

JENNY SPERLING, PhD

Assistant Professor
Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
The University of Oklahoma

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EDUCATION

- PhD Education, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2021
Interdisciplinary Emphases:
(a) Feminist Studies
(b) Language, Interaction & Social Organization
Dissertation: [*Misrepresentation, mixed messaging, and missed opportunities: A critical queer ethnography of high school sex education curriculum and policy*](#)
Committee: Drs. Rebeca Mireles-Rios, Mary Bucholtz, Dorothy Inés Casillas
- MA Education, University of California, Berkeley, 2015
- BA Spanish, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2011

PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Oklahoma

- 2021 – Present Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- 2021 – Present Faculty Sponsor, Women's Health Advisory Student Organization, University of Oklahoma

University of California, Santa Barbara

- 2016 – 2018 Vice President of Internal Affairs, Graduate Student Association in Education
- 2016 – 2018 Diversity and Equity Committee, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
- 2016 – 2018 UC Santa Barbara and Santa Barbara Unified School District, Graduate Student Teaching Fellow for the School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society academic preparation program
- 2016 – 2020 Teaching Assistant in Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, Feminist Studies Department of Linguistics & Interdisciplinary Studies
- 2018 – 2020 Teaching Assistant Pedagogical Advisor, Instructional Development Program
- 2017 Teaching and Learning Fellow, South Coast Writing Project

Santa Barbara City College

- 2016 – 2018 Adjunct Instructor of Record, Linguistic Anthropology

Santa Barbara Unified School District

- 2018 Co-Teacher, Adelante Bilingual Charter School, 5th Grade Dual-Immersion Class

University of California, Berkeley

- 2013 – 2015 Academic Coach, Athletic Study Center

SAP North American + HandsOn Bay Area

- 2020 – 2021 Curriculum Development, Early Career High Schools, San Francisco, CA

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- Sperling, J.** (2022). More time, more conversation, more care: California high school youth queering comprehensive sexuality education. *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, 1-15.
- Sperling, J.** (2022). Guest speakers and sexuality education: An ethnographic look inside one California high school. *American Journal of Sexuality Education*. 1-22.
- Sperling, J.** (2021). Comprehensive sexual health education and intersex (in)visibility. An ethnographic exploration inside a California high school classroom. *Sex Education*, 1-16.
- Sperling, J.** (2020). "I just want to finish high school like everybody else": Continuation high school students resist deficit discourse and stigmatization. *Equity & Excellence in Education*, 52(4), 465-484.

Book Reviews

- Sperling, J.** (2019). Queer voices from the locker room. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 1-3.

Under Preparation

- Sperling, J.,** Murray, R., & Pratt, P. Advancing sexual health education for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Sperling, J.,** Murray, R., & Pratt, P. "From barney to bondage": Young adults with disabilities and sex education.
- Mireles-Rios, R. & **Sperling, J.** On youth workers' roles and educational equity: Situating teachers, counselors, and administrative staff in high school spaces. *Sociology of Education*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Principal Investigator, University of Oklahoma 2021-present
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Advancing Sexual Health Education for Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
- Graduate Student Research Fellow, UC Santa Barbara 2019-2021
Center for Publicly Engaged Scholarship
▪ Co-Directors: Rebeca Mireles-Rios (Education, UCSB) and Victor Rios (Sociology, UCSB)
- Graduate Affiliate Researcher, UC Santa Barbara 2015-2020
Center for California Languages and Cultures, Institute for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Research
▪ Director: Mary Bucholtz (Linguistics, UCSB), Associate Director: Inés Casillas (Chican@ Studies, UCSB)

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Oklahoma (2021 – Present)

- Decolonizing Approaches to Community-Engaged Research (EDS/EDAH 6933)
Critical Queer Studies and Education (EDS/EDAH 5970)
Education and Community Relations (EACS 6263)
The Politics of Educational Administration (EACS 5333)
Principal Internship (EACS 5923)

UC Santa Barbara (2015 – 2021)

Culture and Development	(ED123)
Sex, Love, and Romance	(FEMST150)
Women, Representation, and Cultural Reproduction	(FEMST40)
Women, Society, and Culture	(FEMST20)
Language in Society	(LING50)
Transitioning to Academic Excellence	(INT20)
Introduction to the Research University	(INT10)

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Refereed Papers, Symposia, Roundtables and Poster Sessions

[November] **Sperling, J.**, Murray, R., & Pratt, P. (2022). Sexual health education and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Division on Career Development and Transition

[November] Quan, P., Schafer, A., & **Sperling, J.** (2022). Centering queer embodiment and community spaces in higher education. Association for the Study of Higher Education

[November] **Sperling, J.**, Murray, R., & Pratt, P. (2022). Sexual health education for college students with intellectual and developmental disabilities in panel session titled, “Unsettling normative landscapes: Critical inquires using disability studies frameworks.” American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Virtual)

[October] **Sperling, J.**, Murray, R., & Pratt, P. (2022). Advancing sexual health education for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. State of the Art Conference.

