

Zoë Blumberg Corwin

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www.collegeologygames.com

EDUCATION

2008 Ph.D.

Sociology. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

Dissertation topic: The influence of social support networks on college-going for youth in foster care

2005 M.A.

Sociology. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

1999 M.A.

Spanish. Saint Louis University, Madrid, Spain.

1998 Single Subject Secondary Education Credential & BCLAD certificate.
Spanish, ESL. California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA

1993 B.A.

Sociology. University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Sociology of education, college access, social media, qualitative methodologies

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & HONORS

Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2006–2007

John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2006–2007

University of Southern California Dissertation Fellowship, 2006–2007

James Irvine Foundation Senior Fellow, University of Southern California, 2003–2004

Sociology Department Fellow, University of Southern California, 2000–2001 & 2007–2008

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

(2012-present) *Assistant Research Professor*, Pullias Center for Higher Education, University of Southern California.

- Co-principal investigator for \$1.5 million study funded by U.S. Department of Education on access and technology

- Co-principal investigator for \$1 million study funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on games, social media and access to college

Current portfolio includes:

- Design and conduct qualitative research in Los Angeles Unified School District
- Manage collaboration between Pullias Center, the USC School of Cinematic Arts Game Innovation Laboratory, and local high school students in order to design and evaluate a suite of games designed to boost college aspirations and provide support to students interested in pursuing college degrees
- Prepare academic and practitioner-oriented publications and presentations
- Steward projects through Institutional Review Board process
- Provide oversight for project Advisory Boards
- Cultivate relationships with key practitioners, funders and media
- Contribute to Pullias Center blog

(2008–2012) *Postdoctoral Research Scholar*, Pullias Center for Higher Education, University of Southern California.

- Co-principal investigator for \$1.5 million study funded by U.S. Department of Education on access and technology
- Co-principal investigator for \$1 million study funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on games, social media and access to college
- Senior researcher on \$120,000 study funded by the TG Foundation
- Senior researcher on \$900,000 study funded by the USC Office of the Provost
- Submitted grants to the US Department of Education, National Science Foundation, TG Public Benefits Program, Kresge Foundation, Wal-Mart National Giving Program, John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation

(2001–2007) *Research Assistant* to University Professor and Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education, William G. Tierney, Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, University of Southern California.

- Lead qualitative researcher on \$1million U.S. Department of Education grant assessing the effective parameters of college preparation programs
- Senior researcher on Lumina-sponsored grant examining financial aid practices for low SES students
- Skills acquired in research design, human subjects review, coordination of Advisory Boards, editing, collaborative research, designing/implementing summer bridge and mentoring programs for youth participating in research.

PUBLICATIONS

Edited books

Tierney, W. G., Corwin, Z. B., Ragusa, G., & Fullerton, T. (Eds.). (in press). *Postsecondary play: The role of games and social media in higher education*. Baltimore: MD: John Hopkins Press.

Tierney, W. G., Corwin, Z. B., & Colyar, J. E. (Eds.). (2004). *Preparing for college: Nine elements of effective outreach*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

Journals & academic publications

- Corwin, Z.B., Ragusa, G. & Tierney, W.G. (in press). *Use of games to facilitate transition to college*. In (H.F. O'Neil, E.L. Baker & R.S. Perez, eds.) *Using games and simulations for teaching and assessment: Key issues*. Routledge Press.
- Corwin, Z. B., Fullerton, T., Ragusa, G., & Tierney, W. G. (in press). *Why games and social media?* Baltimore: MD: John Hopkins Press.
- Corwin, Z. B. (in press). *The use of games and social media in higher education*. Baltimore: MD: John Hopkins Press.
- Corwin, Z. B. & Tierney, W.G. (2012). *Interdisciplinary Collaboration for College Access and Success in an Age of Technological Innovation*. Center for K-16 Education Policy and Research. Arlington, TX: University of Texas.
- Corwin, Z. B., & Clemens, R. F. (2012). Analysing fieldnotes: A practical guide. In S. Delamont (Ed.), *Handbook of qualitative research in education*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Corwin, Z. B. & Tierney, W. G. (2011). Institutional Review Boards and sociological research. *Ritzer and Ryan Concise Encyclopedia of Sociology for Wiley-Blackwell*.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2009). The paper trail of Lily Salazar. In W. G. Tierney & J. E. Colyar (Eds.), *Urban high school students and the challenges of access* (2nd. ed., pp. 113–139). New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2008). *College, connections and care: How mobility and social capital affect college preparation for youth in foster care*. (Doctoral dissertation). Available from ProQuest Dissertations and Theses database. (UMI No. 3311050.)
- Tierney, W. G., & Corwin, Z. B. (2007). The tensions between academic freedom and institutional review boards. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 13, 388–398.
- Corwin, Z. B., & Tierney, W. G. (2007). IRBs and qualitative research. *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2006). The paper trail of Lily Salazar. In W. G. Tierney & J. E. Colyar (Eds.), *High school students and the challenge of access: Many routes, difficult paths* (pp. 83–110). New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- Corwin, Z. B., Colyar, J. E., & Tierney, W. G. (2004). Engaging research and practice: Extracurricular and curricular influences on college access. In W.G. Tierney, Z. B. Corwin, & J. E. Colyar (Eds.), *Preparing for college: Nine elements of effective outreach*. Albany, NY: SUNY press.
- Corwin, Z. B., Venegas, K. M., Oliverez, P. M., & Colyar, J. E. (2004, July). School counsel: How appropriate guidance affects educational equity. *Urban Education*, 39, 442–457.

