

May 6 – June 17, 2021



**HARVARD Kennedy School**

*Program on Education Policy  
and Governance*

### Conference Moderators

#### **Paul E. Peterson, Harvard University**

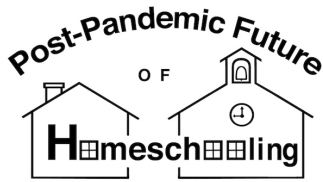


Paul Peterson is the Henry Lee Shattuck Professor of Government in the Department of Government at Harvard University. He directs the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard, is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and is senior editor of *Education Next*. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Education, he is the author or editor of over 30 books, four of which have been identified as the best work in their field by the American Political Science Association.

#### **Daniel Hamlin, University of Oklahoma**



Daniel Hamlin is an assistant professor in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Oklahoma. His research examines the effects of school governance on non-tested measures of school performance with an emphasis on school climate, parental involvement, and student safety. His work appears in a number of scholarly journals, including the *American Educational Research Journal*, *Educational Policy*, and *Urban Education*. Hamlin has written research reports for organizations, such as *People for Education* and *Education Next*, that have received extensive coverage in the media. He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.



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**May 6, 2021 – Is it time for a change to Homeschool law?**

**Elizabeth Bartholet, Harvard Law School – Panelist**



Elizabeth Bartholet is the Morris Wasserstein Public Interest Professor of Law and Faculty Director of the Child Advocacy Program, which she founded in 2004. She teaches civil rights and family law, specializing in child welfare, adoption, and reproductive technology. She is the author of many publications on child welfare, including two books, *Nobody's Children: Abuse and Neglect, Foster Drift, and the Adoption Alternative* (Beacon Press, 1999) and *Family Bonds: Adoption, Infertility, and the New World of Child Production* (Beacon Press, 1999). Bartholet earned a B.A.

degree from Radcliffe College and a J.D. degree from Harvard Law School.

**Michael Donnelly, Homeschool Legal Defense Association – Panelist**



Michael Donnelly is senior counsel at the Homeschool Legal Defense Association and, as Director of Global Outreach, coordinates HSLDA's support of homeschooling freedom around the world.

He is also an adjunct professor of government at Patrick Henry College, where he teaches constitutional law. Before joining HSLDA he worked in private legal practice and founded a nationally ranked internet marketing firm. He holds a J.D. with honors from the Boston University

School of Law as a Paul J. Liacos Scholar and an LLM with merit in Constitutional and Human Rights Law from the London School of Economics. He is a member of six federal and state bars.

**Eric Wearne, Kennesaw State University – Panelist**



Eric Wearne is associate professor of education statistics at Kennesaw State University. Previously he had served as the Provost of Holy Spirit College in Atlanta and an associate professor in the School of Education at Georgia Gwinnett College, where he taught courses in education foundations and assessment. Eric also served as the Deputy Director at the Governor's Office of Student Achievement under Georgia governor Sonny Perdue, where he helped coordinate data

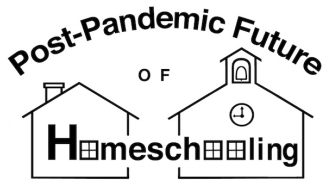
analysis and reporting on all the state's public schools and education agencies. Focusing on school choice and education policy, Eric's work has been published by the *Journal of School Choice*, the *Journal of the Society for Classical Learning*, the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and the Cato Institute.

**James Dwyer, College of William and Mary – Panelist**



James Dwyer is the Arthur B. Hanson Professor of Law at the College of William and Mary. He specializes in adoption law, children and the law, and 14th Amendment Constitutional law, among other fields. Previously James taught law at the Chicago-Kent and University of Wyoming law schools. He practiced with Sutherland, Asbill, and Brennan; and Coudert Brothers, both in Washington, D.C. He also worked in New York State Family Court as law guardian and assigned

counsel. James's books include *Oxford Handbook of Children and the Law* (Oxford University Press, 2020) and *Homeschooling: The History and Philosophy of a Controversial Practice* (University of Chicago Press, 2019).



