

JAL MEHTA

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| HARVARD UNIVERSITY Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education | 2019 - present Cambridge, MA |
| HARVARD UNIVERSITY Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education | 2013 - present Cambridge, MA |
| HARVARD UNIVERSITY Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Education | 2008 - 2013 Cambridge, MA |
| HARVARD UNIVERSITY Post-Doctoral Fellow, Graduate School of Education | 2006 - 2008 Cambridge, MA |

EDUCATION

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| HARVARD UNIVERSITY Ph.D. Sociology and Social Policy | 2006 Cambridge, MA |
| HARVARD UNIVERSITY M.A. Sociology | 2002 Cambridge, MA |
| HARVARD UNIVERSITY B.A. Social Studies, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> | 1999 Cambridge, MA |

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- In progress and under contract. Jal Mehta, Max Yurkofsky, Kim Frumin, Amelia Peterson, Rebecca Horwitz and James Jack. *Design Meets the Real World: Improvement, Inquiry, and Innovation and the Public Schools*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- 2019 Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine. *In Search of Deeper Learning: The Quest to Remake the American High School*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- **Winner, Grawemeyer Award, \$100,000 prize for best book in education**
- 2018 *Education in a New Society: Rethinking the Sociology of Education*, eds. Jal Mehta and Scott Davies. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2013 *The Allure of Order: High Hopes, Dashed Expectations and the Troubled Quest to Remake American Schooling*. New York: Oxford University Press.

2012 *The Future(s) of School Reforms*, eds Jal Mehta, Robert Schwartz and Frederick Hess. Cambridge: Harvard Education Press.

2004 Katherine Newman, Cybelle Fox, David Harding, Jal Mehta and Wendy Roth. *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*. New York: Basic Books.

- **Finalist, C. Wright Mills Book Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems**

Dissertation:

2006. “The Transformation of American Education Policy, 1980-2001: Ideas and the Rise of Accountability Politics.” Harvard Department of Sociology and Social Policy.

- **Winner, Exemplary Dissertation Award, Spencer Foundation**
- **Winner, Outstanding Dissertation Award, American Education Research Association (AERA), Politics Section**

Articles and Book Chapters:

2023 Max Yurkofsky, Jal Mehta, et al. "The Paradox of Order: Investigating Continuous Improvement and Design Approaches to Organizational Learning." Under review at *American Educational Research Journal*.

2022 Mehta, Jal. “Reimagining American Education: Possible Futures: Toward a New Grammar of Schooling.” *Phi Delta Kappan*, 103(5), 54–57.

2022 Mehta, Jal, Max Yurkofsky, and Kim Frumin. "Linking Continuous Improvement and Adaptive Leadership." *Educational Leadership* 79 (6): 36-41.

2022 Renee Rinehart and Jal Mehta. “Humans in Hierarchies: Intergroup Relations in Education Reform.” Revise and resubmit at *Educational Administration Quarterly* 58 (4): 597-637.

2020 Jal Mehta and Amanda Datnow. “Changing the Grammar of Schooling: An Appraisal and a Research Agenda.” *American Journal of Education* 126(4): 491-498.

2020 Joshua Glazer and Jal Mehta. “Downward Spiral or Upward Trajectory? Building a Public Profession to Meet the Shifting Technical, Social and Political Demands of Education.” In *Trust, Accountability, and Capacity: Three Building Blocks of Education Reform*, eds. Melanie Ehren and Jacqueline Baxter (New York: Routledge, forthcoming).

2020 Yurkofsky, Maxwell M., Amelia J. Peterson, Jal Mehta, Rebecca Horwitz-Willis, and Kim M. Frumin. "Research on Continuous Improvement: Exploring the Complexities of Managing Educational Change." *Review of Research in Education* 44 (1): 403-433.

