

Moira E. Pirsch

608-772-2597 | moirapirsch@gmail.com | moirapirsch.com

EDUCATION

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY | 2018

Ph.D. in Education

Dissertation: "It's Lit: A Critical Qualitative Case Study on the Intersections of Hip Hop Education, Spirituality and Race"

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Ernest Morrell, Dr. Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz, Dr. Chris Emdin, Dr. Josef Sorrett, Dr. Lisa Miller

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA

Ed.M. in Arts in Education

University of Minnesota, College of Liberal Arts, Minneapolis, MN

B.A. in English Literature

Participated in *Civil Rights Movement: History & Consequences* Summer Course

Participated in *Writing for Social Change* Off Campus Study Program

Participated in *National Student Exchange* in Honolulu, HI

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Coyle Research Fellow, Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Columbia University, New York, NY

Coyle Fellow, Center for Literacy Education University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN | 2018-Present

Project: "Stay Shining: Exploring the Spiritual Development of Diverse Communities through Hip Hop and Spoken Word"

ARTS & EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Maui Arts and Cultural Center (MACC), Kahului, Hawai'i | 2016-Present

Education Director (2018-Present)

- Oversees all educational programs that include local, regional and national partners, including the HI Department of Education, the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the National Youth Poet Laureate Program
- Oversee ongoing programs including culturally relevant professional development courses for educators and artists, daily arts-integration field trips to the center for K-5 students, school performances, in-school residencies for visiting artists, teen programs, and other related duties

Lead Educator / Curator for Spoken Word Poetry Education Initiative, "Cross Currents" (2016-2018)

- Support multi-year initiative and teach original curriculum blending traditional and contemporary art
- Students included, MS and HS students, Adult teachers and Boys & Girls club summer programs

Youth Speaks National Programs, San Francisco, CA | 2012-Present

Brave New Voices Strategist (2020-Present)

Project Director, Brave New Schools #RethinkHighSchool National Tour (2016-2017)

- Supported the development of an online open competition as detailed on bravenewschools.org
- Direct nation-wide project supporting 20 local youth poetry organizations to curate and host youth centered, intergenerational events connected to a national conversation about education
- Oversee budget of \$700,000, all logistics, evaluations, staff members and community partners

Hospitality Director & University Liaison for Brave New Voices Poetry Slam (2012-2015, 2018)

- Manage and oversee all logistics related to food, transportation and housing for one week event for teens
- Support contract between YS and university administration, manage logistics for 600 participants
- Manage and coordinate staff coordinating housing, transportation and food for participants and artists
- Oversee committee of six and support Director in implementation of \$700,000 Festival

Department of English Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY | 2014-2018

Graduate Program Associate

- Manage all MA applications, arrange faculty reviews, act as liaison to admissions for MA in Teaching Program
- Support Departmental events and communications including website, newsletters etc

The Institute for Urban Minority Education, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY | 2014-2018

Graduate Research Fellow and Colloquia Coordinator

- Coordinate all logistics and promotion for graduate student fellow presentations and events
- Support visiting lectures, large events and community building initiatives

Anna Myer Dancers and the North American Family Institute, Boston, MA | 2012-2014

Contracted Lead Youth Poet Educator, Performer for "Hoop Suite" Multigenre Performance

- Create, write, workshop and rehearse original poetry in collaboration with dancers and musicians
- Support and perform with collaboration of artists for NEFA Funded New England Tour

Hip Hop Education Center, Teachers College & NYU, Schomburg Center, New York, NY | 2012-2014

Contracted Think Tank Committee Coordinator - Teaching Certification, Defining the Field & Marketing

- Oversaw & coordinate meetings for three monthly committees of scholars from ten states and two countries
- Co-coordinated conference, managing presenters and production of conference materials.

Hiphop Archive and Research Institute, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2013-2014

Education Associate

- Acquired materials for the hip hop education collection and prepare presentation strategies
- Supported development and announcement of initial Nasir Jones Hiphop Fellow Materials
- Coordinated and oversaw the development of the Hip Hop Afterschool online presence

Hutchins Institute for African and African American Research, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2013

NEH Summer Seminar Logistics Coordinator

- Coordinated readings, travel, food, payment and accommodations for 13 visiting NEH fellows
- Acted as primary contact and on-site support staff for three-week intensive seminar

Office for the Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2012-2014

Associate Coordinator for the Arts First Festival

- Coordinated and oversaw logistics for 300 student-produced events over the 3-day festival
- Managed team of 15 key stakeholders/contributors to the festival from across Harvard

