

Natalia Mehlman Petrzela

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Education

- Ph.D. **Stanford University**, History, 2009.
- M.A. **Stanford University**, History, 2004.
- B.A. **Columbia College**, History, cum laude, 2000.

Experience

- Assistant Professor of Education Studies and History, The New School 2009-present
- Co-founder, HealthClass2.0 (www.healthclass.org) 2011-present
- Spanish Teacher, P.S./I.S. 111 2001-2002

Research Interests

- U.S. History, culture, politics, education, gender, the body, conservatism, capitalism, sexuality, race, ethnicity, language, consumption, the West, Latinos, youth, family, public scholarship, civic engagement

Books

- *Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture*, Oxford University Press 2015

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- “An Intellectual History of the Gym, (Thanks, Gender!),” eds. Andrew Hartman and Raymond Haberski, *No Things But in Ideas: United States Intellectual History*, under editorial review.
- “Sex, Spirituality, and the Popularization of Yoga in Modern America” [under review]
- “HealthClass2.0: Crossing Boundaries Through Campus-Based Civic Engagement,” *Anthropology Now*, Vol. 7 No. 2. September 2015
- “Revisiting the Rightward Turn: Max Rafferty, Education, and Modern American Politics,” *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics, and Culture*, Vol. 6, No.2. May 2014
- With Sarah Manekin, “The Accountability Partnership: Writing and Surviving in the Digital Age,” in Dougherty, Jack, and Nawrotzki, October 2013

Kristin, eds., *Writing History in the Digital Age*, University of Michigan Digital Humanities Series

- “Before the Federal Bilingual Education Act: Legislation and Lived Experience,” *Immigration and Education: A Special Issue of the Peabody Journal of Education*, Vol.85, No.4., 406-424. November 2010
- “Sex Ed... and the Reds?’ Reconsidering the Anaheim Battle over Sex Education, 1962-1969,” *History of Education Quarterly*, Vol. 47, No. 2, 203-232. May 2007
- “A Different Kind of Women’s Movement: Group Fitness, Accidental Entrepreneurship, and the Creation of a Third Space” [IN PROGRESS]
- “Unequal Cousins: The Fall of Public P.E. and the Rise of the Private Fitness Industry” [IN PROGRESS]

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals

- “Roger Geiger: The History of American Higher Education: Learning and Culture from the Founding to World War II,” *Pacific Historical Review*, Vol. 85, No. 4, November 2016.
- “Robin Jensen: Dirty Words: The Rhetoric of Sex Education, 1870-1924,” *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, Vol. 22, No. 2, May 2013
- “Multiculturalism,” in Ness, Immanuel, *Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, Wiley-Blackwell, Vol. 4, 2013
- “Sex Education,” in Hunt, Thomas and Carper, James C. *The Encyclopedia of Educational Reform and Dissent*, SAGE Publications, 2010.

Honors and Grants

- Robert L. Heilbroner Center for Capitalism Studies Research Grant (\$1,500) 2016-17
- Provost’s Office Faculty Research Fund (\$5,950) 2016-17
- Mellon Foundation Civic Humanities Pedagogy Grant (with Verso Books) (\$18,000 total) 2016-17
- Roy A. Hunt Foundation Grant for HealthClass2.0 (\$10,000) 2014-16
- Frederick Lewis Allen Memorial Room Writer, New York Public Library 2014-15
- Provost’s Office Faculty Research Fund, The New School (\$5,000) 2014-15
- Multiple Civic Engagement and Social Justice Grants (\$7,500) 2012-14
- Rockefeller Foundation/New School for Public Engagement Collaborative Innovation Grant for HealthClass2.0 (\$20,000) 2013-15

- Mrs. Giles M. Whiting Foundation Dissertation Fellow 2008–2009
- Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Summer Seminar Fellow, 2008
“Sequels to the Sixties,” Cambridge, MA
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellow (relinquished) 2007–2008
- Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellow 2007–2008
- Centennial Award for Excellence in Teaching, Stanford University 2004