- 2019 Jal Mehta and Amelia Peterson. "International Learning Communities: What Can Be Learned Across National Boundaries?" *Journal of Educational Change* 20 (3): 327-350
- 2018 Jal Mehta and Scott Davies, "Education in a New Society: Renewing the Sociology of Education." In *Education in a New Society: Renewing the Sociology of Education*, eds. Jal Mehta and Scott Davies (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
- 2018 Scott Davies and Jal Mehta. "The Deepening Interpenetration of Education in Modern Life." In *Education in a New Society: Renewing the Sociology of Education*, eds. Jal Mehta and Scott Davies (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
- 2017 David Cohen and Jal Mehta. "Why Reform Sometimes Succeeds: Understanding the Conditions That Produce Reforms That Last." *American Educational Research Journal* 54(4): 644-690.
- 2017 Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine, "How We Got Here: The Imperative for Deeper Learning," in *Rethinking Readiness: Deeper Learning for College*, eds. Rafael Heller, Rebecca Wolfe, and Adria Steinberg (Cambridge: Harvard: Education Press, 2017), 11-36.
- 2015 Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine. "Bringing Values Back In: How Purposes Shape Practices in Coherent School Designs." *Journal of Educational Change* 16(4): 483-510.
- 2014 Jal Mehta. "When Professions Shape Politics: The Case of Accountability in K-12 and Higher Education." *Educational Policy* 28(6): 881-915.
- 2014 Jal Mehta and Robert Schwartz. "Building a 21st Century School System: Creating a Teaching Profession and Multiple Student Pathways." In *Improving the Odds for America's Children: Future Directions for Policy and Practice*, eds. Kathleen McCartney, Hiro Yoshikawa, and Laurie Forcier. (Cambridge: Harvard Education Press).
- 2014 Jal Mehta and Steven Teles. "Professionalization 2.0: The Case for Plural Professionalism in Education." In *Teacher Quality 2.0: Will Today's Reforms Hold Back Tomorrow's Schools?*, eds. Michael McShane and Frederick Hess (Cambridge: Harvard Education Press).
- 2013 Jal Mehta, "From Bureaucracy to Profession: Remaking the Educational Sector for the 21st Century." *Harvard Educational Review*, 83(3): 463-488.
- 2013 Scott Davies and Jal Mehta. "Educationalization" in *Sociology of Education: An A to Z Guide*, ed. James Ainsworth (pp. 229-231). Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- 2013 Jal Mehta. "The Penetration of Technocratic Logic into the Educational Field: Rationalizing Schooling from the Progressives to the Present." *Teachers College Record* 113 (5): 1-40.
- 2013 Jal Mehta. "How Paradigms Create Politics: The Transformation of American Educational Policy, 1980-2001." *American Educational Research Journal* 50(2): 285-325.

- 2012 Jal Mehta, Robert Schwartz, and Frederick Hess. "The Futures of School Reform: If We Keep Doing What We're Doing, We're Not Going to Get There." In *The Futures of School Reform*. Cambridge: Harvard Education Press.
- 2012 Jal Mehta, Louis Gomez, and Anthony S. Bryk. "Building on Practical Knowledge: The Key to a Stronger Profession is Learning from the Field." In *The Futures of School Reform*. Cambridge: Harvard Education Press.
- 2012 Jal Mehta. "The Courage to Achieve Our Ambitions: Five Pathways for the Future." In *The Futures of School Reform*. Cambridge: Harvard Education Press.
- 2011 Jal Mehta and Steven Teles. "Jurisdictional Politics: A New Federal Role in Education," in *Carrots, Sticks and the Bully Pulpit: Lessons From a Half-Century of Federal Efforts to Improve America's Schools*, eds. Frederick Hess and Andrew Kelly. Cambridge: Harvard Education Press.
- 2010 Jal Mehta and Robert Schwartz. "Ontario, Canada: Reform to Support High Achievement in a Diverse Context." In *Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education: Lessons From PISA*, eds. Andreas Schleicher and Richard Hopper. OECD.
- 2010 Robert Schwartz and Jal Mehta. "Finland: Slow and Steady Reform for Consistently High Results." In *Strong Performers and Successful Reformers in Education: Lessons From PISA*, eds. Andreas Schleicher and Richard Hopper. OECD
- 2010 Jal Mehta and Christopher Winship. "Moral Power." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Morality*, eds. Steven Hitlin and Steven Vaisey. New York: Springer.
- 2010 Jal Mehta, "From 'Whether' to 'How': The Varied Roles of Ideas in Politics." In *How Ideas Matter: Reframing Political Research*, eds. Daniel Beland and Bob Cox. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2008 Jal Mehta, "How Did We Get Here? Paradigms, Fields, and Professions in Education Policy." *Politics of Education Association Bulletin* 33(1): 1-7.
- 2004 Stephen Morgan and Jal Mehta. "Beyond the Laboratory: Is Disidentification a Plausible Explanation for Racial Differences in Achievement?" *Sociology of Education* 77: 82-101.
- 2003 David Harding, Jal Mehta, and Katherine S. Newman. "No Exit: Mental Illness, Marginality, and School Violence in West Paducah, Kentucky." In *Deadly Lessons: Understanding Lethal School Violence*, eds. Mark H. Moore, Carol V. Petrie, Anthony A. Braga, and Brenda L. McLaughlin. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- 2002 Wendy Roth and Jal Mehta. "The Rashomon Effect: Combining Positivist and Interpretivist Approaches in the Analysis of Contested Events." *Sociological Methods and Research* 31 (2): 131-173. Reprinted in *Philosophical Foundations of Social Research Methods*, ed. Malcolm Williams. 2005. London: Sage Publications.

