

# ANINDYA KUNDU, Ph.D.

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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**City University of New York – Senior Fellow**

**July 2019 to Present**

*CUNY Graduate Center, Center for Urban Research*

**New York University – Postdoctoral Research Scholar**

**March 2018 to June 2019**

*Department of Administration, Leadership, and Technology*

## EDUCATION

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**New York University – Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) – Sociology of Education**

**May 2018**

*Department of Applied Statistics, Social Science, and Humanities*

- Dissertation: “Adding a Social Perspective to Grit: How Students with Disadvantages Navigate Obstacles and Gain Agency.”
- Committee: Dr. Pedro Noguera (Chair, UCLA), Dr. Lisa Stulberg (NYU), Dr. Angela Duckworth (U. Penn)
- NYU Awardee: Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award

**The University of Chicago – Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)**

- Law, Letters and Society; Minor in English and Creative Writing. *With Honors*

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Forthcoming Book – Spring 2020

- Kundu, A. (March, 2020). The Power of Student Agency: Looking Beyond Grit to Close the Opportunity Gap. *Teachers College Press*. Foreword by Dr. Pedro Noguera.

### Peer Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- *In review*: Kundu, A; Elcott, D; Foldy, E. (2020). “Grit Despite Marginalization in Higher Education: Master’s Students Perceptions of Threat and Implications for Promoting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion on Campuses.” Submitted December 2019.
- Kundu, A. (2019). Understanding College “Burnout” from a Social Perspective: Reigniting the Agency of Low-Income Racial Minority Strivers Towards Achievement. Springer Nature. *The Urban Review*, 1-22.
- Kundu, A. (2017). “Grit and Agency: A Framework for Helping Students in Poverty to Achieve Greatness.” *National Youth-at-Risk Journal*. 2(2). 69-80.
- Kundu, A. (2016). “Growing Roses in Concrete: A Perspective on How Agency and Grit can Foster the Success of All Students.” *The Journal of School & Society*. 3(2). 18-31.
- Kundu, A. (2019). “Agency and Grit: Considerations for Low-Income Black Males to Achieve Greatness.” *Michigan State University Press*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.

### Other Articles and Professional Publications

- Kundu, A. (2019). “Personalized Learning, Student Agency, and the Stakes of Education.” 2(3). Feature Article, June. *Bridges to Learning*. University of Pittsburgh, Institute for Learning.
- Kundu, A. (2018). “Fighting the Normalization of Failure,” *Educational Leadership*. 75(6). 34-38.
- Kundu, A. (2016). “Review of Closing the Education Achievement Gaps for African American Males.” *Teachers College Record*. 181-184.
- Kundu, A. (2014). BACKTALK: Grit, overemphasized; agency, overlooked. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 96(1), 80-80.
- Kundu, A. (2014). “Regaining Collective Responsibility for Students to Succeed.” *NY ASCD*.

- Kundu, A., & Noguera, P. (2014). Why America's infatuation with "grit" can't solve our educational dilemmas. *Virginia Policy Review*. 11. 49-53.
- Kundu, A. (2014). "Digital Programming: Outlets for Youth Expression." *Prevention Tactics*. 1-8.
- Peer Reviewer: "The Sociology of Grit: Grit and its Potential Role in Stratification." *Sociology Compass*.
- Peer Reviewer: "Bringing Grit into a Sociological Discussion: A Cross-Cultural Examination of Status, Control, and Grit." *Social Currents*.
- Peer Reviewer: "Help-Seeking Behaviors as Cultural Capital: Cultural Guides in the Transition from High School to College among Low-Income, First-Gen Students." *Social Problems*.
- Contributing author: *Learning Labs, Findings from Cohort 1 & 2*. Internal document for MacArthur Foundation and Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). January, 2013, 2014.

