

Lucy C. Sorensen

CONTACT	<i>E-mail:</i> lsorensen@learningpolicyinstitute.org <i>Website:</i> lucy-sorensen.github.io	
EXPERTISE	K-12 education policy, teacher labor markets, social inequality, applied econometrics	
POSITIONS	Learning Policy Institute Principal Researcher	2025 - Present
	University at Albany, SUNY Associate Research Professor, Public Administration and Policy	2025 - Present
	Associate Professor, Public Administration and Policy	2022 - 2025
	Assistant Professor, Public Administration and Policy	2016 - 2022
EDUCATION	Duke University Ph.D., Public Policy Studies (NASPAA Dissertation Award)	2016
	Certificate in College Teaching	2016
	M.A., Economics	2014
	Yale University B.A., Economics and East Asian Studies (With Distinction)	2009
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	<i>Associate Editor</i> , Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis	2023 - Present
	<i>Editorial Board</i> , Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis	2022 - 2023
	<i>Editorial Board</i> , Education Finance and Policy	2023 - Present
	<i>Board of Directors</i> , Association of Education Finance and Policy	2023 - 2026
PUBLICATIONS	Journal Articles Ambali, Sodiq, Miyeun Jung, and Lucy C. Sorensen. (Forthcoming). Unequal Foundations: Racial Disparities in School Building Conditions in New York State. <i>Educational Researcher</i> . Sorensen, Lucy C., Andrea Headley, and Stephen B. Holt. (2025). On the Margin: Who Receives a Juvenile Referral in School and What Effect Does It Have?. <i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</i> 44(4): 1171-1193. Kim, Youngsung and Lucy C. Sorensen. (2024). Truth and Illusion: Can a Transparency Reform Contribute to Accountable Taxing Behavior? <i>Local Government Studies</i> 51(4): 673-702. Sorensen, Lucy C., Montserrat Avila Acosta, John Engberg, and Shawn Bushway. (2023). The Thin Blue Line in Schools: New Evidence on School-Based Policing Across the U.S. <i>Journal of Policy Analysis & Management</i> 42 (4): 941-970. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Media: NPR Morning Edition, Education Week, NYTimes, The 74, The Measure of Everyday Life, Capitol Pressroom, Washington Post, Houston Chronicle	

Sorensen, Lucy C., Shawn F. Bushway, and Elizabeth J. Gifford. 2022. Getting Tough? The Effects of Discretionary Principal Discipline on Student Outcomes. *Education Finance and Policy* 17(2): 255-284.

Eagan, Joshua, NaYoung Hwang, Cory Koedel, Helen Ladd, and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2022. Teacher Attrition and the Business Cycle. *Teachers College Record*. Research Brief.

Sorensen, Lucy C. and Stephen B. Holt. 2021. Sorting it Out: The Effects of Charter Expansion on Teacher and Student Composition at Traditional Public Schools. *Economics of Education Review* 82.

Sorensen, Lucy C., Youngsung Kim, and Moontae Hwang. 2021. The Distributional Effects of Property Tax Constraints on School Districts. *National Tax Journal* 74(3): 621-654.

Fox, Ashley, Jun Soo Lee, Lucy C. Sorensen, and Erika Martin. 2021. Sociodemographic Characteristics and Inequities Associated with Access to In-Person and Remote Elementary Schooling During the COVID-19 Pandemic in New York State. *JAMA Network Open* 4(7): e2117267. Research Brief.

- Media: MSN

Sorensen, Lucy C., Yinzhi Shen, and Shawn Bushway. 2021. Making Schools Safer and/or Escalating Disciplinary Response: A Study of Police Officers in North Carolina Schools. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 43(3): 495-519.

- Media: Chalkbeat, Times Union, NewsNation

Sorensen, Lucy C. and Moontae Hwang. 2021. The Importance of Place: Effects of Community Job Loss on College Enrollment and Attainment Across Rural and Metropolitan Regions. *AERA Open* 7(1): 1-18.

Kang, Michael Minsung, Soohyun Park, and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2021. Empowering the Frontline: Internal and External Organizational Antecedents of Teacher Empowerment. *Public Management Review*.