Arts @ 29 Garden, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2011-2012

Arts @ 29 Garden Graduate Assistant

- Acted as general support for visiting scholars and artists in residence at Arts @ 29 Garden
- Helped program manager in supporting faculty and students produce curricular related arts events

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of English & Comparative Literature, Institute for African-American Studies, Columbia University | 2018

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Josef Sorett, Introduction to Hip Hop

- Design and teach original curriculum on introducing the histories and theories of Hip Hop Studies

Department of English & Comparative Literature, Institute for African-American Studies, Columbia University | 2017

Teaching Assistant for Dr. Josef Sorett, Introduction to African American Studies

- Design and teach original discussion section/recitation of 23 undergraduate students that focuses on the themes of African American History, Literature, Black Studies, Religion, and Political Science

English Education, Teachers College, Columbia University | 2015 (co-taught), 2016 (lead taught)

Instructor, Teaching English in Diverse Social and Cultural Contexts

- Design and teach original curriculum that focuses on the themes of diversity, social justice, and English - Education to pre-service teachers in multiple departments

Department of Folklore & Mythology, Dramatic Arts, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2012

Teaching Fellow for Bryonn Bain, Hip Hop and Spoken Word Theater Laboratory

- Assisted visiting scholar Bryonn Bain in the facilitation of class and assessment of student progress
- Acted as Assistant Director to the student produced production of "What It Iz," a production written by formerly incarcerated people that explores racial, gender, and social issues of the 21st century

St. Paul Central High School, St. Paul Public School District, St. Paul, MN | 2009-2010

Creator of "Poetry Friday" Teaching Artist in Residency to 9th Grade English Classes

- Created and taught original curriculum to students to aid them in better understanding poetry, its connection to life in addition to relevant, district-required coursework
- Managed and engaged classes of 30 young students with poetry exercises

Have taught for 15 years, all levels (K-12, College, PostGrad and Professional) on general education, Arts Education, English Education, Urban Education, multiple literacies, spoken word poetry, hip hop education and social justice.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Health Literacy and Core Classroom Literacies, Teachers College, Columbia | 2014-2015

Lead Research Assistant and Qualitative Research author for study in 4 NYC Schools

Catalyzing Comprehension through Discussion and Debate, SERP, Harvard University | 2012-2014

Lead Research Assistant and School Site Liaison for the 6 year-longitudinal study of 60,000 students

The Better Life Initiative, Hip Hop, Wellness and Urban Youth, with Brigham and Women's Hospital

Hiphop Archive, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University | 2012

Project coordinator, research assistant, primary grant writer and editor of website content

A Functional Art: Freestyle as Spiritual Practice, Hip Hop Archive and Research Institute, Harvard | 2012
Independent Research exploring the spiritual functions of oral freestyling in hip hop communities

Healing Wars, Investigating the Impact of War on Medicine through the Arts
Led by visiting scholar in Music, Liz Lerman, The Office of the President, Harvard University | 2011-2012
Research assistant in collecting archival materials and securing student involvement

Critical Race Theory and the Arts at Harvard, Harvard, Graduate School of Education | 2011
Collaborative Research paper exploring racism and the arts at Harvard University

White Teachers Teaching Hip Hop in Multiracial Classrooms, University of Minnesota | 2010
Independent Senior Thesis completed on implications of white teachers utilizing urban cultural arts

Bridging Culture to Academics: Spoken Word & English Class, University of Minnesota | 2009
Independently completed research on spoken word in high school classrooms and created original curriculum implemented at St. Paul Central High. Part of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

In the Tradition, Hip Hop Educators Conference
Department of English in partnership with the MN Spoken Word Association, University of MN | 2008
Acted as research assistant, grant writing assistant, and documenter of the organizing process.

DISTINCTIONS, HONORS & AWARDS

Outstanding Dissertation Award, American Education Research Association, Spirituality SIG | 2018
Excellence in Teaching Assistance Award, (1 TA) General Studies Student Council, Columbia U | 2018
Dean's Grant for Student Research, Teachers College, Columbia University | 2017-2018
Dean's Fellow for Teaching and Diversity, Teachers College, Columbia University | 2017-2018
Provost's Grant for Professional Development, Teachers College, Columbia University | 2015-2016, 2017-2018
College of Liberal Arts Student Commencement Speaker, University of Minnesota | 2010
Community Engagement Scholar, University of Minnesota | 2010
President Student Leadership & Service Award, (.05% of students) University of Minnesota | 2010
Alumni Association Award, (8 students) University of Minnesota | 2010
Engaged English Department Scholar, (9 students) University of Minnesota | 2010
Top 20 Artist under 20, Star Tribune and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN | 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

