

# Melanie Schikore

## EDUCATION

- UX**                    **General Assembly, Chicago, IL (2015)**  
Certificate            *10-week immersive in UX Design and Research*
- PhD**                    **University of Illinois, Chicago, IL (2010)**  
(ABE)                    *Curriculum and Instruction - Literacy, Language, and Culture*  
                              *Bilingual Fellowship, US Department of Education*
- MA**                    **University of Illinois, Chicago, IL**  
                              *Applied Linguistics – Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)*  
                              *Fellowship and Teaching Assistantship*
- BA**                    **Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO**  
                              *Teaching Assistantship*  
                              *2 years abroad (Madrid, Spain and Orleans, France)*  
                              *Spanish and French*  
                              *President scholarship, magna cum laude*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Executive Director, Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants, Chicago, IL (Oct 2016-present)**  
**Assistant Director, (October 2015-October 2016)**

- Lead a nationally recognized organization modeling comprehensive community and policy responses to detention, directly impacting over 8,000 immigrants annually and informing sectoral best practices for innovation and services
- Oversee 10 staff, 300 volunteers, and student interns in six programs: jail visitation, court watch, deportation ministry, unaccompanied children's interfaith ministry, post-detention accompaniment, and the Marie Joseph House, an alternative to detention
- Create residencies and internships to allow journalists, researchers, students, and artists to engage immigration issues
- Design, innovate, and adjust programs to be responsive to changing needs in the immigration sector
- Represent the organization and advocate for policy change at local, state, federal and global levels
- Forge partnerships with government entities, faith communities, service providers, and research institutions
- Oversee grant writing and fundraising activities, allocate funds, and manage a \$1,000,000+ budget

**Adjunct Faculty, College of Graduate Studies, Concordia University, River Forest, IL**  
Department of Research and Doctoral Studies (2013-2015)  
Department of Teaching, Learning, and Diversity (2010-2013)

- Courses taught: Action Research, Teacher as Researcher, Cross Cultural Communication, Methods of ESL, Assessment of Bilingual Students, Foundations of Bilingual/Bicultural Education, Teaching ESL
- Supervised graduate student research including capstone thesis work

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### **Community Research Partner**, *Steans Center*, DePaul University, Chicago, IL (2017 to present)

- Co-wrote proposal for IRB, designed and implemented experiential education and research regarding the faith journeys of students, volunteers, and staff who engage issues of immigration
- Co-writing an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal

### **Community Partner**, *Medill School of Journalism*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL (2018-2019)

- Collaborated with 90days90voices on the Asylum Cities project in which student journalists participated in a 6-month journalism residency at the Marie Joseph House to research and document stories from asylum seekers for data-driven multi-media storytelling, analysis, and social impact

### **UX Researcher**, *Grow-It App*, Chicago, IL (2015)

- Conducted usability testing and field research, created personas, user journeys, and wireframes for a garden/plant app to improve user engagement and stickiness

### **Adjunct Faculty**, *Concordia University*, River Forest, IL (2013-2015)

- Taught research methodology courses and supervised graduate level student research projects

### **Doctoral Candidate**, *University of Illinois*, Chicago, IL (2000-2006)

- Dissertation: *KIDS OFF TRACK: Writing Down the Backstretch*, a qualitative study of Mexican migrant families in the Chicago-area thoroughbred racing industry rooted in 6 years of convivencia and teaching

### **Research Assistant**, *University of Illinois*, Rockford, IL (summers 2005+2006)

- Collaborated on design of NIH funded health disparity study of an urban embedded rural migrant Mexican population (thoroughbred horseracing industry workers)
- Conducted intake and follow up interviews of migrant workers for health fair and study

## SELECTED PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

### **Program Director**, *Library and Learning Center*, Illinois Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association, Cicero and Arlington Heights, IL (2000-2006)

- Designed and directed educational programs for a Mexican migrant workforce and children living in temporary on-site housing at two thoroughbred racetracks, including an 8-week Summer Camp for 100+ children K-8th grade
- Collaborated with area agencies, schools, and religious institutions and networked internationally and nationally within the racing industry and with immigrant organizations
- Advocated for policy and legislative changes on behalf of the worker population

### **Project Coordinator**, *FLAME (Family Literacy, Aprendiendo, Mejorando, Educando)*, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL

- Supervised 8 ESL teachers in a multi-site family literacy program and collected data from participants for a multi-year university research project supported by the US Dept. of Education's Office of Bilingual Education and Kraft Foundation

### **Field Operations Supervisor**, *Quality Assurance, U.S. Census Bureau*, Palatine, IL (2010 census)

- Supervised two crew leaders, each of whom led a team of fourteen enumerators, during field operations of enumeration and data collection
- Monitored the progress and performance of census field operations, collected and reviewed data collection, and ensured assignments were delivered on schedule

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS / MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2019 Jeanne and Joseph Sullivan Award, National Immigrant Justice Center Luncheon, Chicago, IL
- 2019 Testimony, Illinois Legislative Hearings (House and Senate) on HB2040, Springfield, IL
- 2019 Brightness of Noon Part 2, a documentary broadcast nationally on ABC, appearance as self
- 2018 Worldview, NPR affiliate WBEZ, Asylum Cities project interview, Chicago, IL
- 2018 21st Century Interfaith Dialogue, panelist, Parliament of the World's Religions, Toronto, Canada
- 2017 Radio Islam interview, Chicago, IL
- 2017 Immigration Issues, panelist, League of Women Voters, LaGrange, IL
- 2016 *Soul Asylum*, Human Rights Watch panelist, Weinberg Gallery, Chicago, IL
- 2015 Martyr Award Presentation, panelist, Loyola University, Chicago, IL
- 2014 *Displaced Persons-Immigration/Refugee Advocacy*, lecturer, Human Rights Expo, Harper College, Palatine, IL
- 2013 *Immigration 101*, panelist, Human Services Conference, Harper College, Palatine, IL
- 2012 *Faith, Justice, Humanity and Immigration: A Reflection on our Immigration Policy*, facilitator, Illinois Interfaith Immigration Coalition, Harper College, Palatine, IL
- 2012 *What are congregations doing about immigration?* panelist, Justice General Assembly, Unitarian Universalist Association, Phoenix, AZ
- 2012 (Im)migration Café, convener, Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist(CCUU), Palatine, IL
- 2011 *Data-driven song writing: Ay, María Como Siento Lo Que Te Pasó*, International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry (ICQI), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2010 Immigration Forum, panelist, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Palatine, IL
- 2008 *Social Justice Through the Arts, 'A Better Day'* Immigration Conference, CCUU, Palatine, IL
- 2007 *Humanistic and Instinctual Methodology: Research which pushes our boundaries and buttons*, ICQI, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2007 *Voices together: negotiating power differences between researcher and researched*, ICQI, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2006 *KIDS OFF TRACK: An Ethnographic Autopsy of the Lives and Learning of the Children on the Backstretch*, panelist, ICQI, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2006 *The Vulnerable Observer: Emotional implications of qualitative research*, ICQI, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2006 *Curriculum scholarship and curriculum teaching in global perspective*, panelist, Professors of Curriculum Annual Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Meeting, Chicago, IL

## SKILLS

- Fluent in Spanish and English, working knowledge of French
- Computer – MSOffice, GSuite, social media, e-mail, donor, CRM and accounting software