Scholarly Presentations

- “Making Histories of Gender and Sexuality in the Digital Age;” “Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” Berkshire Conference on the Histories of Women, Gender, and Sexualities. Hempstead, NY. June 2017
- “Another Women’s Movement: Creating Fitness Culture in Late 20th Century America,” Organization of American Historians. New Orleans, LA. April 2017
- “Selves of Steel: Hard Bodies and Soft Souls in the 1990s United States,” America’s Newest History: The Nineties in Historical Perspective. West Lafayette, IN. March 2017
- “A Golden State of Glowing Health: Forging a National Wellness Culture,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History. Stanford, CA. October 2016
- ““Which Way America?”: California’s Moral Guidelines Committee and the Forging of a Patriotic Morality,” Organization of American Historians. Providence, RI. April 2016
- “Are the Culture Wars History? New Comments on an Old Concept” Roundtable with Stephen Prothero, Leo Ribuffo, Andrew Hartman, and Adam Laats, American Historical Association. Atlanta, GA. January 2016
- “The Forging of a Patriotic Morality: California’s Moral Guidelines Committee,” and “New Books on the Culture Wars Roundtable,” History of Education Society. St. Louis, MO. November 2015
- “Charting the Intellectual Origins of America’s Postwar Wellness Revolution,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History. Washington, D.C. October 2015
- “Crafting Research to Writing Workflow,” Fireside Chat, American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL. April 2015
- Comment, “Unsettling Pleasures and Pains: Conservatism, Neoliberalism, and Intimate Labors,” American Studies Association. Los Angeles, CA. November 2014
- “Sex, Spirituality, and the Popularization of Yoga in Modern America,” Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University. Princeton, NJ. July 2014

- “Cultural Feminism, Family Values, and Natural Motherhood in the 1970s and 1980s U.S.,” American Society for Environmental History. San Francisco, CA. April 2014
- “One-Worldism, Bilingual Education, and Conservatism in Postwar California,” Organization of American Historians. Atlanta, GA. April 2014
- “Historians Off the Page,” Roundtable participant, History of Education Society. Nashville, TN. November 2013
- “Defining Family, Defining Nation: Gender and Patriotism in 1960s California,” Activism and Scholarship: A Conference Honoring Amy Swerdlow and Gerda Lerner, Sarah Lawrence Women’s History Conference. Bronxville, NY. March 2013
- “Innovation Presentation: HealthClass2.0,” AshokaU Exchange. San Diego, CA. February 2013
- “In Defense of the Family: Parents, Teachers, Taxes, and Sex Education,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History. New York, NY [cancelled due to Hurricane Sandy]. November 2012
- “Transformative Arts and Health Education: Promoting Health and Wellness through University-Community Partnerships and Culturally Relevant Narrative,” Imagining America Conference. New York, NY October 2012
- “Fear of a One-World Child: Bilingualism and Conservatism in Cold War California,” History of Education Society. Chicago, IL. November 2011
- “Public Education, Family Values, and the Roots of the Culture Wars, 1968-70,” Organization of American Historians. Houston, TX. March 2011
- “Culture, Education, and a New Interpretation of Proposition 13,” Power and the History of Capitalism Conference. New York, NY. April 2011
- “Constructing Family Values: Parents, Teachers, Taxes, and Sex Education in Contemporary America,” and Panelist, “How Historians Research, Write, and Publish: The Art of Crafting Dissertations and Books in Educational History,” History of Education Society, Boston, MA. November 2010
- “The Secret History of Bilingual Education,” History of Education Society. Philadelphia, PA. October 2009
- “Seedbeds of the Culture Wars: Bilingual and Sexuality Education in California, 1968-70,” University of Pennsylvania History of Education Conference in Honor of Michael Katz. Philadelphia, PA. April 2008
- “Sex, Language, and ’68: School in the Changing Society of the March 2008

- 1970s,” Organization of American Historians. New York, NY.
- “Sex, Language, and the State: Bilingual and Sex Education in California During the Long 1970s,” Social Sciences and History Association, Chicago, IL. November 2007
 - “‘They Were Doing the Mexican Hat Dance’: The *Lau* Era in the San Francisco Unified School District,” Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association. Stanford, CA. August 2006
 - “One District and Diversity: The San Francisco Unified School District and Multiculturalism in the Post-Civil Rights Era,” American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA. April 2006
 - “Living Multiculturalism: Latinos and Bilingual Education in Late 20th-century San Francisco,” History of Education Society. Baltimore, MD. October 2005
 - “Sex Ed... and the Reds? Reconsidering the Anaheim Battle over Sex Education, 1962-69,” History of Education Society. Kansas City, KS. October 2004