- 2002 David Harding, Cybelle Fox, and Jal Mehta. "Studying Rare Events Through Qualitative Case Studies: Lessons from a Study of Rampage School Shootings." *Sociological Methods and Research* 31 (2): 174-217.
- 2002 Ronald Ferguson and Jal Mehta. "Why Racial Integration and Other Policies Since *Brown v. Board of Education* Have Only Partially Succeeded at Narrowing the Achievement Gap." In *Achieving High Educational Standards for All*, eds. T. Ready, C. Edley, Jr., & C. T. Snow. Washington, DC: National Academies Press.

GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS

- DEEPER LEARNING DOZEN 2017- 2023
- Hewlett Foundation, \$1.7 million (total)
 - Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, \$850,000 (total)
 - Stuart Foundation, \$600,000 (total)
 - Grantmakers for Thriving Youth, \$400,000 (total)
 - Carnegie Foundation \$250,000
- DESIGN MEETS THE REAL WORLD 2017-2020
- Lyle Spencer Grant, \$700,000
- DEEPER LEARNING DOZEN 2017- 2023
- Hewlett Foundation, \$500,000
 - Stuart Foundation, \$400,000
 - Grantmakers for Thriving Youth, \$200,000
 - Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, \$300,000
- RADCLIFFE INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP 2016-2017
- National fellowship competition, 4% acceptance rate, provides 1 year sabbatical
- THE HUMAN SIDE OF REFORM: EMPATHY AND PERSPECTIVE TAKING 2016 - 2017
- Spencer Foundation, \$50,000
- BUILDING A KNOWLEDGE BASE TO SUPPORT TEACHING 2013 - 2016
- Gates Foundation, \$200,000
- DEEPER LEARNING PROJECT 2011 - 2016
- Hewlett Foundation, \$100,000
 - Carnegie Corporation, \$50,000
 - Spencer Foundation, \$25,000
- CHASTENED DREAM PROJECT 2010 - 2012
- Milton Fund, \$40,000
 - Charles Warren Center Fellowship (highly competitive national fellowship, one semester leave)
- FUTURES OF SCHOOL REFORM PROJECT 2009 - 2012
- Hewlett Foundation, \$200,000

- Spencer Foundation \$25,000

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| NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANT | 2004-05 |
| NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION IGERT FELLOWSHIP Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, Harvard University | 2003-04 |
| NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP | 2000-03 |
| JACOB K. JAVITS FELLOWSHIP (declined) | 2000-03 |
| HUGGINS PRIZE Awarded for best senior thesis related to Afro-American history, life or culture. | 1999 |

Podcast

2021- 2023 *Free Range Humans*, with Rod Allen, 53 episodes as of June 1st, 2023

Selected Public Writing: Newspaper Articles, Book Reviews, Short Articles, and Comments:

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| 2020 | “Make Schools More Human.” <i>New York Times</i> , December 23, 2020. |
| 2020 | “Equity Work: Too Much Talk, Too Little Action.” NGLC blog, November 11, 2020. |
| 2019 | Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine. “How to Make High School Better for Students.” <i>LA Times</i> , April 26, 2019. |
| 2019 | Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine. “High School Doesn’t Have to Be Boring,” <i>New York Times</i> , Sunday Review, March 30, 2019. |
| 2019 | “Why Equity Has Been a Conservative Force in American Education,” <i>Education Week</i> , Next Gen Learning Blog, February 14, 2019. |
| 2018 | “A Pernicious Myth: Basics Before Deeper Learning,” <i>Education Week</i> , Learning Deeply Blog, January 4, 2018. |
| 2015 | “Breadth and Depth: Can We Have It Both Ways?” <i>Education Week</i> , Learning Deeply Blog, July 14, 2015. |
| 2015 | “The Problem With Grit,” <i>Education Week</i> , Learning Deeply Blog, April 27, 2015. |
| 2015 | “Treat Teacher Education Like a Medical Residency,” <i>New York Times</i> , Room for Debate, March 3, 2015. |
| 2014 | “Deeper Learning Has a Race Problem,” <i>Education Week</i> , Learning Deeply Blog, June 20, 2014. |

