

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

Professional Experience

- Associate Professor of History, The New School July 2017-present
- Columnist, MSNBC Opinion July 2023-present
- Lead Scholar, Jewish American Hidden Voices Curriculum, NYC Department of Education January 2024-present
- Assistant Professor of Education Studies and History, The New School 2009-2017
- Spanish Teacher, P.S./I.S. 111 2001-2002
- Investment Banking Analyst, Credit Suisse First Boston 2000-2001

Research Interests

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

Books

- *Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America's Exercise Obsession*, University of Chicago Press 2023; paperback 2024
- *Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture*, Oxford University Press 2015; paperback 2017
- *My Hamptons: The Eternal Battle Over America's Most Exclusive Escape* (with Neil J. Young), and *A Thinking American's Guide to the School Culture Wars* In progress

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- "Working Out a New Relationship to Objectivity, Experience, and Engaged Scholarship," special issue of *Pacific Historical Review*. Summer 2024
- January 2023

- “The Myth of the Anti-Family Feminist,” in eds., Kevin Kruse and Julian Zelizer, *Myth America: Historians Take on the Biggest Lies and Legends About Our Past*
- “From Performance to Participation: The Origins of the Fit Nation,” *Transatlantica* special issue “Places and Cultures of Capitalism: New Histories from the Grassroots” March 2021
- “The Siren Song of Yoga’: Sex, Spirituality, and the Popularization of Yoga in Modern America,” *Pacific Historical Review* August 2020
- “An Intellectual History of the Gym, (Thanks, Gender!),” eds. Andrew Hartman and Raymond Haberski, *American Labyrinth: Intellectual History for Complicated Times*, Cornell University Press. December 2018
- “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, Kristin, eds., *Writing History in the Digital Age*, University of Michigan Digital Humanities Series October 2013
- “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

Encyclopedia Entries and Book Reviews in Scholarly Journals

- “Clayton Howard: The Closet and the Cul de Sac: The Politics of Sexual Privacy in Northern California,” *Reviews in American History*, 2022.
- “Navigating Social Media as an Academic,” Eds., Lori Ann Flores and Jocelyn Olcott, *The Academic’s Handbook*, Fourth Edition, Duke University Press, 2020.
- “Sarah Schrank: Free and Natural: Nudity and the American Cult of the Body,” *Pacific Historical Review*, 2020.

- “Rachel Louise Moran: Governing Bodies: American Politics and the Shaping of the Modern Physique,” *Journal of American Studies*, 2020.
- “Campbell Scribner: The Fight for Local Control: Schools, Suburbs, and American Democracy,” *American Historical Review*, October 2017.
- “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

- Carnegie Corporation Fellow 2024-25
- Academic Engagement Network Fellow 2024
- Artist in Residence, Equinox Fitness October 2023
- Shortlist, Susanne M. Glasscock Book Prize for Interdisciplinary Scholarship 2023
- Member, Society of American Historians 2023-present
- Invited Member, Reboot Summit (Jewish culture collective) 2023, 2024
- “Best Podcasts” lists for “Welcome to Your Fantasy,” including *New York Times*, *Vulture*, *Esquire*, *Town + Country*, *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Guardian* 2021
- Mellon Foundation Civic Humanities Pedagogy Grant (with Verso Books and Pineapple Street Studios) 2016-17, 2021
- Provost’s Office Faculty Research Fund (\$5,950) 2016-21
- Finalist, Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship 2018-19
- Eugene Lang College Faculty Opportunity Award (\$2,500) 2017-18
- Robert L. Heilbroner Center for Capitalism Studies Research Grant (\$1,500) 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, “Sequels to the Sixties,” Cambridge, MA 2008
- 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

