

In this Issue

Since our last newsletter, we devoted much time to planning the 2023 Annual SSEC Conference at Western Washington University. We've also got a good head start on next year's international conference, as you will see. In this issue, we'll touch on our spring webinars, new publications, reflections on SSEC's core mission in today's education environment, and on members who have contributed so much to the legacy of SSEC. If we've failed to include your important news, our website's [News and Calendar](#) pages feature items throughout the year. Just send items to Charlie White at publications@ssec-inc.org. And, of course, plan to send news along with text and photos for the winter newsletter in January 2024.

Changes on the Board

With the new fiscal year, we transition to new board members and officers.



At the June annual conference in Bellingham, WA, the attending SSEC members accepted the board's nomination of **Jessica Ferreras-Stone** as our newest board member. Her three-year term will end on June 30, 2026. Jessica is an associate professor at the Woodring College of Education at Western Washington University. She was our

point person for the conference and has been an enthusiastic advocate for SSEC's mission.



Dean Vesperman, Assoc. Professor, University of Wisconsin – River Falls, rises to SSEC President.

Sara Demoigny becomes SSEC Past President and an ex office member of the Board. Sara is an Associate Professor of Elementary Education,

Department of Curriculum and Teaching at Auburn University.



At the July 17 Board meeting, **Amy Allen** (l), Assistant Professor at Virginia Tech Univ.) was elected SSEC Vice-President.

Kathryn Engebretson (r), past SSEC president and Associate Professor at Indiana University, started her new position as SSEC Treasurer.



2024 SSEC Annual Conference



SSEC's Conference Committee will work with Executive Director **Charles White** in planning the 2024 conference in the Kingdom of Morocco. Our primary local host will be the Moroccan Center for Civic Education, under the leadership of **Dr. Imad Elarbi** and assisted by Dr. Mohammed Elmeski, education advisor to Morocco's Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch.



Conference arrival is currently planned for **Tuesday, June 25, 2024, with departures on Sunday, June 30**. This is a week later than usual to provide a needed gap after the end of *Hajj* (June 15) and *Eid-al-Adha* (June 16). There is a small possibility that the date will need to slip another week to July 2 – 7, but we will know that in August.

To ensure sufficient time for planning, the Board will issue a Call for Session Proposals, accepted on a rolling basis until October 1, 2023. Visit our [website](#) beginning in August for updates on location, lodging, and logistics.

Board Forms a Department of Publications

After years of dedicated service as SSEC Book Series editors, **Amy and Greg Samuels** asked to pass the baton to others as of June, 2023. We owe both our deep gratitude for getting the series off to such a stellar start. A year-long search yielded two highly-competitive applications for review by a committee comprised of board and non-board members. The committee reached consensus on one proposal, and the Board concurred with their recommendation. SSEC's Publications Department will be led by a team of four who will share the various dimensions of the job, from the annual IAP book to new publication initiatives.

(continued on next page)

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Whitney Blankenship



Matt Missias

This collective directorship will include **Matthew Missias** (Grand Valley State University), **Anne Aydinian-Perry** (University of Wyoming), **Dean Vesperman** (University of Wisconsin-River Falls), and **Whitney Blankenship** (San Antonio College).

We are most grateful to **William Toledo** for submitting a very competitive proposal and for his commitment to contributing to SSEC's development. Thank you also to the review committee, including Linda Levstik (University of Kentucky, Emerita), Michael Solem (Texas State University), Chara Bowen (Georgia State University) and Kathryn Engebretson (Indiana University).

Prestige, Publications, Promotions, Positions, and Projects

PRESTIGE

James Banks (University of Washington)



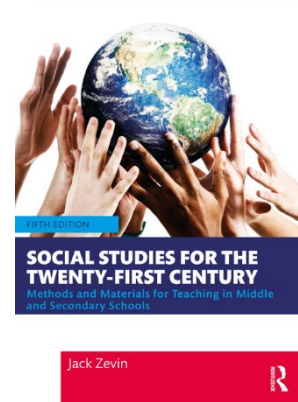
In April of this year, the American Educational Research Association (AERA) announced the winners of its 2023 awards for excellence in education research. **Prof. James Banks** received the [Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award](#). "The Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award is the premier acknowledgment of outstanding achievement and success

in education research. Its purpose is to publicize, motivate, encourage, and suggest models for education research at its best. The winner of the award will be invited to give the Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award Lecture at the following Annual Meeting" (2024).