Sorensen, Lucy C. and Helen F. Ladd. 2020. The Hidden Costs of Teacher Turnover. *AERA Open* 6(1): 1-24.

- Media: Chalkbeat, CPRE Research Minutes, Fishing for Problems

Gigliotti, Philip and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2020. Illusory Effects of Performance Management: The Case of Contracts for Excellence in New York School Districts. *Public Management Review*.

Shen, Yinzhi, Shawn F. Bushway, Lucy C. Sorensen, and Herbert Smith. 2020. Locking Up my Generation: Cohort Differences in Prison Spells Over the Life Course. *Criminology* 58(4): 645-677.

- Media: The Crime Report

Sorensen, Lucy C. 2019. "Big Data" in Educational Administration: An Application for Predicting School Dropout Risk. *Educational Administration Quarterly* 55(3): 404-446.

Sorensen, Lucy C., Ashley M. Fox, Heyjie Jung, and Erika G. Martin. 2019. Lead Exposure and Academic Achievement: Evidence from Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Efforts. *Journal of Population Economics* 32(1): 179-218.

Kim, Youngsung and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2019. Caught in the Crunch: School District Financial Condition and Performance. *State and Local Government Review* 51(2): 104-112.

Gigliotti, Philip and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2018. Educational Resources and Student Achievement:

Evidence from the Save Harmless Provision in New York State. *Economics of Education Review* 66: 167-182.

- Media: Chalkbeat, Chalkbeat

Sorensen, Lucy C., Philip J. Cook, and Kenneth A. Dodge. 2017. From Parents to Peers: Trajectories in Sources of Academic Influence Grades 4 to 8. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* 39 (4): 697-711.

Ladd, Helen F. and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2017. Returns to Teacher Experience: Student Achievement and Motivation in Middle School. *Education Finance and Policy* 12 (2): 241-279.

- Media: Education Week, AEI Blog

Sorensen, Lucy C., Kenneth A. Dodge, and the Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group. 2016. How Does the Fast Track Intervention Prevent Adverse Outcomes in Young Adulthood? *Child Development* 87 (2): 429-445.

- Media: NPR, ScienceDaily

Under Review

Lucy C. Sorensen, Moontae Hwang, and Marzuka Ahmad Radia. (Revise & Resubmit). The Effects of School Building HVAC System Conditions on Student Academic and Behavioral Outcomes. EdWorkingPaper 24-1093. Annenberg Institute at Brown University.

- Media: K-12 Dive

Holt, Stephen B., Katie Vinopal, Heasun Choi, and Lucy C. Sorensen. (Revise & Resubmit). Strictly Speaking: Examining Teacher Use of Punishment and Student Outcomes. EdWorkingPaper 22-563.

Huntington-Klein, Nick, Claus C. Portner, . . ., Lucy C. Sorensen, et al. (Revise & Resubmit). The Sources of Researcher Variation in Economics. National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper No. 33729.

Lyon, Melissa, Ji Hyun Byeon, Lucy C. Sorensen, and Stephen Holt. (Revise & Resubmit). When do States Erode Protections? The Case of Contemporary Child Labor in the United States.

Sorensen, Lucy C., Melissa Lyon, Ji Hyun Byeon, and Stephen Holt. (Under Review). Contemporary Child Labor and Declining School Attendance in the U.S. EdWorkingPaper 25-1302.

Working Papers

Sorensen, Lucy C. 2016. Outside the Classroom: Evidence on Non-instructional Spending and Student Outcomes. AAFP Conference Paper.

Ladd, Helen F. and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2015. Do Masters Degrees Matter? Advanced Degrees, Career Paths, and the Effectiveness of Teachers. CALDER Working Paper 136.

LPI Publications

Leung-Gagne, Melanie, Lucy C. Sorensen, Tara Kini, Susan Patrick, Desiree Carver-Thomas, Tiffany S. Tan, Linda Darling-Hammond, Thomas M. Smith, and Yiwang Li. 2026. California's Teacher Shortages: Trends in Supply, Demand, and Turnover. Learning Policy Institute.