### Working Papers

- **Kundu, A.** "Successful Young Families: Bi-Generational Agency among School-Aged Parents and Hopes for their Children." Presented at ASA Conference 2019.
- **Kundu, A;** Ahn, J; Anderson; N. "A School Ecosystem-Approach to Understanding Work-Based Learning Development and Student Experiences in the Bronx."
- **Kundu, A;** Anderson, N. "Flipping the Notion of 'Family Contribution': Accounting for the Affordances that Parents in Low-Income Households make to Youth Aspirations and Work Ethic."

### Popular Press Publications

- Pedro Noguera and Anindya Kundu. "Why Students Need More than Grit." *MSNBC.com*.
- "Leading with Conviction: Empowering the Formerly Incarcerated to Strengthen Democracy, Inside-Out." *Huffington Post*. August 11, 2016.
- "The Case For Closing Rikers Island." *Huffington Post*. June 30, 2016.
- "What to Make of Steph Curry, the NBA's Unanimous and Gritty MVP." *Huffington Post*. May 11, 2016.
- "Why We're Not 'Beyond Race. And Why Black Lives Matter.'" *Huffington Post*. March 11, 2016.
- "Inspiration in Insomnia: Resolving to Turn Dreams into Reality." *Huffington Post*. December 31, 2015.
- "Policing Schools and Dividing the Nation." *Huffington Post, Politics Blog*. October 28, 2015
- "No Student should have to be 'White Enough' to Succeed." *Huffington Post*. September 23, 2015.
- "Feeding Kids and Expanding Opportunity." *Phi Delta Kappan Blog*. June 19, 2015.
- "American schools: Still separate, still unequal." *Phi Delta Kappan Blog*. May 2014.
- Kundu, A. and Noguera, P. "Executing Schools and Killing Opportunity." *Kappan Blog*. November 2013.

### GRANTS, AWARDS & PRESS

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- 2019 Spring TED Resident. Second official TED Talk will come out in Jan 2020 with more than 1M views expected.
- 2019 NYU University Research Challenge Fund Awardee: \$10,000. Funding received for large scale quantitative research on effects of graduate student identities of marginalization on grit and perseverance.
- NYU Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Research Funds: \$2,000. May 20, 2019.
- Renewal of J.P Morgan Chase Global Philanthropy Operational Grant. First author on renewed scope for 2019-2020 research project: "Understanding the Occupational Identity of Young Adults in a Changing Global Context through Student Voice." \$250,000. CUNY Graduate Center.

- New Hope Foundation, Private RFP. Consulted the Urban Youth Alliance and helped non-profit secure \$250,000/yr for two years. 2019.
- Interviewed by NPR about agency and non-cognitive traits: <http://n.pr/2vBKXlr>. Aug 14, 2017.
- TED Resident. Selected into highly selective Residency program. Spring, 2017.
- Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award: \$1,500 (2017); Doctoral Student Travel Fund: \$1,000 (2017); Adjunct Instructor Professional Development Fund: \$1,000 (2017, 2016); McArthur Doctoral Student Fellowship: \$26,000 (2014, 2013, 2012).
- NYU "Faculty First Look" Scholar. National cohort of doctoral students. 2017-2018.
- NYU Steinhardt: Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award. 2017.
- Cited scholar in coda of Angela Duckworth's New York Times Bestseller, *GRIT*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, paperback.
- Selected participant for NYU's 12<sup>th</sup>-Annual, Martin Luther King Oratorical Contest.
- Interviewed in JSTOR Daily: <http://daily.jstor.org/students-dont-just-need-grit-they-need-agency>. Jun 8, 16.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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2017 Recipient of NYU Steinhardt School's "Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award."