Selected Popular Essays and Podcasts

- Fitness history column on *Well+Good* July 2015-present
- Host, weekly “Past Present” history podcast October 2015-present
- “When Wellness is a Dirty Word,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* May 2016
- “Mission High and the Educational Culture War,” *Los Angeles Review of Books* April 2016
- “Why Banishing the Bikini Body is Just the Beginning,” *The Beauty Bean* January 2016
- “How Movement Helped Me Embrace My Whole Self,” *Live in the Grey* July 2015
- “The Democratic Party and the Not-So-New Family Values,” OUPBlog June 2015
- “Do We Need Wonder Woman?” *Public Books* (syndicated by *Huffington Post*) May 2015
- “Petrzela on Perlstein: *The Invisible Bridge: The Fall of Nixon and the Rise of Reagan*,” *H-1960s* April 2015
- “‘Some Kind of Precedent’: and CLASSROOM WARS,” *The Page 99 Test Blog* April 2015
- “Interview with Professor Estelle B. Freedman on *Redefining Rape*,” *NotchesBlog* March 2015

- “In My Bed: Fifty Years of Sexual Violence on One College Campus,” *NotchesBlog* February 2015
- “Race, Wellness, and the Hilarity of Thug Kitchen,” *Medium* October 2014
- “There’s Someone Missing From My Facebook Pictures,” *Slate* July 2014
- “(Trying to) Speak Truth to Power: Ten Observations From My 90 Minutes with Lululemon’s CEO,” *Huffington Post* May 2014
- “Why this Lululemon Scandal is Different,” *Huffington Post* November 2013
- “Marianne Williamson for Congress: A New Age for American Politics?” *Huffington Post* November 2013
- “On Wellness and Class in America (And Why Thug Kitchen and That Soul-Cycle-for-the-Homeless-Guy Are –Not?—So Funny) July 2013
- “The Strange Gender Politics of Natural Living,” *Society for U.S. Intellectual History Blog* May 2013
- “Choose Love, Not Fear, in 2013,” *Huffington Post* January 2013
- “Wellness: The Latest Frontier in the Culture Wars?” *I Love You but You’re Going to Hell Blog* December 2012
- “Educating the Whole Child,” *Huffington Post* March 2012
- “My Brief Teaching Career,” *New York Times* June 24, 2002

Selected Invited and Public Talks

- “When Wellness Was Weird,” Citizenship and Crisis Initiative, Oregon State University, January 2017.
- “The Business of Wellness: Evolution of a Multibillion Dollar Industry,” Pregame Clubhouse, Portland, OR, January 2017.
- “Classroom Wars: Sex Education, Bilingual Education, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” Wellesley College, November 2016.
- “When Wellness Was Weird,” Temple University, November 2016.
- “Gender, Sexuality, and Intellectual History in the 21st Century,” Symposium: Dangerous Ideas: U.S. Intellectual History and the Debate Over Ideas in America, Institute for American Thought, Indiana University, July 2016.
- “From ‘We Can Do It!’ to ‘Strong is the New Skinny!’: Feminism, Capitalism, and the Fitness Industry,” at Summit Series W+. Eden, Utah, June 2016.
- “Yoga, Fitness, and American Physical Culture: A Historian’s Perspective,” in conversation with Leslie Kaminoff, The Breathing Project. New York, June 2016.

- “Wellness in Historical Perspective,” at “Hashtag Wellness,” NBC Universal employee event, New York, May 2016.
- “My Story, Your Story, Our Story: Fitness Narratives and Leadership,” teacher training workshop, *Physique 57*, New York, May 2016.
- “Educational History and the Search for Common Ground,” at Progressive/Conservative, Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI, April 2016.
- “Education for Liberation or Regulation? Sex and Schools in the Modern United States,” History of Sexuality Lecture Series, College of Staten Island, NY, April 2016.
- “Link Together, Lead Together,” #LinkedNotRanked consciousness-raising event for wellness leaders, Santa Monica, CA, April 2016.
- “The Politics of Education and Inequality,” in conversation with Jonathan Kozol and David Garcia, Tucson Festival of Books, Tucson, March 2016.
- “Classroom Wars: Sex Education, Bilingual Education, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” Teachers College, Columbia University, March 2016.
- “Classroom Wars: Sex Education, Bilingual Education, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” Department of History, Stanford University, November 2015.
- “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Being An Early-Career Historian,” Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University, November 2015.
- “Wellness, Culture, and U.S. Education, Past and Present,” School of Public Health, Tufts University, October 2015.
- Moderator, Plenary Session on “Little Magazines,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History, October 2015.
- “Wellness Culture and the New Speed of Transformation: A Look Back,” Life Reimagined Thought Leadership Summit, Gateway Junction, CO, July 2015.
- In conversation with Dana Goldstein, author of *The Teacher Wars*, Happier Hour Literary Salon, New York, June 2015.
- In conversation with Trey Kay, host of podcast “Us and Them,” Brooklyn, June 2015.
- “Girls, Gender, and Education: Past, Present, and Future,” with neuroscientist Wendy Suzuki, Girls, Inc. Fundraiser, New York, June 2015.
- “Sex Ed Under Siege: Lessons for Today and Tomorrow,” Bay Area literary salon, April 2015.
- “Classroom Wars – Book Talk With Author,” BookHampton, East Hampton, NY, April 2015.

