

Training the Next Generation of Engaged Researchers: Design and Pedagogy in a Graduate Course on Research Practice Partnerships

Dr. Eleanor Anderson, Debralyn Woodberry
Shaw, Ashlyn Salvage

Selected Learning Goals

- Students will be able to...
- Situate research designs within multiple types and traditions of engaged research and research practice partnerships
 - Identify and strategize around core tensions of research practice partnerships including ensuring mutual benefit, negotiating member roles, and weathering change over time
 - Communicate in flexible and engaging ways about complex ideas
 - Recognize historical and cultural influences, and leaders and organizations shaping the contexts of teaching and learning in Pittsburgh and Western PA

Selected Course Components

Practicum – Students work with an existing engaged research project under the supervision of a faculty member

Sites have included:

Remake Learning *ARYSE*
Just Discipline Project *Gwen's Girls*

Pittsburgh Primers - Students produce short presentations on Pittsburgh history, context, and culture

Topics have included:

School Desegregation *Philanthropy*
Housing & Displacement *Queer Spaces*

Guest Speakers / Community Visits – Local and national practitioners, and researchers share their own experiences with engaged research

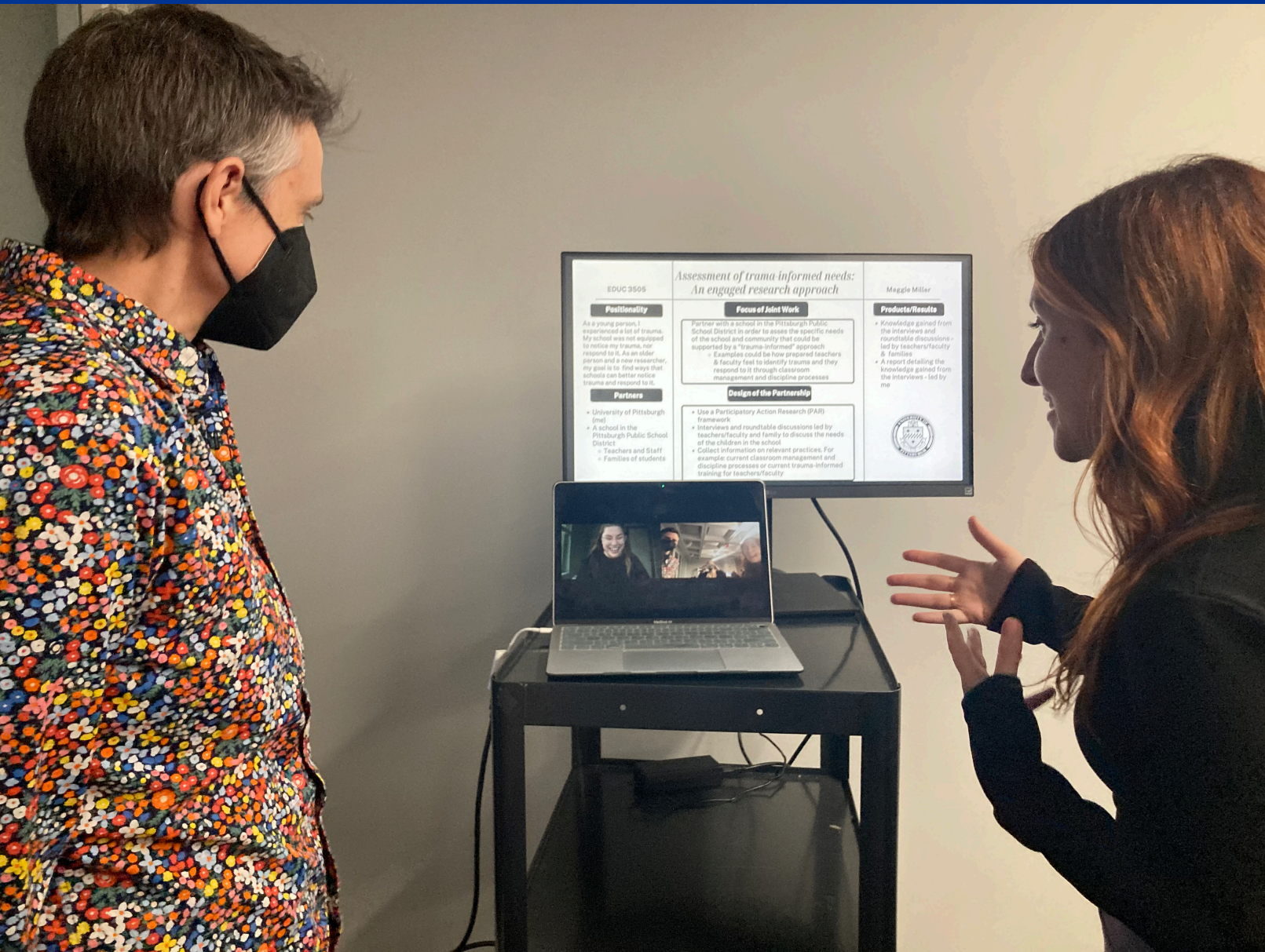
Speakers have included:

Walter Lewis, President & CEO, Homewood Children's Village
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh Learning & Research Team
Caitlin Farrell, Director of the National Center for Research in Policy and Practice

Culminating Poster Session & Celebration - Practicum site partners, guest speakers, faculty students, and other guests are invited to hear students present on current or potential future engaged research projects

Graduate research methods
course collaboratively designed,
taught, and supported by faculty
and students in the School of
Education.