- Panelist, Sinclair Workshop on Historical Podcasting, American Historical Association, January 2025
New York, NY.
- Roundtable participant, “Peer Reviewing Podcasts: What to Consider,” and Author Meets Critics session, *Dare To Say No: Policing and the War on Drugs in Schools*, Society for U.S. Intellectual History, Boston, MA. November 2024
- Discussant, special session, *Mapping the Landscape of Secondary US History Education*, History of Education Society, Chicago, IL. November 2024
- “Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America’s Exercise Obsession,” Centre de Recherche en Économie de Grenoble, Université Grenoble-Alpes, Grenoble, France. May 2024
- “Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America’s Exercise Obsession,” EHESS, Paris, France. May 2024
- Panelist, History of Education Society, “The Promise and Peril of Social Media and The Virtual World for Historians of Education,” Atlanta, GA. November 2023
- Roundtable participant, “Doing Feminist History in Public,” Berkshire Conference of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, Santa Clara, CA. June 2023
- Moderator and comment, “Consumption in the Age of Inequality,” Organization of American Historians, Los Angeles, CA. April 2023
- Moderator and comment, “*De Jure* Politics: How Law Shaped Politics and Society,” American Political History Conference, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. June 2022
- “From ‘They Put Me in Girls’ Pants to *SNL*: Chippendales and the Making of Modern Masculinity in America,” Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Boston MA. April 2022
- “Collaboration,” Humanities Podcasting Symposium Roundtable October 2021
- “Podcasting for PhDs” Panel for Publics Lab at CUNY Graduate Center September 2021

- “It’s Not Working Out: Fitness and Inequality in the 20th-century U.S.” April 2020
Organization of American Historians annual meeting, Washington, DC. (cancelled)
- “The Past and Future of Political Polarization,” “Trumpian Themes in Context,” June 2019
“Grappling with the Right” at Remaking Political History, Purdue University.
West Lafayette, IN.
- “A Girl Like Me? I Would Have Been a P.E. Teacher!': Physical Fitness, Personal November 2018
Empowerment, and Privatization in the Long 1980s,” Roundtable Participant,
The History of Ideas in the Age of Trump,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History.
Chicago, IL.
- Comment, “A Safe and Sane Heartland:’ Fractured Spaces in Late 20th-Century Flyover October 2018
Country,” Western Historical Association. San Antonio, Texas.
- “Fit Nation? Privatizing the Pursuit of Fitness in the Late 20th Century United States,” May 2018
History of Capitalism Workshop, *Association Française des Études Américaines*. Nice,
France.
- “Making Histories of Gender and Sexuality in the Digital Age,” “Classroom June 2017
Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” Berkshire
Conference on the Histories of Women, Gender, and Sexualities. Hempstead, NY.
- “Another Women’s Movement: Creating Fitness Culture in Late 20th Century America,” April 2017
Organization of American Historians. New Orleans, LA.
- “Selves of Steel: Hard Bodies and Soft Souls in the 1990s United States,” March 2017
America’s Newest History: The Nineties in Historical Perspective. West Lafayette, IN.
- “A Golden State of Glowing Health: Forging a National Wellness Culture,” October 2016
Society for U.S. Intellectual History. Stanford, CA.
- ““Which Way America?”: California’s Moral Guidelines Committee April 2016
and the Forging of a Patriotic Morality,” Organization of
American Historians. Providence, RI.
- “Are the Culture Wars History? New Comments on an Old Concept” January 2016
Roundtable with Stephen Prothero, Leo Ribuffo, Andrew Hartman,
and Adam Laats, American Historical Association. Atlanta, GA.
- “The Forging of a Patriotic Morality: California’s Moral Guidelines November 2015
Committee,” and “New Books on the Culture Wars Roundtable,”
History of Education Society. St. Louis, MO.
- “Charting the Intellectual Origins of America’s Postwar Wellness October 2015
Revolution,” Society for U.S. Intellectual History. Washington,
D.C.

- “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.

- “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 1970s,” Organization of American Historians. New York, NY. March 2008
- “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 Multimedia Projects

- Host and executive producer, EXTREME podcast series for the BBC 2024-present
- Cohost, “Past Present” podcast 2015-2024
- Co-producer and host, “Welcome to Your Fantasy,” 9-part podcast series, with Pineapple Street Media and Gimlet/Spotify 2021
- Creator and host, “The Unlikely History of Everyday Things,” History Channel (webseries) 2018
- In development: Documentary series adaptation of *Fit Nation* with Time Studios; live stage adaptation of Welcome to Your Fantasy.

