

# JESSE SENECHAL

## EDUCATION

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- 2014 **Virginia Commonwealth University** Richmond, Virginia  
*Ph.D. Educational Research and Evaluation*
- Virginia Social Science Association Best Graduate Student Paper (2010)
  - Phi Kappa Phi Graduate Studies Award (2010)
- 2006 **DePaul University** Chicago, Illinois  
*M.A. Teaching and Learning*
- 1994 **University of Chicago** Chicago, Illinois  
*B.A. English Language and Literature*
- General Honors in College
  - Honors in Major
  - Napier Wilt Prize for Writing in English and American Literature

## RELEVANT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium**  
School of Education, Virginia Commonwealth University

- 2016 – Present *Interim Director*
- 2014 – 2016 *Associate Director for Research and Evaluation*
- 2012 - 2014 *Assistant Director for Research and Evaluation*
- 2009 – 2012 *Graduate Assistant*

### **K12-Engaged MERC Research Projects**

- ***MERC Teacher Retention Study.*** (2018-current). Serving as Co-Principal Investigator for this MERC Study examining the patterns of teacher retention in the Richmond region and providing evaluation of existing teacher workforce initiatives. Work to this point includes organizing and facilitating a research study team of VCU faculty, graduate students, and MERC division personnel; leading the design of a research plan; and developing a data guide for secondary data related to teacher workforce. Future work will include securing a teacher workforce dataset from the Virginia Department of Education, negotiating data access from regional school divisions, development and administration of a survey to assess school level factors related to teacher retention, and analysis and reporting on study findings.
- ***Professional Development for Success in Culturally Diverse Schools*** (2016-current). Serving as Co-Principal Investigator for this MERC Study examining professional development models that support teachers, school leaders, and school staff for work in increasingly diverse classrooms and schools. Work has included organizing and

facilitating a research study team of VCU faculty, graduate students, and MERC division personnel; supporting the design and implementation of a research plan; leading a teacher action research cohort; applying for federal funding through IES; development and administration of a survey of teachers and school personnel; and analysis and reporting on findings.

- ***Achieving Racial Equity in School Disciplinary Policies and Practices*** (2015 - *current*). Serving as Co-Principal Investigator for this MERC Study examining the relationship between school-level racial disparities in disciplinary outcomes and current disciplinary initiatives occurring across the region. Work has included organizing and facilitating a research study team of VCU faculty, graduate students, and MERC division personnel; supporting the design and implementation of a research plan; and coordination of multi-case study of school-based discipline programs.
- ***Understanding Teacher Morale*** (2014-2017). Served as Principal Investigator for this MERC Study examining the factors that influence teacher morale. Work included supervising graduate students, organizing and facilitating a research study team of MERC division personnel, guiding a literature review process, developing a research plan, leading data collection and data analysis efforts, and reporting on findings.

#### **Selected Funded Evaluation and Applied Research Projects**

- ***Henrico County Public Schools Evaluation Partnership***. (2018-*current*). Secured an ongoing contract with Henrico County Public School to provide research and evaluation support on projects aligned with current division priorities. Currently leading a team developing student, parent and staff stakeholder climate surveys for the county.
- ***VCU RTR SEED***. (2018-*current*). Supported the grant writing of a successful application to the federal SEED grant to support the expansion of the Richmond Teacher Residency. Currently serving as Co-Principal investigator on the evaluation. The evaluation design is mixed methods including a quasi-experimental study of RTR impact on teacher practice and student outcomes.
- ***CodeRVA Regional High School***. (2017-*current*). Supported the grant writing of a successful application to the Magnet School Assistance Program grant to support the development of CodeRVA Regional High School. Work includes coordinating a five-year quasi-experimental evaluation study of the school's impact on student outcomes, and a case study of broader regional impact.
- ***NextUp RVA Out-of-School Time System***. (2017-*current*). Secured an ongoing contract to provide ongoing evaluation services to the NextUp RVA Out-of-School Time (OST) system in Richmond Public Schools. Work includes serving on the evaluation team to examine the relationship between OST and student outcomes.
- ***Evaluation of the Richmond Teacher Residency*** (2015-*current*). Supported the grant writing of a federal Teacher Quality Partnership Evaluation Extension grant to examine the experiences of participants in the Richmond Teacher Residency program. The evaluation involves a three-year longitudinal investigation of the factors that support the successful preparation of urban teachers. Work includes study design, instrument development, qualitative data collection and analysis, and reporting of findings.
- ***Virginia College Access Resource Study***. (2015-2017). Served as Co-Principal Investigator for study commissioned by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Virginia 529 College Savings Plan. The study involved a state-wide analysis of college access need and a survey of the services and needs of K12 College Access providers.
- ***Evaluability Assessment of Richmond Community of Caring***. (2015). Secured a contract for an evaluability assessment of a multi-school character development program supported by Richmond Community of Caring. Work included supervising graduate students, study design, qualitative data collection and analysis, development of

a systems program model and developing recommendations for program improvement and future evaluative work.

