



# FIELD NOTES ON EDUCATION RESEARCH PANEL TALK



JUNE  
25  
2021  
10-11:15 AM

## ABOUT

Join us for a panel discussion with local education researchers on their career paths collectively spanning multiple sectors (public, private, non-profit, and philanthropy). Panelists will reflect on their journeys, the local landscape, challenges researchers of color face navigating white spaces, innovation in the areas of data science and quantitative research as well as relationship-centered approaches for impact.

[Register Here](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT THE [RESEARCH NETWORK PAGE](#)



**AMBER  
BANKS,  
PH.D.**

**Founder/CEO, Center for Trust & Transformation | Senior Director, Frontline Solutions**

Dr. Banks is the Founder & CEO of the Center for Trust and Transformation, an organization dedicated to the advancement of trust as a foundational building block for social justice and liberation. In her role as Senior Director at Frontline Solutions, Amber supports the firm's learning and evaluation work. Prior to these positions, Amber worked on the US Programs team at the Gates Foundation as a Senior Program Officer focused on Measurement, Learning and Evaluation. She brings over 20 years of experience in the education sector where she has worked as a special education teacher, advocate, researcher, grantmaker, and parent organizer. Dr. Banks earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from Boston University and a PhD in Education Policy, Organizations, and Leadership from the University of Washington.

**Senior Data Scientist, UW eScience Institute | Senior Data Science Fellow, CCER**

Dr. Hernandez's work focuses on the application of data science methods on educational data and building models and tools to inform racial justice-focused policymaking. He also serves as a Data Science Senior Fellow on several collaborative studies with CCER and Road Map Project partners. Dr. Hernandez was previously a Research Scientist at the Center on Reinventing Public Education, where he led projects assessing common enrollment systems across different U.S. districts. Before that, he was a postdoctoral fellow with Insight Data Science. Jose earned his doctorate at the UW, with a focus in statistics and measurement and a Master of Education in policy, also from UW. His doctoral research focused on assessing causal inference methodology in the absence of randomization.



**JOSE  
HERNANDEZ,  
PH.D.**



**DANI  
FUMIA,  
PH.D.**

**Senior Research Associate, MEF Associates**

Dr. Fumia uses quasi-experimental methods to conduct policy research and analysis in a variety of content areas, including PreK-12 and postsecondary education, workforce development, and criminal justice. Prior to MEF Associates, Dr. Fumia was the Research Manager at the Washington State Institute for Public Policy where she served as an expert on causal inference methods for evaluating state policies and programs and led large-scale research studies of Washington financial aid programs using quantitative methods and administrative data. She also has deep experience providing technical assistance to stakeholders and translating findings for various audiences including Washington State policymakers. Dr. Fumia received her Ph.D. in Public Policy and Management from UW.



**SHELBY  
COOLEY,  
PH.D.**

**Senior Research Associate, Seattle Public Schools**

Dr. Cooley leads quantitative, mixed-methods research examining causal factors of inequities and uses participatory inquiry to uplift student-led strategies for change. Prior to SPS, she was the Research Director at the Community Center for Education Results –an education non-profit supporting the Road Map Project initiative. She received her doctorate in child development from the University of Maryland where she focused on the emergence of anti-Black racism in childhood, how environments shape children's perceptions of justice, Black racial identity, and contexts that enable youth to challenge negative group norms. Her prior professional work focused on early learning access and quality instruction at NYU and at Child Trends in DC.