Heath, M., Lum, B., Nawyn, S., Yasuike, A., & Corwin, Z. B. (Eds.). (2001). *Transitioning identities: Gender, family and religion in U.S. Immigration symposium proceedings*. Los Angeles: Department of Sociology, University of Southern California.

Practitioner-oriented monographs

Tierney, W. G., Ragusa, G., Corwin, Z.B., & Fullerton, T. (2013). *Ready or not, here we play: The impact of Collegeology Games on college readiness, access and student success*. Los Angeles: Pullias Center for Higher Education.

Corwin, Z. B., Tierney, W. G., Swensen, E., Bouchard, S., Fullerton, T. & Ragusa, G. (2012) *Gaming the system: Fostering college knowledge through play*. Los Angeles: Pullias Center for Higher Education.

Corwin, Z. B. & Tierney, W. G. (2007). *Getting there and beyond: Building a culture of college-going in high schools*. Los Angeles: Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, University of Southern California.

Tierney, W. G., Venegas, K. M., Colyar, J. E., Corwin, Z. B., & Oliverez, P. M. (2004). *Creating helping environments for college-going: The CHEPA CHEC-List for counselors*. Los Angeles: Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, University of Southern California.

Tierney, W. G., Colyar, J. E., & Corwin, Z. B. (2003). *Preparing for college: Building expectations, changing realities*. Los Angeles: Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, University of Southern California.

Tierney, W. G., Colyar, J. E., & Corwin, Z. B. (2002). *Making a difference: The complexity of college preparation programs*. Los Angeles: Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, University of Southern California.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited presentations

Corwin, Z.B. (April, 2014). *Current approaches to broadening postsecondary education*. Invited presentation for the Division J Vice Presidential Session, at the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Corwin, Z.B. (2014, February). Digital innovation and college access. Presentation given to Senate and State Assembly members. Sacramento, CA.

Corwin, Z.B. (2014, February). *Using games for college access*. Presentation made to AVID practitioners. Whittier, CA.

Venegas, K., Corwin, Z.B., Calderone, S. & Perkins, J. (2013, November). *Collegeology Gaming Tournament*. Presidential session, presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO.

- Corwin, Z.B. (2013, September). *Games and social media innovations in college readiness, access and completion*. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation & College Summit College Knowledge Challenge launch, Costa Mesa, CA.
- Corwin, Z.B. (2013, September) *Game and Social Media Innovations in College Readiness, Access & Completion*. Players & Professors symposium for the Pullias Center for Higher Education, Los Angeles, CA.
- Corwin, Z.B. (2013, June). *Collegology games*. First Look LA, Los Angeles Venture Association, Los Angeles.
- Corwin, Z.B. (2013, May). *Assessment strategies*. Teaching with technology conference, University of Southern California, Los Angeles.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2013, April). *New media literacies and learning: The Role of Social Media in Reducing Poverty*. Presidential session, American Education Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z.B. (2013, April). *Exploring the Future of Digital Media & Learning*. Players & Professors symposium for AERA, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z.B. (2013, March). *The Collegology project: Games for college access*. Consortium for School Networking, San Diego, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2012, June). *Not just college going: Building a culture of college success*. Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Boise, ID.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2012, June). *Implementing Collegology Games: A Webinar*. Arizona College Access Network. Remotely from Los Angeles, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2010, July). *Overcoming college obstacles for foster youth: Barriers and solutions*. New Visions Foundation Center for Educational Justice, Los Angeles, CA
- Corwin, Z. B. (2010, June). *Making an impact through education*. Education Pioneers, Los Angeles, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2010, June). *Playing the way to college: A game-based college access intervention.* PDK International Leadership Summit 2010: Teaching, Leading and Learning in a Time of Change, Los Angeles, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2009). *Supporting transition-age youth*. California Wellness Foundation, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2006, November). *Financial aid and access: Student perspectives on what works*. Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, Los Angeles, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2005, September). *Best practices in college preparation*. National College Access Network, Las Vegas, NV.

