

# CHRISTOPHER HARRISON

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Evidence-based decision-making in educational organizations and the institutional dynamics of research-practice partnership. The role of continuous improvement methods in understanding systemic improvement efforts. Scale-up of educational innovations both within and across organizational contexts. The politics of education – specifically, the political narratives surrounding teacher reforms including performance pay, tenure elimination, and performance-based evaluation.

## EDUCATION

*PhD, Education Policy, Leadership and School Improvement* May 2015  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Master of Science, Social Science Education* May 2009  
Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

*Bachelor of Arts, History* May 2003  
University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

*Assistant Professor* August 2022 – Current  
Florida Southern College  
Lakeland, FL

*Improvement and Community Engagement Associate* November 2021 – July 2022  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Chapel Hill, NC

*Researcher & Interim Director of Research and Program Evaluation* October 2019 – July 2021  
Madison Metropolitan School District  
Madison, WI

*Assistant Professor* August 2017 – May 2020  
Montana State University - Billings  
Billings, MT

*Postdoctoral Fellow* July 2015 – January 2019  
The National Center for Research in Policy and Practice  
Evanston, IL

*Research Associate* August 2010 – July 2015  
The National Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools  
Tallahassee, FL/Chapel Hill, NC

*Program Coordinator – Introduction to Education Program* July 2009 – August 2010  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL

*Early Field Experience Coordinator* September 2007 – May 2009  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL

*ICBM Combat Crew Commander* June 2003 – April 2007  
United States Air Force  
Great Falls, MT

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Co-Instructor (w/ Lora Cohen-Vogel) (Hybrid)* Spring 2022  
EDUC 790 – Change Leadership & Systems Improvement (Graduate)  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Instructor (Traditional & Online)* Spring 2018 – Spring 2020  
EDF 515 – Social and Philosophical Issues in Ed. (Graduate)  
Montana State University – Billings
- Instructor (Traditional & Online)* Fall 2017 – Spring 2020  
EDF 501 – Research Design and Interpretation (Graduate)  
Montana State University - Billings
- Instructor (Traditional & Online)* Fall 2017 – Spring 2020  
EDU 406 – Philosophical, Legal, and Ethical Issues (Undergraduate)  
Montana State University - Billings
- Co-Instructor (w/ Jim Spillane) (Traditional)* Spring 2016  
HDSP 451 – Educational Policy: Design, Implementation, and Effects (Graduate)  
Northwestern University
- Instructor (Traditional)* Spring 2014  
EDUC 560 – Politics, Policymaking, and America's Schools (Undergraduate)  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Teaching Assistant (Traditional)* Spring 2013  
EDUC 560 – Politics, Policymaking, and America's Schools (Undergraduate)  
Instructor: Eric Houck – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Teaching Assistant (Traditional)* Spring 2012  
EDUC 871 – Policy to Practice (Graduate)  
Instructor: Lora Cohen-Vogel – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Instructor (Traditional)* Fall 2009 – Summer 2010  
EDF 1005 – Introduction to Education (Undergraduate)  
Florida State University
- Teaching Assistant (Blended Format)* Spring 2009  
SSE 5943 – Early Field Experience in Social Studies Ed. (Graduate)  
Instructor: Helge Swanson – Florida State University

## GRANT ACTIVITY

**Christopher Harrison (PI)**, Lora Cohen-Vogel (Co-PI) Developing a framework for understanding capacity for organizational learning in public schools and districts (2022). William T. Grant Foundation. Pending (invited to full proposal – top 15% of applications). \$385,000.

Katie Eklund (PI), **Christopher Harrison (Co-PI)**, Beth Vaade (Co-PI). Boundary spanners in action: A case study of district-led efforts to support research use in schools. (2022). William T. Grant Foundation. **Unfunded** (invited to full proposal – top 15% of applications). \$775,000.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