PUBLICATIONS

Jack Zevin (Queens College/CUNY)

Routledge has published a 5th edition of **Jack Zevin's** [Social Studies for the Twenty-First Century: Methods and Materials for Teaching in Middle and Secondary Schools](#) (2023). "This popular text



offers practical, interesting, exciting ways to teach social studies and a multitude of instructional and professional resources for teachers. Theory, curriculum, methods, and assessment are woven into a comprehensive model for setting objectives; planning lessons, units, and courses; choosing classroom strategies; and constructing tests for some of the field's most popular and enduring programs. The reflective and integrative framework emphasizes building

imagination, insight, and critical thinking into everyday classrooms; encourages problem-solving attitudes and behavior; and provokes

analysis, reflection, and debate. . . . At the center is the author's belief that the heart and soul of social studies instruction, perhaps all teaching, lies in stimulating the production of ideas; looking at knowledge from others' viewpoints; and formulating for oneself a set of goals, values, and beliefs that can be explained in open discussion."

Wade Morris (United World College East Africa international high school in Moshi, Tanzania)

Former SSEC Early Career Scholar, **Wade Morris** has published [Report Cards: A Cultural History](#) (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023). "Morris traces the evolution of how teachers, students, parents, and administrators have historically responded to report cards. From a western New York classroom teacher in the 1830s and a Georgia student in the 1870s who was born enslaved, to a Colorado student incarcerated in the early 1900s and the son of Russian-Jewish immigrants applying to college in the 1930s, Report Cards describes how generations of people have struggled to maintain dignity within a system that reduces children to numbers on slips of paper."



Sara Demoigny (Auburn University)

The journal **Democracy & Education** has published SSEC Past President **Sara Demoigny's** article "[Moving toward critical political education with elementary preservice teachers](#): A response to 'The impact of polarization on the political engagement of Generation Z elementary preservice teachers and their teaching'" (2023, *31*(1), 1-5).



Michael Solem (Texas State University)

SSEC member **Michael Solem** joined his colleague, Phillip W. Vaughan, in a new open access publication from Taylor & Francis Online titled [Factors That Affect Student Outcomes in U.S. Geography Education](#) (2023). "The ideal of U.S. public education as 'a great equalizer' remains unrealized across large swaths of the country. Young people in schools are at varying levels of educational advantage and disadvantage owing to wide gaps in learning opportunities and disparate access to high-quality curriculum. Unequal educational achievement has also been linked to inequities affecting some students before they enter school due to socioeconomic circumstances, prejudice, and discriminatory social systems and structures. In this study, we begin to partition the various factors that account for inequality in student outcomes in the context of U.S. geography education."



PROMOTIONS

Sara Demoigny, promoted to associate professor with tenure at Auburn University.

Eric Claravall (r), promoted to associate professor with tenure at California State University at Sacramento.

Dean Vesperman, promoted to associate professor with tenure at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.



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POSITIONS



Beginning this autumn, SSEC member [Anne Aydinian-Perry](#) is joining the University of Wyoming's School of Teacher Education as an Assistant Professor of Secondary Social Studies Education. We extend our congratulations and best wishes.

[Jacob Bennett](#) is pleased to report that he accepted a position as faculty lecturer at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College. He teaches in the Department of Teaching and Learning. Before joining the faculty as a lecturer, Bennet served as associate director of Peabody's Initiative for Race Research and Justice (RRJ).