Corwin, Z. B. (2005, August). *The next wave of college students: Challenges and strategies for the future*. Western Association of College and Admissions Counselors, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA.

Corwin, Z. B. (2005, July). *Foster care students and financial aid*. Emancipation Partnership Program, Los Angeles, CA.

Corwin, Z. B. (2005, January). *Qualitative research on financial aid processes*. Center on Educational Governance Forum on K-12 Education Research, Los Angeles, CA.

Corwin, Z. B. (2004, September). *Developing an effective guidance curriculum for Upward Bound*. Council for Opportunity in Education, San Antonio, TX.

Corwin, Z. B. (2003, September). *Developing a core curriculum for Upward Bound practitioners*. Council for Opportunity in Education, San Diego, CA.

Corwin, Z. B. (2002, September). *Improving access: Determining the effective parameters of academic outreach programs*. National College Access Network, Cleveland, Ohio.

Peer-reviewed presentations

Corwin, Z. B. & Eagen, K. (April, 2014). *Cultivating college knowledge through play: The Facebook game Mission: Admission*. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Corwin, Z.B. & Eagen, K. (April, 2014). *Measuring changes in college-going efficacy: A Case study of an innovative digital game intervention*. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Corwin, Z.B. & Evora, J. (April, 2014). *Preparing Middle School Students for College through an Innovative Online Game Intervention*. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Ragusa, G., Jain, P., Huang, S., Evora, J., Evora, J. & Corwin, Z.B. (April, 2014). *Spunky Avatars, Virtual Quests and Epic Battles Against Self Doubt: How a Middle School Video Game Promotes College-going*. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Corwin, Z. B & Perkins, J. (November, 2013). *Digital aspirations and real-life applications: Examining the effects of an online college access intervention*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, St. Louis, MO.

Perkins, J., Corwin, Z.B., Ragusa, G. (November, 2012). *Digital impact: Examining the effects of an online college access intervention*. Poster presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Meeting. Las Vegas, NV.

Corwin, Z.B. (October, 2012). *Best practices from a pre-college summer writing program: Preparing underrepresented students to successfully transition to the university and*

- engage in campus life*. Paper presented at the National Association of College Admissions Counsleors. Denver, CO.
- Corwin, Z.B. (October, 2012). *Engaging students in the college preparation process through games and technology*. Paper presented at the National Association of College Admissions Counsleors. Denver, CO.
- Corwin, Z. B., & Monterosa, V. (2012, April). *The role of emerging technologies on financial aid literacy: Theory and practice*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada.
- Corwin, Z. B., Tierney, W. G., Ragusa, G., & Fullerton, T. (2012, April). *The impact of game strategy on the development of college literacy*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Vancouver, Canada.
- Sablan, J. & Corwin, Z. B. (2012). *Digital snapshot of urban high school students*. Paper prepared for the Digital Media and Learning Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2012, March). *Building college aspirations, building games: A case study of a middle school game intervention*. Paper presented at the Digital Media and Learning Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2011, November). *Teaching qualitative methods: Examples from the field*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Charlotte, NC.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2011, November). *Digital snapshot of low-income students in Los Angeles: A case study*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Charlotte, NC.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2011, April). *Institutional agents and foster youth: Theory and practice*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orlean, LA.
- Corwin, Z. B., & Clemens, R. F. (2011, April). *Fieldnotes: From data collection to analysis*. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orlean, LA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2010, November). *Innovating to increase college access*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Indianapolis, IN.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2010, February). *The new digital landscape of higher education*. Paper presented at the Digital Media and Learning Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2009, November). *Collaboration and interdisciplinary research in higher education: Easier said than done*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Vancouver, Canada.