Sperling, J. (2021). Interrogating whiteness and research relationality: Conducting ethical and decolonial participatory action research. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Virtual)

Sperling, J. (2021). Misrepresentation, mixed messaging, and missed opportunities: High school sex education curriculum and policy. National Sexual Health Conference (Virtual)

Sperling, J. (2021). “Obviously you’re not going to *just* cater to straight people”: Sex(uality) education, representation, and liberation in and beyond the classroom. 2021 GGSE Research Symposium, UC Santa Barbara, CA (Virtual)

Sperling, J. (2021). Inclusive to and for whom? Intersex (in)visibility and California high school sexual health education. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (Virtual)

Sperling, J. (2021). Prioritizing youth lives and community needs: High school sexual and reproductive health education and services reimagined. Hawaii International Conference on Education (Virtual)

Sperling, J. (2020). Toward a youth-driven agenda for California high school sex education: An investigation of experiences and perspectives regarding curriculum and policy. Gender and Education Association International Conference, Calgary, Canada (Cancelled due to Coronavirus)

Sperling, J. (2020). Gender-based ecologies of violence and high school sexual health education: A critical ethnography of a socio-politically charged California controversy. GGSE Research Symposium, UC Santa Barbara, CA (Virtual)

Sperling, J. (2020). Continuation high school girls disrupt the deficit discourse. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (Cancelled due to Coronavirus)

Sperling, J. (2020). Gender-based ecologies of violence and high school sexual health education: A critical ethnography investigating a sociopolitically charged California controversy. LGBTQIA+ Virtual Graduate Research Festival

Sperling, J. (2020). Toward a youth-driven agenda for California high school sex education: An investigation of experiences and perspectives regarding curriculum and policy. 12th Annual Conference for Social Justice in Education (Cancelled due to Coronavirus)

Sperling, J. (2020). Gender-based ecologies of violence and high school sexual health education: A critical ethnography investigating a socio-politically charged California controversy. Berkeley Graduate School of Education Research Day (Cancelled due to Coronavirus)

Sperling, J. (2019). The California Healthy Youth Act (AB329) and high school health curriculum implementation: Girls and LGBTQ perspectives of sexuality education. Research on Women and Education AERA Special Interest Group

Sperling, J. (2019). “And they keep adding things on and I didn’t say that”: Continuation high school girls’ racialized realities in traditional schools. Race, Inequality, and Language in Education

Sperling, J. (2019). “The only thing different about us is our life story”: High school students refute misperceptions. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association

Sperling, J. (2018). “I am categorized” and community misperceptions: Educational sociolinguistics creates space for social change. Sociolinguistics Symposium, Auckland, New Zealand

Sperling, J. (2018). “The only thing different about us is our life story”: Continuation high school students and alternative education. Working Conference on Discourse Analysis in Education Research

Sperling, J. (2018). Partnerships or pedagogical collaboration? A research university and a continuation high school. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association

Sperling, J. (2017). “Hey we’re doing the best we can”: One Teacher-Researcher’s Positionality and Some Ethical Dilemmas. Paper participant for panel titled “Research, Me-search, and Soulsearch: Learning Ethnographic Ethics in Linguistic Anthropology. Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association

Sperling, J. (2017). “I don’t like reading...it’s my specialty, but I don’t like it”: Youth Speak(s) Identities. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association

Sperling, J. (2017). Let’s talk Proposition 58 – Language, Education, Acquisition and Readiness Now (LEARN). 9th Annual Social Justice in Education Conference

Sperling, J. (2016). Rethinking “checked-out” students’ silence: Transformations in an innovative classroom. Annual Meeting of the Literacy Research Association

Sperling, J. (2016). Navigating the ecology of a school and linguistics-based outreach program: An investigation of interactions about curriculum in the making. Working Conference on Discourse Analysis in Education Research

Sperling, J. (2016). Unpaved Roads for Latina Intercollegiate Athletes. 8th Annual Social Justice in Education Conference

