AERA- Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Dissertation Fellowship

AERA, with funding support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, announces a dissertation fellowship program to support graduate students in education research to conduct secondary data analysis using the Measures of Effective Teaching (MET) Longitudinal Database. The AERA-MET Dissertation Fellowship Program provides funding and professional development and training to dissertation stage graduate students who use the MET data to address research questions and examine issues that will contribute to knowledge about teaching and learning. The program supports high-quality science undertaken by the education research field through dissertation research on topics related to teaching and instruction, the effects of the classroom and school climate, student achievement, children and youth, and other educational issues. Read more at http://www.aera.net/AERAfundingopportunities.

**Project dates**
The application deadline is December 15, 2014. The earliest date a grant may start is May, 2015.

**Eligibility**
Eligible graduate students for the AERA-MET Dissertation Fellowship Program will be at the dissertation stage in an accredited graduate program in education research or another social or behavioral science disciplinary or interdisciplinary field, such as sociology, economics, psychology, or political science. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents enrolled in a doctoral program. Underrepresented racial and ethnic minority researchers and women are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants should be familiar with the principles and framework of the MET study and the instruments and methods used to collect the data.

Direct any questions about the AERA-MET Dissertation Fellowship, eligibility requirements, or submission process to fellowships@aera.net or 202-238-3200.

*Visit the AERA-MET Dissertation Fellowship Program website for Call for Proposals and online application.*
The Children, Families, and Schools Concentration of the College of Education proudly presents

The Fortnightly Lunch Series

Maxine McKinney de Royston
Postdoctoral Researcher, University of California, Berkeley

Multidimensional Considerations for Creating Productive Learning Ecologies: Successes & Challenges in Oakland

Learning scientists have begun to recognize that creating optimal learning environments requires attending to the cognitive, and the identity and interpersonal aspects of learning environments and opportunities (e.g. Nasir, 2012, Polman & Miller, 2010). This scholarship examines the psychosocial and sociocultural dimensions of learning in schools, yet less is known about how district and school-level contexts interact with these aspects and are consequential for how learning unfolds and how students from marginalized groups are engaged. Using data from two initiatives in the Oakland Unified School District- African American Male Achievement (AAMA) and the Full Service Community Schools- this presentation offers preliminary qualitative analyses of these initiatives and an emerging framework for understanding the multidimensional nature of teaching and learning. Findings suggest that learning environments and opportunities for African American students in Oakland were influenced by: 1) Discourses of reform and equity across district officials, school administrators, and teachers; 2) Disciplinary practices in schools and classrooms that were non-punitive, non-stereotypical; 3) Community relationships that were multi-layered and viewed as a necessary for student learning; 4) Teacher’s pedagogical attention to students’ racialized and classed realities. Implications for teacher training and for the research and design of learning environments will be discussed.

Tuesday, October 28, 2014
12pm-1pm, Furcolo Hall, Room 20
FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

LETA HOOPER  Proposed Dissertation Title: African American Educators' Schooling and Teaching Experiences Before and After Brown v. Board of Education

Statement of Problem:  The dominant narrative of Brown v. Board of Education presents a one-dimensional narrative on dismantling racially segregated schools (Anderson, 1998; 2004; Bell, 1974; 1975; 1976; 1995; Dingus, 2006; Ladson-Billings, 1996; 2004). This narrative fails to interrogate the ways in which the ruling ultimately served the interests of whites (Bell, 1975; 1995; Harris, 1995; Ladson-Billings, 2004). By privileging the dominant narrative of Brown v. Board of Education as a political and empowering litigation that outlawed segregated schools, it silences people of color knowledge and experiences with education. The history on the displacement of Black educators and their experiences of challenging inequitable schooling and teaching conditions are topics that continue to be ignored in the dominant narrative of Brown v. Board of Education (Fultz, 1995; 2004; Siddle-Walker, 2013). This study uses life history as a methodology to examine how the life experiences of African American educators were shaped as they journeyed through de jure and de facto segregation. This study considers how segregated school systems and the decision of Brown v. Board of Education in 1954 and 1955 impact African American educators' educational, professional, economic, and social experiences.

Chairperson: Dr. Margaret Gebhard

Graduate Student Travel Grant Information  2014–2015

Guidelines: Grants are awarded exclusively for travel to recognized conferences that occur between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015 for the purpose of presenting the results of research or original artistic works conducted during graduate coursework at UMass Amherst. Graduate students are eligible for one grant per year.

