

ANINDYA KUNDU, Ph.D.

FIU ZEB 362B • Miami, FL 33174 • akundu@fiu.edu • anindyakundu.com

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Florida International University (FIU) – Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership 2021 to Present
FIU College of Arts, Sciences and Education (CASE), Educational Policy Studies Department

The Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY) – Senior Fellow 2019 to 2021
CUNY Graduate Center, Center for Urban Research, LMIS

New York University – Postdoctoral Research Scholar 2018 to 2019
Department of Administration, Leadership, and Technology, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

EDUCATION

New York University – Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Sociology of Education 2018
Department of Applied Statistics, Social Science, and Humanities

- Dissertation: “Adding a Social Perspective to Grit: How Students with Disadvantages Navigate Obstacles and Gain Agency.”
- Committee: Dr. Pedro Noguera (Chair, UCLA), Dr. Lisa Stulberg (NYU), Dr. Angela Duckworth (U. Penn)
- School-Wide Awardee: Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award

The University of Chicago – Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) With Honors

- Law, Letters and Society; Minor in English and Creative Writing.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- Kundu, A. (July, 2020). *The Power of Student Agency: Looking Beyond Grit to Close the Opportunity Gap*. Teachers College Press. Finalist for the 2021 Association of American Publishers (AAP) Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE) Award. Foreword by Dr. Pedro Noguera.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- *R&R Acceptance*. Kundu, A; Perez, M.; Elliott, C. (2022). “The Unique Agency of Parenting-Strivers: An Anti-Deficit, Asset-Based Exploration of Black and Latinx Students with Children.” *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk*.
- *Accepted Book Chapter*. Kundu, A.; Kelly, J. (2022). “Striving Despite Disruption: Young People’s Occupational Identity and Economic Opportunity in New York City During COVID-19.” *Regional Economic Systems During COVID-19: Actionable Insights for Equitable and Resilient Recovery*. Edward Elgar, *New Horizons in Regional Sciences*.
- Kundu, A.; Elcott, D; Foldy, E; Winer, A. (2020). “Perseverance Despite the Perception of Threat: Marginalization in Higher Education: Students’ High Grit in Grad School and Implications for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.” *Journal for the Study of Postsecondary and Tertiary Education*. 5(2020). 124-144.
- Kundu, A. (2019). Understanding College “Burnout” from a Social Perspective: Reigniting the Agency of Low-Income Racial Minority Strivers. Springer Nature. *The Urban Review*. 51. 677-698.
- Book Chapter: Kundu, A. (2019). “Agency and Grit: Considerations for Low-Income Black Males to Achieve Greatness.” *Michigan State University Press*. 6th Edition.
- Kundu, A. (2017). “Grit and Agency: A Framework for Helping Students in Poverty to Achieve Greatness.” *National Youth-at-Risk Journal*. 2(2). 69-80.

- **Kundu, A.** (2016). "Growing Roses in Concrete: A Perspective on How Agency and Grit can Foster the Success of All Students." *The Journal of School & Society*. 3(2). 18-31.
- **Kundu, A.** (2014). BACKTALK: Grit, overemphasized; agency, overlooked. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 96(1), 80-80.

Practitioner and Professional Publications

- **Kundu, A.** (2020). "Making Distance Learning Vibrant: Student Agency is Key." *Education Week*. Ask a Psychologist Column.
- **Kundu, A.** (2019). "Personalized Learning, Student Agency, and the Stakes of Education." 2(3). Feature Article, June. *Bridges to Learning*. University of Pittsburgh, Institute for Learning.
- **Kundu, A.** (2018). "Fighting the Normalization of Failure," *Educational Leadership*. 75(6). 34-38.
- **Kundu, A.** (2016). "Review of Closing the Education Achievement Gaps for African American Males." *Teachers College Record*. 181-184.
- **Kundu, A.** (2014). "Regaining Collective Responsibility for Students to Succeed." *NY ASCD*.
- **Kundu, A., & Noguera, P.** (2014). Why America's infatuation with "grit" can't solve our educational dilemmas. *Virginia Policy Review*. 11. 49-53.
- **Kundu, A.** (2014). "Digital Programming: Outlets for Youth Expression." *Prevention Tactics*. 1-8.
- Contributing author: *Learning Labs, Findings from Cohort 1 & 2*. Internal document for MacArthur Foundation and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). January, 2013, 2014.

Working Papers

- **Kundu, A.** "Successful Young Families: Bi-Generational Agency among School-Aged Parents and Hopes for their Children." Presented at ASA Conference 2019.
- **Kundu, A; Ahn, J; Anderson, N.** "A School Ecosystem-Approach to Understanding Work-Based Learning Development and Student Experiences in the Bronx."
- **Kundu, A; Anderson, N.** "Flipping the Notion of 'Family Contribution': Accounting for the Affordances that Parents in Low-Income Households make to Youth Aspirations and Work Ethic."