Leung-Gagne, Melanie, Desiree Carver-Thomas, Lucy C. Sorensen, Tara Kini, Susan Patrick, Tiffany S. Tan, and Linda Darling-Hammond. 2026. Trends in California's Teacher Workforce: Understanding Supply, Demand, and Shorgages. Stanford University, SCALE Initiative.

Other Publications

Lucy C. Sorensen, Stephen Holt, and Andrea Headley. 2024. Why school referrals to the juvenile

justice system are often unfair and harmful. Brookings Institute.

Avila-Acosta, Montserrat, and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2023. Contextualizing the Push for More School Resource Officer Funding. *The Learning Curve*. Urban Institute.

Sorensen, Lucy C. and Montserrat Avila-Acosta. 2023. Navigating the tradeoffs of police in schools. Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.

Sorensen, Lucy C. 2021. Do principals hold the key to fixing school discipline? Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.

Sorensen, Lucy C., Charmaine Willis*, Victor Asal, and Melissa Breger. (Accepted). Paddling the Pupils: The Legality (Or Not) of Corporal Punishment in Schools. In *Children's Rights in Crisis: Global and Multidisciplinary Perspectives*.

Martin, Erika G. and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2020. Protecting the health of vulnerable children and adolescents during COVID-19 related K-12 school closures in the U.S. *JAMA Health Forum* 1(6): e200724.

- Media: Healthline, NYTimes

Breger, Melissa L., Lucy C. Sorensen, Victor Asal, and Charmaine N. Willis. 2020. Corporal punishment, social norms and norm cascades: Examining cross-national laws and trends in homes across the globe. *William & Mary Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice*.

Ladd, Helen F. and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2019. Teacher turnover and the disruption of teacher staffing. Brookings Brown Center Chalkboard.

Sorensen, Lucy C., Ashley Fox, Heyjie Jung*, and Erika Martin. 2019. Lead remediation: A surprising policy solution for reducing the educational achievement gap. W.T. Grant Foundation Blog.

Sorensen, Lucy C., Charmaine Willis*, Victor Asal, and Melissa Breger. 2019. School spankings are banned just about everywhere around the world except in US. *The Conversation*.

Sorensen, Lucy C., Jamie Frank, Thomas Gais, and Hao Sun*. 2018. Virginia Is for Teachers? An Analysis of the State's Teacher Demand and Supply. Albany, NY: Rockefeller Institute of Government.

Ladd, Helen F. and Lucy C. Sorensen. 2017. New Evidence on Returns to Teacher Experience and Master's Degrees in the U.S. In *IEB Report on Teacher Quality and Student Achievement*. Barcelona, Spain: Barcelona Institute of Economics.

Hamoudi, Amar, Desiree W. Murray, Lucy C. Sorensen, and Anika Fontaine. 2015. Self-regulation and Toxic Stress: A Systematic Review of Ecological, Biological, and Developmental Studies. OPRE Report # 2015-30, Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Sorensen, Lucy C. 2016. How Can We Prevent Criminal Delinquency? Start Early and Focus on Soft Skills. *OBSSR Connector*. National Institutes of Health, Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research.

GRANTS

External

Principal Investigator (co-PIs: Melissa Lyon, Stephen Holt, Paul Morgan, Yufan Huang, Alexander Trikalinos), Teacher Staffing Challenges and Access to High-Quality Instruction for Disadvantaged Student Populations in New York State. Institute of Education Sciences. (\$999,861; 2025-2028,

Pending).

Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Samantha Viano), The Impacts of School Security Equipment on Students and Schools. National Institute of Justice. (\$1,706,788; 2025-2027).

Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Stephen Holt), Teacher Certification Requirement Impacts on Access to Quality Special Education Teachers. (Pending).

Principal Investigator (co-PI: Shawn Bushway), Making Schools Safer and/or Creating a Pipeline to Prison: A Study of North Carolina Schools. National Institute of Justice. (\$498,265; 2018-2021)

Principal Investigator, Foundation Aid Formulas and Educational Equity in New York State. Howard J. Samuels State and City Policy Center. (\$8,000; 2017-2018)

Research Scientist (PI: Thomas Gais), New York Consortium for Research on Education and the Workforce. Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Principal Investigator, Improving Education and Reducing Inequality in the United States. Russell Sage Foundation and William T. Grant Foundation, Award Number 83-17-05. (\$19,816; 2016-2017)

Internal

Principal Investigator, School Building Conditions and Racial Disparities in Student Health. Faculty Research Award Program Category A (FRAP-A). (\$9,944; 2023-2024).

