

CONTACT

e-mail AMANDA_KLONSKY@MAIL.HARVARD.EDU
phone 312-282-6188

EDUCATION

CANDIDATE, DOCTOR OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP (Ed.L.D.)

May 2018

*Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Dean's Fellow; Teaching Fellow for Richard Weissbourd (Moral Adults, Moral Children);
Research Support for Committee on Campus Climate and Sexual Violence*

M.A. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK

June 2011

University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration

BACHELORS OF ARTS

2007

MAJOR: DOCUMENTARY STUDIES: RACE AND NATIONALISM IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

University of Wisconsin, Madison

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MACARTHUR FOUNDATION
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

July 2016 - December 2017

Resident specializing in strategies to reduce the representation of young adults in American jails.

- *Developed future-oriented funding strategies to reduce the representation of young adults in jail in the 20+ jurisdictions that are members of the Safety and Justice Challenge Network.*
- *Led a convening of experts on young adults in the justice system, focused on emerging reforms.*
- *Supported the development of the MacArthur Justice Reform research portfolio, as well as community engagement strategies for the Safety and Justice Challenge*

NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CONSULTANT

Spring, 2015

*Reporting directly to Chancellor Carmen Fariña, conducted in-depth landscape analysis of services for homeless and precariously housed students in New York City Department of Education, and presented recommendations and tools to promote more equitable practices and management of resources across the nation's largest public school district.*CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CONSULTANT

Summer, 2015

*Led a series of design thinking workshops for faculty and secure staff inside of the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, focused on strengthening inter-agency collaboration around reentry planning. Developed a proposal for new approaches to reentry planning, drawing on the collective input of teachers, guards, case managers, and mental health staff. Supported the development of a cross-agency committee to continue this effort.*CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MANAGER, JUVENILE JUSTICE REENGAGEMENT PROJECT

December 2014-August 2015

*Managed a major reentry initiative, supporting school return for students emerging from the public schools within the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and Cook County Jail. Primary responsibilities included managing a team of social workers and case workers, as well as strategic planning, program development, evaluation and research, coordination of relationships with Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and Cook County Court.*CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STUDENT TRANSITION COORDINATOR, JUVENILE JUSTICE REENGAGEMENT PROJECT

January 2013- December 2014

*Coordinated school return and transition support for students emerging from the public schools within the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and Cook County Jail. Worked directly with students, their families, social service agencies, and schools, to create a pathway back to school for detained youth. Additional responsibilities included program development, evaluation and research, coordination of relationships with Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and Cook County Court.*CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST
EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP

2010

Visited highly regarded prison education projects in South Africa and in three U.S. regions to study new approaches to prisoner reentry and education.

CONTACT

phone 312-282-6188 e-mail AMANDA_KLONSKY@MAIL.HARVARD.EDU

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

**FREE WRITE JAIL ARTS AND LITERACY PROGRAM
COOK COUNTY JUVENILE TEMPORARY DETENTION CENTER - PROGRAM DIRECTOR**

September 2005-January 2013

Program Director and literacy teacher at Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School, located in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center. Responsibilities included curriculum development, grant writing, donor recruitment and administrative work, in addition to leading daily workshops in print media literacy, poetry and autobiographical writing for incarcerated girls. Collaborated on programs with such organizations as the Jane Addams Hull House Museum, Top of the Pyramid Policy Group at Northwestern University's Children and Family Justice Center, and the Health and Medicine Research Policy Group.

**INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
DOCUMENTARY WRITER**

March-August, 2004

Commissioned to write an oral history-based book, documenting the role of religious communities in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. Documented community-based healing and reconciliation workshops in various townships, including an international gathering of survivors of torture on Robben Island.

**JEWISH COUNCIL ON URBAN AFFAIRS, CHICAGO, IL
DIRECTOR, JEWISH AND MUSLIM COMMUNITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE**

August 2001-March 2004

Coordinated solidarity efforts between Jewish and Muslim communities in Chicago. Primary responsibilities included board member development, major donor recruitment and grant writing, and supervision of organizing staff. Developed and implemented campaign strategies for organizing around civil liberties, housing and criminal justice issues within the Jewish community in Chicago, serving as a public spokesperson on these issues. Staffed the campaign that passed the Chicago City Council Resolution against the USA PATRIOT Act, making Chicago the largest city in the country to adopt such a resolution.

