

Rachel S. White

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Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Scholar – Research Associate, June 2017-present

University of Southern California Rossier School of Education, Los Angeles, California
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant, “Never Judge a Book By Its Cover, Use Student Achievement Instead,” Co-Principal Investigator Morgan Polikoff

Education

Ph.D., Education Policy, 2017

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan
Dissertation: *Donut Devourers, Fish Fanatics, Politicians, and Educators: Faces and Voices of State Education Policymaking*
Committee Members: Rebecca Jacobsen (Chair), Joshua Cowen, Madeline Mavrogordato, Sarah Reckhow, Ken Frank

M.A., Education Policy and Leadership, 2012

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Masters Minor: Statistical Data Analysis

B.A., Public Policy, 2010

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Major Focus Area: Multicultural Education Policy
Academic Minor: International Studies

Publications

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

Saultz, A., White, R.S., McEachin, A., Fusarelli, L.D., & Fusarelli, B.C. (in press). Teacher quality, distribution and equity under ESSA. *Journal of School Leadership*.

Schneider, J., Jacobsen, R., White, R., & Gehlbach, H. (2018). The (Mis)measures of schools: How data affect stakeholder knowledge and perceptions of quality. *Teachers College Record*, 120(6) (Advanced online publication ID No: 21842)

Mavrogordato, M., & White, R. (2017). Reclassification variation: How policy implementation guides the process of exiting students from English learner status. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 39(2), 281-310.

Jacobsen, R., White, R.S., & Reckhow, S. (2016). Cultivating political powerhouses: TFA corps members' experiences that shape local political engagement. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 24(18).

Under Review

White, R.S., & Mavrogordato, M. (Revise & resubmit at *Leadership & Policy in Schools*). Educators' use of policy resources to understand English learner policies.

White, R.S. (Under review at the *American Journal of Education*). Whose voices are valued in the state teacher evaluation policymaking process?

Mavrogordato, M. & White, R.S. (Under review at *Educational Administration Quarterly*). Policy implementation for social justice: How school leaders shape educational opportunities.

Works in Progress

White, R.S. (In preparation for submission to *Educational Researcher*). State boards of education: Variation in state policy related to how one gains state education policymaking power.

White, R.S. (In preparation for submission to *Policy Studies Journal*). Institutional structures and representation among state education policymakers.

Non-Peer Reviewed Articles, Book Reviews, Policy Briefs and Whitepapers

Schneider, J., Jacobsen, R., White, R., & Gehlbach, H. (2017). Building a better measure of school quality. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 98(7), 43-48.

White, R.S. (Spring 2017). Teacher evaluation post-ESSA: Implications for districts and whose voice is heard in the policy decisionmaking process. [Policy Brief]. *Politics of Education Association Bulletin*.

White, R.S. (Fall/Winter 2016). A warning about financial early warning systems. *New Educator*, 30-33.

White, R.S., Martin, K., Scorsone, E., & Bowman, K. (2015). *Developing an early warning system for Michigan's schools*. [White paper]. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Extension.

White, R.S., Martin, K., Scorsone, E. & Bowman, K. (2015). *Knowledgeable navigation to avoid the iceberg: Considerations in proactively addressing school districts fiscal stress in Michigan*. [White paper]. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Extension.

White, R.S. (2014). Shirking to success: An application of principal-agent theory to the implementation of Florida's third grade retention policy. *Michigan Journal of Public Affairs*. Ann Arbor, MI: Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Jacobsen, R. & White, R.S. (2013). Book review, Jack Schneider. Excellence for all: How a new breed of reformers is transforming America's public schools. *History of Education Quarterly*, 53(3), 327-330.

Swail, W. S., Dickerson, S., & White, R.S. (2010). *National disability policy: A progress report*. Washington, DC: National Council on Disability.

Public Scholarship

Guest blogger, *Education Week's Rick Hess Straight Up* (August 2017)

Green & Write – An Education Policy Insights Blog, Education Governance & Finance Blog Editor (2014-2015)

Research Grants

Institute for Education Sciences – Education Research Grant Programs, Improving K-12 Education Systems, \$1,400,000 (2017-2020) (under review)

The proposed project will provide insight into the extent to which comprehensive school quality data inform education stakeholders' perceptions of school quality, as well as an understanding of the effects of access to comprehensive school data on educational outcomes. If funded, I will serve as the primary quantitative researcher.