Popular Press Publications

- Pedro Noguera and Anindya Kundu. "Why Students Need More than Grit." *MSNBC.com*.
- "Leading with Conviction: Empowering the Formerly Incarcerated to Strengthen Democracy, Inside-Out." *Huffington Post*. August 11, 2016.
- "The Case For Closing Rikers Island." *Huffington Post*. June 30, 2016.
- "What to Make of Steph Curry, the NBA's Unanimous and Gritty MVP." *Huffington Post*. May 11, 2016.
- "Why We're Not 'Beyond Race. And Why Black Lives Matter." *Huffington Post*. March 11, 2016.
- "Inspiration in Insomnia: Resolving to Turn Dreams into Reality." *Huffington Post*. December 31, 2015.
- "Policing Schools and Dividing the Nation." *Huffington Post, Politics Blog*. October 28, 2015
- "No Student should have to be 'White Enough' to Succeed." *Huffington Post*. September 23, 2015.
- "Feeding Kids and Expanding Opportunity." *Phi Delta Kappan Blog*. June 19, 2015.
- "American schools: Still separate, still unequal." *Phi Delta Kappan Blog*. May 2014.
- Kundu, A. and Noguera, P. "Executing Schools and Killing Opportunity." *Kappan Blog*. November 2013.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & PRESS

- Press, 2021: Interviewed by South Florida NPR Station, WLRN. “Closing gaps in education”: <https://www.wlrn.org/2022-01-05/closing-gaps-in-education-and-whats-to-come-during-the-legislative-session>
- Press, 2021: “His TED Talk was the 5th most viewed in 2020 – and now he teaches at FIU”. Article on FIU News. <https://news.fiu.edu/2021/he-views-public-education-as-the-greatest-investment-in-americas-future>
- 2020: Renewal of J.P Morgan Chase Philanthropy, Operational Grant: **\$250,000**. Helped secure for The CUNY Labor Market Information Service (LMIS) at the Graduate Center. Lead researcher and first author for renewed scope of work: “Understanding the Occupational Identity of Young Adults in a Changing Global Context through Student Voice.”
- 2020: New York City, Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Readiness Grant: **\$55,000**. Secured for CUNY LMIS. Funding for two research projects on Career and Technical Education (CTE) apprenticeship programs and college to career pathways of high school students.
- 2019: Institute for Career Development (ICD): **\$12,000**. Secured for CUNY LMIS. Small grant to assist on research project regarding Individuals with Disabilities (IWDs) and improving their access into the tech workforce.
- Member of the New York City Department of Education’s Citywide Advisory Counsel for Career and Technical Education (CTE). 2020-2021.
- 2017 & 2019: TED Resident. Highly selective residency program culminating in two, globally featured TED Talks, each with 1+ Million views.
- 2019: NYU University Research Challenge Fund Awardee: **\$10,000**. Funding received for large scale quantitative research on effects of graduate student identities of marginalization on grit and perseverance.
- 2019: NYU Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Research Funds: **\$2,000**.
- 2018: NYU “Faculty First Look” Scholar. National cohort of doctoral students.
- 2017: Interviewed by NPR about agency and non-cognitive traits: <http://n.pr/2vBKXlr>.
- 2017: Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award: **\$1,500** (2017); Doctoral Student Travel Fund: **\$1,000**; Adjunct Professional Development Fund: **\$1,000**.
- 2017: NYU Steinhardt. Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award.
- 2017: Cited in Angela Duckworth’s New York Times Bestseller, *GRIT*. 2nd edition, paperback.
- 2016: Adjunct Instructor Professional Development Fund: **\$1,000**.
- 2016: Selected participant for NYU’s 12th-Annual, Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest.
- 2016: Interviewed in JSTOR Daily: <http://daily.jstor.org/students-dont-just-need-grit-they-need-agency>.
- 2012-2014: McArthur Doctoral Student Fellowship: **\$26,000**.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017 Recipient of NYU Steinhardt School’s “Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award.”

- 2018: NYU. Undergraduate Course: *Education as a Social Institution*.
- 2014 – 2016: NYU. Undergraduate Course: *American Dilemmas: Race, Inequality, and the Unfulfilled Promise of Public Education*.
- 2016: NYU. Graduate Level Course: *Social and Cultural Reproduction: Research on Urban and Minority Youth*.
- Thesis advisor to NYU Gallatin School Master’s student.
- Teaching Artist at The Moth. Led high-school residencies for eventual Story-Slam Event Fall 2017-2018.

- 2015: Teaching Assistant for Professor Pedro Noguera, NYU. Graduate Level Course: *Social and Cultural Reproduction: Research on Urban and Minority Youth*.
- 2013: Teaching Assistant for Pedro Noguera, NYU. Undergraduate Course: *American Dilemmas: Race, Inequality, and the Unfulfilled Promise of Public Education*.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