- Adjunct Professor, NYU. Undergraduate Course: *Education as a Social Institution*. Spring 2018.
- Adjunct Professor, NYU. Undergraduate Course: *American Dilemmas: Race, Inequality, and the Unfulfilled Promise of Public Education*. Fall 2014; Fall 2015; and Fall 2016.
- Adjunct Professor, NYU. Graduate Level Course: *Social and Cultural Reproduction: Research on Urban and Minority Youth*. Spring, 2016.
- Thesis advisor to NYU Gallatin School Master's student.
- Teaching Artist at The Moth. Led high-school residencies for eventual Story-Slam Event Fall 2017-2018.
- Teaching Assistant for Professor Pedro Noguera, NYU. Graduate Level Course: *Social and Cultural Reproduction: Research on Urban and Minority Youth*. Spring, 2015.
- Teaching Assistant for Pedro Noguera, NYU. Undergraduate Course: *American Dilemmas: Race, Inequality, and the Unfulfilled Promise of Public Education*. Fall, 2013.

## PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

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- TED Talk: "The Boost Students Need to Overcome Obstacles." Published on TED.com. September 2017. Over one million views. TED Conference: Jun 6, 2017. New York, NY.
- TED Talk: "Why Collective Responsibilities in Education Help Communities Get Stronger." Will be published on TED.com in January 2020. Expected to receive 1M+ Views. TED Conference: May 15, 2019.
- American Sociological Association (ASA), National Conference, Sociology of Education Section. August 2019. "College "Burnout" from a Social Perspective: Reigniting the Agency of Low-Income Racial Minority Strivers Towards Achievement."
- American Sociological Association (ASA), National Conference. Family Section. August 2019. "Successful Young Families: Bi-Generational Agency of Students and Hopes for their Children."
- American Education Research Association (AERA), National Annual Meeting. April 2018. *Division J*, Paper Presentation: "Correcting 'Burnout' Experienced by Low-Income Students of Color who Succeed."
- Sociology of Education Association (SEA), Annual Conference. February 2018. Paper Presentation: "Decreasing the 'Burnout' Phenomenon in Low-Income College Students of Color."

- Keynote Speaker. Annual Sinclair Board Symposium: “The Conditions for Student Success.” January, 2018.
- Keynote Speaker. Presented now-published research, “Growing Roses in Concrete: How Agency and Grit can Foster Success for Students.” University of Pittsburgh, Institute for Learning. *Designing for Difference Conference*. May 19, 2017. Pittsburgh, PA.
- AERA, National Annual Meeting. April 2017. Presented now-published paper, “Grit and Agency: A Framework for Helping Students in Poverty to Achieve Greatness.” San Antonio, TX.
- University of Pennsylvania, Character Lab. "Examining the Agency of Disadvantaged Students: How Young Adults Navigate Obstacles." Apr 16, 2015. Philadelphia, PA.
- American Libraries Association (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference. “A Digital Frontier: America’s Learning Labs and YouMedia Sites.” Presented initial findings from first 18 months of on-site research and interviews. With Dr. Richard Arum. Jan 25, 2014. Philadelphia, PA.
- National Learning Labs Convening. “Lessons Learned from Cohort 1: Challenges and Advice.” Presentation given to national audience of Learning Lab Grantees. Jul 25, 2013. Pittsburgh, PA.

## **RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**New York University, Institute of Human Development and Social Change** **New York, NY**  
**Doctoral Researcher for Dr. Richard Arum** **October 2012 to June 2014**

- Team Lead for National Learning Labs. Liaison between NYU team and the MacArthur Foundation.
- Evaluated 30 afterschool programs in libraries across U.S; conducted 80 interviews of educators.

**New York City, Department of Education** **New York, NY**  
**Academics Consultant** **January 2012 to July 2012**

- Helped create citywide manual for Common Core implementation (networks, schools, families).
- Organized citywide Chancellor’s Principals Conference in June 2012 with approximately 1,500 attendees.

**University of Chicago Crime Lab & Northwestern Institute for Policy Research** **Chicago, IL**  
**Research Associate for Professors Jens Ludwig and Jon Guryan** **July 2010 to July 2011**

- Oversaw admission of ~4,000 youth at Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC).
- Cleaned datasets for study involving cost-effectiveness of cognitive behavioral training implementation.