On April 12th of this year, [Melissa Stanley](#) (Penn State University) successfully defended her dissertation, titled "Navigating contention in a discordant society: How teachers manage contentious issues discussion in secondary social studies classrooms." Her Ph.D. will be awarded on August 12, and she has accepted a full-time position as Director of Secondary Social Studies Education at Central Michigan University.



PROJECTS

[Tedd Levy](#) (Old Saybrook, CT)

Tedd Levy, an early SSEC Teacher Associate and long-time SSEC member, is currently producing a film on historic preservation tentatively titled "Is There a Future for Our Past?" The film will premiere in October 2023 at a public forum at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, Old Saybrook, CT, featuring the chair of the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Executive Director of Preservation CT, and the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. The forum will be moderated by David Williams, host and owner of iCRV Radio. A former teacher and educational consultant, Tedd spends much of his time studying local history and has authored numerous articles on teaching history. He is author of the 2020 book, [Old Saybrook: A Main Street History](#) (History Press) and co-founder of Connecticut History Day and former member of the Old Saybrook (CT) Historical Society Board of Trustees. He is also past president of the National Council for the Social Studies (1998-1999).

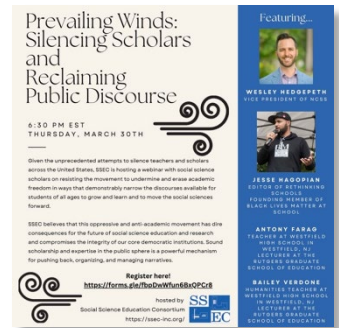


Board Activities

SPRING WEBINARS

SSEC offered two webinars this spring, one of which was in support of our partner [iCivics](#) and [Educating for American Democracy \(EAD\)](#).

The SSEC Outreach Committee organized the March webinar ***Prevailing Winds: Silencing Scholars and Reclaiming Public Discourse***. The panel discussed the challenges facing teachers and academics given the attack on academic freedom under the guise of anti-CRT legislation. The panel included Jesse Hagopian from Rethinking Schools, Wesley Hedgepeth the Vice-President of NCSS, and Antony Farag and Bailey Verdone of Rutgers University.



As part of [iCivics' Civic Learning Week](#) in March, executive director White led a discussion of civic engagement development with two millennials who reflected on their own civic growth — ***Civic Engagement: Personal Journeys***. Featured were Massachusetts State Representative Andy Vargas (Haverhill) and Erin Ryan, a middle school social studies teacher in Cohasset, MA. If you missed these webinars, you can find them on the [SSEC YouTube channel](#).



BOARD RETREAT

The Board spent two days prior to the annual conference on retreat, exploring whether and how SSEC's mission should be reshaped as we enter the 60th anniversary of its founding in 1963. During the spring, we examined documents and materials that illustrated what motivated SSEC's founding and how its leaders sought to carry out that mission over time. We also examined current scholarship in the field and changes in the education environment over the past decades. Our goal is to refine the trajectory of SSEC efforts that must adapt to today's political and intellectual environment. Among these are:



- Persistent public ignorance of history and the social sciences;
- Failure to provide adequate opportunities to apply social science knowledge to significant social issues;
- Continued underinvestment in social science/social studies education
- Rejection of reason and evidence as basic standards for truth
- The erosion of public discourse and deliberation;
- Insufficient gains in inclusion, equity, and diversity;

We will share the results of the retreat with the SSEC members as a basis for further conversations about SSEC's next 60 years.

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SSEC Publications

IAP EXPANDS SSEC BOOK SERIES

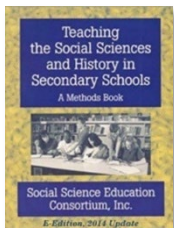
Moving Beyond a Single Story (in progress)

Thanks to the collaboration with terrific colleagues at Dublin City University, our 2022 Dublin Conference provided a rich foundation for the next volume in our series, with the working title ***Moving Beyond a Single Story***. The book will be co-edited by **Amy E. Allen** (Assistant Professor of Social Studies in the Elementary Education Program at Virginia Tech University) and **Anne Marie Kavanagh** (Assistant Professor in Ethical and Intercultural Education at the Dublin City University Institute of Education). They are aiming for a late summer/early fall 2023 publication date.