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**May 13, 2021 – Growth and Diversity in Post-Pandemic Homeschooling**

**Sarah Grady, U.S. Department of Education – Panelist**



Sarah Grady is the study director for the National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES) at the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) in the U.S. Department of Education. She has worked on cross-sectional NCES surveys for 15 years. She holds a B.A. in sociology from University of Maryland, Baltimore County; an M.S. in sociology from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a graduate certificate in survey methodology from the Joint Program in Survey Methodology, University of Maryland.

**Brian Ray, National Home Education Research Institute – Panelist**

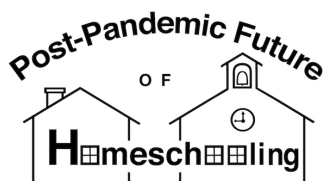


Brian Ray is the co-founder and president of the National Home Education Research Institute, a non-profit research organization launched in 1990. He has been a middle school and high school classroom teacher in public and private schools, and a professor at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He is a leading international expert on homeschooling and home education research. He executes and publishes research, speaks to the public, testifies before legislators, and serves as an expert witness in court settings. Brian holds a Ph.D. in science education from Oregon State University, an masters in zoology from Ohio University, and a bachelor's in biology from the University of Puget Sound.

**Cheryl Fields Smith, University of Georgia – Commentator**



Cheryl Fields-Smith is associate professor of education theory and practice at the Mary Frances Early College of Education at the University of Georgia. Previously Dr. Fields-Smith served as an elementary school teacher in Bridgeport, Stamford, and Norwalk, Connecticut. During her tenure as a teacher she taught in two magnet schools, both of which employed the Bank Street Model, which emphasizes child-centered, hands-on, experiential learning through thematic, social studies-based integrated instruction. Her research focuses on family engagement, homeschooling among black families, discipline disproportionality, and teacher education. Cheryl holds a Ph.D. in urban education from Emory University.



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**May 20, 2021 – Are Homeschoolers prepared for life?**

**Christian Wilkens, State University of New York, Brockport – Panelist**



Christian Wilkens is an associate professor of education and chair of the Department of Education and Human Development at State University of New York, Brockport. His research focuses on school choice and equity; recent work includes studies of correspondence schooling in Alaska and the preparation of homeschoolers for college calculus. Christian also serves as a State System of Support coach for the State of Alaska, working with school districts in the Interior region to improve student outcomes. Wilkens is an experienced public school teacher and an alumnus of the Harvard Graduate School of Education ('09), and lives in Pittsford, NY.

**Jennifer Jolly, University of Alabama – Panelist**



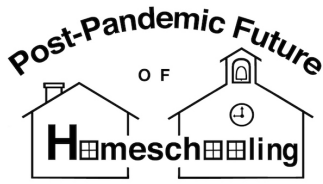
Jennifer Jolly is director of the Gifted Education and Talent Development Office at the University of Alabama and professor in the College of Education. Her experience with gifted education spans over 20 years, beginning as a classroom teacher in Texas. She has held faculty positions in gifted education at Louisiana State University and the University of New South Wales (Australia).

Currently, she co-edits the *Journal for Education of the Gifted*. Her research interests include parents of gifted children, homeschooling gifted and advanced learners, and the history of gifted education. Jennifer earned her Ph.D. from Baylor University.

**Robert Kunzman, Indiana University – Commentator**



Robert Kunzman is a professor of education and the Armstrong Chair for Teacher Education at the Indiana University School of Education. His scholarship examines the intersection of education, religion, and citizenship, particularly in the context of K-12 education in the United States. He has spent over a decade studying the phenomenon of homeschooling and is the author of *Write These Laws on Your Children: Inside the World of Conservative Christian Homeschooling* (Beacon 2009). Robert is also managing director for the International Center for Home Education Research, a nonpartisan organization which provides expert information and analysis on homeschooling research for journalists, policymakers, and scholars.