**CHICAGO PUBLIC RADIO, CHICAGO, IL
ASSISTANT PRODUCER; LEARNING TO LIVE: JAMES' STORY**

June 2000-July 2001

Documented the story of one man's experience living free after being released from an Illinois prison. This half-hour documentary aired on All Things Considered and won the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Excellence in Journalism, Best Radio Documentary.

AWARDS

- Dean's Fellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Ed.LD. Summer Fellowship, 2016
- Fellow, TEDx Midwest, 2013
- Chicago Community Trust, Emerging Leaders Fellow, 2010-2011
- Fund for Teachers Fellowship, 2010
- 30 Under 30 Community Renewal Society, 2010
- Sigma Chi Delta Award for Excellence in Journalism - Best Radio Documentary, 2001 for "James' Story: Learning to Live"

CONTACT

PUBLICATIONS

TEACHERS COLLEGE PRESS

*Do We Still Need Teacher Unions?**Chapter in Hard Questions on Global Educational Change: Policies, Practices, and the Future of Education**Edited by Pasi Sahlberg, Jonathan Hasak, Vanessa Rodriguez*

2017

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

*Catching a Case: Creating Schools that Meet the Needs of Young People Returning from Prison**Chapter in Sparks: Igniting Change in Education for All Students*

2014

LECTURES, TALKS, AND READINGS (SELECTED)

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

America's Most Wanted: Unlocking the Prison Industrial Complex

November 12, 2015

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Learning Behind Bars: Education in America's Prisons

November 3, 2015

AMERICAN EDUCATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

Roundtable: Critical Reflections on Community Research in Times of Widening Inequalities

April 18, 2015

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

School-to-Prison Pipeline: A Conversation Between Educators and Legal Experts

January 29, 2015

HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

School-to-Prison Pipeline: A Conversation Between Educators and Legal Experts

January 29, 2015

CHICAGO PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY

*The Essential Other: Generativity, Resilience and Narrative**Panel on Schools, Emotional Resilience and LGBT teens*

September 21, 2013

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

Juvenile-in-Justice: Photographs by Richard Ross

September 26, 2012

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

*Rap Sessions: America's Most Wanted**Hip-Hop, the Media & the Prison Industrial Complex*

April 12, 2012

URBAN GATEWAYS, CHICAGO

Arts Education in Prisons

November 12, 2010

Statement from Amanda Klonsky, Under Consideration for the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center Advisory Board

June 27, 2018

Good Morning Commissioners,

Thank you for reading this statement on my behalf. I am sorry to miss the hearing today, but I am called out of town to give a talk about prison education for a consortium of prison educators. I am honored to be considered for the Advisory Board of the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center.

As a career educator in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center and Jail, I appreciate the tremendous responsibility that we each have in working for a more just and humane system of care and guidance for youth who have come into conflict with the law. I have worked for most of my career in the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center. Most recently, I served as Manager of Juvenile Justice Programs for Chicago Public Schools, leading a team of social workers, assisting youth making the transition back to public school after detention or incarceration. Prior to this role, I served as Program Director at Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy Program, leading arts and literacy education for young people at Nancy B. Jefferson School. During those years, I saw children whom I had taught when they were 10 years old turn 17 inside the Detention Center. I said goodbye to hundreds of young people who told me, excited, that they were being released in the morning— only to find them back in my classroom the following week. Too often, the entrance to the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center is a revolving door for our most vulnerable children and adolescents, who need much more support returning to their homes, communities, and schools, than they are currently getting.

At Chicago Public Schools, I led a district-wide initiative to support post-release youth in returning to schools. I helped launch a program providing reentry care for hundreds of Chicago youth, most of whom would not have re-enrolled in school without our help, and led a team of social workers and caseworkers in advocating for youth who have been out of school and need assistance getting back on track. Advocating for the school district to take responsibility for these young people, and to make space for them is my proudest accomplishment.

Many detained students are re-arrested within days of release, because they have violated probation. I heard countless students tell me that they did not return to school because they were afraid they would face violence there, or because school had been the site of their arrest in the first place. The challenges facing these students are complex; although we successfully transitioned hundreds of young people from detention and jail to back school, there are thousands more whose lives we did not touch, for lack of resources. There is much to be done, and I hope that I can play a role, as part of the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center's Advisory Board, in creating new and innovative solutions to this tremendous social problem.

I have now earned a Doctorate in Education Leadership at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where I focused on the educational and developmental needs of young people in jails. I hope to be able to put this knowledge of educational best practices and pedagogy in confined