Michigan State University Graduate School Research Enhancement Award, \$1,000 (2015-2016)

Funding to conduct nationwide survey of state policymakers and interviews with state policymakers in six Midwestern states.

Michigan State College of Education Small Research Grant Award, \$2,900 (2015-2016)

Funding to conduct nationwide survey of state policymakers and interviews with state policymakers in six Midwestern states.

Michigan State University College of Education Summer Renewable Research Fellowship, \$6,000 (2015)

Funding to conduct interviews with state policymakers in a Midwestern state to better understand how they view their role in the making of education policy and influences on state policymakers' education policy decisions

Michigan State University College of Education Research Practicum Support \$800 (2014-2015)

Funding to conduct survey of educators across four Texas school districts related to English Language Learner reclassification policies and practices

Michigan State University College of Education Summer Renewable Research Fellowship, \$6,000 (2014)

Funding to compile all 50 states' teacher evaluation laws and regulations, develop an index of teacher evaluation policy authority devolution, and conduct quantitative and qualitative analyses that examine the relationships between teacher evaluation policy authority devolution and state political context, economic context and education context

Michigan State University College of Education Summer Research Development Fellowship, \$5,000 (2013)

Funding to conduct a cross-policy analysis of state and local implementation of federal policy that looked specifically at the similarities and differences in the implementation of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act and The Elementary and Secondary Education Act

Michigan State University College of Education Summer Research Award, \$6,000 (2012)

Funding to assist in the development and dissemination of a three-year panel survey of Teach for America Corps members across four mid-size American cities to better understand variations in civic and political engagement throughout Corps members' service commitment

Honors & Awards

2017	Association of Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) New Scholar Award
2017	Emerging Education Policy Scholar, Thomas B. Fordham Foundation/American Enterprise Institute
2015-2016	Alumni Fellowship, Michigan State University College of Education
2015-2016	David L. Clark Seminar Fellow, UCEA and AERA Division L
2014-2015	Hinman Graduate Fellowship, Michigan State University College of Education
2013	Education Policy Academy Delegate, American Enterprise Institute
2012-2017	Dean's Scholar Award, Michigan State University College of Education

Academic Conference Presentations

White, R.S. (accepted, November 2017). *Donut devourers, fish fanatics, and eager educators: Victors and voices of state education policymaking*. Paper to be presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.

White, R.S. (accepted, November 2017). *Victors and voices in the state education policymaking process: The case of teacher evaluation policy*. Paper to be presented at the University Council of Educational Administration Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

- White, R.S. (April 2017). *State education policymakers: Who are they and how do they approach the policymaking process?* Paper presented at the American Education Research Association Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.
- White, R.S. (November 2016). *The influence of state education governance arrangements on the education policymaking process.* Paper presented at the University Council of Educational Administration Annual Conference, Detroit, MI.
- White, R.S. & Mavrogordato, M. (April 2016). *Mediating middlemen: Education service agencies as policy interpreters.* Paper presented at the American Education Research Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Schneider, J., Jacobsen, R., White, R.S. & Casalaspi, D. (April 2016). *The potential of more comprehensive metrics of school quality: Evidence from an experimental deliberative poll.* Paper presented at the American Education Research Association Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- White, R.S. (March 2016). *Devolution decisions: Examining state governments' teacher evaluation policymaking authority decisions.* Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, Denver, CO.
- Mavrogordato, M. & White, R.S. (November 2015). *Leaders as local policy implementers: How school leaders influence the opportunity to learn for ELLs.* Paper presented at the University Council of Educational Administration Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- White, R.S., Martin, K., Scorsone, E. & Bowman, K. (October 2015). *Knowledgeable navigation to avoid the iceberg: Considerations in proactively addressing school district fiscal stress in Michigan.* Paper presented at the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Mavrogordato, M. & White, R.S. (April 2015). *How local contexts guide decision-making and influence the opportunity to learn for English language learners.* Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- White, R.S. (April 2015). *Shirking to success: An application of principal-agent theory to Florida's third grade retention policy.* Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- White, R.S. & Mavrogordato, M. (April 2015). *Using social network analysis to study how resource-seeking behaviors can impact implementation of English language learner reclassification policy and rates of reclassification.* Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- White, R.S. (April 2015). *Voters, voices, and victors: Winners and losers when urban reforms collide.* Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- White, R.S. (February 2015). *Political influences of state governments' decisions to devolve or retain education policymaking authority.* Paper presented at the Association of Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, Washington, DC.
- Mavrogordato, M. & White, R.S. (February 2015). *How does local policy implementation shape access to equitable educational opportunities for English language learners?* Paper presented at the Association of Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