Awards are for presentations rather than to attend a conference, facilitate a session, or conduct research. Awards will be made to the individual student rather than for a project (divided among several students). Grant funds vary by department and apply to registration, transportation, and lodging expenses documented by receipts. Meals, copying, and other incidentals are not reimbursable. Students are strongly encouraged to share travel expenses with others attending the conference.

The link to the Graduate Student Travel Grant application on the College of Education website is: http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/travel-grant-programs

Directions to the Student:
As soon as you receive verification from the conference organizers of acceptance to present (and no later than the date of travel), email the completed application (including expense summary page and the confirmation from the conference organizers) to Kristin Tyler, ktyler@educ.umass.edu

Have your advisor or project faculty member send an email of support to Kristin Tyler.

If a grant is awarded, submit the email notification and the receipts for approved travel expenses to Kristin Tyler, 123 Furcolo (ktyler@educ.umass.edu) within 30 days of travel to receive reimbursement.

Required application packet contents (submit to Kristin Tyler):
- Application form
- Expense summary
- Evidence or confirmation of invitation to present
- Short email of support from advisor to Kristin
**FORMATION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE**

**MAURA DEVLIN Proposed Dissertation Title:** When Mom Goes to School: Maternal Education and Intergenerational Mobility  
**Statement of Problem:** Children’s educational attainment has been shown to be closely associated with their mothers’ educational attainment, which may suggest that higher education is a socially reproductive institution. Research often assumes, however, that maternal education is static and occurs prior to the time of raising children. This view oversimplifies the much more dynamic and realistic processes by which education is transmitted by mothers who attend college while raising their children. How is a mother’s return to college while raising her children associated with their educational attainment? Can a mother’s return to college serve as a means of social mobility for her children, in terms of their educational attainment? **Chairperson:** Dr. Ryan Wells

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**M.Ed. and Educational Specialist Degree (Ed.S.) Candidates February 2015 Degree Deadlines**

The Degree Eligibility Form and College of Education Master's Form M-2 or Form ES-2 for the Ed.S. must be completed (typed) and submitted to Kristin Tyler in the Office of Academic Affairs, 123 Furcolo, no later than **December 5, 2014**. This is to allow time for processing and obtaining the necessary signatures of Dr. Linda Griffin, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Program Director, and Dean Christine McCormick (Department Head). Your advisor must sign the College of Education Master's Form M-2 or ES-2, but NOT the Degree Eligibility Form. **Please note that hand-written forms will not be accepted.**  
Forms can be downloaded from the following URL. If you have any difficulty, please open the documents in Internet Explorer or Safari:

http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/forms

**Ed.D. and Ph.D. Candidates February 2015 Degree Deadlines**

Doctoral students planning on a February 2015 degree must submit their typed Doctoral Form D-8 to Kristin Tyler to schedule their final oral defense at least 4 weeks in advance of the defense date. Students should schedule their defense no later than November 26, 2014 to have time to make any necessary edits. Rooms are reserved by contacting Robert Heath (rheath@umass.edu).  

The typed Doctoral Degree Eligibility Form, the typed Form D-9 (Result of Final Oral Examination) and one original signature page must be submitted to Kristin Tyler in Room 123 Furcolo no later than **December 5, 2014**.  
The Doctoral forms can now be typed into and are found at the following URL:

http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/advising-guidelines/doctoral-guidelines

Kristin will submit these forms to the Graduate School after they are signed by Dr. Linda Griffin, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Graduate Program Director, and Dean Christine McCormick (Department Head).  
The dissertation must be submitted electronically and other required materials must be submitted to the Graduate School (Room 534 Goodell) by **4:30p.m., December 15, 2014. THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE!**
The College of Education’s
Statistical Consulting Service

Students and Faculty from the UMass Center for Educational Assessment (Research, Educational Measurement, & Psychometrics Doctoral Concentration) are available for consultation free of charge.

Providing assistance with:

- Research Design
- Drawing Samples
- Modes of Data Collection
- Reliability & Validity Studies
- Survey Development
- Interpretation and Presentation of Results
- Regression or ANOVA Analysis
- Multivariate Analysis

- Factor Analysis
- Power Analysis
- Longitudinal and Multi-Level Data Analysis
- Structural Equation Models
- Statistical Software Support including Excel, SPSS, SAS, Mplus, and R
- And more!