- Farrell, C., **Harrison, C.**, & Coburn, C. (2019). "What the hell is this and who the hell are you?" Role and identity negotiation in research-practice partnerships. *AERA Open*.  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2332858419849595>
- Harrison, C.**, Wachen, J., Brown, S., & Cohen-Vogel, L. (2019). A view from within: Lessons learned from doing continuous improvement research. *Teachers College Record*, 121(9), 1-38.
- Cohen-Vogel, L., Allen, D., Rutledge, S., Cannata, M., **Harrison, C.**, & Smith, T. (2018). The dilemmas of research-practice partnerships: Implications for improvement research in education. *Journal of Research on Organization in Education*, 2, p. 1-24
- Harrison, C.**, Davidson, K., & Farrell, C. (2017). Building more productive relationships: District leaders' advice for researchers. *The International Journal of Education Policy and Leadership*, 12(4), 1-16.
- Wachen, J., **Harrison, C.**, & Cohen-Vogel, L. (2017). Data use as instructional reform: Exploring educators' reports of classroom practice. *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, 1-30.
- Harrison, C.** (2017). Advocacy groups and the discourse of teacher policy reform: An analysis of policy narratives. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 92(1), 42-52.
- Tichnor-Wagner, A., **Harrison, C.**, & Cohen-Vogel, L. (2016). Cultures of learning in effective high schools. *Educational Administration Quarterly*, 52(4), p. 602-642.
- Kainz, K., Cohen-Vogel, L., & **Harrison, C.** (April 2015). Continuous improvement as an ideal for improving teaching and teaching evaluation. *American School Board Journal*.
- Cohen-Vogel, L., Tichnor-Wagner, A., Allen, D., **Harrison, C.**, Kainz, K., Socol, A. R., & Wang, Q. (2015). Implementing educational innovations at scale: Transforming researchers into Continuous Improvement scientists. *Educational Policy*, 29(1), p. 257-277.
- Cohen-Vogel, L. & **Harrison, C.** (2013). Leading with data: Evidence from the National Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools. *Leadership and Policy in Schools*, 12(2), p. 122-145.
- Harrison, C.** & Cohen-Vogel, L. (2012). The politics of teacher reform in Florida: Analyzing causal narratives surrounding state adoption of performance-based evaluations, performance pay and tenure elimination. *Peabody Journal of Education*, 87(5), p. 517-534.
- Harrison, C.** (2012). Close up on capital punishment: Challenging students' ideas of justice. *Social Education*, 76(5), p. 249-250.

### Book Chapters

- Wong, L., Spillane, J., Huguet, A., **Harrison, C.**, & Coburn, C. (2022). School leaders' use of research: Viewing research use in decision making through an organizational lens. In the *International Encyclopedia of Education*. Eds. Tierney, Rizfi, F., & Ercikan, K. Elsevier.
- Cohen-Vogel, L., **Harrison, C.** & Cohen-Vogel, D. (2022). On teams: Exploring variation in the social organization of improvement research in education. In *The Foundational Handbook on Improvement Research in Education*. Eds. Peurach, D., Russel, J.L., Cohen-Vogel, L., & Penuel, W. London: Sage Publications.

Cohen-Vogel, L., **Harrison, C.**, Griffard, M. (2019). Organizing for continuous improvement in education. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Education*. Ed. Anne Hynds. New York: Oxford University Press.

Huguet, A., Wong, L., **Harrison, C.**, Coburn, C., & Spillane, J. (2018). Research use in schools: A framework for understanding research use in school-level decision making. In *The SAGE Handbook of School Organization*. London: Sage Publications.

### **Research Reports**

Dantzer Jr., D., Halverson, J., **Harrison, C.** (April 2021). Post-referendum input report. Madison, WI: Madison Metropolitan Schools. Retrieved from: [https://go.boarddocs.com/wi/mmsd/Board.nsf/files/BZVSZF7519AF/\\$file/Post%20referendum%20Facilities%20Input%20Report.docx.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/wi/mmsd/Board.nsf/files/BZVSZF7519AF/$file/Post%20referendum%20Facilities%20Input%20Report.docx.pdf)

**Harrison, C.**, Brown, G., Monahan, B., & Eversole, O. (September 2020). Virtual Learning feedback report. Madison, WI: Madison Metropolitan Schools. Retrieved from: [https://accountability.madison.k12.wi.us/files/accountability/uploads/vl\\_feedback\\_report\\_final\\_updated\\_1.pdf](https://accountability.madison.k12.wi.us/files/accountability/uploads/vl_feedback_report_final_updated_1.pdf)

Eversole, O., **Harrison, C.**, & Monahan, B. (January 2020). Facilities and operating revenue referenda community engagement & input report. Madison, WI: Madison Metropolitan Schools. Retrieved from: <https://www.madison.k12.wi.us/files/www/uploads/referendum/final-mmsd-referenda-input-report-owg-january-2020.pdf>

Cohen-Vogel, L., Edwards, T., **Harrison, C.**, Rutledge, S., & Tichnor-Wagner, A. (2015). Implementation and Early Outcomes in Innovation Schools: Report from Year Five of the National Center on Scaling up Effective Schools. Nashville, TN: National Center on Scaling up Effective Schools.

### **Dissertations/Theses**

**Harrison, C.** (2015). *The discourse of teacher policy reform: An analysis of policy narratives surrounding tenure elimination, performance pay and performance-based evaluation in three states* (Dissertation). Retrieved from Dissertation Abstracts.