Pirsch, M. (*Forthcoming, Fall 2020*) The Task of Our Generation: A Practitioner's Reflection on Spoken Word Poetry, Spirituality and Education. Chapter in "*United We Stand: The Role of Spirituality in Engaging and Healing Communities,*" Information Age Publishing, Charlotte, NC

Pirsch, M. (2018) Lords above us and within us: Race, Spirituality and Hip Hop Based Education. *Journal of Interreligious Studies*, Issue 23, Fall 2018

Rajan, S. Roberts, K. Guerra, L. Pirsch, M. Morrell. E. (2017) Integrating health education efforts into core curriculum classrooms: Successes, challenges, and implications for urban middle schools. *Journal of Adolescent Health*

Poetry, Essays and Prose

Pirsch, M. (2011, March 28). A Place to Blossom. *Minnesota Women's Press*.

Pirsch, M. (2010, December 1). Learning to Live. University of Minnesota's English Alumni Newsletter. Winter 2010. <http://english.umn.edu/engagement/newsletter2010.php?entry=263366>.

Pirsch, M. (2010 December). Poetry: Broken Backbones. In HECUA's Newline Newsletter (pp 3). Minneapolis, MN

Pirsch, M. (2010 October 10). UWomen Rap. *Minnesota Women's Press*.
<http://www.womenspress.com/main.asp?SectionID=124&SubSectionID=27&ArticleID=3759>

Pirsch, M. (2008) A Quilt. In *Someone Might Hear You: An Anthology of First Wave Poets* (pp 50). Madison, WI: OMAI/First Wave Press

Pirsch, M. (2008). We Women. Printed in *Minnesota Youth Writers Poetry Chapbook*. Minneapolis, MN

Pirsch, M. In Kepecs, S. (2006) *Hip Hop Goes to College*. Wisconsin People and Ideas (pp. 14-19). Fall 2006.

Published poet and performer in multiple publications and venues in 28 states.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Cross-Currents: Supporting Youth Spoken Word, Honoring Indigenous Ontologies, & Becoming Co-Conspirators for Justice Symposium

It's Lit: A Critical Qualitative Case Study on the Intersections of Hip-Hop Education, Spirituality, and Race Symposium

Cultivating Student Voice, Spirit, and Activism Through Spoken Word Paper Session

AERA American Educational Research Association Conference, San Fransisco, CA (Cancelled) | 2020

Becoming Co-Conspirators for Justice: Exploring Activism with(in) Arts Institutions in Communities through Story, Spoken Word and Spirit Workshop

Kennedy Center's Partners in Education Conference, Washington, DC | 2020

National Performance Network Conference, New Orleans, NO 2019

Brave New Scholars: The Past, Present, and Future of Youth Spoken Word in the Academy, English Classrooms & Democratic Society Panel Presentation

A Time to Grow: Supporting Youth Spoken Word Programs, Honoring Local Ways of Being and Searching for Authentic Allyship in Schools and Communities in Hawai'i Presentation

National Council for Teachers of English Conference, Baltimore, MD | 2019

Shining Through Self Care: Resilient Practitioners, Spirituality, Healing, and Culturally Relevant Practice Workshop
The Call: Processes of Becoming Ourselves as People and Practitioners through Spoken Word and Hip Hop Pedagogy Workshop

Reimagining Education Summer Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY | 2019

Shining Through Darkness: Resilient Practitioners, Spirituality, Healing, and Culture Poster Presentation

International Integrative Nursing Symposium, Galway, Ireland | 2019

"We Are the Next Generation": Preparing to Lead Through Hip-Hop Roundtable Presentation

Not Everything Is Over the Rainbow: Spoken Word and Hip-Hop as Tools of Transformation

AERA American Educational Research Association Conference, Toronto, BC, Canada | 2019

Shining to Live our Best Lives: Honoring our Pasts While Dreaming Our Futures Invited Workshop

Hip Hop in the Heartland Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI | 2018

Revolutionary Love in Education: Race, Spirituality, Spoken Word and Hip Hop Panel Presentation

AERA American Educational Research Association Conference, New York, NY | 2018

Strengthening Our Shine: Exploring Spirituality & Healing in Diverse Contexts Poster Presentation