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**May 27, 2021 – Are Homeschoolers socially isolated?**

**Daniel Hamlin, University of Oklahoma – Panelist**



Daniel Hamlin is an assistant professor in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at the University of Oklahoma. His research examines the effects of school governance on non-tested measures of school performance with an emphasis on school climate, parental involvement, and student safety. His work appears in a number of scholarly journals, including the *American Educational Research Journal*, *Educational Policy*, and *Urban Education*. Hamlin has written research reports for organizations, such as *People for Education* and *Education Next*, that have received extensive coverage in the media. He earned his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

**David Sikkink, University of Notre Dame – Panelist**



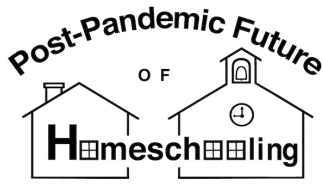
David Sikkink is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Notre Dame. He is a Fellow in the Center for the Study of Religion and Society as well as the Institute for Educational Initiatives. His main research interests are in education, religion, and politics. David's publications include articles on homeschooling, congregational switching, religious school families and political engagement, and pathways from schooling and religious participation of teenagers to educational outcomes. David has also investigated the relation between religious tradition and views of public schools, including an article in *Social Forces*, "The Social Sources of Alienation from Public Schools." He holds his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

**Michael McShane, EdChoice – Commentator**



Mike McShane is the editor of *New and Better Schools*, the author of *Education and Opportunity* and coeditor of *Educational Entrepreneurship Today*, *Teacher Quality 2.0* and *Common Core Meets Education Reform*. His analyses and commentary have been featured in education-specific outlets such as *Teachers College Commentary*, *Education Week*, *Phi Delta Kappan* and *Education Next*. A former high school teacher, he earned a Ph.D. in education policy from the University of Arkansas, an M.Ed. from the University of Notre Dame, and a B.A. in English from St. Louis University.





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**June 3, 2021 – Is child abuse greater at school or homeschool?**

**Charol Shakeshaft, Virginia Commonwealth University – Panelist**



Charol Shakeshaft is professor of educational leadership at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education. She has been studying equity in schools for more than three decades. She currently teaches graduate courses in research design, policy research methods, and gender and race equity. Shakeshaft is the author of three books and more than 200 referred articles and papers, many of which have received national and state awards. Her research focuses on three strands: gender and leadership, sexual abuse of students by adults employed in schools, and the effectiveness of technology for learning, particularly for students of color. She earned her Ph.D. in education leadership and social science methods and a masters in organization theory, both at Texas A&M University.

**Angela Dills – Western Carolina University – Panelist**

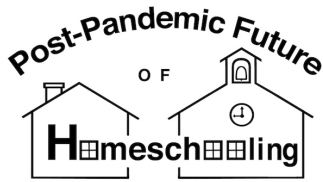


Angela Dills is the Gimelstob-Landry Distinguished Professor of Regional Economic Development at Western Carolina University. She previously held faculty positions at Clemson University, Mercer University, Wellesley College, and Providence College. Specializing in the economics of education, crime, and health, her research focuses on policy issues such as school choice, accountability, peer effects, college quality, and alcohol and drug prohibition. This research has appeared in journals such as the *Journal of Health Economics*, *Economic Inquiry*, the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, and the *Economics of Education Review*. Dills received a B.A. from the University of Virginia and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Boston University.

**Martin R. West, Harvard Graduate School of Education – Commentator**



Martin West is the William Henry Bloomberg Professor of Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, deputy director of the Program on Education Policy and Governance at Harvard, and Editor-in-chief of *Education Next*. West's research examines the politics of K-12 education policy in the United States and the impact of policy on student learning and non-cognitive development. His most recent book (co-edited with Joshua Dunn), *From Schoolhouse to Courthouse: The Judiciary's Role in American Education* (Brookings Institution Press), looks at the increase in judicial involvement in education policymaking over the past 50 years.



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**June 10, 2021 – Is homeschooling an international movement?**

**Ari Neuman, Western Galilee College – Panelist**



Ari Neuman is an associate professor in the Department of Education at the Western Galilee College in Israel, where he heads programs in Education System Management. He is interested in futurism in education, as well as in homeschooling as the ultimate form of parental involvement in their child's education and a response to the crisis in education. His research explores the process of choosing to home school, the reasons for this choice, the significance of the choice itself, and the ramifications for homeschooling families. Ari also explores the overall significance of the homeschooling phenomena and its role in better understanding education today and in the future.