Drop In Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location (Office)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>4 pm – 6 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 149A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10 am – 12 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4 pm – 6 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 149A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4 pm – 6 pm</td>
<td>Hills South, 168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To schedule an individual appointment (outside of drop in hours), simply fill out an information form at:

https://sites.google.com/site/UMassStatConsulting/

Questions? Please email jdickey@educ.umass.edu or aleagarcia@educ.umass.edu

Research, Educational Measurement, and Psychometrics
Promoting sound educational research and testing practices since 1968
ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

KERRY WEIR November 6, 2014, 11:00 a.m. 163 Hills South.
Chairperson: Dr. Mary Lynn Boscardin

Winter 2015 Dissertation-Writing Retreat January 12 - 16,

The Graduate School Office of Professional Development and the Office of Graduate Student Life are pleased to offer a week-long writing retreat for dissertation writers during Winter 2015. Open to graduate students from departments in all divisions who are at the dissertation-writing stage, this retreat offers extensive structured time to write, receive feedback, and develop effective writing strategies.

Goals of the retreat:
Throughout the week-long retreat, graduate student writers will:
1. Practice setting and achieving short- and medium-term goals for writing.
2. Develop strategies for planning, getting started, drafting, and revising.
3. Receive individual feedback and critical advice about their writing in progress from the retreat's writing consultants.
4. Connect with peer mentors who have previously completed a retreat.
5. Have sustained writing time over the course of five days, free from other obligations and distractions, to develop effective rhythms for writing and make significant progress on a lengthy piece of writing.

Dates: January 12 - 16, 2015. 9:00am - 4:00pm*
*Attendance at all sessions is mandatory and participants should not plan to arrive late or leave early.

How to apply: Subsidized by the Graduate School, this retreat is offered at NO COST to participants. It will be limited to 15 new participants, who will be selected based on the strength of their completed application. Participants must commit to attending all sessions to be considered for acceptance.

Please send the following application materials as PDF file attachments to the Graduate School Office of Professional Development at opdwriting@umass.edu:

1. Cover Letter: A formal statement (no longer than one single-spaced page) describing how participation in this retreat will help you make progress on your dissertation. Be sure to address the following:
   o Where are you in the dissertation writing process?
   o Describe your current writing process, including strengths and weaknesses.
   o What do you intend to accomplish during this week?
2. Abstract: An abstract of your dissertation (no longer than two single-spaced pages). Priority will be given to writers whose prospectuses have been approved by their departments and who have completed necessary data collection.
3. Letter of Recommendation: A formal letter of recommendation from your advisor endorsing your participation in the retreat. This letter should be sent directly from your advisor to opdwriting@umass.edu.

Completed applications (including letter of recommendation) must be received no later than 11:59PM on November 21, 2014. Acceptance notifications will be sent out by 5pm on Friday, December 12, 2014. Please contact the Graduate School Office of Professional Development at opdwriting@umass.edu or 413-545-0669 with any questions.
Doctoral Student Travel Grant Information  
2014-2015

Guidelines: Grants are awarded exclusively to doctoral students for travel to recognized conferences that occur between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015 for the purpose of presenting the results of research or original artistic works conducted during graduate coursework at UMass Amherst. Awards are for presentations rather than to attend a conference, facilitate a session, or conduct research. Awards will be made to the individual student rather than for a project (divided among several students). Each doctoral student is eligible for one travel grant per year although the College of Education may not be able to award travel grants to every student whose application is endorsed by their Advisor. Travel Grant funds awarded can be applied to registration, transportation, and lodging expenses supported by receipts for $400.00. Meals, copying, and other incidentals are not reimbursable. Students are strongly encouraged to share travel expenses with others attending the conference.

The link to the Doctoral Student Travel Grant application on the College of Education website is:  http://www.umass.edu/education/students/current/travel-grant-programs

Directions to the Student:

• As soon as you receive verification from the conference organizers of acceptance to present (and no later than the date of travel), email the completed application (including expense summary page and the confirmation from the conference organizers) to Kristin Tyler, Graduate Program Coordinator (ktyler@educ.umass.edu).  
• Ask your advisor or chair to send an email of support to Kristin Tyler. Kristin will notify the student after the review of a complete application. 
• If a grant is awarded, submit your email notification and receipts for approved travel expenses to Kristin Tyler (ktyler@educ.umass.edu), 123 Furcolo, within 30 days of travel to receive reimbursement.

Required Application Packet Contents (submit to Kristin Tyler):

• Application Form  
• Expense Summary  
• Evidence or confirmation of invitation to present  
• Email recommendation (brief) from Advisor/Chair

The Beacon Deadline is FRI DAY

• Deadline for submissions is 5:00 P.M. Friday for inclusion in the following issue.  
• All assistantship notices will run in two issues. For information about preparing assistantship notices refer to the Faculty Resources pages (How to Write a Beacon Ad) of our web site.

• Please submit notices of examinations and formation of dissertation committees to Kristin Tyler at ktyler@educ.umass.edu. These types of announcements will run for one week.