NCTE National Council of Teachers of English Conference, St. Louis, MO | 2017

The Road to Rev Love: Race, Spirituality & Hip Hop Based Education Panel Presentation

NCTE National Council of Teachers of English Conference, St. Louis, MO | 2017

Learning Revolutionary Love: Race, Spirituality & Hip Hop Based Education Poster Presentation

National Conference on Race and Education, Dallas, TX | 2017

Cypher Circle Wisdoms: Healing with Hip Hop and Spoken Word Invited Presentation

Split This Rock Poetry Festival, Washington DC | 2016

Reflections in Ojai: Exploring Nature Based Spirituality and the Concept of Council Invited Presentation

SMBI Grand Rounds, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, NY | 2016

To Heal a Butterfly: Exploring Lessons and Blessings through Spoken Word Invited Facilitator

Youth Workshop at the Cyphers for Justice Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY | 2015

The Movement Continues: Brave New Voices Returns to DC, Invited Presentation

Words, Beats Life, Teach-In, Kennedy Center, Washington DC | 2015

Because the Conversation Can't Stop: A Forum for Healing at Teachers College, Invited Presentation

Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Columbia University, New York, NY | 2015

A Brave and Startling Truth: Exploring our Best & Worst in the Hip Hop Cypher, Workshop Presentation
International Conference on Education, Honolulu, HI | 2015

Poems in Different Area Codes: Using Digital Media to Build the Hip Hop Network Invited Presentation
PreEmptive Ed Conference, Urban Word, NYU, Columbia Teachers College | 2012, 2013, 2014

Writing a New World: Exploring Privilege Through Spoken Word, Invited Presentation
Social Justice Workshops, Harvard Graduate School of Education | 2012

Furthering Scholarship that Frames Hip Hop as an Agent for Social Change, Panel Presentation
Student Research Conference, Harvard Graduate School of Education | 2012

Leading with Story: Youth Spoken Word & Taking Mass Leaps Toward Change Invited Presentation
Finding Voice, Arts in Education Continuing the Conversation Conference, Harvard University | 2011

What about your Friends?" Collaboration towards Building Hip Hop Education, Invited Presentation
Hip Hop & Healing, PreEmptive Ed Conference, New York University | 2011

Hip Hop in Academia, Invited Panelist for Words. Beats. Life. Teach In.
Remixing the Art of Social Change: Chicago Hip Hop Teach In, Columbia College | 2011

**Building Community and Bridging Culture to Academics: English Education, Spoken Word, Hip Hop & Theater
Original Curriculum and Research** Invited Presentation
First Undergraduate Conference for Students in English, University of Minnesota | 2010

"Speak Up!" Spoken Word Youth Activism Workshop Invited Presentation
Open Mic with the MN Spoken Word Association and Voices Merging, Invited Organizer
Pedagogy of the Oppressed Conference, Augsburg College, Minneapolis, MN | 2009

If I Were in Charge, Arts, Education and Social Change Invited Presentation
Youth Noise Social Change Summit, Minneapolis, MN, Orlando, FL, Denver, CO | 2007

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Boys & Girls Club of America Arts Advisory Board Member | 2019-Present
Participant in cohort of Arts Leaders Identifying Best Practices for Arts Education

Hawaii State Foundation for Culture and the Arts Grant Review Panelist | 2019-Present
Grant Panelist Reviewing Community Programs and Teaching Artist Grants

English Education Diversity Course Redesign Committee | 2016-2017
Meeting Coordinator and Facilitator at Teachers College

MASS LEAP (Literary Education and Performance), Boston Area, Massachusetts | 2011-2014

Harvard University Liaison, Co-Producer of Louder Than a Bomb MA

Speak Out Loud (SOL) Spoken Word Student Organization, Harvard University | 2011-2012
Graduate Adviser, Mentor

Pacific Tongues (Formerly Youth Speaks Hawai'i) Honolulu, HI | 2012
Workshop Facilitator, Youth Mentor

Harvard Educational Review, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA | 2011
Volunteer Reviewer, Arts in Education Issue 2013

Hennepin County Home School, Minnetonka, MN | 2010-2011
Spoken Word and Hip Hop Workshop Facilitator and Mentor

Voices Merging Spoken Word Student Organization, University of Minnesota | 2006-2010
Board Member, President '10, Secretary '09, Treasurer '08

Minnesota Spoken Word Association Minneapolis, Minnesota | 2006-2010
Youth Literary and Program Associate, Conference Coordinator