Education Policy in Argentina: Public Education in an Era of Political Transition

2020 Program Description

Global EPFP Co-Coordinators
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Purpose of the Program
To provide GEPFP Senior Fellows with the opportunity to study education policy in the Age of Globalization by investigating education policy challenges in economically developed and developing countries.

Program Goals - 2020
Across cultures, political leaders and policy makers are preparing initiatives to ensure that their countries will remain competitive in a global economy. What implications will a global economy have on education policy in the U.S. and other systems? How should schools and universities revise their programs and services in order to prepare young people to be successful in workplaces that are evolving as technology’s influence become increasingly pervasive? In what ways, if any, does education policy in Latin America influence U.S. relationships with countries in this region?

The 2020 Global Education Policy Fellowship Program will engage Senior Fellows in conversations about these and other questions with policy makers and educators in Argentina. Across a series of Friday online synchronous meetings and a May field study in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, Senior Policy Fellows will:
• Develop an appreciation for the relationship between Argentinian history, culture, and its education policy agenda;
• Examine the national Ministry of Education’s focus on the development of secondary schools;
• Consider the long-term effects of the privatization of public education and teacher preparation;
• Develop an awareness of how Argentinians view the U.S. and its influence on their country;
• Establish networking relationships with influential Argentinian public policy makers and education leaders;
• Visit urban and provincial schools and universities in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia respectively.

Schedule of GEPFP Meetings in 2020

Note: Dates are tentative and subject to change (except for the field study). All times are Eastern Time Zone. A series of four Friday two-hour meetings will be held on-line using Zoom-US, a software program that enables participants to see and hear each other simultaneously, provided their computers have a webcam, audio microphone, and speakers.

Friday, February 21, 2020. 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Program Orientation and Expectations. Orientation to the 2020 Global EPFP program and introduction to Argentina’s education system. Guest Expert: Marisol Masso, Ph.D. Candidate in the Curriculum, Instruction and Teacher Education Program at Michigan State University, Fulbright Scholar and former public and private school teacher from Mendoza, Argentina.

Readings to be discussed:


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Friday, April 17, 2020. 10:00AM to 12:00PM. Establishing Context: Education Challenges in Argentina.
Guest Expert: Manuel Chavez, Ph.D., Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Co-Director, Information and Media Ph.D. Program, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, Michigan State University

Readings to be discussed:

Friday, May 1 through Saturday, May 9, 2020. The Field Study in Argentina.
The field study in Argentina is designed to provide Senior Fellows with an opportunity to:

- Examine at close range the Argentinian debate about the long-term effects of using market-based reforms, including privatization, to promote educational development;
- Explore new models of teacher education and training;
- Develop relationships with educators in Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego;
- Attend briefings in schools, universities, national and provincial ministries of education, and other key educational organizations;
- Collect data related to the optional policy analysis project;
- Visit historic and cultural sites in two Argentinian cities: Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego.

Tentative Day-By-Day Itinerary
Buenos Aires and Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego

DAY 01 FRIDAY, MAY 1 - DEPART USA
Departure flights from the U.S. to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

DAY 02 SATURDAY, MAY 2 - ARRIVE BUENOS AIRES
Arrival and complete immigration and custom formalities. Meet the local representative outside the baggage claim area for escort to a private coach for transfer to the Hotel Panamericano in central Buenos Aires. Lunch and dinner on your own.

DAY 03 SUNDAY, MAY 3 - BUENOS AIRES
Global EPFP Orientation briefing at the hotel followed by a full day of touring Buenos Aires. Breakfast and lunch provided. Dinner on your own.

DAY 04 MONDAY, MAY 4 - BUENOS AIRES
Morning: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM: Meeting at the Ministry of Education in Buenos Aires and scheduled policy briefings.
Afternoon: Education briefings and school visits. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

DAY 05 TUESDAY, MAY 5 - BUENOS AIRES
Morning: University briefing with faculty members and researchers.
Afternoon: Briefing with regional education policy leaders and/or school visits. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

DAY 06 WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 - BUENOS AIRES - USHUAIA
Morning: Morning flight to Ushuaia and transfer to Hotel Las Hayas for check-in.
Afternoon: Coach tour of the southernmost city in the world and visit Tierra del Fuego National Park. Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

DAY 07 THURSDAY, MAY 7 - USHUAIA
Morning: Briefing with Tierra del Fuego provincial government leaders.
Afternoon: Briefings at the National University of Tierra del Fuego’s Institute of Education.
Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

DAY 08 FRIDAY, MAY 8 USHUAIA
Morning: Cultural tour TBA.
Afternoon: Education briefings and school visits. Late afternoon group de-briefing of field study.
Breakfast provided. Lunch and dinner on your own.

DAY 09 SATURDAY, MAY 9 - USHUAIA – BUENOS AIRES - Return flight to U.S.A.
Transfer to the airport for flight home.

Friday, May 29, 2020. 10:00 to 12:00PM. Making Sense of Education Development in Argentina: Post-trip De-briefing and Reflections.
Guest expert: Tomás Esper, Deputy Director for Education Policy, Municipality of La Matanza, Argentina and graduate student in the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), Columbia University. Tomás Esper joins Dan Schultz and Bob Monson in facilitating a discussion with the Senior Fellows on policy changes in Argentina and implications for U.S. education policy. This session includes the cohort’s year-end analysis of the Friday briefings and the field study.

Readings to be discussed: TBA

GEPFP Policy Analysis (Optional)

Completion of a Global Education Policy Analysis. Each Fellow will have the opportunity to complete a written capstone policy analysis of an education policy initiative in Argentina. Working individually, or in small (2-4 person) collaborative teams, senior fellows analyze an education policy initiative and identify any implications this challenge might have on education in the United States and/or the organization that sponsors the GEPFP experience. The focus of this policy brief would be identified prior to the May field experience. One or more reseachable questions would be developed prior to our departure and would focus the data gathering process for the year. The post-tour Friday meetings will provide opportunities for fellows to share and discuss their findings and the likely implications they see for U.S. education. Details about the policy analysis will be provided during the February 21 on-line meeting.

Suggested Readings and Media:

Note: Articles will be provided to program participants as electronic documents for your educational use only. Additional readings may be assigned by our Friday on-line guest speakers.


About the Global EPFP Co-Coordinators

Bob Monson coordinates the Education Policy Fellowship Program in the Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis at Teachers College, Columbia University. From 2000 to 2009, he was a senior lecturer and program coordinator in education leadership at Teachers College. In 1977, he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Across seven states he has served public school children in the capacities of teacher, high school assistant principal, high school principal, assistant superintendent, and five superintendent positions in Ohio, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York. In 2010, he was a visiting fellow in education at Oxford University. He has been a consultant to the University of Cambridge (UK) International Education as well as a consultant in China, the U.A.E., Bhutan, Nicaragua, and India.

Dan Schultz is Coordinator Emeritus for the Michigan Education Policy Fellowship Program (MI EPFP), a program he co-led for more than 35 years. He serves as Senior Policy and Program Advisor for the Office of K-12 Outreach in the College of Education at Michigan State University. He has developed and led over 20 academic and policy-oriented study tours to China, India, Botswana, Bhutan, Germany, Switzerland and the U.K. His background includes executive leadership and policy roles in state government in Michigan, where he was Assistant State Superintendent and Director of Technology and Grants for the Michigan Department of Education. He holds academic degrees in economics and education administration. He is the recipient of the Michigan Reading Association’s 2018 Advocacy Award, the MSU College of Education Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumni Award, the Institute for Educational Leadership’s National Leadership Award, and the International Friendship Award from Southwest University in China.

10/29/19