Teaching the Social Sciences and History in Secondary Schools: A Methods Book

Formerly published by the Social Science Education Consortium through Waveland Press (2000) and Wadsworth Thomson/ITP (1996), the new digital edition (2014) continues to be adopted for pre-service secondary social studies courses. Each chapter includes active web links to a wide variety of internet-based social studies teaching resources. The text can be purchased in PDF format for \$26.06 (including processing). Contact publications@ssec-inc.org for more information.



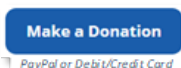
Information Age Publishing Partnership

Again this year, IAP provided support for the annual conference and our Early Career Scholars. Our publisher arranged for an online bookstore, which included discounts for conference participants. IAP provided a \$250 award for the outstanding Early Career Scholar paper presentation by **Daria Smirnova** (University of South Florida) and a selection of four books from the IAP catalog. **Seunghoon Han** (Penn State University) received a certificate in recognition of his Early Career paper. IAP continues to support SSEC by posting a public version of the biannual SSEC Newsletter, as well as Calls for Proposals and the SSEC Book Series imprint.



Donate to the Early Career Scholar Program

We are most grateful to those who have supported the Early Career Scholar program in the past, and we invite others to participate with a donation. Early Career Scholars often become long-term SSEC members and contribute to our ongoing mission. We are committed to continuing the Early Career Scholar initiative, but we depend on the generosity of members to help replenish our capital funds through



donations. **Just click on the “Make a Donation” button or scan the QR code.** Donors giving more than \$100 receive an official SSEC mug. A special shout out to **Murry & Elizabeth Nelson** and to an **anonymous donor** whose donations reached or exceeded the \$100 level. *SSEC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible to the limits set by federal law.*



From our iCivics Partner

iCivics has developed a series of on-demand professional development workshops to help teachers master new skills, explore new ideas, and build their teaching toolbox. Professional development is available through live online webinars on an ongoing basis. You can check out titles of existing workshops [HERE](#).

SSEC is an Education for American Democracy (EAD) “Champion,” one of a [growing number of organizations](#) that stand in agreement that K–12 education plays a pivotal role in ensuring the next generation is prepared to strengthen and sustain our constitutional democracy. These organizations support the EAD approach and the collective, cross-ideological expertise that has informed the resources put forth towards achieving this goal. There are numerous ways that SSEC can support the work of this coalition, including participation in its key affinity groups (*Research and Best Practice, Policy/Advocacy, Awareness*) and working groups (*Civic Learning Week, Educator Advocates for Civics*), which meet regularly to share resources, plan events, and develop resources. Other working groups under consideration are *Measures of Civic Learning, Artificial Intelligence and Civic Learning, and Student Declaration on Civics*. Would you be interested in representing SSEC in any of these groups, and making recommendations to the SSEC Board for tangible contributions to EAD’s mission? Let us know, and join us at the next EAD All-Member Zoom Meeting on September 13 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM Eastern. Also consider signing up for a [monthly affinity groups](#).



2023 Early Career Scholar Awardees



VP Dean Vesperman and Pres. Sara Demoiny bookend the two Early Career Scholar awardees at the 2023 SSEC Annual Conference.

Daria Smirnova (2nd from left) is a second-year doctoral student in the social science education PhD program at the University of South Florida. She entered the program after four years of teaching middle school in a Russia. Her paper, ***The Rohwer and GULAG Museums: Civic Education through Engaging with Difficult Pasts in the United***

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States and Russia, earned IAP's highest award of \$250 plus four IAP books of her choice.

Seunghoon Han (2nd from right) is a second-year doctoral student in the social studies education emphasis area in the Curriculum & Instruction doctoral program at the Pennsylvania State University. His paper was titled *Silent Voices Amid Tensions: Teaching about Japan in Korea*.

