

JOSÉ LUIS VILSON

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Education

Teachers College, Columbia University New York, NY. August 2020 – August 2024

- PhD – Sociology and Education, Policy Concentration
- Dissertation Defense: August 20, 2024
- To be awarded: October 2024
- Dissertation proposal title: “To Be Seen: Perspectives of Teachers of Color on Race and Professionalism in New York City Public Schools”
- Dissertation Committee: Amy Stuart Wells (Chair), Ansley Erickson, Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Marcelle Mentor, Terrenda C. White

Teachers College, Columbia University New York, NY August 2020 – October 2023

- Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

City College of New York New York, NY July 2005 – January 2008

- Master of Arts, Master’s in Mathematics Education (7th – 12th Grade)

Syracuse University Syracuse, NY July 2000 – August 2004

- Bachelor of Science: Computer Science

Research Experience

Teacher Learning and Education Activism

Teachers College, Columbia University

New York, NY August 2021 – Present

- Co-Researcher – Teachers College, Columbia University
- Contributed to development of multi-year project aimed at understanding how researchers and educators can collaborate to develop a transformational approach to professional development through the content of educational history in New York City
- Conducted virtual interviews and focus groups with multiple educators in different contexts
- Co-developed proposal to present findings at American Education Research Association conference in 2024

The Public Good – A Public School Support Organization

Teachers College, Columbia University

New York, NY August 2020 – August 2022

- Graduate Research Assistant – Teachers College, Columbia University
- Contributed to development of multi-year project aimed at understanding educators’ perspectives on public education in their communities
- Conducted virtual interviews with multiple educators in different contexts
- Developed two-week institute that invited educators to contribute and learn from peers about education activism with pedagogy and context in mind
- Collaborated and coordinated with peers and faculty to present findings

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Instructor

Teachers College, Columbia University

Education and Public Policy

Summer 2022, 2023, 2024

- Prepares lectures and class activities focused on the intersection of education and public policy with particular focus on major themes in public schooling for 10-25 masters students
- Creates and grades course assignments to develop student capacity for masters-level research
- Invites guests to better inform past and current contexts for major themes in the class, including US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, 2021 Teacher of the Year Juliana Urtubey, and New York Times national reporter Dana Goldstein

Instructor

Teachers College, Columbia University

Master's Integrative Project in Sociology and Education

Fall 2023 - Spring 2024

- Co-prepares lectures and class activities to help masters students develop their integrative projects
- Co-creates and grades course assignments to develop student capacity for masters-level research

Co-Instructor / Co-Researcher

Teachers College, Columbia University

Teacher Learning and Education Activism

Summer 2024

- Worked with a team consisting of a lead professor with doctoral students to co-plan a hybrid graduate level college course with intensive professional development institute
- Collaborated with research team to investigate the effects of a transformational professional learning experience with community and pedagogy in mind
- Co-taught learning experiences within the hybrid experience including planning lessons, contributing to the syllabus, and co-facilitated other experiences when not in the lead

Co-Instructor

Teachers College, Columbia University

Anti-Racist Curriculum, Pedagogy, Leadership and Policy

Spring 2024

- Prepared and directed virtual learning experiences through a module of a larger advanced certification program
- Taught on the theory, legacy, and current context of critical race theory
- Graded and guided assignments related to this module

Teaching Assistant

Teachers College, Columbia University

Sociology of Knowledge: Ideology, Racial Politics, and Policy

Fall 2022

- Worked with and assisted instructor in developing lesson plans, grading papers, and working with students to enhance their knowledge of the class
- Prepared and delivered a lecture on the history of standardized testing and current context for understanding The No Child Left Behind Act with respect to public education

Teaching Assistant

Teachers College, Columbia University

Sociology of Urban Education

Spring 2022

- Worked with and assisted instructor in developing lesson plans, grading papers, and working with students to enhance their knowledge of the class
- Prepared and delivered a lecture on the current context for understanding The No Child Left Behind Act with respect to public education and testing culture as a function of current schooling practices

Teaching Assistant

Teachers College, Columbia University

Reimagining Education Summer Institute

March 2021-August 2022

- Directed the after-hours programming which included conversations between current classroom educators, contemporary scholars, and artists open to the public
- Co-constructed the first Policy Day, helping with programming, scheduling, and conversations between students, educators, and policymakers
- Created promotional materials for main speakers and the general program