**Oz Guterman, Western Galilee College – Panelist**



Oz Guterman is a senior lecturer and chair of the Department of Human Resource at Western Galilee College in Israel. His interests include nonverbal perception of emotion, factors of academic excellence among students, and homeschooling. He researches the implications of homeschooling for children and their families and the various ways that different families implement it. He has carried out several research projects that deal with the academic achievements of students, particularly the factors that promote academic achievement among members of minority groups.

**Philippe Bongrand, Paris University – Panelist**



Philippe Bongrand is an associate professor of education at CY Cergy Paris University. He earned his Ph.D. in political science from Université de Picardie, focusing on the French educational policy for socially disadvantaged areas. He is currently the leader of a National Research Agency (Agence Nationale de la Recherche) group about home education. The group's preliminary results have been published in a special issue of *Revue Française de Pédagogie*, the leading journal in French education research. Philippe is currently leading different individual and collective research projects about home education in France, focusing on the interaction between public policies and political socialization.

**Christine Brabant, University of Montreal – Panelist**

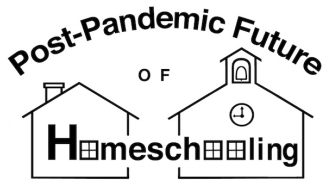


Christine Brabant completed a doctorate in education at the University of Sherbrooke and a postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for Philosophy of Law of the Catholic University of Louvain. Her thesis focused on the collective learning processes on which reflective governance is based. As part of her doctoral research, she carried out a one-year research-training with three groups of parent-teachers wishing to develop proposals for the governance of their homeschooling practice. Her research interests are the regulation of family learning, the reflective governance of education, the training and democratic learning of collective and institutional actors, and alternative educational movements.

**Albert Cheng, University of Arkansas – Commentator**



Albert Cheng is an assistant professor at the Department of Education Reform in the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas, where he teaches courses in education policy and educational philosophy. His research focuses on educational choice and faith-based schooling with particular attention to moral, civic, and character formation. He is a Senior Fellow at Cardus through which he recently coauthored a major study on Australian government, Catholic, and independent schools entitled "Australian Schools and the Common Good."



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## June 17, 2021 – Parents' experiences with homeschooling

### Michael Horn, Clayton Christensen Institute – Lead Panelist



Michael Horn speaks and writes about the future of education and works with a portfolio of education organizations to improve the life of every student. He is the co-founder of and a distinguished fellow at the Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation, a non-profit think tank, and he serves as a principal consultant for Entangled Solutions, which offers innovation services to higher education institutions. Horn is the author and coauthor of multiple books, white papers, and articles on education, including the award-winning book *Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns* and the Amazon-bestseller *Blended: Using Disruptive Innovation to Improve Schools*. He holds a BA in history from Yale University and an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

### Parent Panelists

**Valerie Bryant** is a homeschooling mother of nine children, all of whom she home educated for 30 years. Her impetus to homeschool was for her children to be lovers of life-learning and self-starters with an entrepreneurial spirit. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Valerie and her family endured numerous military relocations, giving her the incentive to have her children nurtured consistently in Christian principles at home.

**Caprice Corona** is a homeschooling mother of three children in New York City. She and her husband began homeschooling in 2014 in part due to professional singing careers that required a great deal of travel. Over time, they realized how much they as a family enjoyed the scheduling freedom of homeschooling, and they have crafted a curriculum with a strong emphasis in the arts.

**Karen Dematos** is a self-described “radical unschooling mom” of two sons, now 18 and 24. Her eldest son struggled in a brick-and-mortar school through 5th grade, and she decided to homeschool for a year. Traditional homeschooling proved challenging academically, but he thrived in all other areas of his life. Eventually Karen learned about unschooling, which she found to be a wonderful philosophy for supporting her sons' learning.

**Ann McClure** is an education professional whose career began as a classroom teacher at a Chicago charter school. After an eye-opening preschool experience with her oldest child, she chose home education in order to meet her family's unique needs. She now facilitates grades pre-K to 8th at home for her five children, who are considered twice exceptional as gifted students with learning differences.

**Douglas Pietersma** is a homeschooling father of two children: a high school junior and a middle school special education student. His children have been homeschooling for 12 years, but he assumed the role of primary instructor in 2015. Previously he served in the military as a Spanish linguist and intelligence analyst for Latin America. In addition to homeschooling, he is a small-business owner in Cheyenne, Wyoming.