- 2014 “The Elusive Quest for Deeper Learning.” (With Sarah Fine.) *Harvard Education Letter* 30:4 (July/August 2013).
- 2013 “Teachers: Will We Ever Learn?” *New York Times*, p. A21, April 13, 2013.
- 2013 Frederick Hess and Jal Mehta. “Data Isn’t a Deus ex Machina: Building a Healthier Relationship to Data,” *Educational Leadership* 70:5: 71-75.
- 2013 Jal Mehta. “Why American Education Fails—And How Lessons From Abroad Could Improve It.” *Foreign Affairs* 92:3 (May/June), 105-116.
- 2013 Jal Mehta and Joe Doctor. “A Board Exam for Teaching.” *Phi Delta Kappan* 94(7): 8–13.
- 2012 Jal Mehta and Sarah Fine. “Teaching Differently ... Learning Deeply.” *Phi Delta Kappan* 94(2): 31-35.
- 2012 “The Futures of School Reform: Five Pathways to Fundamentally Reshaping American Schooling.” *AEI Outlook* (Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute).
- 2011 “Schooling as a Knowledge Profession.” *Education Week*, March 30, 2011. (With Anthony Bryk and Louis Gomez.)
- 2010 “Inverting the Pyramid of School Reform.” *Harvard Education Letter* (November/December).
- 2010 Jal Mehta and Jim Spillane. “Unbundling: Promises and Problems.” *Phi Delta Kappan* 92 (3): 48-52.
- 2009 Review of Donna Foote’s “Relentless Pursuit: A Year in the Trenches With Teach for America.” *Teachers College Record*.
- 2009 “The Promise of Play.” *The Religion and Culture Web Forum*, January 2009.
- 2008 Review of Nel Noddings’ “When School Reform Goes Wrong.” *Teachers College Record*.
- 2007 “Standard Error.” Review of Linda Perlstein’s *Tested* and Richard Kahlenberg’s *Tough Liberal*. *American Prospect*, November 2007.
- 2006 “Gaining Ground.” Review of Charles Murray’s *In Our Hands: A Plan to Replace the Welfare State*, www.newvisioninstitute.org/foresight, April 2006.
- 2006 “Politics Lost?” Review of Joe Klein’s *Politics Lost*, www.newvisioninstitute.org/foresight, March 2006.
- 2003 “Not on My Watch? Can A Problem from Hell Make Stopping Genocide a Priority?” *Inthefray.com*, September 2003.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Keynote, “A Culture of Rigor and Joy: From the Classroom to the System,” Spencer Foundation Conference on “Powerful Learning Environments,” Chicago, May 2019.

Panelist, AERA Spencer Lecture, New York, April 2018.

“Mindsets, Routines, and Practices: Contrasting Theories of Scale in Districts Using Design-Based Methods,” paper presented at American Educational Research Association, April 2018. (With Amelia Peterson, Max Yurkofsky, and Kim Frumin.)

“In Search of Deeper Learning: The Quest to Remake the American High School.” Presented at the University of Buffalo (February 2018), Johns Hopkins University (March 2018), High Tech High Deeper Learning Conference (March 2018), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (May 2018), Network of Inquiry and Innovation, British Columbia (May 2018).

“Education in a New Society: Renewing the Sociology of Education.” Presented at the Harvard University Culture and Social Analysis Workshop (May 2018), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (May 2018). (With Scott Davies.)

“System Building for Deep, Equitable, Project-Based Learning,” keynote presentation, Lucas Educational Foundation, November 2017.

“International Learning Communities: What Can Be Learned Across National Boundaries?” paper presented at American Educational Research Association, April 2017.

“Learning Deeply at Scale: The Challenge of Our Times.” Spencer Lecture, Chicago Humanities Festival, October 2016.

“The Human Side of Reform: Empathy and Perspective Taking in State Policy Implementation,” paper presented at American Educational Research Association, April 2016.

“From Quicksand to Solid Ground: Building a Foundation to Support Quality Teaching.” Presented at Harvard Askwith Forum, October 2015, and at the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, November 2015.

“Why Human-Centered Design is the Right Approach to Equity,” Presentation at Asia Society Network, Shanghai, November 2015.

“Overcoming the Aspiration Gap: Designing Schools With Conviction,” paper presented at American Educational Research Association, April 2014. (With Sarah Fine.)