- ***Regional Gallup Student Poll Support.*** (2012-2015). Secured a contract with Bridging Richmond to support regional schools and school divisions in the administration and use of Gallup Student Poll Data within schools, school divisions and out-of-school contexts. Work included ongoing communication with research leads in participating school divisions and analysis and synthesis of data for use within school divisions.
- ***SOL and VGLA Alignment Studies.*** (2013-2014). Served on a research team for a study commissioned by the Virginia Department of Education to examine the alignment between Reading and Science state content standards and selected grade-level standardized assessments. Work included support for the facilitation of alignment meeting process, analysis of data, and support with reporting of results.
- ***Evaluation of VaSTEM CoNECT.*** (2012-2014). Secured a contract to lead a summative evaluation of a federal Math Science Partnership grant. Work included the design and implementation of a quasi-experimental design to assess impact of STEM professional development programs across seven professional development sites on K-12 teachers STEM pedagogical content knowledge. Work included development of an evaluation plan, ongoing communication with program leaders, supervising graduate students, collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, and reporting results.
- ***Evaluability Assessment of Virginia's College Access Challenge Grant Program.*** (CACGP). (2012-2013) Secured a contract to serve as lead evaluator for an evaluability assessment of a state-wide college access program run through SCHEV. Work included study design, qualitative data collection and analysis, development of a logic model, redefinition of program goals, and recommendations for future evaluative work.

#### **Selected Action Research and Research-Focused Professional Development Projects**

- ***MERC Action Research Initiative*** (2012-2017). / ***META Action Research Teacher Leadership Program*** (2015-2017). Developed and led an ongoing program to train and support teachers in the practice of action research. Work involved training K12 teachers in methods of action research; supporting teachers as they design and conduct action research projects in their classrooms and schools; helping with the dissemination of action research within schools, divisions, and the broader educational research community; and building a network of teacher action researchers within the consortium.
- ***Middle Level Learning Interest Group*** (2013 – 2014). Secured contract with Bridging Richmond to facilitate a Middle Level Learning Interest Group for VCU and non-VCU researchers in support of a series of white papers on middle-level learning.

#### **Research Conference Organizing**

- ***14<sup>th</sup> Annual MERC Conference. Public Education at a Crossroads: Connecting Voices of Research, Policy, and Practice in a Changing World.*** Organized a research conference designed to provide a space for key stakeholders across public education to share ideas and present work. The conference included an opening plenary discussion on the theme, a series of interactive sessions that address critical topics in PK12 education, and opportunities throughout the day for networking and connecting to ongoing projects.
- ***13<sup>th</sup> Annual MERC Conference. Making Research Matter: Rethinking the Form and Function of Educational Research in Our Schools.*** Organized a research conference designed to encourage a regional discussion of why and how educational research should be re-imagined to make it more meaningful to policy and practice; to

reflect on examples of research conducted by a broad range of stakeholders – including students, teachers, school leaders, and university-based researchers – that exemplify these new models of engaged research; and to share ideas, build community, and encourage research partnerships within and across stakeholder groups.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

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### 2011 - 2017 Virginia Commonwealth University

- **EDUS 711 – Qualitative Research Methods and Analysis** (Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2019)
- **EDUS 660 – Introduction to Educational Research Methods.** (Spring 2011, Summer 2011 & Fall 2011)
- **Service on Doctoral Committees:** Andrew Armstrong (Chair), Marcie Walsh (Methodologist), David Naff (Methodologist), Alicia Thompson (Methodologist), Tami Sober (Methodologist), Micol Hutchinson (Committee Member), Carolyn Waters (Methodologist), Boinna Nomi (Methodologist), Kimberly Bowman (Methodologist), Falcon Rankins (Methodologist), Donia Spott (Methodologist), Kathleen Daly (Methodologist), Samantha Hope (Methodologist), Tiesha Martin (Methodologist), Andrew Baker (Methodologist), Kimberly McKnight (Methodologist), Madeline Goldman (Methodologist), Stephanie Hooks (Methodologist), Priya Pattah (Methodologist).
- **Oversite of graduate student cocurricular and internship activities for MERC.**

## K12 TEACHING AND TEACHER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### 2007-2009 Armstrong High School Richmond, Virginia

- **English Teacher.** Taught Grade 9 English, American Literature, and Grade 11 Reading. Work included development of curriculum, implementation of curriculum, assessment of student learning, and collaboration with grade level teams.
- **Advisor for XANADU magazine.** Served as advisor for XANADU, a school magazine. Work included supporting students through the process of self publication.
- **Yale National Fellow.** Selected as Yale National Fellow. Work included researching, writing and implementing a curriculum unit on early 20<sup>th</sup> century African-American Literature.