2023 Irving Morrissett Award

The SSEC Board is pleased to present the 2023 Irving Morrissett Award for Excellence in Social Science Education to Linda S. Levstik, professor emerita, University of Kentucky. In response to the award, Dr. Levstik wrote: "Although I am unable to be at SSEC, I do want to express my appreciation for the Irving Morrissett award. It is always a privilege to be honored by peers, but for that honor to be post-retirement is especially lovely. Thanks! I have enjoyed many years of travel, conversation and education with SSEC and wish you all at least as many years of equally interesting involvement in the SSEC community."



Annual Conference

Dismantling Spaces of Silence
June 21-25, 2023

Western Washington University welcomed 32 conference attendees, 5 guests, and 3 children to this year's SSEC annual conference. Over the course of 4 days, attendees chose from among 19 sessions (papers and workshops), including two excellent plenary sessions.



The Hotel Leo served as the conference hotel and hosted the opening reception on Wednesday evening, where attendees registered, picked up their conference totes and programs, and got to know each other a bit better. As in

the past, we devoted our first full day to an excursion, starting with a plenary session at the Swinomish Indian Reservation featuring **Michael Vendiola**, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Education Director. He set the stage for the exploring the silent spaces experienced by the area's Indigenous people. A ferry at Anacortes took us to Friday Harbor at San Juan Island, where we visited its key historical and natural sites, including the American Camp and Lime Kiln.



Concurrent sessions began Friday morning, lasting until the SSEC Annual Corporation meeting before lunch. We learned more about local Bellingham history and the larger regional history during our tour through

downtown Bellingham, followed by a visit to the *Whatcom Museum*, a Smithsonian affiliate, providing programs and exhibitions about art, nature, and Northwest history. That evening, the Board hosted a dinner for this year's Early Career Scholars, Daria Smirnova and Seunghoon Han at the Bellingham Cider Company.



Scott Durham



Abigail Stebbins



Saturday morning featured a richly resourced and moving panel presentation titled *Land Education Teacher Professional Development: Community Led Opportunities to Engage Indigenous Values, Knowledges, and Ways of Being in K-12 Classrooms*. Developing relationships of trust is key to successful programs in order to end the silence historically imposed on Indigenous culture. The State of Washington has made a great deal of progress in this area with the passage of Senate Bill 5028 (2018). It mandates the teaching of tribal sovereignty curriculum K-12 and integration of "Native American curriculum developed by the office of the superintendent of public instruction into existing Pacific Northwest history and government requirements." Sessions and workshops continued throughout the day, concluding at 5:30 PM, and attendees were free to make small-group dinner arrangement to conclude their conference experience. Sunday, the attendees left for home or extended their visit to the great Northwest.



Many thanks to the folks whose labors made the conference possible, including the conference committee (Amy Allen, Eric Claravall, Jessica Ferreras-Stone, Sara Demoigny), overall management and budgeting by Charlie White, the dean, faculty, and staff at Western Washington University, the local presenters who were generous with their time and knowledge, the staff of the Hotel Leo, Bellair Charters coaches, Washington State Ferries, among others.



Jessica Ferreras-Stone and Dean Kevin Roxas, Woodring College of Education

We will be putting together a conference retrospective under "Past Conferences" on the SSEC website, with lots of photos. We'll let you know when it's available.



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Retirement

James E. Davis SSEC Treasurer

In June, our colleague Jim Davis informed the Board of his wish to retire from his 50 year service as SSEC Treasurer. In 2000, the SSEC Board, led by President Charlie White, hired Jim to take over the position of Executive Director as well, which he relinquished 18 years later to the current executive. In 2018, Jim received the Irving Morrissett Award for Excellence in Social Science Education, with the designation “Emeritus Executive Director.”