- “Classroom Wars Book Launch,” with comments by Jonathan Zimmerman, Jeremy Varon, Claire Potter, and Federico Finchelstein, The New School, New York, April 2015.
- “Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” Speaker Series in Latino Studies, Yale University, April 2015.
- “Yoga, Aerobics, and the Making of Modern Femininity,” *HERStory* for History Club, Ramapo College, March 2015.
- “Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” Department of Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 2014.
- “Yoga, Fitness, and the Rise of American Wellness Culture,” School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, December 2014.
- “Lessons from the Core I Carry Beyond the Classroom,” Keynote Address, Columbia College Women’s Alumni Networking Luncheon, April 2014.
- Panelist on “The Practice of Leadership” with lululemon CEO Laurent Potdevin and other social critics re: my viral “Why this Lululemon Scandal is Different” article, Yoga Journal Conference, New York, April 2014.
- “Progressive Education in American History,” in “Learning Through Design Course,” Parsons The New School for Design, October 2013.
- “Voices for Education: A Historical Perspective,” 92Y Tribeca, New York, April 2013.
- Discussant, “Improbable Scholars” book talk with David Kirp and Clara Hemphill, Center for New York City Affairs, New York, April 2013.
- “Writing History in the Digital Age: The Accountability Partnership,” with Sarah Manekin, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, November 2012.
- Moderator, “Children and Food,” with Jan Poppendieck, Lynn Fredericks, Stefania Patinella, Lisa Sasson, New School for Public Engagement, New York, October 2012.
- “Max Rafferty and the Rise of Contemporary American Conservatism,” Teaching American History Lecture Series, New York University-Steinhardt School of Education, June 2012.
- “The World of Self-Betterment,” in conversation with *New York Times* columnist Alina Tugend, Soho Rep Theater, New York, March 2012.
- Dean’s Lecture, Eugene Lang College First-Year Orientation, September 2011.
- “Sex Education and the Politics of Family,” Gender Studies 101, University of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, October 2010.

- “Life After the Dissertation,” Spencer Foundation Fellows Conference, October 2010.
- Graduate Student Commencement Speaker, Department of History, Stanford University, June 2009.

Courses Developed and Taught

- History of U.S. Education
- American Youth Cultures, Past and Present
- Introduction to Educational Theory
- Pursuits of Happiness: American Journeys
- Sources and Methods in Historical Research
- Cultural Conflict in American Education
- HealthClass2.0 Practicum
- Body, Mind, and School: Wellness and American Education
- Senior Research Seminar in Education Studies
- Kids, Classrooms, and Culture
- Sculpting the American Self: Fitness Culture in the Postwar U.S. (2016-17)
- Publishing Life: Critical Theory, History, and Practice (with Verso Books) (2016-17)
- First-Year Fellow Mentorship Seminar (2016-17)

University and Professional Service

- Director, First Year Program 2016-18
- Chair, New York University History of Education Research and Writing Group 2016-present
- Dean’s Honor Symposium Review Committee 2015-16
- Treasurer, Society for U.S. Intellectual History 2015-16
- Lang Executive Committee 2015-17
- Lang Faculty Council 2015-17
- Manuscript Reviewer, University of Chicago Press 2015-present
- Faculty Director and Co-founder, HealthClass2.0 2012-present
- Steering Committee, The New School Collaboratory 2014-15
- Chairs and Directors Council 2012-2014
- University-wide Education Working Group 2013-14
- Co-chair, Education Studies 2012-2014
- Member, History Department 2009-present
- Lang Civic Engagement and Social Justice Committee 2012-14
- University Honorary Degree Committee 2013-14
- Judge, The New Challenge 2013-14