### 1995-2007 Kelvyn Park High School Chicago, Illinois

- **English Teacher.** (1995 – 2007). Developed curriculum for and taught a variety of English Classes including Freshman English, American Literature, World Literature, AP English Literature, and Creative Writing / Journalism.
- **Kelvyn Park Social Justice Academy.** (2004 – 2007). Developed and acted as lead teacher and curriculum designer for the Kelvyn Park Social Justice Academy. Conducted a three year action research project on understanding student success in urban school context.
- **Advisor for ROAR.** (1996 – 2007). Developed and taught ROAR, a course in graphic design and self-publication. Published 24 issues of ROAR magazine and supported the release of five CDs of student music.
- **Student Development Coordinator.** (2005 – 2006). Acted as head of Student Development for the school, a job that included goal setting, action planning,

- capacity building and facilitating communication.
- ***Curriculum Coordinator.*** (2001 – 2004). Served as curriculum coordinator and led grade level curriculum teams.
- ***Organizer for Kelvyn Park Curriculum Fairs.*** (2002 – 2004). Acted as a key organizer of three annual Kelvyn Park Curriculum Fairs.
- ***Kelvyn Park Partners in Education (PIE) Conference.*** (Summer 2000). Coordinated Kelvyn Park PIE Conference that brought together teachers from Kelvyn Park and six of its respective feeder schools to discuss issues of 8<sup>th</sup> grade to 9<sup>th</sup> grade articulation.

#### **K12 Teaching Grants and Awards**

- ***Virginia Education Association Mini-Grant.*** (2008-2009)
- ***LISC Service Learning Grant.*** (2005-2007)
- ***Chicago Arts Partnerships in Education Grant.*** (2005-2007)
- ***Student Development Technical Assistance Grant.*** (2005-2006)
- ***Student Development Implementation Grant.*** (2005-2006)
- ***Logan Square Neighborhood Association: School Heroes: Making A Difference Award.*** (2004-2005)
- ***Kids in Need Foundation Grant.*** (2004-2005)
- ***Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive Grant.*** (2004-2005)
- ***Communitas Trust Grant.*** (2004-2005)
- ***Golden Apple Finalist.*** (2003-2004)
- ***Oppenheimer Teacher Incentive Grant.*** (2003-2004)
- ***GEARUP Student Support Grant.*** (2001-2002)

#### **SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

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Parkhouse, H., Senechal, J., Gorlewski, J., Naff, D., Lu, C., and Lester, A. (2018) *Contexts of Cultural Diversity Professional Development in Schools*. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium. Richmond, Va.

Senechal, J., Sober, T., & Hope, S. (2016) *Understanding Teacher Morale*. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium. Richmond, Va.

Corning, A., Senechal, J. & Hutton, A. (2015) *Update on Virginia College Access Provider Activity*. Report prepared for State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium.

Senechal, J. (2015) *Rethinking School Improvement: The case for Networked Improvement Communities*. White Paper prepared for Bridging Richmond. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium.

Naff, D., & Senechal, J. (2015) *Capturing the Social/Emotional World of Students*. White Paper prepared for Bridging Richmond. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium.

McMillan, J. & Senechal, J. (2015). “Action Research.” Book Chapter in McMillan, J.H.. *Educational Research: Fundamentals for the Consumer*. Boston: Pearson.

Senechal, J. (2014). *Idea of the Charter: One Community’s Perspectives on the Shifting Nature of Public Education*. (doctoral dissertation)

McMillan, J. & Senechal, J. (2014). “Grading and Reporting Student Performance”. Book

Chapter in McMillan, J.H.. *Classroom Assessment: Principles and Practice for Effective Standards-Based Instruction*. Boston: Pearson.

Senechal, J. (2014) *Middle Grades Math: Assessing the Debate over the When and How of Algebra*. White Paper prepared for Bridging Richmond. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium.

Senechal, J. Stringer, J. (2014) *Middle Level Learning: Compendium of Research and Best Practice*. White Paper prepared for Bridging Richmond. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium.

Senechal, J., Varier, D., Abrams, L. & Aschliman, C. (2013). *Alignment Analysis of the 2013 Virginia Standards of Learning Tests, the Virginia Modified Achievement Standards Tests, the Virginia Grade Level Alternative Assessments, and the 2010 Standards of Learning in Reading*. Virginia Commonwealth University.