Selected Popular Writing

- “The Church of Saint Richard,” *The Atlantic* July 2024
- “RFK Has a Distinct Appeal When it Comes to Young Male Voters,”
MSNBC (with Ilyse Hogue) February 2024
November 2023
- “How Feminists Have Failed Israeli Victims of Sexual Violence,”
MSNBC August 2023
- “We’re All Preppy Now,” *The New Republic* June 2023
- “We’ve Been Thinking About Work All Wrong,” *Chronicle Review* March 2022-February 2023
- Columnist, “The Quick Study,” *The Observer* February 2023
- “On Sweating in Public: On Jane Fonda’s Dance Aerobics Empire
and Progressive Politics,” *LitHub* December 2022
- “The Birth of a New Brand of Exercise Fetish,” *The Nation* September 2022
- “Why American Kids Grow Up Hating Exercise,” *Slate* August 2022
- “Overzealous Covid Measures Are Hurting Education,” *Chronicle
Review* May 2022
- “SEL Doesn’t Have to Be a Classroom Culture War,” *CNN Opinion* February 2022
- “Building a Better Movement Culture Will Require Inclusion and
Creativity,” *Global Sports Matters* January 2022
- “Omicron Could Finally Kick Our Unhealthy New Year’s Gym
Obsession,” *Washington Post* November 2021
- “School Culture Wars Stirred Up Voters For A Reason – Classrooms
Really Did Change,” *Washington Post* September 2021
- “Everything Has a History: *Muscle Motion*,” *Perspectives* (American
Historical Association) February 2021
- “Goodbye to the Cult of SoulCycle,” *New York Times* November 2020
- “How Long Can Gyms Survive?” *Marker* October 2020
- “Trump’s 1776 Project Part of a Decades-Long, Right-Wing Plan—
But Scarier,” *NBC Think* May 2020
- “Get in Shape Girl: A Century of Working Out From Home,” *Jezebel* May 2020
- “Jogging Has Always Excluded Black People,” *New York Times* August 2019
- “Remote Work,” *LOGIC Magazine, Bodies Issue* June 2019
- “Can Self-Help Heal the Body Politic?” *The Atlantic* February 2019
- “The Fitness Craze that Changed the Way Women Exercise,” *The
Atlantic* February 2019
- “Yoga Pants Made Chip Wilson a Billionaire. Why Isn’t He Grateful
to the Women Who Wear Them?” *Well+Good* January 2019

- “The Fitness Industry is Booming. So Why are P.E. Classes Disappearing?” *The Washington Post* November 2018
- “Why a Far-Right Extremist Targeted a Yoga Studio for Violence,” *Washington Post* October 2018
- “What the Grievance Studies Hoax Means,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* September 2018
- “The New Colin Kaepernick Campaign Captures the Tension Between Nike’s Values and Its Reality,” *Washington Post*
- “As Swimsuit Season Ends, Pursuit of the Bikini Body Endures,” *Washington Post* September 2018
- “The American Fitness Obsession Has Made its Way to France— But Something Has Gotten Lost in Translation,” *Well+Good* August 2018
- “Working, Out: Homophobia at Crossfit is a Good Time to Remember that Gym Culture Wouldn’t Exist Without Queer People,” *Slate* June 2018
- “Good Choices and Bad Excuses: The Danger of Self-Congratulation,” *Chronicle of Higher Education* “The Awakening: Women and Power in the Academy” series April 2018
- “ConBody’s Success Is Forcing the Fitness World to Confront Some Uncomfortable Truths,” *Well+Good* April 2018
- “Self-Help Gurus Like Tony Robbins Have Often Stood In the Way of Social Change,” *Washington Post* (with Christine Whelan) April 2018
- “Make Every Class Sex Ed,” *Huffington Post Opinion* March 2018
- “Shouldn’t You Be in California?” *BOOM California* January 2018
- “Helping Latino Kids Succeed in the Classroom Doesn’t Have to be an Ideological War,” *Washington Post* September 2017
- “Why Donald Trump’s Diet is Bad for America’s Health,” *Washington Post* June 2017
- “The Truth About the Republican Party’s Pussy-Grabbing and Pedestal Problems,” *Refinery29* October 2016
- “Politicizing and Practicing Motherhood: Why We Should Care What Phyllis Schlafly Served Her Kids for Breakfast,” *Process, Organization of American Historians Blog* October 2016
- “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