Grants and Awards

- Edmund W. Gordon Institute for Advanced Study: Gordon Scholar (2022)
- Carole Sleeper Endowed Fund/Scholarship (August 2020 – August 2023)

Publications

Books

- *What You Already Know: Teaching Students Math from The Knowledge Within.* Heinemann, 2025
- *This Is Not A Test: A New Narrative on Race, Class, and the Future of Education.* Haymarket Books, 2014

- *Teaching 2030: What We Must Do For Our Students And Our Public Schools – Now and In The Future* by Barnett Berry and 12 members of the Teaching 2030 Team, Teachers College Press, 2010

Featured in

- *My Morning Routine: How Successful People Start Every Day Inspired*, By Benjamin Spall and Michael Xander, Penguin Random House, 2018
- *The Teacher You Want To Be: Essays About Children, Learning, and Teaching* by Matt Glover and Ellin Oliver Keene. Heinemann Publishing, 2014
- *Teaching With Heart: Poetry That Speaks To The Courage To Teach* by Sam Intrator and Megan Scribner, Wikey, 2014
- *Keeping the Faith in Education by Ellie Roscher*. Avenida Books. Chapter: Foreword, 2013
- *Teacherpreneurs: Innovative Teachers Who Lead But Don't Leave* by Barnett Berry, Ann Byrd, and Alan Weider. Jossey-Bass, 2013

Articles

- Vilson, J. (2015). "The Need for More Teachers of Color." *American Educator*. Washington, DC.
- Vilson, J. (2017). Love as a Language for Educational Justice, *The Educational Forum*, 81:4, 360-362, DOI: [10.1080/00131725.2017.1353324](https://doi.org/10.1080/00131725.2017.1353324)
- Vilson, J. L. (2017). In the Classroom: Pedagogy to Activate Student Voices. *Voices in Urban Education*. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1137659>
- Lala, E., Bhattacharya, K., Nieto, S., & Vilson, J. L. (2021). "Walk in Grace": A Kitchen-Table Talk on Cultivating Care, Dignity, Love, and Respect in Education. *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 54(3), 220–235. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10665684.2021.2021611>
- Vilson, J. (Summer 2019). "Higher Learning: Empowering Youth Through Culturally Responsive Education," *Essence Magazine*
- Vilson, J. (2019). "The New York City school controversy shows why standardized testing is broken," *Vox*.
- Vilson, J. (2017). Math Was Never Neutral. *QED Medium*, October, 29, 2017.
- Vilson, J. (2018). "American Schoolteachers Are Heroes. They Shouldn't Have To Be." *Huffington Post*.
- Vilson, J. (2016). "Testing Students for Grit Is Another Marker of School Inequity." *New York Times*.
- Vilson, J. (2016). "What 'Diversity' Really Means: Teachers of Color and Education Reform." *The Progressive*.
- Vilson, J. (2013). "Engaging Teachers in Math." *Edutopia*.
- Vilson, J. (2012). "Are we doing enough to make sure our kids aren't racist?" *CNN*.
- Vilson, J. (2011). "How Jay-Z Can Help Us Remix Education," *Education Week*.

Professional Development

Speaker / Presenter

- Model Schools Conference, Featured Speaker, "Belonging and Justice in Classrooms," Orlando, FL, June 2024
- Equity Now: 70 Years of Brown vs. Board Conference, "Culturally Responsive Sustaining Education in the Math Classroom," New York University, New York, NY, May 2024
- Reimagining Education Summer Institute, Speaker, "The Profession We All Deserve," Teachers College, Columbia University, July 2023
- American Education Research Association, Co-Presenter, "From Exploring Antiracist Praxis to Reimagine Education Policy: Educators' Calls for Structural Change" with Researching RESI for the Public Good (RRPG) Project. AERA Symposium. San Diego. April 2022
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Annual Conference, Closing Keynote, "A Moment of Hope: Why We Must Do What We Must Do," Los Angeles, CA, September 2022
- World Innovation Summit for Education, "The Change-Making Teachers: Raising Awareness on Social and Racial Justice in Education," Doha, Qatar, December 2021
- Illinois Legislator Retreat, Hunt Institute, Panelist, "Diversifying the Educator Workforce," Chicago, IL, August 2021
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Annual Conference, Opening Keynote, "Union, Intersections, and Complements," Virtual, March 2021
- Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, Center for American Progress Featured Session, "Advancing a Race Equity Education Agenda," Washington, DC, September 2019
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference, Keynote Speaker in San Diego, CA, April 2019

