



Democratizing Evidence in Education

The Search for Balance between Inclusivity and Expertise

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An interactive conversation

2020 Virtual Session Series Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

Set within the context of today's pandemic and racial justice crises, this interactive session will explore the key concepts, strategies and issues for democratizing evidence in education. Through facilitated discussions, participants will actively engage with a panel of educators, researchers, and funders who have been involved in efforts to broaden or 'democratize' who participates and when in the generation and use of research evidence.

As highlighted in a newly launched website <http://DemocratizingEvidence4.US> the session is premised on the idea that over the past 15 years many of the well-intentioned efforts to promote "evidence-based" education have had a top-down orientation, and have paid insufficient attention to the perspectives, priorities, and diversity of those most affected by those efforts. Democratizing evidence is about reversing this trend and ensuring that diverse stakeholders have the power and opportunity to participate in the production and use of evidence in policy and practice.

From a practical perspective, opening the research production and application process to non-academics is not a neat or smooth path. The seemingly noble democratization effort exposes a number of dilemmas including: how to balance the aspiration for greater inclusivity with the need for a special kind of expertise to effectively generate and apply research evidence in policy and practice. During the session participants will have an opportunity to explore this and other dilemmas and how to effectively balance the inherent tensions in addressing educational problems.

In keeping with the SREE conference theme of "practical significance" and sharing "what matters", the strategies and resources for [democratizing evidence](#), which will be discussed during the session, provide a path forward. It should be emphasized that democratization is more than about open communications and dissemination. The focus of democratization extends to the active engagement and two-way, co-equal

interactions among researchers and key stakeholders at various stages of the evidence production and application continuum.

As will be discussed during the session, this democratization effort takes on an elevated level of importance and urgency in confronting today's pandemic and racial justice crises. We look forward to a productive and meaningful discussion and to generating new ideas about advancing the democratization of evidence in education during a time of unprecedented disruption.

Panelist	Title	Affiliation	Email
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Materials & References

[Website](#)

[Slides](#)

[Ideas Form](#)

[Democratizing Evidence in Education](#) chapter