

JENNY SPERLING, PhD

she or they

Assistant Professor, Critical Studies in Education
Educational Leadership & Policy Studies
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

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Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education
820 Van Vleet Oval, Collings Hall
Norman, OK 73019

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

sexuality health education || queer and trans* studies in education || inclusive postsecondary education programs and disability justice || feminist, queer, trans*, critical race epistemologies, theories, and methodologies || critical ethnography and qualitative inquiry || social justice praxis in education

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

- 2021 – Present Assistant Professor, University of Oklahoma, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
- 2022 – Present Core Affiliate Faculty, Women's and Gender Studies

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

- 2016 – 2018 Vice President of Internal Affairs, Graduate Student Association in Education
Diversity and Equity Committee, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education
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 AMERICA + HANDSON BAY AREA

October 2020 – June 2021 Curriculum Development, Early Career High Schools

PUBLICATIONS

REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Sperling, J.** (2022). More time, more conversation, more care: California high school youth queering comprehensive sexuality education. *Anthropology & Education Quarterly*, 54(2), 107-121.
- 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.

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

- Sai Suresh, M., Wagnon, J.D., **Sperling, J.**, Campos, R., Hall, T.N., Wakio, S., & Virgüez, E. (in press). Reframing international students’ success: Emphasizing institutional responsibility for international student wellbeing and belongingness. In G. Pagliarulo McCarron & B. Silver (Eds.), *Supporting College Students of Immigrant Origin: New Insights from Research, Policy, and Practice*. Cambridge University Press.

BOOK REVIEW

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

UNDER REVIEW

- Phan, Q., Schafer, A., & **Sperling, J.** Embodied Queer Feelings: Disruption and Community in Higher Education.

IN PROGRESS

- Sperling, J.**, Murray, R., & Pratt, P. Advancing sexual health education for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. *Journal of Inclusive Postsecondary Education*.

Sperling, J., Murray, R., & Pratt, P. “From Barney to bondage”: Young adults with disabilities and sex education. *Disability and Society*.

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

Research Collaborator, University of Oklahoma 2021- present
Principal Investigators: Dr. Kathryn Moore (OUHSC) Dr. Jason Lee (OUHSC)
Team: Dr. Jaye Capretto (Psychologist/Autism Specialist), Gale Hann (Autistic Self-Advocate), Jenny Sperling (ELPS, OU)
Sexual Health Education for Children on the Autism Spectrum Disorder: Autism Sexual Health Development App
- \$65,000 through Thrive SPARK Innovation OKC.

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 within the Center of the 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)

Qualitative Inquiry (EACS 6133)
Ethnographies and Education (EDS 5970)
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)
First-Year Student Mentoring – 2SLBTQIA+ @ OU (UNIV 1210)

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)

PRESENTATIONS

REFEREED (Papers, Symposia, Roundtables, Poster & Alternate Sessions)

Suresh-Mueller, N., Wagnon, J., Hall, T., & **Sperling, J.** (2023). Reframing International Students' Success: Emphasizing Institutional Responsibility for International Student Well-being and Belongingness. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Minneapolis, MN

Sperling, J., Suresh-Mueller, N., Wagnon, J., Phan, Q., Roseburr-Olotu, D., Wheeler, A. (2023). Reimagining Educational Research: A Kitchen-Table Talk on Collective Dreaming and the Pursuit of Methodological Freedom. American Educational Studies Association, Louisville, KY

Sperling, J. & Chapman, C. (2023). Not Just Giving the "Talk" but Walking the Walk: Preparing Young Adults for Inclusive Postsecondary Education. State of the Art Conference, Colorado Springs, CO

Moore, K., Capretto J., Hann, G., Bullard, C., **Sperling, J.**, & Fleming, T. (2023). Sex Education Promotes Autistic Adolescent Wellbeing. Zarrow Mental Health Symposium: New Horizons in Brain Science, Oklahoma City, OK (Virtual)

Roseburr Olotu, D., Wheeler, A., & **Sperling, J.** (2023). For the Love of Melanin: The Art of Storyworlding and Community Building for Graduate Students of Color. National Conference on Race & Ethnicity, New Orleans, LA

Moore, K., Capretto J., Hann, G., Bullard, C., **Sperling, J.**, & Fleming, T. (2023). Development of ATLAS: A Prototyped App-Based Sexual Health Education Resource Supporting the Caregivers of Autistic Adolescents. AIR-P Research, Autism CARES. Washington, DC.

