

REBECCA HORWITZ-WILLIS

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EDUCATION:

- 2023 PhD: Education – Culture, Institutions, and Society, Harvard University Graduate School of Arts & Science
Thesis: “From Police Power to Policed Schools: Racial Ideology, Urban Schooling, and the Carceral Landscape of Chicago, 1888 – 1920”
Committee: Dr. Jarvis Givens, Harvard Graduate School of Education; Dr. Julie Reuben, Harvard Graduate School of Education; Lucie White, Harvard Law School
- 2019 EdM: Education Policy, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- 2007 JD, *with honors*, The University of Texas School of Law
- 2003 BA, *summa cum laude*, Political Science, Rutgers University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

- Visiting Assistant Professor: Boston College Law School (July 2024 – July 2026)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Black Teacher Archive, Harvard University (June 2023 – July 2024)
Instructor of Education: Harvard Graduate School of Education (January 2021 – May 2024)

AREAS OF RESEARCH & SPECIALIZATION:

Legal History of Education; Civil Rights History; Race and the Law; Education and the Carceral State; Social Welfare Law and Policy; Children and the Law

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS:

- 2023 Kathryn T. Preyer Award, *American Society for Legal History*
- 2022 – 23 Doctoral Fellow, *Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study*
- 2021 – 22 Doctoral Fellow, *Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative*
- 2017 – 18 Harvard University Presidential Scholar Fellowship

GRANTS:

- 2022 Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative, Research Grant
- 2021 Harvard University Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Research Grant

PUBLICATIONS:

Law Review Articles

Horwitz-Willis, R. and Katz, L. (2023). “The Interdependence of Family, State, and Market: Childcare in the Shifting Landscape of the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *Georgetown Journal of Poverty Law and Policy*. 30(3): 405 – 436.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Yurkofsky, M., Peterson, A., Mehta, J., **Horwitz-Willis, R.**, and Frumin, K. (2020). “Research on Continuous Improvement: Exploring the Complexities of Managing Change.” *Review of Research in Education*. 44(1): 403 – 433.

Books Under Contract

Mehta, J. D., Yurkofsky, M. M., Frumin, K., Peterson, A. J., **Horwitz-Willis, R.**, & Jack, J. (forthcoming). *Design Meets the Real World: The Quest to Introduce Improvement, Inquiry, and Innovation into the Public Schools*. Harvard University Press.

Book Reviews

Horwitz-Willis, R. (2021). Review of *Progressive Dystopia: Abolition, Antiblackness, and Schooling in San Francisco* by Savannah Shange, *Harvard Educational Review*, 90(4).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Horwitz-Willis, R. “Policing the Color Line: White Grievance, the Press, and the Early Origins of ‘Jim Crow’ Schools in Chicago” (under review)

Horwitz-Willis, R. “‘Educating a Class of Unfortunates:’ Crime Control, Child Protection, and the Development of Compulsory Schooling, 1888 – 1903” (in preparation for submission)

Horwitz-Willis, R. “‘Destructive Agencies’ in the Neighborhood of Schools:’ Race, Vice, and the Legal Geography of Schooling in Chicago, 1900 - 1920” (in preparation for submission)

Horwitz-Willis, R. “‘Navigating the ‘Amazing Paradox’ of African American Education:’ Legal Equality, Racial Domination, and the Civil Rights Advocacy of the Colored Teachers Associations of the North” (in process)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS:

2024 “‘Destructive Agencies in the Neighborhood of Schools:’ Race, Vice, and the Legal Geography of Schooling in Chicago, 1900 - 1920,” paper presentation at the *Michigan Law Junior Scholars Conference*, Ann Arbor, MI, April 2024.

2023 “‘Destructive Agencies in the Neighborhood of Schools:’ Geographies of Vice and Education in Chicago, 1900 - 1920,” paper presentation at the *History of Education Society*, Atlanta, GA, November 2023.

“‘Educating a Class of Unfortunates:’ Crime Control, Child Protection, and the Development of Compulsory Schooling, 1888 – 1903,” paper presentation for the Kathryn T. Preyer Award Panel, *American Society for Legal History*, Philadelphia, PA, October 2023.

“The Interdependence of Family, State, and Market: Childcare in the Shifting Landscape of the COVID-19 Pandemic,” paper presentation at the *Law and Society Association*, San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 2023 (with Leanna Katz).

“Criminalizing the Welfare State: Progressive Era Origins of the School-Prison Nexus,” paper presentation at the *American Educational Research Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2023.

2022 “Educating a Class of Unfortunates:’ Crime Control, Child Protection, and the Development of Compulsory Schooling, 1888 – 1903,” paper presentation at the *History of Education Society*, Baltimore, MD, November 2022.

“Educating a Class of Unfortunates:’ Crime Control, Child Protection, and the Development of Compulsory Schooling, 1888 – 1903,” graduate workshop presentation at *New Directions in Law and Society*, Amherst, MA, October 2022.

“Addressing the Evils of Truancy: Schools, Police, and Racial Ideology in the Early Compulsory School Movement,” paper presentation at the *American Society for Legal History*, Virtual Graduate Research Workshop, August 2022.

“Addressing the Evils of Truancy: Schools, Police, and Racial Ideology in the Early Compulsory School Movement,” paper presentation at the *American Bar Foundation Reimagining Justice Conference*, Chicago, IL, June 2022.

“Policing the Color Line: White Grievance, the Press, and the Formation of Chicago Public Schools, 1902 - 1908,” paper presentation at the *American Educational Research Association*, San Diego, CA, April 2022.

