

School of Education Announces Spring 2021 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Dr. Deepa S. Vasudevan



Dr. Deepa S. Vasudevan is an education scholar who explores the working lives of community-based youth workers, youth experiences in out-of-school time programming, school-community partnerships, and the organizational culture of nonprofits. To illuminate pressing issues in public education and youth services, Deepa's scholarship is guided by sociological understandings of inequality as related to race, gender, immigration status, and labor.

Deepa's dissertation research examined how experienced community-based youth workers construct both occupational identities and persist as professionals in the face of immense obstacles — social undervaluation, financial precarity, and workplace managerialism and racism. She is the co-editor of the volume *At Our Best: Building Youth-Adult Partnerships in Out-of-School Time Settings*, and she has served as an editorial board member for the *Harvard Educational Review* and the *Current Issues in Out-of-School Time* Information Age Publishing book series. Prior to graduate school, Deepa worked at the Out-of-School Time Resource Center in Philadelphia, coordinating and evaluating professional development opportunities for afterschool and youth programs across the city.

At the core of Deepa's professional endeavors is a desire to interrogate issues of access, power, and equity in educational contexts, to champion social justice-oriented approaches to teaching and learning, and to work alongside educators and young people in advocacy for their needs, rights, and dreams. Deepa completed her EdD in culture, communities, and education and EdM at Harvard Graduate School of Education. She received her BA from Haverford College with an English major and cultural anthropology minor. Deepa is delighted to begin her position as a postdoctoral research fellow at CUNY Queens College, School of Education this spring.