- 2020: American Sociological Association (ASA), National Conference, Virtual Roundtable. Racial and Ethnic Dominance Session. Presented now published paper: "Perseverance Despite the Perception of Threat: Marginalization in Higher Education: Marginalized Students' High Grit in Grad School."
- 2019: American Sociological Association (ASA), National Conference, New York City. Family Session. "Successful Young Families: Bi-Generational Agency of Students and Hopes for their Children."
- 2019: American Sociological Association (ASA), National Conference, Sociology of Education Section. "College "Burnout" from a Social Perspective: Reigniting the Agency of Low-Income Racial Minority Strivers Towards Achievement."
- 2018: American Education Research Association (AERA), National Annual Meeting. *Division J*, Paper Presentation: "Correcting 'Burnout' Experienced by Low-Income Students of Color who Succeed."
- 2018: Sociology of Education Association (SEA), Annual Conference. Paper Presentation: "Decreasing the 'Burnout' Phenomenon in Low-Income College Students of Color."
- 2017: AERA, National Annual Meeting. Presented now-published paper, "Grit and Agency: A Framework for Helping Students in Poverty to Achieve Greatness." San Antonio, TX.
- 2015: University of Pennsylvania, Character Lab. "Examining the Agency of Disadvantaged Students: How Young Adults Navigate Obstacles." Philadelphia, PA.
- 2014: American Libraries Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference. "A Digital Frontier: America's Learning Labs and YouMedia Sites." Presented initial findings from first 18 months of on-site research and interviews. With Dr. Richard Arum. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2013: National Learning Labs Convening. "Lessons Learned from Cohort 1: Challenges and Advice." Presentation given to national audience of Learning Lab Grantees. Pittsburgh, PA.

INVITED TALKS

- 2021: University of Texas Permian Basin. Keynote Speaker. Employee Development Day. "Fostering Student Agency: What you can do to create a culture of competency and awareness."
- 2021: City of Learning. Invited Speaker. National Webinar. Presented now published research, "The Power of Student Agency: Opportunities to Close the Gap."
- 2021: Advancement Via Individual Determinism (AVID). Keynote Speaker. National Webinar. AVIDcon2020.
- 2020: TED Talk, "The Opportunity Gap in US Public Education – And How to Close It." 2.5M+ Views. TED Conference in New York, NY. Top 5 talk of 2020 after Bill Gates and Van Jones.
- 2020: Kappa Delta Pi (KDP). National Webinar. Presented now-published research, "The Pillars of Student Agency."
- 2020: Corwin Press. Invited Panelist. National Webinar. "Breakthrough Leadership: The First 100 Days of School Reentry."
- 2020: Aurora Institute. Invited Speaker. National Webinar. "The Power of Student Agency."

- 2020: UnlockEd. Keynote Speaker. National Webinar. Presented now-published research, “Establishing Expectations for Equity and Achievement for Males of Color in College.”
- 2020: LEAP Innovations. Keynote Speaker. Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. Presented now-published research, “Student Agency in Disruptive Times: Pillars for Equity in and out of the Classroom.”
- 2020: Texas Association of School Boards. Keynote Speaker. National Conference. “Student Voice: Prioritizing Agency as a Factor for Success.”
- 2020: NYC Department of Education and United Federation of Teachers (Union). Keynote Speaker. “Career and Technical Education Impact on Achievement” Conference.
- 2018: Annual Sinclair Community College Board Symposium. Keynote Speaker. “The Conditions for Student Success and Agency.” Dayton, OH.
- 2017: TED Talk, “The Boost Students Need to Overcome Obstacles.” Published on TED.com. September 2017. TED Conference in New York, NY. 3 Million Views.
- 2017: University of Pittsburgh, Institute for Learning. Keynote Speaker. *Designing for Difference Conference*. Presented now-published research, “Growing Roses in Concrete: How Agency and Grit can Foster Success for Students.” Pittsburgh, PA.

OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Referee for Journals:

- “The Effect of Grit on Career Adaptability of Chinese College Students Based on the Self-Regulatory Processes,” *Frontiers in Psychology*. December 2021
- “Being a Meaningful Presence in the World: Applying Successful Agentic Practices Among Youth in Distress.” *Youth & Society*.
- “The Sociology of Grit: Grit and its Potential Role in Stratification.” *Sociology Compass*.
- “Bringing Grit into a Sociological Discussion: A Cross-Cultural Examination of Status, Control, and Grit.” *Social Currents*.
- “Help-Seeking Behaviors as Cultural Capital: Cultural Guides in the Transition from High School to College among Low-Income, First-Gen Students.” *Social Problems*.

New York University, Institute of Human Development and Social Change

New York, NY

Doctoral Researcher for Dr. Richard Arum

October 2012 to June 2014

- Team Lead for National Learning Labs. Liaison between NYU team and the MacArthur Foundation.
- Evaluated 30 afterschool programs in libraries across U.S; conducted 80 interviews of educators.

New York City, Department of Education

New York, NY

Academics Consultant

January 2012 to July 2012

- Helped create citywide manual for Common Core implementation (networks, schools, families).
- Organized citywide Chancellor’s Principals Conference in June 2012 with approximately 1,500 attendees.

University of Chicago Crime Lab & Northwestern Institute for Policy Research

Chicago, IL

Research Associate for Professors Jens Ludwig and Jon Guryan

July 2010 to July 2011

- Oversaw admission of ~4,000 youth at Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC).
- Cleaned datasets for study involving cost-effectiveness of cognitive behavioral training implementation.