Phan, Q., Schafer, A., & **Sperling, J.** (2023). Centering queer embodiment in community spaces in higher education. American College Personnel Association, New Orleans, LA

Sperling, J., Murray, R., & Pratt, P. (2022). Sexual health education and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Division on Career Development and Transition, Little Rock, AR

Phan, Q., Schafer, A., & **Sperling, J.** (2022). Centering queer embodiment and community spaces in higher education. Association for the Study of Higher Education, Las Vegas, NV

Sperling, J., Murray, R., & Pratt, P. (2022). Advancing sexual health education for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in panel session titled, "Unsettling normative landscapes: Critical inquiries using disability studies frameworks", American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting (Virtual)

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

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 reimaged. 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 San Francisco, CA (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, Santa Barbara, CA

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, CSU Channel Islands, CA (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. Graduate School of Education Research Day Conference. Berkeley, CA (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, Nashville, TN

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*, Stanford, CA

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, Vancouver, CA

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, Columbus, OH

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

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, Washington, D.C.

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, San Antonio, TX

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

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

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, Columbus, OH

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

INVITED

Sperling, J. (2023, February). Limitless Possibilities of Queer Friendship. Invited Speaker for [This I Believe: OU](#). First-Year Learning and Engagement. University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Sperling, J. (2022, September). “Ask Me Anything” Faculty Panel for The Academic Job Search Series. Sponsored by the Center for Educational Development and Research. Graduate Student Professional Development Series. University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Sperling, J. (2022, August). “What I Wish I Knew” Faculty Panel for New Faculty Orientation. Sponsored by the Center for Faculty Excellence. University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Sperling, J. (2022, March). Give Them Their Flowers: Activist and Leaders in the LGBTQ+ Community. Women’s Hirstory Month Event sponsored by University of Oklahoma, Traditions East Graduate Housing Unit.

UNIVERSITY & PUBLIC SCHOOL/COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

April 2022 “2SLGBTQ+ 101: Affirming and Respecting Pronouns + Gender Diversity”
GET FIT 2022 Conference, Norman Public Schools
Co-presenters: Dr. Meredith Worthen, OU and Dr. Rachel Schmitz, OSU

March 2022 “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 “Sex Education in Schools” on Pink Talks featuring myself and Eva Goldfarb, PhD --
European Association of Young Educators

- [link to YouTube recording](#)

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>

ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Completed Dissertation (PhD)

As Chair

1. Dr. Sage Mauldin, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma, 2023
Dissertation: *The Impact of Cisbeteronormative Policies and Practices on the Experiences of LGBTQIA+ Faculty in Higher Education*

As Committee Member

1. Dr. Rachel Lopo, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma, 2023
Dissertation: *Jewish Community Views on Partnerships with the Judaic Studies Department*

In Progress Dissertations (PhD)

As Committee Chair

1. Quan Phan, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
2. Ann Schafer, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
3. Jasmine Henry, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
4. Madhunika Suresh-Mueller, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
5. Jacob Bloodworth, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
6. Sage Mauldin, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
7. Dene L. Roseburr Olotu, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
8. Darnell Smith, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
9. Kelli Alvarez, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
10. Jasmine Small, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
11. Vaughn Zrain-Negley, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
12. Kayla Crouso, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
13. Kourtney Cortez, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
14. Harold Wayne, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
15. Miles Kelly, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
16. Justin Boos, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma

As Committee Co-Chair

17. Stefanie Heinrich, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
18. Yue Zheng, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma

As Committee Member

19. Heath Burge, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
20. Alberto Velazquez, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
21. Eric Sourie, Educational Studies, University of Oklahoma
22. Yasmina Choate, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
23. Ayanna Wheeler, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
24. Lillian Miller, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
25. Simran Sethi, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
26. JJ Wagnon, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
27. Ebony Pope, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
28. Adria Chappel, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma

29. Megan Denney, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
30. Amber Silverhorn-Wolfe, Adult & Higher Education, University of Oklahoma
31. Jessica Dickinson, Learning Sciences, University of Oklahoma
32. Peighton Pratt, Special Education, University of Oklahoma
33. Isela Plascencia De Alba, Special Education, University of Oklahoma
34. Angela Barbour, Special Education, University of Oklahoma
35. Brooki Beasley, Special Education, University of Oklahoma
36. Amanda Cummings, Instructional Leadership & Academic Curriculum, University of Oklahoma
37. Christine Chapman, Instructional Leadership & Academic Curriculum, University of Oklahoma
38. Jillian O'Connor, Instructional Leadership & Academic Curriculum, University of Oklahoma
39. Lori Crawford, Educational Administration, Curriculum & Supervision, University of Oklahoma
40. Shari Gateley, Educational Administration, Curriculum & Supervision, University of Oklahoma
41. Jill Slay, Educational Administration, Curriculum & Supervision, University of Oklahoma