Principal Investigator, Mapping the School to Prison Pipeline in North Carolina. Center for Social and Demographic Analysis (CSDA) Seed Grant Award from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, R24-HD044943. (\$5,000; 2017).

Principal Investigator. Faculty Research Award Program Category B (FRAP-B). Choosing Right: The Impact of Charter School Growth and Policies on Student Segregation. (\$3,942; 2019)

Co-PI (other co-PIs: Victor Asal, Melissa Breger), Why Certain Countries Outlaw Child Abuse and Child Corporal Punishment and Others Not. University at Albany/Albany Law School Academic Collaboration Funds. (\$8,000; 2017-2019)

Co-PI (other co-PI: Shawn Bushway), Mapping the School to Prison Pipeline in North Carolina. Rockefeller College Incentive Fund. (\$1,500; 2017)

Sanford School PhD Small Grants Award, Duke University (2015, 2014, 2013)

FELLOWSHIPS

Provost Fellowship, Faculty Retention and Diversity, University at Albany (2024-2025)

Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Award, University at Albany (2020)

Project TIER Faculty Development Workshop, Haverford College (2019)

Preparing Future Faculty Fellowship, Duke University (2015-2016)

Predocctoral Fellowship at the Center for Developmental Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill funded by NICHD T-32 Training Grant (2014-2015)

M. Anne Hill Fellowship for Dissertation Research, Duke University (2014)

Richard U. Light Fellowship for Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Language Study in East Asia, Yale

University (2007)

HONORS AND
AWARDS

Anonymous Reviewer of the Year Award, *Education Finance and Policy* (2022)

Best Abstract in Public and Population Health, AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting (2017)

Best Dissertation Award, Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (2016)

Bensinger Prize, Best Proposal for an Immediate Post-Graduate Project in the Social, Natural, or Physical sciences, Yale University (2009)

Williams Prize, Most Outstanding Paper on an East Asian Subject, Yale University (2009)

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

Association of Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Conference

- 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference

- 2024

Population Association of America (PAA) Conference

- 2017, 2019, 2020, 2023

Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference

- 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024

Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) International Conference

- 2018, 2020

Association of Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Annual Research Conference

- 2017, 2019, 2021

American Society of Public Administration Conference

- 2019

Public Management Research Conference (PMRC)

- 2019

Western Social Science Association (WSSA) Conference

- 2018

INVITED
PRESENTATIONS
AND WORKSHOPS

Seminar for IES Predoctoral Program, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA (2025)

Seminar Series, RAND Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA (2025)

Seminar Series, Department of Education Reform, University of Arkansas (2024)

Seminar Series, Annenberg Institute, Brown University (2024)

Seminar Series, Department of Public Administration and Policy, Syracuse University (2023)

Office of Civil Rights Discipline Network, U.S. Department of Education (2023)

EdPolicyWorks Speaker Series, University of Virginia (2022)

Member, Ji-Hyun Byeon, Marzuka Ahmad Radia, Kun Huang, Mayuko Nakatsuka, Heeun Kim, Jisang Kim, Minsung Michael Kang, Yinzhi Shen, Wenhui Feng, Sunyoung Pyo, Youngsung Kim, Hyewon Kang, Philip Gigliotti

Honors Theses and Academic Internships

Mirabel Sandler, Anjalee Modasra, Claire McCulley, Elizabeth Whelan

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Rockefeller Institute of Government, Albany, NY
Consultant, Foundation Aid Study **2024**

Faculty Fellow, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government **2016 - 2019**

Duke University, Durham, NC
Research Assistant, Center for Child and Family Policy **2012-2016**

U.S. Administration for Children and Families
Consultant, Report on Toxic Stress and Self-Regulation **2013-2015**

Abt Associates, Inc., Cambridge, MA
Associate Analyst **2011**

Economics Research Assistant **2009-2011**

Yale University, New Haven, CT
Research Assistant, Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy **2008-2009**