We shared some of Jim’s reminiscences on the occasion of his retirement:

“I came to the SSEC in the summer of 1968 from a faculty position at Pacific Lutheran University. SSEC was incorporated in November of 1965 but did not have any major projects until the summer I arrived, just after Bill Stevens and Irving Morrissett moved SSEC from Indiana to Boulder to start its first major program, the Experienced Teacher Fellowship (XTF). I joined the staff along with a couple of other notable folks, Richard Van Scotter and Celeste Woodley. Woodley, Van Scotter, and I were essentially responsible for the XTF program. I was the resident economist. After several years, I put my full time into a curriculum development company that Sharryl (Hawke) Davis and I founded called Instructional Design Associates (IDEA).

“Neither Morrissett, Stevens, nor I had any experience seeking federal funding in the beginning, but found an internal advocate at the National Science Foundation, Jean Intermaggio. She advised us on preparing proposals that would be as responsive to NSF guidelines as possible. Before that time, NSF had never funded projects in the social sciences, but that changed with Jean’s support. NSF provided a fairly reliable stream of funds at a critical stage in the organization’s development.

“As SSEC’s funding expanded in the late 60s and beyond, it clearly needed to accommodate more staff and greater distribution space. Irving Morrissett, Nick Helburn, several staff members, and I bought bonds to finance the purchase of a foundering University of Colorado sorority house to be the Educational Resource Center, which would serve as SSEC’s headquarters in Boulder, CO. During those heady years, I was coaxed back to SSEC in 1973 to serve as its treasurer (little knowing that that service would continue for the next 50 years!)

“At a challenging time for the organization, I left a faculty position at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (they weren’t happy) when SSEC again called, asking me to take over as Executive Director in 2001. In the ensuing years, we had a number of funded projects, and I facilitated numerous domestic and international conferences. I oversaw the sale of SSEC’s building in Boulder, a downsizing effort brought on when available funding dried up. My position eventually became fully voluntary (that is, unpaid), and I worked with successive boards as both executive director and treasurer. I stepped down as ED in 2018 (but remained as treasurer), passing the ED baton to

Charlie White, just as a new generation of social science education scholars was entering the stage.

“SSEC has been a vehicle for revolutionary social science curriculum projects and a central part of my professional life. I look forward with great satisfaction and anticipation to the next chapter of the SSEC story.”

Best wishes, Jim

In Memoriam

Fred M. Newmann¹

1937 — 2023

Fred M. Newmann died on February 10, 2023 at the age of 86. Renowned educational researcher and theorist, Dr. Newmann, Emeritus Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, passed away peacefully in hospice care surrounded by his family. Born in Chicago January 5, 1937, to Maxine (Goldstine) Newmann and realtor Harold L. Newmann, Fred was raised in Highland Park, Illinois, on a steady diet of sports, music and high jinks with his dear brothers John and Bill. A jazz fan, Fred scored an early coup by bringing Louis Armstrong and his band to Highland Park High.



Fred graduated from Amherst College, received a Master of Arts in Teaching at Harvard University, and taught high school history and social studies in Massachusetts and California before earning a Doctorate in Education at Harvard, where he became a leader in the “New Social Studies” movement. With research colleagues Don Oliver and Jim Shaver, Fred created the highly influential Harvard Social Studies Project, which included the widely used “Public Issues Series” — case studies in U.S. history that challenged secondary students to develop reasoned conclusions on matters of public controversy.

During his 30 year career at UW-Madison, Fred’s research focused on creating school curriculum that fostered “higher order thinking” and school restructuring practices that enhance student achievement. He directed the National Center on Effective Secondary Schools as well as the National Center on School Restructuring, authoring dozens of research papers and articles, and a book. These efforts culminated in a formal program of “Authentic Intellectual Work.” School teacher-leaders continue to use the program in K-12 schools nationally.

In retirement, Fred’s great passion was volunteering for Habitat for Humanity of Dane County, where he worked tirelessly on its Deconstruction, Construction, and Restore projects. He served as an ambassador to recruit new volunteers and donors, winning a 2015 United Way Community Volunteer Award for these efforts.

Donations in Fred’s memory may be made to the Habitat for Humanity of Dane County, which has begun a campaign to raise funds in his honor.

¹ This text is excerpted from a longer draft obituary prepared by Fred’s colleagues and friends.