In Progress Dissertations (EdD)

As Committee Chair

1. Andie Amis, Educational Administration, Curriculum & Supervision, University of Oklahoma
2. Michael Carter, Educational Administration, Curriculum & Supervision, University of Oklahoma
3. Ashley Jensen, Educational Administration, & Curriculum & Supervision, University of Oklahoma

MASTER'S STUDENTS

Supervised degree progress and master's exams. Master's thesis in cases noted.

Educational Studies

Joumana Asfour, Educational Studies (2023)
Aana Nadeem, Educational Studies (2023)
Azden Randle, Educational Studies (2022)

Educational Administration, & Curriculum & Supervision

Sara Alrumaizan (2023)	Taylor Kirtley (2023)	Hannah Virnau (2023)
Logan Curtis (2023)	Carmen Oswald (2023)	Christel Wallace (2023)
Lisa Goering (2023)	Leigh Ann Parsons (2023)	Luz Washington (2023)
Ashton Jackson (2023)	Mikella Stanton (2023)	

FELLOWSHIP, AWARDS, GRANTS

University of Oklahoma

2022 OU Research Council, Junior Faculty Fellowship – \$ 8,000
 Nomination for JRCoE Pre-Tenure Faculty Award

2021 Ed Cline Faculty Development Award – \$2,500

University of California, Santa Barbara

2020 – 2021 UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, Block Grant Fellowship – \$8,500

2020 UC Santa Barbara Chicano Studies Institute Dissertation Grant – \$2,700

2019 UC Santa Barbara Philip & Helen Grant Research Fellowship – \$350
 UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz International Travel Grant – \$1,100
 UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant

2018 UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$3,500

2017 UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$4,000

2016 UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$4,250
2015 UC Santa Barbara Gevirtz Graduate School of Education Block Grant – \$4,250

CONFERENCE & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES ORGANIZER

University of Oklahoma

2022-2023 End-of-the-Week-Accountability-Group (EWAG)
Graduate Student Weekly Writing Sessions

2021-2022 End-of-the-Week-Accountability-Group (EWAG)
Graduate Student Weekly Writing Sessions

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

Journal of Homosexuality
American Journal of Sexuality Education
Sex Education
American Educational Researcher Association Annual Conference
Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference

National

2023 Organizer, Chair, and Discussant of Alternate Session: “Reimagining Educational Research: A Kitchen-Table Talk on Collective Dreaming and the Pursuit of Methodological Freedom. American Educational Studies Association (AESA) Annual Conference, Louisville, KY.

2022 – Present Member, American Educational Researcher Association
Queer Studies SIG, Awards Committee

Regional

2021 – Present Executive Committee Member and Director of Social Investigation of The Red Dirt Collective of Norman, Oklahoma. Nonprofit Organization, 501c3

University of Oklahoma (OU)

- 2023 JRCoE Representative to the Provost Advisory Committee on Women's Issues
- 2021 – Present Faculty Advisor, Women's Health Advocacy -- Student Organization and Nonprofit

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) Department

- 2023 – 2024 Program Area Coordinator, Educational Studies
- 2023 – 2024 Member, Research and Travel Committee
- 2022 – 2023 Chair, Educational Studies Faculty Search Committee (two tenure track lines, assistant or associate)
- Spring 2023 Program Area Coordinator, Educational Studies
- 2022 – 2023 Member, Online EdD Working Group for Educational Administration Curriculum & Supervision (EACS)
- 2022 – 2023 ELPS Departmental Library Representative
- Ongoing Educational Administration Curriculum & Supervision (EACS) Comprehensive Exam Committee (Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
- Sumer 2022 Member, Faculty Search Committee, Educational Administration, Curriculum, & Supervision (EACS) (one tenure-track line, assistant or associate professor)
- 2021-22 Member, Conference Organizing Committee for *Love and Care Lecture Series*

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS, NATIONALLY

- American Educational Research Association (AERA)
- American Educational Studies Association (AESAs)
- Gender and Education Association (GEA)
- Council on Anthropology and Education (CAE) section of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)
- Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)