

## DIANA CASANOVA

118 Echo Avenue #10 Oakland, CA 94611 415.827.1709 diana\_casanova@berkeley.edu

### EDUCATION

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<b>University of California, Berkeley</b> Ph.D. Student, Graduate School of Education Policy, Politics, and Leadership Advisor: Bruce Fuller	<b>2019-Present</b>
<b>University of California, Berkeley</b> Master of Arts, Education Graduate Opportunity Program Fellowship	<b>2017-2019</b>
<b>California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo</b> Bachelor of Science, Journalism	<b>1999-2004</b>

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

I am interested in understanding how historically marginalized people are motivated and empowered, individually and collectively, to change institutions so that they better serve and address their needs. Specifically, with regard to California's school finance reform, where urban school districts receive more money, have more flexibility to spend the money, and community engagement is mandatory—the setting is ripe to observe and generate questions about the manner in which families and communities build power, as well as their role in affecting institutional change.

### RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Student Researcher** (2018-2020) TRU-Lesson Study: Supporting a Fundamental Shift in High School Mathematics Teaching

**Principal Investigators:** Dr. Alan Schoenfeld (UC, Berkeley), Dr. Catherine Lewis (Mills College), Dr. Suzanne Donovan (SERP Institute)

TRU-Lesson Study was a collaboration between UC Berkeley, Mills College, SERP Institute, and the Oakland Unified School District. This four-year project aimed to develop a department-level intervention for high school mathematics teachers to improve teachers' pedagogies and student learning outcomes.

- Conducted quantitative data analysis to address research questions on the relationship between implementation, classroom practices, and student learning.
- Data management included cleaning and building datasets in Stata.
- Data analysis included descriptive and inferential statistics (e.g., correlations, cross tabs, regression analysis, etc.).

**PLUS Fellow** (2018-2019) Center for Cities and Schools, University of California, Berkeley

The project examined the West Contra Costa Unified School District Local Control and Accountability Plan development and engagement process, focusing on the role that community-based organizations play in building capacity and supporting families to work in partnership with the district. Specifically, the qualitative case study focused on The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities initiative—Healthy Richmond—to investigate their influence in engaging stakeholders in the oversight and accountability of district-wide funding decisions.

### RESEARCH CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Casanova, D.** (forthcoming). *Family Engagement and Education Reform: Assimilation toward Empowerment?* Roundtable session at the 2021 American Educational Research Association Conference, Virtual.

Schoenfeld, A., Seashore, K., Dosalmas, A., Zarkh, A., Fink, H., **Casanova, D.**, & Davis, G. (2019). *Infusing Professional Development with Teaching for Robust Understanding: What can be done, what is added value.* Invited talk for the Jubilee Celebration Conference at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, Israel.

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

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**Casanova, D.** & Misra, M. (2020). *School-Parent Engagement During Lockdown: From Parent Involvement to Family-School Partnerships*. Panelist for eduExcellence webinar, Virtual.

**Casanova, D.** (2020). Guest speaker for a session on family engagement for an administrator credentialing course at the Reach Institute, Oakland, CA.

**Casanova, D.** (2019). *Transforming the Role of Family and Community Engagement in Richmond's LCAP*. Presenter at the PLUS Spring Round Table, The California Endowment, Oakland, CA.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Graduate Student Instructor                      EDUC 271B: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods                      **Spring 2021**

Instructor    LS 198: Transitioning to Cal University of California, Berkeley                      **Fall 2020**

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Civicorps Schools

*Development Manager*

**2017**

- Managed collaborative proposal and grant development for private, corporate, and public foundations, including grant research, budgeting, writing, and editing.
- Developed written communication and outreach materials to current and potential individual donors.

### Children Now

*Development Assistant*

**2015 – 2017**

- Served as a core member of a three-person development team responsible for raising \$9M annually.
- Helped grow a portfolio of 60+ grants and fee-for-service contracts. Major foundations included the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The California Endowment, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation, the Walton Family Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.
- Mapped organization's current scope of work to identify where new, or minimally funded, issue areas fit into strategic development plan. Researched and prepared funding landscape analysis for STEM education issue area; identified target foundations and corporate funders, and collaborated with policy staff to develop work plan for proposed projects.
- Optimized Salesforce database for tracking foundation and individual donor relationships. Regularly provided Executive Team and policy staff with updated reports to inform and target communication with current and prospective funders.
- Managed overall grants flow process that included tracking grant proposals, payments, and reports; processed grant agreements, payments, and fee-for-service contracts.

### Reel Link Films

*Outreach & Distribution Associate*

**2013 – 2015**

- Coordinated over 200 screenings of the educational documentary *Race to Nowhere*. Developed and executed outreach plans to promote multiple social action campaigns.
- Collaborated with students, school administrators, teacher unions, PTAs, universities, and non-profit organizations to bring the film to their communities. Attended local events to help facilitate post-screening discussion and action.

### Diana Casanova Photography

*Sole Proprietor*

**2006 – 2013**

- Built a business focused on Lifestyle Photography. Shot over 100 weddings & 250 portraits sessions. Long-term clients included California State Parks Foundation and Novato Public Access Television

## San Marin High School

*Long-term Substitute and Instructional Aide in Special Day Class*

2005 – 2006

- Instructed a 12<sup>th</sup> grade British Literature class. Developed daily lesson plans and assessed students' needs and academic progress.
- Provided support to lead teacher in special day class. Tutored students in their mainstream education classes.

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

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### Edna Brewer Middle School and Crocker Highlands Elementary School

*School Site Council Member*

2016 – Present

- Participate in developing, monitoring, and approving the school's strategic site plan.
- Collaborate with principal, teachers, classified staff, parents, and community members to develop school's priorities.

*Parent representative for the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) Parent Student Advisory Council (PSAC)*

- Help develop goals, actions, and measures of progress for all student subgroups in the state priority areas.

### Lafayette Elementary School

*Parent Volunteer*

2013 – 2014

- Helped in classroom during Reader's Workshop; worked with students on various table activities.

### Pied Piper Preschool: Parent Participation Preschool

2010 – 2013

*Board Member – Publicity & Outreach Chair*

- Helped develop site budget and redesigned school's website.
- Coordinated Pied Piper's participation in local events (e.g. preschool fairs to recruit new families).

*Parent Volunteer*

- As part of the co-op commitment, worked in classroom twice a month. Helped lead table activities and outdoor play.

## UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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**Editor:** Berkeley Review of Education ([https://escholarship.org/uc/ucbgse\\_bre](https://escholarship.org/uc/ucbgse_bre))

**Mentor:** Balboa High School, San Francisco Unified School District, with Y-PLAN project at UC, Berkeley Center for Cities and Schools

## SKILLS

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- Stata
- MAXQDA
- Python
- Salesforce.com
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Adobe Creative Suite

## REFERENCES

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### Dr. Bruce Fuller

Professor, Education and Public Policy  
UC, Berkeley Graduate School of Education  
[b\\_fuller@berkeley.edu](mailto:b_fuller@berkeley.edu)  
510-595-4320

### Angelica Jongco

Deputy Managing Attorney  
Public Advocates  
[ajongco@publicadvocates.org](mailto:ajongco@publicadvocates.org)  
415-431-7430 ext. 306

### Dr. Jean Wing

Executive Director (retired)  
Research, Assessment & Data  
Oakland Unified School District  
[jywing@gmail.com](mailto:jywing@gmail.com)  
510-459-6824