White, R.S. (November 2014). *Shirking to success: An application of principal-agent theory to Florida's third grade retention policy*. Paper presented at the University Council of Educational Administration Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Mavrogordato, M. & White, R.S. (November, 2014). *How does policy implementation shape access to equitable educational opportunities for English language learners?* Paper presented at the University Council of Educational Administration Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Mavrogordato, M. & White, R.S. (March, 2014). *Reclassification variation: How local context shapes implementation of policy guiding the provision of ELL services*. Poster presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

White, R.S. (March, 2014) *An examination of Michigan public school superintendent compensation*. Poster presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX.

White, R.S. (November, 2013). *An examination of Michigan public school superintendent compensation*. Paper presented at the University Council of Educational Administration Annual Conference Graduate Student Summit, Indianapolis, IN.

White, R.S. & Jacobsen, R. (March, 2013). *Those aren't margins of error, those are oceanic shipping lanes: Parent interpretations of VAM data in New York City*. Poster presented at the Association for Education Finance & Policy Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA.

Invited Presentations

White, R.S. (November 2016). *Meta-reflections on contemporary education policy and policy analysis*. Invited guest lecturer for education policy doctoral student seminar. Michigan State University College of Education.

White, R.S., & Scorsone, E. (July 2015). *Understanding Michigan's new early warning system for schools*. Public presentation at MSU College of Law, in partnership with MSU-Extension.

White, R.S. (January 2015). *Governance on the ground: Exploring how governance structure choices impact policy outcomes*. Invited guest lecturer for education policy doctoral student seminar. Michigan State University College of Education.

Teaching Experience

Lead Instructor

Current Issues in Education (Spring 2016, Fall 2016) - Undergraduate course required for Education Studies minor. Focused on broad themes in the history of the modern American education system, including education governance and finance, educational equity and opportunity, and the professional practice of educating America's children.

Teaching Assistant

Education Reform & Policy Analysis (Spring 2013, 2014, 2015) - Undergraduate course that serves as an elective for the Education Studies minor. Focused on analysis of prominent current K-12 and higher educational reforms and policies in the United States.

Evolving Practice of School Leaders (Fall 2012, 2013, 2014) - Master's level course with hybrid delivery (online and in person) consisting of two sections, one located on Michigan State University's campus and a special section located in metro Detroit. Topics included historical analysis of K-12 school leadership, leadership theory, ethical leadership, and critical thinking and reflection of one's own leadership.

Service

National and Community Service

Ad Hoc Peer Reviewer

- Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; AERA Open

University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)

- Policy Associate, 2016-present
- Graduate Student Council Representative, 2015-present

American Education Research Association (AERA)

- Politics of Education SIG Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2015-present
- Division L Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2013-present
- Division A Conference Proposal Reviewer, 2016

Politics of Education Association Publications Committee, Student Representative, 2016-present

Shiawassee Postsecondary Access Network, Leadership Team, 2012-2016

Institutional Service

Michigan State University

- Senior Hire Committee, Student Representative, 2016-2017
- Education Policy Doctoral Program Course Development Workgroup (Social Context of Education), Summer 2016
- Politics of Education Speaker Series, Graduate Student Assistant, 2015-2016
- Collaboration Amongst Education Policy Students, Co-Chair, 2014-2017
- University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum, Graduate Student Evaluator, 2015

University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, Alumni Board Member, 2015-present