- “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
- “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
- “The Strange Gender Politics of Natural Living,” *Society for U.S. Intellectual History Blog* May 2013
- “Wellness: The Latest Frontier in the Culture Wars?” *I Love You but You’re Going to Hell Blog* December 2012
- “My Brief Teaching Career,” *New York Times* June 24, 2002

Selected Invited and Public Talks

- Keynote, Fitness Technology Summit, Las Vegas, October 2024.
- Congressional Briefing on Academic Freedom, convened by the American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., July 2024.
- Lecture, “Jews, Exercise, and the Making of Modern American Fitness Culture,” New Lehrhaus, San Francisco, CA, 2024.
- Keynote, “Reimagining ‘Empowerment’ as a Historical Construct,” Association Française des Études Américaines, Aix-en-Provence, May 2024.
- Keynote, “Fit Nation: The Gains and Pains of America’s Exercise Obsession,” YMCA of Greater New York Wellness Professionals Summit, New York, NY, April 2024.
- Keynote, Richardson Lecture in American Studies, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., March 2024.
- Moderator, “Archives to Earbuds: Telling Our Stories,” Leo Baeck Institute, New York, NY, October 2023.
- “Writing Beyond the Academy: Podcasting,” New York, NY, Center for Jewish History, June 2023.

- Keynote Address, Mentoring Day for I-Tri Girls Nonprofit, East Hampton, NY, April 22, 2023.
- “Publishing in Non-Academic Periodicals,” Scholar Strategy Network, Rutgers University, January 11, 2023.
- “Free Speech and the Schools” panel, American Historical Association/PEN America Foundation, Philadelphia, PA, January 7, 2023.
- “On Education, Culture Wars, and Repair,” Reconciliation in America National Symposium, John Hope Franklin Center for Reconciliation, Tulsa, OK, May 26, 2022.
- “Doing History For The Public,” Albert Lepage Center for History in the Public Interest, Villanova University, February 16, 2022.
- “It’s Not Working Out: Exercise, Inequality, and the Fit Nation,” Boston University Political History Seminar, October 20, 2021.
- “Get in Shape, Ladies: Home Exercise for Women, from Jane Fonda to Peloton,” Hadassah Lecture Series, January 13, 2021.
- “Understanding the Past to Help Us Stay Connected in the Present,” Gap Inc. Speaker Series, January 7, 2021.
- “1980s Fitness Industry and Culture,” Lectures in American History for C-SPAN American History TV, April 4, 2020.
- “Classroom Wars: Language, Sex, and the Making of Modern Political Culture,” guest lecture in Professor Mike Amezcuca’s *Global Culture Wars* course, New York University. New York, New York, December 4, 2019.
- “Education at the Crossroads: Understanding Max Rafferty and his Legacy for 21st Century Education,” Inaugural Maxwell Rafferty Keynote Lecture in Educational Leadership, Troy University. Troy, Alabama, November 18, 2019.
- “What Does ‘Diversity’ Mean in 21st-Century Education?” Contemporary Issues Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Whitewater, Wisconsin, October 28, 2019.
- “But Who Will Lead?” Redefining Leadership in Eras of Political and Social Upheaval,” Myles Martel Lecture in Leadership and Public Opinion, University of Connecticut. Storrs, Connecticut, September 18, 2019.
- Moderator, “Break a Sweat, Change Your Life,” LA84 Foundation Youth Sports Summit. Los Angeles, California, September 10, 2019.
- “History for the Public(s)” Wolfsonian Public Humanities Symposium, Florida International University. Miami, Florida, April 2019.

- “Women and Children First? #MeToo, #NeverAgain, and the New Faces of American Activism,” Lessons in History Distinguished Lecture, Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities. Cape May, New Jersey, October 7, 2018.
- “When Fitness Became Life: Exercise and American Selfhood in the Long 1980s,” New Perspectives on the Long 1980s in the United States, *Histoire et Dynamique des Espaces Anglophones*, Sorbonne Université, March 22, 2018.
- “Fake News and Real Life: How Studying the Past Helps Us Understand the Present and Shape the Future,” Keynote Address, Ramapo College History Honors Society Induction Ceremony, April 2017.
- “Gender and Fitness History,” Sports in American History, Cornell University, February 2017.
- “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