“The Allure of Order: High Hopes, Dashed Expectations, and the Troubled Quest to Remake American Schooling,” Presented at Stanford University, Brown University, Harvard Gutman Distinguished Authors Series, New York University, and others (2013-2014).

“The Futures of School Reform,” Askwith Forum, Harvard Graduate School of Education, and Aspen Institute, Washington, D.C. (2012).

- “Creating a Deeper Learning Sector.” Invited keynote, Hewlett Foundation National Conference, October 2012.
- “The Chastened Dream: The Evolving Relationship Between Social Science, Social Policy and Social Progress.” Paper presented at American Educational Research Association (April 2013), Charles Warren Center, Harvard University (November 2012), University of California, San Diego (April 2011).
- “Jurisdictional Politics: A New Role for the Federal Government in Education.” Paper presented at American Enterprise Institute conference, May 2011. (With Steven Teles).
- “The Deepening Interpenetration of Schooling in Modern Life.” Invited presentation, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, May 2011. (With Scott Davies.)
- “Rationalizing Schools: The Penetration of Technocratic Logic into the Educational Field,” paper presentation, American Educational Research Association, April 2011.
- “Inverting the Pyramid: Lessons From Around the World.” Presentation to Connecticut Superintendents, April 2011.
- Askwith Forum panel, panelist, Waiting For Superman, Harvard Graduate School of Education, October 2010.
- “Getting in the Game: Jurisdictional Contests and Sociological Opportunities,” paper presented at the *American Sociological Association*, Sociology of Education Plenary on “Sociologists and School Reform,” San Francisco, August 2009.
- “The Penetration of Technocratic Logic into the Educational Field: Rationalizing Schooling from the Progressives to the Present,” paper presented at the *Social Science History Association*, Miami, October 2008.
- “Does Professional Status Affect Demands for Accountability? Comparing K-12 and Higher Education,” paper presented at the *American Sociological Association*, Boston, August 2008.
- “Paradigm Change, Bricolage, and the Transformation of American Educational Policy,” paper presented at the *American Sociological Association*, New York, August 2007.
- “Institutional Power and Educational Accountability,” and “From ‘Whether’ to ‘How’: The Varied Roles of Ideas and Politics,” papers presented at the *American Political Science Association*, Chicago, August 2007.
- “Transforming American Educational Policy: The Politics of Accountability,” paper presented at the *American Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, September 2006.
- “The Transformation of American Educational Policy: Ideas and the Rise of Accountability Politics,” paper presented at the *American Sociological Association*, Montreal, August 2006.

“The Transformation of American Educational Policy, 1980-2001,” invited presentation at the *Department of Sociology Colloquium, University of Michigan*, December 2005.

“Ideas, Frames and Policy Change,” invited lecture for graduate course, *Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, September 2005.

“Ideas and Politics: Towards a Second Generation,” roundtable presentation at the *American Sociological Association*, Philadelphia, August 2005.

"Beyond the Laboratory: Is Disidentification a Plausible Explanation for Racial Differences in Achievement?" (with Stephen Morgan), paper presented at the *American Sociological Association*, Anaheim, August 2001.

"Explaining the Black Male-Female Gap in Educational Attainment: Family Structure and Black Female Exceptionalism" (with Andrew Clarkwest), poster presented at the *American Sociological Association*, Anaheim, August 2001.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

BOOK PROJECT: BOSTON COPS AND PRAGMATIC JUSTICE 2003

Research Assistant

- Researched and prepared memos on Habermas and Dewey for Christopher Winship in preparation for a forthcoming book on pragmatism, deliberative discourse and the Boston crime-reduction “miracle.”

CONGRESSIONAL STUDY ON RAMPAGE SCHOOL SHOOTINGS (Paducah, KY) 2001-02

Co-Author and Qualitative Interviewer

- Part of two-member graduate student team that conducted more than 100 interviews, and gathered legal, police and psychological records to write a complete case study and later serve as co-authors of a book on multiple-victim school shootings.

THREE CITY STUDY OF WELFARE REFORM (Boston, MA) 1999-2000

Ethnographer

- Worked as participant observer and conducted interviews with community leaders and residents in South Boston as part of a broader study seeking to understand the mechanisms underlying neighborhood effects in communities of varying racial/ethnic composition.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Awards:

MORNINGSTAR AWARD 2014

- Presented annually to the best teacher at the Harvard Graduate School of Education

DEREK BOK CENTER CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING 2004

- Awarded for receiving 4.8 out of possible 5.0 on student evaluations.