UNIVERSITY - COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

- April 2022 “2SLGBTQ+ 101: Affirming and Respecting Pronouns + Gender Diversity”
GET FIT 2022 Conference, Norman Public Schools, Oklahoma
Co-presenters: Dr. Meredith Worthen, OU and Dr. Rachel Schmitz, OSU
- March 2021 “Give Them Their Flowers: Activists and Leaders in the LGBTQ+ Community”
Women’s History Month Event, OU Traditions East Graduate Student Housing
- March 2021 “A Whole-School Approach to Supporting and Empowering All Menstruators”
Norman Public Schools, Middle School Teachers and Counselors
Co-presenters: Undergraduate Students from OU Women’s Health Advocacy Executive Board -- Stacey Johnson and Kylie Hutchison

IN THE MEDIA

Invited Collaborative Discussions

- 2022 “Let’s Talk Sex Education” on Pink Talks with Eva Goldfarb, PhD -- European Association of Young Educators
- link to Zoom recording TBD

Interviews

- 2021 Rethinking Sex Ed with Jenny Sperling. Interview on Schooled Radio. KCSB 91.9
- <https://schooledradio.com/2021/02/09/rethinking-sex-ed-with-jenny-sperling/>
 - <https://www.audible.com/pd/Talking-with-Jenny-Sperling-about-um-Sex-Podcast/B08W8W1752>

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISEMENT

Doctoral Advisor

Quan Phan, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
Ann Schafer, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
Jasmine Henry, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
Madhunika Sai Suresh, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma

Doctoral Committee Member

Kelli Alvarez, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma (Stage: generals)
Vaughn Zrain, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Ayanna Wheeler, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Lillian Miller, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: generals/prospectus)
Darnell Smith, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: prospectus)
Simran Sethi, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: generals)
JJ Wagnon, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: prospectus)
Jacob Bloodsworth, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Ebony Pope, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: prospectus)
Rachel Lopo, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: dissertating)
Adria Chappel, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: prospectus)
Megan Denney, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: prospectus)
Sage Mauldin, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Jill Slay, Educational Administration & Curriculum Studies, University of Oklahoma (Stage: generals)
Lori Crawford, Ed Administration & Curriculum Studies, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Shari Gateley, Ed Administration & Curriculum Studies, University of Oklahoma (Stage: generals)

Jessica Dickinson, Learning Sciences, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Peighton Pratt, Educational Psychology, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)
Angela Barbour, Educational Psychology, University of Oklahoma (Stage: coursework)

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS

University of Oklahoma

2021-2022 Junior Faculty Fellowship – \$ 7,000
2021-2022 Ed Cline Faculty Development Award -- \$ 2,500

University of California, Santa Barbara

2020 – 2021 Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, Block Grant Fellowship – \$8,500
2020 Chicano Studies Institute Dissertation Grant – \$2,700
2019 Philip & Helen Grant Research Fellowship – \$350
2019 Gevirtz International Travel Grant – \$1,100
2019 Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant
2018 Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$3,500
2017 Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$4,000
2016 Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$4,250
2015 Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$4,250

CONERENCE ORGANIZATION

University of Oklahoma

2021-2022 Conference Organizing Committee Member
Educational Leadership & Policy Studies -- Love & Care Lecture Series

University of California, Santa Barbara

2020 Conference Workshop Co-host
“White Allies, Apprentices, And Accomplices,” Second Annual Advancing African American Linguist(ic)s Symposium
2015 – 2019 Conference Co-Chair
“Disrupt and Advance,” 25th Annual Conference through LISO doctoral emphasis
“Encounter and Interface,” 23rd Annual Conference through LISO doctoral emphasis
2016 Conference Organizing Committee Member
“In the Company of Scholars”, UCSB Discourse Group

SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

University/Departmental

University of Oklahoma

Fall 2022 CEDaR Workshop Series: The Academic Job Search Panelist
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Faculty Search Committee Implicit Bias Training
OU Provost’s Office

Educational Administration & Curriculum Studies (EACS) Online, Working Group

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Departmental Library Representative
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Center for Faculty Excellence Invited Panelist: What I Wish I Knew

Summer 2021 Member, Faculty Search Committee
Educational Administration & Curriculum Studies Tulsa

2021 Conference Organizing Committee Member
Educational Leadership & Policy Studies -- Love & Care Lecture Series

Editorial Boards & Journal/Press Reviewer

2021 – Present *American Journal of Sexuality Education*
Journal Reviewer

2021 – Present *Sex Education*
Journal Reviewer

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Division G, Social Context of Education

Special Interest Groups

(27) Critical Examination of Race, Ethnicity, Class, and Gender in Education

(60) Queer Studies

Gender and Education Association (GEA)

Council on Anthropology and Education (CAE) section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)