- National Council of Teaching English Annual Conference, Featured Speaker, Austin, TX, November 2018
- University of Colorado, Teachers of Color and Allies Conference Keynote Speaker, October 2018
- National Urban League, Briefing: Educators Speak, Panelist with Kelisa Wing, New Orleans, LA, October 2018
- TED, Keynote Speaker, “No conversation about education without teacher voice,” September 2018
- World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE@NY), New York City, Panelist, “Learning Revolutions: Creating Educational Environments for Empowerment and Inclusion,” September 2018
- SXSWEDU 2018 Featured Speaker, “How Educators Lead with Equity In Mind,” April 2018, Austin, TX
- Columbia University Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, Social Justice Saturday, Keynote Speaker, September 2018, New York, NY
- The Leadership Conference on Human and Civil Rights, Panelist, “Present in the Classroom: Educators of Color and Native Educators on Creating Racial Justice in Education,” May 2018, Washington, DC
- American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, Presidential Session Keynote Speaker, “Creating a Culture of Improvement Through the Empowerment of Teachers,” April 2018, New York, NY
- American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, Division K Fireside Chat, Panelist, “Teaching, Activism, & Resistance in the Era of Trump: Implications for (Prospective) Teacher Educators.” Graduate Student Council; Chairs: Josephine Pham, Wagma S. Mommandi, Katherine Schultz, with Participants: Drs. Michelle Fine, Leigh Patel, Rochelle Gutierrez, Edward Brockenbrough, April 2018, New York, NY
- American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, Presidential Session, Moderator, “An Invitation to Teaching Toward Social Justice” with members of EduColor, April 2018, New York, NY
- National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Conference in San Antonio, TX, Speaker, May 2017
- University of Michigan, School of Education / TeachingWorks, Discussant, with Drs. Deborah Ball and Jennifer Langer-Osuna, February 2017
- Coalition of Essential Schools Conference, Keynote Speaker, “#EduColor and the Future of Race in Schools,” December 2016
- Clinton School of Public Service, William Jefferson Distinguished Speaker, “NobleTalks,” Little Rock, AK
- National Summit on Teacher Diversity, US Department of Education, May 2016
- Teaching and Learning Conference, Panelist, “Teacher Diversity” with Linda Darling-Hammond, Bettye Perkins, Washington, DC, 2015
- American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, “Education for Diverse Democracy Requires Democracy for Diverse Educators: Critical Insights from National Teaching Fellows,” Chair: David Johns; with Participants: Audra Watson, Travis Bristol, Tolani Britton, Terrenda Corisa White
- New Teacher Symposium, Speaker, “Teacher Leadership”, San Francisco, 2015
- Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Keynote Speaker, “Teacher Leadership in the Age of Common Core,” Chicago, IL, 2014
- Maryland State Education Association Conference, Panelist, “The Role of Teachers” with NTOY2014 Sean McComb and Maryland TOY2014 Jody Zepp
- TEDxNYED, Speaker, “Redefining Teacher Voice,” Queens, NY, April 2012

Work Experience

EduColor

Founder, Executive Director, 2014 - Present

- Built a financial structure for the organization that surpassed \$135,000 in three years
- Consult organizations, policymakers, and schools in creating capacity for discussions on race, class, and other sensitive and relevant topics
- Provide educators across the country with resources for creating equitable classrooms
- Create professional development sessions on a plethora of equity initiatives online and in schools
- Constructed virtual annual summits centered on pedagogy, teacher leadership, and retention since 2020 with keynote speakers including leading educators, policymakers, authors, scholars from across the country and internationally
- Developed partnerships with US Department of Education, TED, Center for American Progress, Wikimedia, Learning for Justice, SXSWedu, Teaching for Change, and others
- Organized monthly Twitter chats on various topics involving education and social justice
 - About 25 thousand followers on @EduColorMVM (Twitter)

Inwood Intermediate School (IS 52)