SERVICE

Professional Service

Associate Editor, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis **2023-Present**

Board of Directors, Association of Education Finance and Policy **2023-2026**

Editorial Board, Education Finance and Policy **2023-2026**

Faculty Advisor, Strategic Data Project, Harvard University **2023-24**

Chair, AEFP Membership & Outreach Committee **2024-2025**

Editorial Board, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis **2022-23**

Section Chair, AEFP Program Committee **2023-Present**

Member, AEFP Nominations and Awards Committee **2023-2024**

Member, AEFP Publications Committee **2023-2024**

Member, AEFP 50th Anniversary Committee **2023-Present**

Member, AEFP Membership & Outreach Committee **2023-2024**

Member, Education Program Committee, APPAM Conference **2023-24**

Reviewer, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Conference **2024**

Member, K-12 School Finance Program Committee, AEFP Conference **2021-22**

Nominated Participant, NASPAA Next. Building the Civic Square: Centering Racial Equity **2020**

Student Mentor, APPAM Conference **2020, 2023**

Conference Ambassador, APPAM Conference **2019**

Invited Scholar, NSF Network of Scholars and State Education Policy Leaders **2016**

Support Member, North Carolina K-3 Assessment Think Tank **2013**

Ad-Hoc Reviewer

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Educational Research Journal, American Journal of Education, American Journal of Preventive Medicine, American Sociological Review, AERA Open, Bulletin of Economic Research, Child and Youth Services Review, Criminology & Public Policy, Demography, Economics of Education Review, Educational Administration Quarterly, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Education Finance and Policy, Education Policy

Analysis Archives, Educational Policy, Educational Researcher, JAMA Pediatrics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis & Management, Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting, & Financial Management, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Journal for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Learning and Individual Differences, Learning Policy Institute, PLOS ONE, Public Administration Review, Public Budgeting & Finance, Public Finance and Management, Public Management Review, Race & Social Problems, RAND Corporation, Recent Advancements in Education Finance and Policy, Science Advances, Social Problems

Discussant and Chair Roles

Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM) Annual Conference
 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) Annual Research Conference
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Fall Research Conference
 Institutions and Societies Conference, University at Albany
 Public Management Research Conference (PMRC)
 Triangle Economics of Education Workshop (TEEW)

University Service (SUNY Albany)

Fellow, Provost Fellowship for Faculty Diversity and Retention **2024 - 2025**
Member, Education Policy and Leadership Faculty Search Committee **2024 - 2025**
Senator, University Senate **2017 - 2018**
Member, Governance Council of the University Senate **2017 - 2018**
Member, Committee on Assessment of Governance and Consultation **2017 - 2018**

Department Service (SUNY Albany)

Organizer, Rockefeller Brown Bag Seminar Series **2024 - 2025**
Member, Masters of Science in Public Policy Committee **2024 - 2025**
Member, Data Science and Public Service Certificate Committee **2022 - 2025**
Chair, Mentoring Committee for Melissa Lyon **2022 - 2025**
Member, Artificial Intelligence Faculty Search Committee **2022 - 2023**
Member, MPA Program Committee **2022 - 2023**
Chair, Public Policy Concentration **2021 - 2023**
Member, PhD Program Committee **2021 - 2023**
Member, Committee on RA/TA Assignment Strategy **2021 - 2025**
Member, Competitive Advantage Strategic Committee **2020 - 2025**
Member, NASPAA Assessment Planning Committee **2018 - 2023**
Co-Chair, Public Policy Faculty Search Committee **2021**
Representative, PAD Executive Committee **2020 - 2021**
Member, MPA Admissions Committee **2018 - 2020**
Member, Committee to Assess Department Concerns for Next Department Chair **2018 - 2019**
Chair, Methods Sequencing Committee **2017 - 2019**
Member, NASPAA Competency 2 Review Committee **2017**

Duke University

Organizer, Sanford Graduate Research Workshop **2015**
Organizer, Sanford School Education Reading Group **2014-2015**
Member, Committee for Evaluating Nominees for Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching **2014**

AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association (AEA)
 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
 American Educational Research Association (AERA)
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
 Population Association of America (PAA)

Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)