Gogia, L. & Senechal, J. (2013) *Best Practice in Out-of-School Time Systems*. White Paper prepared for Bridging Richmond. Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium.

Senechal, J. (2011). "The Zine Makers Dilemma." In Ploof, J., Quinn, T. & Hochtritt, L. (Eds) *Art and Social Justice Education: Culture as Commons*. New York: Routledge.

Senechal, J. (2010). "The Voice of C." *The Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy*, 7(1), p. 18-20.

Senechal, J. (2009) "The Ethic of Risk in Teaching" (2009). *On Common Ground 13*, Spring 2009. New Haven: Yale National Initiative.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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April 2019. Contributed to paper with Marshall, D., Abrams, L., Varier, D, and Hope, S. "Teacher Development in an Urban Residency Program: A Comparison of Two Cases" American Educational Research Association Conference.

April 2018. Contributed to paper with Marshall, D., Abrams, L., Varier, D, and Hope, S. "Understanding Teacher Development in an Urban Teacher Residency Program." American Educational Research Association Conference.

April 2017. Presented paper with Samantha Hope, "Understanding Teacher morale and professionalism in a neoliberal school context" American Educational Research Association Conference.

February 2017. Presented with Lisa Abrams and David Marshall "Preparing teachers for success in urban teaching." Eastern Education Research Association.

April, 2014. Presented paper, "Choosing the charter: Parents' perspectives on the shifting meaning of public education." American Educational Research Association Conference.

April, 2014. Presented paper, "With the emphasis on *public*": A qualitative examination of the discourse surrounding the public nature of a charter school." American Educational Research Association Conference.

October 2013. Presented paper with Amanda Turner, "The development of two instruments to measure teachers' STEM engineering pedagogical content knowledge." American Evaluation Association Conference.

October, 2011. Presented paper, "A framework of charter school discourses." At South Atlantic Philosophy of Education Society Conference.

February, 2011. Presented paper, "Big tent or Trojan horse: Charters, markets and the goals of public education." At the Southeastern Association of Educational Studies Conference.

December, 2010. Served on panel with Kitty Boitnott, president of the Virginia Education Association; Senator Henry Marsh, representing Virginia's 16th district; Maurice Henderson, 5th District Richmond School Board Representative; and Antoine Green, Patrick Henry Charter School Board of Director for "Charter Schools in Virginia: Public Forum and Community Discussion." Richmond, Virginia.

October, 2010. Presented "Stanley High School Social Justice Academy: Understanding and redefining success in the neoliberal context." At the American Education Studies Association Conference.

October, 2010. Presented "Organizing for advocacy and activism" with Kurt Stemhagen at the American Education Studies Association Conference.

June, 2010. Presented "Intentions, outcomes, and equity in education policy: Analyzing No Child Left Behind through Merton's framework of the unanticipated consequences of purposive action" at the Social Equity Leadership Conference.

February 2008. Presented "The Kelvyn Park High School Social Justice Academy: A three year study of social justice education in practice" at the Ethnography in Education Conference.

November 2007. Presented "Closing the achievement gap: Establishing criteria for narrative writing" with George Hillocks Jr. at the National Convention of Teachers of English.

February 2007. Presented "Studying student engagement and school success using community action-based curriculum: A collaborative student/teacher action research project" with students Ruby Gomez and Juliana Maldonado at the Ethnography in Education Conference.

March 2006. Presented "Linking schools to community development through service learning" with students Sandra Hernandez, Laura Sagal, Kayla Cruz and Noralyn Rivera at 17<sup>th</sup> annual National Service Learning Conference.

February 2005. Presented "Kelvyn Park High School Social Justice and Community Leadership Project" at the Ethnography in Education Conference.

November 2003. Presented "Closing the achievement gap: Narrative writing techniques" with George Hillocks Jr. at National Council of Teachers of English Conference.

November 2003. Co-panelist with Pauline Lipman, David Stovall, and Barbara Easton-Watkins on *No Child Left Behind Panel* at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropology Association.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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- 2010-*current* American Educational Research Association member
- 2010-*current* Richmond Teachers for Social Justice.
- Co-founder and lead organizer, a role which has included leading meeting, maintaining the network, strategic planning, and sponsoring policy forums and other events.
- 2008-2009 Richmond Teachers Institute: Yale National Initiative
- 1999-2007 Chicago Teachers for Social Justice
- 2001-2004 Teachers for Social Justice coordinating committee member.
- Organizational planning, as well as coordinating events such as curriculum fairs, policy forums, and rallies.
- 2004-2007 Collaborative for Equity and Justice in Education Social Justice Network School Member