Supremacy in 2020” workshop for Advanced Placement United States History teachers, organized by Corey Winchester, EdD.
- 2020 Guest speaker for *Methods & Techniques of Teaching: Social Science*, Masters in Education seminar taught by Corey Winchester, EdD at Northwestern University.
- 2019 Participated in the “Re-envisioning Graduate Training to Prepare Future Researchers to Work in Partnership with Education Stakeholders” conference, *National Center for Research in Policy and Practice* in Blaine, Washington
- 2019 Presented research titled “Racial/Ethnic Identity Development in Critical Pedagogies” at the *Data Blitz presentations*, the Developmental Sciences Cluster, Northwestern University
- 2017 Co-design and led professional development titled “Teatro: Artistic Imagination and Action as a Mode of Social Dreaming” for *Teen Services Conference*, Chicago Public Libraries.
- 2016 Collected data and transcribed interviews for Dr. Sholly Fisch’s *Nature Cat study*, funded through MediaKidz Research and Consulting

## PROFICIENCY/SKILLS

---

- Methods Training: ethnography, interaction analysis, discourse & text analysis, survey analysis, quantitative statistical analysis, research-practice partnerships

- Software Training: Nvivo, Inqscribe, Dedoose, StudioCode, Microsoft Office Suite, Slack, Adobe Suite, Rstudio