2021 “Urban Schooling and the Carceral Landscape,” Invited guest lecture for *History of Black Education*; Harvard Graduate School of Education, October 26, 2021.

“From #Charlottesville to #BlackLivesMatter: Analyzing the Political Choices and Ethical Responsibilities of Public School Superintendents and Charter School Leaders in the Wake of National Tragedy,” paper presentation at the *Midwest Political Science Association*, virtual conference, April 2021 (With Dr. Meira Levinson).

2020 “State Support for Childcare During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” paper presentation at the *New Voices in Work and Labour Studies*, virtual conference, October 2020 (with Leanna Katz).

“The Limits of Distributional Equality: Racial Recognition and the Princeton Plan for School Reorganization,” paper presentation at the *Law and Society Association*, virtual conference, May 2020.

“Surfacing the Undiscussable: Foregrounding Race, Gender, and Class in the Application of Improvement Methods to Educational Systems,” paper presentation

at the *American Educational Research Association*, virtual conference, April 2020 (With Drs. Kim Frumin, Amelia Peterson, Max Yurkofsky, and Jal Mehta).

2019 “Iteration as an Approach to Reform: Attractive in Theory, Difficult in Practice,” paper presentation at *American Educational Research Association*, Toronto, April 2019 (With Drs. Max Yurkofsky, Jal Mehta, Amelia Peterson, and Kim Frumin).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Instructor of Record: Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and BC Law

History of Education Rights from Slavery to Black Power (law course – BC Law Fall 2024)
History of Education in the United States (undergraduate and graduate course - HGSE)
Equity and Opportunity: Race and Ethnicity in Context (required M.Ed course - HGSE)
Citizenship, Segregation, and Racial Equality in American Schools (graduate seminar - HGSE)

Teaching Assistant: Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) and Harvard Law School (HLS)

Antiracist Education in Historical and Global Context (HGSE, with Dr. Jarvis Givens)
Methods of Research in the History of Education (HGSE, with Dr. Julie Reuben)
Law & Inequality (HLS, with Professor Lucie White)
The Politics of Education in the Global South (HGSE, with Dr. Emmerich Davies)
Qualitative Program Evaluation (HGSE, with Dr. Lynne Sacks)
The Practice of Education Policy (HGSE, with Dr. Rick Hess)
PhD Proseminar (HGSE, with Drs. Julie Reuben, Jal Mehta, and Junlei Li)

RESEARCH POSITIONS:

Co-Lead, Moral Leadership and Public Speech in the Wake of Racialized National Tragedy; September 2018 – May 2023

- Co-led a team of 4 researchers conducting a mixed-method study of school district leaders’ responses to 4 events of racialized national trauma in the United States.

Research Assistant, Human-Centered School Design, HGSE; May 2018 – present

- Conducted qualitative research investigating factors that enable and constrain the implementation of a Networked Improvement Community focusing on early literacy.

Supervising Research Assistant, COVID Hotspots Legal Mapping Project (with Harvard Law School); June 2020 – August 2020

- Co-led a team of 6 researchers to interrogate how various legal regimes work together to produce vulnerabilities to COVID for care workers in Chelsea, MA.

Research Assistant, Implicit Bias Lab, HGSE; January 2019 – August 2019

- Participated in weekly meetings to analyze current research on implicit bias in education, coded emerging data from related studies, and reviewed participants’ research proposals.

Research Assistant, By All Means: City-School Partnership Initiatives, HGSE; April 2018 – August 2018

- Conducted qualitative research on the relationship between city-wide school improvement initiatives and student learning in three cities.

Research Assistant, Reimagining Integration – Diverse and Equitable Schools, HGSE; August 2017 – May 2018

- Researched best practices for creating a culture of belonging in diverse schools; collaborated with RIDES team to create a systemic framework of policies and practices that support equity in schools.

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Editor, *Michigan Journal of Law and Society*: August 2021 – May 2023

Working Group, HGSE Culture, Institutions, and Society PhD Program: History of Education Curriculum Development: Spring, 2022

Senior Thesis Advisor, Social Studies Department: Harvard College: August 2020 – May 2021

Editor, *Harvard Educational Review*: August 2019 – May 2020

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Member: Education Law Task Force, Massachusetts Advocates for Children. *June 2020 – August 2022*

Research Consultant, Community Advisory Board: Girls of Color and the School-to-Prison Pipeline, MA Appleseed Center for Law and Justice. *May 2021 – June 2022*

Associate: King & Spalding, LLP, Austin, TX. *Sept. 2008-June 2010*

Law Clerk: U.S.D.O.J. Honors Program: Office of Immigration Review, Dallas, TX. *Sept. 2007-Aug. 2008*

Summer Associate: McKee Nelson, LLP, Washington, DC. *May 2006-Aug. 2006*

Summer Intern: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, New York, NY. *May 2005-July 2005*

EDUCATION EXPERIENCE:

Director of Curriculum and Instruction: Level Playing Field Institute, Oakland, CA. *May 2016 – Oct. 2017*

Instructional Coach: Aspire Public Schools, Oakland, CA. *June 2015 – May 2016*

Academic Dean: Aspire East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy, East Palo Alto, CA. *July 2013 – June 2015*

Response to Intervention Coordinator: East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy. *October 2012 – June 2015*

Math Lead Teacher and Math Teacher: East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy. *October 2012 – June 2014*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Society for Legal History; History of Education Society; Law and Society Association;
American Educational Research Association

BAR ADMISSIONS

California; Texas

REFERENCES:

Dr. Jarvis Givens, Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

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Dr. Julie Reuben, Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

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Lucie White, Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

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