- Fit Nation?: How America Embraced Exercise As the Government Abandoned It (lecture)
- When History Met Podcasting: Representing History in the Digital Age with Pineapple Street Studios Senior Producer Eleanor Kagan, (originally a Civic Liberal Arts Mellon Grant, renewed twice since)
- History of U.S. Education
- American Youth Cultures, Past and Present
- Introduction to Educational Theory
- Pursuits of Happiness: American Journeys (Civic Liberal Arts Mellon Grant, with Verso Books Managing Editor Jake Stevens)
- Sources and Methods in Historical Research (graduate)
- Cultural Conflict in American Education
- HealthClass2.0 Practicum
- Body, Mind, and School: Wellness and American Education
- Senior Research Seminar in Education Studies
- Senior Research Seminar in History
- Kids, Classrooms, and Culture
- Sculpting the American Self: Fitness Culture in the Postwar U.S.
- Publishing Life: Critical Theory, History, and Practice (with Verso Books Managing Editor, Jake Stevens)
- First-Year Fellow Teaching and Learning Mentorship Seminar
- Transatlantic Feminisms: France and the United States (taught at Parsons Paris)
- Classroom Wars Across the Atlantic: France and the United States (taught at Parsons Paris)
- Online mini-course in the culture wars with Professor Milton Gaither of Messiah College (evangelical college)

University Service

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| • Chair, Eugene Lang College Curriculum Committee | Fall 2022-present |
| • Communications Committee, History Department | 2017-present |
| • Several tenure/promotions committees | 2018-present |
| • New School Alumni events | 2018-present |
| • New School Admissions events | 2016-present |
| • Director, Eugene Lang College First Year Program | 2016-2022 |
| • Member, Dean’s Search Committee, Eugene Lang College | 2021-22 |
| • Chairs and Directors Council | 2012-14, 2016-22 |
| • Undergraduate Advising Faculty Liaison | 2019-22 |
| • Senior Editor, <i>Public Seminar</i> | 2018-2020 |

- Visiting Faculty Member, Parsons Paris Spring 2018
- Honorary Degree Committee 2013-14, 17-18, 18-19 (chair)
- Dean’s Honor Symposium Review Committee 2015-16
- Lang Executive Committee 2015-17
- Lang Faculty Council 2015-17, 2018-19
- Faculty Director and Co-founder, HealthClass2.0 2012-2017
- Steering Committee, The New School Collaboratory 2014-15
- University-wide Education Working Group 2013-14
- Co-chair, Education Studies Department 2012-2014
- Lang Civic Engagement and Social Justice Committee 2012-14
- Judge, The New Challenge 2013-14

Professional Service

- Manuscript Reviewer, University of Chicago Press, Oxford 2015-present
 University Press, New York University Press, University of North
 Carolina University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press,
Journal of American History, H-Net, *History of Education Quarterly*,
Pacific Historical Review
- Co-chair, New York University History of Education Research and Writing Group 2016-2022
- Co-editor with Andrew McGregor, “At the Intersection of Sport and
 Intellectual History,” Special Issue of the *Journal of Sport History* 2022-2023
- Chair, North American Society for Sport History Colloquium on Sport/Intellectual History May 2021
- Program Chair, Society for U.S. Intellectual History Annual Meeting Fall 2019
- Treasurer, Society for U.S. Intellectual History 2015-16
- Member, NYU History of Education Writing Group 2005-2022
- Member, NYU U.S. Women’s and Gender History Writing Group 2015-present
- Treasurer, Society for U.S. Intellectual History 2015-17
- Submission Reviewer, History of Education Society 2011-17
- 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
- Member, Academic Freedom Alliance 2021-present
ongoing

- Selected classroom visits to universities including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Texas-El Paso, Fitchburg State University, New York University, The New School, Stanford University, University of Pennsylvania