- Acting Chair, NYU History of Education Writing Group 2015-16
- Member, NYU History of Education Writing Group 2005-present
- Member, NYU U.S. Women’s and Gender History Writing Group 2015-present
- Treasurer, Society for U.S. Intellectual History 2015-present
- Submission Reviewer, History of Education Society 2011-present
- Reviewer, *History of Education Quarterly* 2011-present
- Reviewer, *H-Net* 2014-present
- Contributing Editor, *Public Seminar* 2015-present
- Member, American Historical Association 2008-present
- Member, Society for U.S. Intellectual History 2013-present
- Member, History of Education Society 2004-present
- Member, Organization of American Historians 2006-present

Selected Media Recognition and Reviews

- On the term “illegal alien” and immigration, *DML Unfiltered, Newsmax* May 2016
- “History and Education Bring Multiple Disciplines Together for ‘Classroom Wars’ Book Talk,” *Arts +Humanities at Teachers College* May 2016
- “Survival of the Fittest: How London Swapped Going Out for Working Out,” *Time Out London* April 2016
- “Politics, Inequality, and Education: in Conversation with Jonathan Kozol and David Garcia,” *CSPAN BookTV* March 2016
- “Review: *Classroom Wars*,” *Journal of American History* March 2016
- “Better Than Coffee: 14 Podcasts that Will Inspire Your Morning,” *business.com* January 2016
- “Petrzela Launches Hit History Podcast,” *New School Blog*
- “Are the Culture Wars for Women?,” *S-USIH Blog* January 2016
- “Teaching with Podcasts: A U.S. History Professor’s Directory,” *Teaching U.S. History Blog* November 2015
- “Los Secretos de Las Mejores Entrenadoras de Nueva York,” *El Mundo* (Spain) November 2015
- “Andrew Hartman on Petrzela, *Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture*,” *H-Net* October 2015
- “Required Reading: *Classroom Wars*” *I Love You But You’re Going to Hell Blog* September 2015
- “Review: *Classroom Wars*,” *CHOICE: Current Reviews for Academic* September 2015

Libraries

- “Empower Yourself Through Exercise,” *Life Reimagined* newsletter July 2015
- “Yoga, Fitness, and American Wellness Culture,” interview by Dr. Christine Whelan, UW-Madison Human Ecology site June 2015
- Multiple mentions, *Well+Good* 2011-present
- Interviewed by Robert Self, “*Classroom Wars* and Sexual Politics,” *NotchesBlog* April 2015
- “*Classroom Wars* Interview,” *New Books Network Podcast* March 2015
- “Petrzela Explores the Politicization of America’s Schools,” *New School Blog* March 2015
- “White Like Me,” *Brian Lehrer TV* March 2015
- “A Boom Year in Culture Wars Historiography,” *U.S. Intellectual History Blog* January 2015
- “Such an Honor These Super-Fit Super Writers Crushed It...” *Runner’s World Blog Sweden* January 2015
- “Believe It: Finding Religion in the History of U.S. Sexuality,” *NotchesBlog* November 2014
- “E-Pandering to Millennials,” *Brian Lehrer TV* October 2014
- “Why the White House Dumped Emoji After 3 Days,” *Deseret News* October 2014
- “Why the White House is Using Emoji,” *The Atlantic* October 2014
- “Beyond Mom Profile: Natalia Petrzela,” *Beyond Mom Blog* July 2014
- “A Life-Changing Workout and a Superfood Breakfast,” *Breakfast Criminals Blog* June 2014
- “New Initiative Sets its Sights on Changing Higher Ed,” *New School Blog* April 2014
- “What is Genius?” *92Y Blog* February 2014
- “intenSati: The Love Your Life Workout,” *One Healthy Hamptons* August 2013
- “HealthClass2.0,” *Good Day NY with Fox + Friends* July 2013
- “SOUL STORY: Interview with Natalia Petrzela,” *SoulCycle Blog* May 2013
- “Not My Native Tongue,” *New School Blog* April 2013
- “Choose Your Own (Wellness) Adventure,” *New School Blog* March 2013
- “Your Bleep’d Up Brain,” *H2 Channel* January 2013
- “My Muscle Mentor,” *Wall Street Journal* September 2012
- “Una Nueva Forma de Mantenerse en Forma,” *Univision Nueva York* January 2011
- “American Fitness Craze Hits the UK,” *The Guardian* December 2010