### **Media Articles**

Jackson, C., **Harrison, C.**, Pullen, K.R., Lowenstein, C. (2021, May 25). What education researchers can learn from teachers. Retrieved from <https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-what-education-researchers-can-learn-from-teachers/2021/05>

**Harrison, C.** (2017, November 27). Working together: School leaders' advice to ed. researchers. Retrieved from [http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/urban\\_education\\_reform/2017/11/school\\_district\\_leaders\\_advice\\_to\\_ed\\_researchers.html](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/urban_education_reform/2017/11/school_district_leaders_advice_to_ed_researchers.html)

**Harrison, C.** (2016, October 18). Looking in the mirror: Reconsidering the researcher's role in improving research use. Retrieved from <http://ncrpp.org/blog/2016/looking-in-the-mirror-reconsidering-the-researchers-role-in-improving-research-use>

**Harrison, C.** (2016, October 04). Researcher, heal thyself: How to produce useful research for teachers and leaders. Retrieved from <https://edexcellence.net/articles/researcher-heal-thyself-how-to-produce-useful-research-for-teachers-and-leaders>

**Harrison, C.,** Cohen-Vogel, L., Fatout, B., & Traeger, D. (2016, January 11). Lessons from a research-practice partnership: Achieving depth and sustainability through authentic partnership. Retrieved from <http://ncrpp.org/blog/2016/lessons-from-a-research-practice-partnership-achieving-depth-and-sustainability-through-authentic-partnership>

**Harrison, C.,** Cohen-Vogel, L., Fatout, B., & Traeger, D. (2015, September 09). Lessons from a research-practice partnership: The importance of bulding from evidence of local success. Retrieved from <http://ncrpp.org/blog/2015/lessons-from-a-research-practice-partnership-the-importance-of-building-from-evidence-of-local-success>

## **WORKING PAPERS**

Cohen-Vogel, L., **Harrison, C.,** Socol, A., Xing, Q., Edwards, T., & Carson, C. Warrants for change: An agenda for improving education research.

## **REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

**Harrison, C.,** Wong, L., & Spillane, J. (November, 2018) Prosthetic organizational routines: School districts' use of online platforms to facilitate joint work. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the University Council for Educational Administration. Houston, TX

Farrell, C., **Harrison, C.,** & Coburn, C. (April, 2018). What the hell is this, who the hell Are you?" Role Negotiation in research-practice partnerships. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. New York, NY.

**Harrison, C.,** Davidson, K., & Farrell, C. (April, 2017). Building more productive relationships: District leaders' advice for researchers. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Antonio, TX.

**Harrison, C.,** Wachen, J., Brown, S., & Cohen-Vogel, L. (April, 2016). A view from within: Lessons learned from doing continuous improvement research. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Washington, D.C.

**Harrison, C.** (April, 2016). Advocacy groups and the discourse of teacher policy reform. An analysis of policy narratives. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Washington, D.C.

**Harrison, C.,** Brown, S., Rutledge, S., & Wachen, J. (April 2015). Translating educational research into practice: A cross-institutional telephone game? Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Chicago, IL.

**Harrison, C.,** Redding, C., Brown, S., Wachen, J., Miller, J. & Socol, A.R. (April, 2014). Building capacity for improvement through collaboration: Findings from the National Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA.

**Harrison, C.** (April, 2013). Teachers' construction of expectations and adaptation of practice in response to ability grouping, performance data and performance labels. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. San Francisco, CA.

**Harrison, C. &** Cohen-Vogel, L. (April, 2012). The politics of teacher reform: Evaluations, merit pay, and the elimination of tenure in Florida. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Vancouver, BC.

Cohen-Vogel, L. & **Harrison, C.** (March, 2012). Systematic use of data in schools: Evidence from the National Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Boston, MA.

**Harrison, C.** (March, 2012). The politics of teacher reform: Evaluations, merit pay, and tenure elimination in Florida's mainstream media. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Boston, MA.

**Harrison, C.** (November, 2010). Education in Palestine 1920-1939: A case study in the pedagogy of control. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council For the Social Studies – International Assembly. Denver, CO.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

**Harrison, C.**, Redding, C., & Brown, S. (October, 2015). Lessons learned in designing and developing using a continuous improvement model. Presentation at the National Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools National Conference. Nashville, TN.

Cohen-Vogel, L. Rutledge, S., Smith, T., & **Harrison, C.** (October, 2015). Opportunities and dilemmas of partnering for continuous improvement. Presentation at the National Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools National Conference. Nashville, TN.

Cohen-Vogel, L., Kainz, K. & **Harrison, C.** (2014, September). Improving at scale: Illustrations and critique. Center for Developmental Science, Carolina Consortium for Human Development (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, Duke University, and University of North Carolina at Greensboro.)

Cohen-Vogel, L., **Harrison, C.**, & Kainz, K. (2014, March). Research for continuous improvement in education. Dean's Symposium, School of Education, North Carolina State University.

Cohen-Vogel, L., Kainz, K., & **Harrison, C.** (2013, November). Emerging issues in education: Partnering for continuous improvement research. Research Symposium: Education for a New Era, School of Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Cohen-Vogel, L., **Harrison, C.**, & Kainz, K. (2013, March). Continuous improvement and educational research. Speaker Series, School of Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Cohen-Vogel, L. & **Harrison, C.** (2012, June). Systematic use of data in schools: Evidence from the National Center on Scaling up Effective Schools. Achieving Success at Scale: Research on Effective High Schools Conference. Nashville, TN.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Outstanding Dissertation Award (Runner Up) – The Politics of Education Association. (2016)

Emerging Education Policy Scholar – The Fordham Institute and American Enterprise Institute. (2016)

David L. Clark Scholar – David. L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in Educational Administration and Policy. (2014).