



Everyone has a story

ESPHE 6250 **History of Education** **Autumn 2023**

Wednesdays, 4:30-6:50

Synchronous/Online

Instructor: Antoinette Errante

The “story” of the rise of public schooling in the United States is really comprised of many stories. American schooling is a multifaceted and diversely authored chronicle about the lived experiences of various people crafting what we have come to know as public schools. Our understanding of that history is limited when it is portrayed as “the story of what happened,” where the actions of individuals and communities are obscured. We are more richly served by viewing the history of schooling as the story of what historical actors did; that is, the stories of how they shaped, responded to, and thought about schooling over time.

In this course, we will explore some of the lived experiences of schooling in the United States. We will center our exploration on first person narratives (or traces of them) and on scholarship based upon first person narratives. Everyone has a story. Not every story has had a listener... not until someone decides to pull up a chair. Come pull up a chair... and explore the rise of modern public schools from the perspective of various historical actors.

Some of the topics we will discuss include:

- What traces remain of Indigenous child rearing and education practices in the Americas, 15,000BCE to 1490AD?
- Enslaved African Americans’ understanding of what it meant to be human and its influence on their thoughts concerning education.
- Contemporary understanding of disability as an artifact of colonialism.
- How Native American mothers leveraged “the civilizing mission” in their relationships with the wives of missionaries in order to constrain its negative impact on their children.
- How Black women teachers taught “dangerous” topics regarding the history of slavery in the Jim Crow south.
- Indigenous and African American educational experiments and its impact on the rise of public schools.
- How Asian Americans negotiated changing notions of whiteness in schools in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- Mexican American parents’ efforts to gain access to “common schools” for their children.
- The experiences of gender non-conforming educators in the 19th and 20th century
- The origins of “Hillbilly” stereotypes versus local community efforts to expand educational opportunities in the 19th and 20th century.
- How WWII influenced the racial discourse in American schools and made previously “delinquent” and marginalized southern European immigrant students “White.”