- Corwin, Z. B. (2009, October). *Increasing college access through video games*. Paper presented at the National College Access Network Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2009, April). *Ethnographic interviews as a critical tool in understanding the educational trajectories of students from foster care* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2009, April). *Visualizing the virtual: A graphic overview of a college access video game project* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2008, August). *An examination of "college capital" through the experiences of students from foster care*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2008, May). *Unmet need(s): How the context of financial aid affects students in foster care*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2007, October). *College access for homeless and foster care students: Challenges, trends and strategies*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National College Access Network, Los Angeles, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2007, April). *Foster youth and freshman year: Exploring the role of social support networks on college persistence*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2007, April). *Networks in flux: Social capital and the educational achievement of Latino, migrant, undocumented and foster care students*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2007). *"In the system(s)": How multiple institutional contexts influence educational opportunities for foster youth*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Sociology of Education Association, Monterrey, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2006, November). *Responding to the needs of college-bound Latino students: Lessons learned through the evolution of a college preparation program*. Paper presented at the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute Annual Education Conference, Long Beach, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2006, August). *Fostering college access: How social networks affect educational attainment for youth in foster care*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2005). *College access for foster care youth*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National College Access Network, Las Vegas, NV.

- Corwin, Z. B. (2005, August). *IRB's and qualitative research*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2005, April). *Foster youth and financial aid*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2005, April). *Foster youth and college access: From broad trends to personal experiences*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada
- Corwin, Z. B. (2004, September). *Creating meaningful researcher-practitioner partnerships in college access research*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Council for Opportunity in Education, San Antonio, TX.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2004), August). *Guides on the side: High school counselors and college access*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2004, August). *Sibling support: Bridging home and school contexts en route to college: The role of first generation siblings*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2004, April). *High school counseling in urban schools: What students, counselors and families say about college guidance*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2004, April). *Sibling support: Siblings as institutional and familial/cultural brokers in college access*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Diego, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2003, March). *Critical voices: Student perspectives on race, gender and college access*. Paper presented at the Thinking Gender Annual Conference, University of California, Los Angeles, CA.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2003, November). Pre-college cliques: Peers and peer influences in college preparation programs." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Study of Higher Education, Portland, OR.
- Corwin, Z. B. (2001, February). *High school counselors: Agents of social reproduction?* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Hawaii Sociological Association, Honolulu, HI.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Adjunct professor (Spring semesters, 2009–present). *Applied Educational Ethnography*. Masters-level course designed to provide an overview of qualitative research methods.

Graduate teaching assistant. (Spring 2004). *Advanced Qualitative Research* with Professor William G. Tierney. Course focused on the following methods: interviews, portraitures, focus groups, life histories, and cultural biographies.

High school Spanish teacher (1998–2000). Palisades Charter High School, Pacific Palisades, CA.

Spanish and global studies teacher (1993–1997). Santa Barbara Middle School, Santa Barbara, CA.

Invited lectures given at the USC Rossier School of Education, USC Sol Price School of Public Policy, USC School of Social Work, and Azusa Pacific University.

COMMITTEE WORK

Academic service

Chair of Executive Advisory Committee, Trojan Guardian Scholars program. Collaboration among Dornsife College, Pullias Center and USC School of Social Work to provide support for students from foster care at USC. (September – present).

Chair, Higher Education Concentration. Rossier School of Education, USC. (August 2013-present).

Chair, Pullias Center for Higher Education *Players & Professors: Game and Social Media Innovations in College Readiness, Access & Completion* symposium for scholars, funders and practitioners. (September, 2013).

Chair, American Education Research Association *Players & Professors: Exploring the Future of Digital Media & Learning* symposium for scholars, funders and practitioners. (April, 2013).

Participated in USC Office of Research symposium on Digital Media.

Served on thesis committees for USC Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs (PASA) students.

Have reviewed for Sociological Forum, Education and Urban Review, and American Education Research Association.

Participated on steering committees for National College Access Network regional conference (2012) & USC sociology department symposia, (2001 & 2002).

Selected community service

New Los Angeles Charter Middle School (2007–2013). Founding Board member.

I AM (Increasing Access Mentoring) Program (2005–present). Program co-director (2005–2006), volunteer mentor.

SummerTIME (Tools Information Motivation Education) (2002–2005, 2009). Program director (2002–2003) and volunteer for intensive college outreach program for local high school seniors.

Santa Barbara Middle School (2000–2003). Member of Board of Trustees.

University of California, Santa Barbara Hillel (1995–1997). Member of Community Board.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

American Sociological Association
American Educational Research Association
Association for the Study of Higher Education
Sociology of Education Association

LANGUAGES

Fluent in Spanish

REFERENCES

William G. Tierney
University Professor & Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education
Director, Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis
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