Middle School Mathematics Teacher

July 2005 – September 2020

- Co-plan math lessons and labs as part of the Marilyn Burns program
- Coordinate and implement math interim assessments
- Create and implement diagnostic math tests for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes
- Participate in the implementation of decisions to support the school community and the needs of our students
- Member of the 7th and 8th grade math collaborative lesson planning teams
- Collaborated with the Science Department to create an interdisciplinary Math-Science curriculum
- Taught honors, Regents-level, opted-out English language learner, and integrated special education co-teaching classrooms since 2010 sixth through eighth grade classes
- Modeled lessons for professional development within the school as well as part of District 6 (math lab teacher)

Math Coach

New York, NY June 2009 – November 2012

- Developed curriculum maps, unit plans, and pacing calendars for the entire school year
- Supported teachers in pedagogy and classroom management in the classroom and shared best practices
- Created online data management systems for all teachers within the school
- Conducted professional development sessions on data management and creative technology solutions in the classroom
- Assisted in designing school-wide teacher rubrics and accompanying documents
- Analyzed and implemented Common Core Learning Standards tasks for the citywide pilot program
- Communicated with parents, teachers, staff members about the standards and expectations of the math department

Organizations

National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

Board of Directors, 2020 - Present

- Serve on Executive Board, Audit Committee, and Policy and Advocacy Committee
- Advises President and staff of NBPTS on various matters related to the operation of the organization
- Co-organized first NBPTS Hill Day, connecting National Board board members with their US congresspeople to advocate for the teaching profession
- Represents NBPTS at requested functions and correspondence with partners
- Collaborate with fellow board members on expansion of and strategy for reach within New York State and other key geographic areas

Coalition of Educational Justice / NYU Metro Center

Participant, 2018 - Present

- Co-wrote definition of “culturally responsive education” as part of a broad coalition of NYC-based stakeholders, which was adapted by the NYC Department of Education in July of 2019
- Advocated for the use of culturally responsive education to policymakers, practitioners, and researchers on behalf of the organization
- Developed workshops on the history of education for their 2019 NYC parent conference at Teachers College, Columbia University

PowerMyLearning

Board of Directors, 2021 - Present

- Serve on Governance Committee
- Advises President and staff of NBPTS on various matters related to the operation of the organization
- Represents NBPTS at requested functions and correspondence with partners
- Collaborate with fellow board members on expansion of and strategy for reach within New York State and other key geographic areas

Math for America

Strategic Consultant, 2021 – 2023

- Works with executive members (CEO, COO, others) on operational goals and teacher-facing initiatives

- Facilitates conversations with teachers within fellowships
- Mentors teachers and visits classrooms

Center for Teaching Quality

Board of Directors, 2011 - 2016

- Serve on Finance and Audit Committee for the organization
- Make recommendations on pertinent issues for the present and future of the organization
- Collaborate with fellow board members on guidance and initiatives pertaining to the organization

Latino Alumni Network of Syracuse University (LANSU)

Founder and President, 2004 – 2013, President Emeritus, 2013 - Present

- Created first alumni association for Latinos on the Syracuse University campus
- Collaborated with the Program Development Office of Syracuse University and Lubin House on workshops such as “Latinos in the Media” with Marcus Solis ’91 of ABC and Audrey Puente ’93 of CBS
- Help induct incoming students to Syracuse University through the annual Send-Off at Syracuse University’s Lubin House in New York, NY.

Related Skills

Licenses and Accomplishments

- Professional License in New York State (7-12, Mathematics)
- National Board Certified Teacher (Mathematics, November 2016)
- PowerMyLearning Community Leadership Award, 2023
- Math for America Master Teacher Fellowship, 2014 – 2020
- Coalition of Educational Justice / Urban Youth Collective Honoree (Culturally Responsive Educators), 2019

Hispanic Coalition of New York, Rising Star of the Year, 2016

Relevant Software

- Qualtrics
- MaxQDA
- Stata
- Google Drive
- Photoshop
- HTML / CSS, MS Office (Word, Access, PowerPoint, Excel, FrontPage)

Languages

- Fluent: English and Spanish

References

Amy Stuart Wells, Dean of Graduate School of Education

Bank Street College of Education

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Ansley Erickson, Associate Professor of History and Education Policy

Teachers College, Columbia University

ate11@tc.columbia.edu

Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Professor of English Education

Teachers College, Columbia University

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