Students develop practical skills
for initiating, participating in,
sustaining, and analyzing research-
practice partnerships.



A student presents virtually to guests at the 2022 culminating poster session.



Course syllabus and sample materials are available here

Timeline of Course Iterations

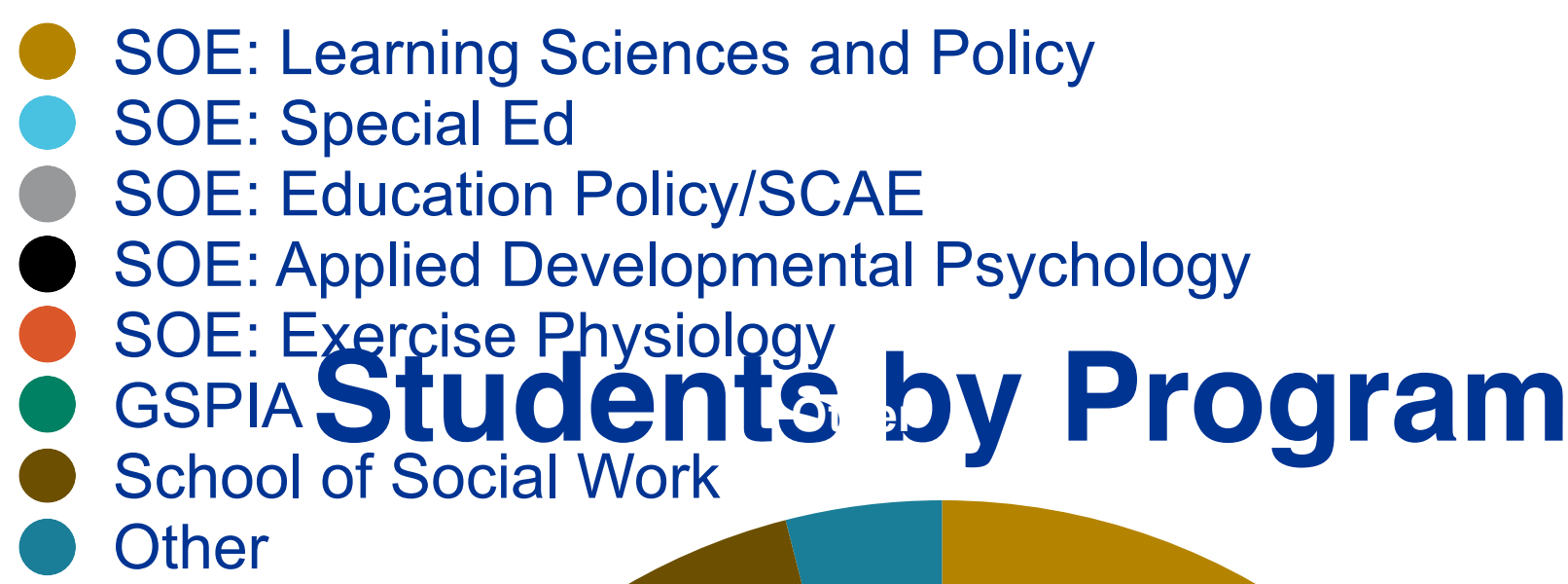
Spring & Summer 2021
Course co-designed by Dr. Eleanor Anderson & Debralyn Woodberry-Shaw

Fall 2022
EDUC 3505 co-taught by Dr. Eleanor Anderson & Debralyn Woodberry-Shaw (TA)

Spring 2022
1-credit working group for course alumni facilitated by Dr. Eleanor Anderson

Fall 2023
EDUC 3505 co-taught by Dr. Eleanor Anderson & Ashlyn Salvage (TA)

Fall 2024
EDUC 3505 open to enrollment by graduate students in any unit!



From Students:

“My experience at my practicum site allowed me to observe how the various aspects of RPPs such as how equity, decision-making and role-shifting were addressed within a real partnership. It gave me insight into the many advantages that a successful RPP can offer a community when stakeholders' wants and needs are centralized.”

“I believe that [the course] has already made changes in the way I view what I do. I now view my research as “is this what the community wants?” rather than “this is what I want”.”

From Practicum Supervisors:

“It was helpful to have [our practicum student] involved, as she used her time to analyze data and prepare presentations to inform the work of the BGEA Juvenile Justice Workgroup. It was great to have her!”

“They were able to weave in new literature and ideas through the course readings. [I] learned about the theoretical shifts of RPPs and ways to think about some of the tensions we were facing situated in the field.”



For questions, or information on how to enroll as a student, or serve as a practicum site, please contact Dr. Eleanor Anderson: eand@pitt.edu