Selected Media Recognition and Reviews

- Onscreen expert, multiple History Channel television shows 2018-present
- “Richard Simmons’ Radical Promise: Exercise is for Everybody, *New York Times* July 2024
- “A History Professor Takes On Hollywood,” *New York Times* Sunday Styles profile March 2023
- “Ron DeSantis and the Battle Over Black History,” *NPR’s 1A* February 2023
- “America’s Exercise Obsession,” *BBC World News Hour* February 2023
- Reviews of *Fit Nation*: *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post* 2022-2023
- “50 years of Title IX: The Backlash and Success of the Law,” *CNN Represented* June 2022
- Many positive reviews for podcast “Welcome to Your Fantasy,” 2021-present
including but not limited to: *New York Times*, *New Yorker*, *Financial Times*, *Guardian*, *Vogue*, *Rolling Stone*, *Vulture*, *GQ*, *Esquire*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Dagens Nyheter* (Sweden), *Perspectives*, *Times of London*, *The Daily Mail*, *Financial Times*
- Guest, “Democracy in Danger” podcast with University of Virginia professors Will Hitchcock and Siva Vaidhyanathan May 2022
- “SoulCycle Without the Bike: Here Comes Peoplehood, *New York Times* April 2022
- “What the Fitness Industry Doesn’t Understand,” *The Atlantic* April 2022
- “Is This the Most Expensive Pilates Class?” *The Atlantic* April 2022
- “Why Schools Are the Next Frontier in the Culture Wars,” *NPR’s 1A* November 2021
- “The Chippendales Murder,” 20/20 Season Premiere, ABC October 2021
- “Students Fight Back Against a Book Ban that has a Pennsylvania Community Divided,” *Don Lemon Tonight*, CNN September 2021
- “The School Culture Wars: You Have Brought Division to Us,” *New York Times* August 2021
- “Nancye Radmin, Pioneer of Plus-Size Fashion, is Dead at 82,” *New York Times* December 2020
- “How Running’s White Origins Led to the Danger of ‘Running While Black,’” *NPR’s Code Switch* July 2020
- “Running Isn’t Racist,” *National Review* May 2020
- “We Don’t Need Marianne Williamson’s Help,” *Teen Vogue* September 2019
- “Jazzercise Turns 50,” *All of It with Alison Stewart*, *WNYC* June 2019
- “An Audience of Athletes: The Rise and Fall of Feminist Sports,” *Longreads* May 2019
- “The Possibly Ominous Return of the Mini-Me,” *New York Times* April 2019
- “How Historians Got Nike to Pull an Ad Campaign – in Under Six Hours” April 2019

- “The Year’s Best History Threads,” *Slate* December 2018
- “The Dark Truths Behind Our Obsession with Self-Care,” *VICE* December 2018
- “The Story of Nike’s HIV-Positive Runner,” NPR’s *Only a Game* October 2018
- “These Gyms Do a Great Job of Hiding the Fact that They’re Gyms,” *GQ Australia*. September 2018
- “Team History,” contributor, *History Channel* 2018
- On fitness intellectual property, “Bike Maker Peloton Claims Flywheel Copied Its Technology,” *Wall Street Journal* September 2018
- “Physical Education and Health in Public Schools,” Lectures in American History, *C-SPAN* March 2018
- On fitness history, “The History of Women’s Obsession with Working Out,” *Harper’s Bazaar* February 2018
- On self-help cultures, “Whatever Happened to Just Being Type A?” *New York Times* October 2017
- On Richard Simmons’ significance, “An Ode to Richard Simmons,” *Women’s Health* June 2017
- On self care, “A History of Self Care,” *Slate* April 2017
- “Polarized by Election, Americans Seek Activities to Alleviate Tension,” *GLOBO News* January 2017
- “Will the NFL Go Back to Being its Brutal Old Self Under Trump?” *The Guardian* January 2017
- “Millennial Bloc and Trump Voter Turnout,” *Brian Lehrer TV* October 2016
- “50 Innovators Shaping the Future of Wellness,” *Sonima* July 2016
- 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 Libraries* September 2015
- “Yoga, Fitness, and American Wellness Culture,” interview by Dr. Christine Whelan, UW-Madison Human Ecology site June 2015
- 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 News* 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 is Using Emoji,” *The Atlantic* October 2014
- “Beyond Mom Profile: Natalia Petrzela,” *Beyond Mom* July 2014
- “A Life-Changing Workout and a Superfood Breakfast,” *Breakfast Criminals* 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 News* 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

Selected Activism

- Co-founder, HealthClass2.0 (www.healthclass.org) 2011-2016
- Board Member, I-tri Girls (www.itrigirls.org) 2018-2021
- “Exercise Your Power” wellness/politics community series, The New School 2017