ZITSI MIRAKHUR
145C Taylor Education Building
Lexington, KY 40506
zitsi.mirakhur@uky.edu

Education

Ph.D., Demography and Social Policy — 2017
Princeton University

B.A. with Honors, Comparative Human Development — 2008
The University of Chicago

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation — 2020-present
University of Kentucky
Courtesy appointment: Department of Sociology

Affiliate, The Research Alliance for New York City Schools — 2020-present
New York University

Other Professional Experiences

Research Associate, The Research Alliance for New York City Schools — 2017-2020
New York University

Office Manager, Sojourner Truth Academy — 2010-2011
New Orleans, LA

Teacher, G.W. Carver High School — 2008-2010
New Orleans, LA

Publications

Note: * indicates graduate student; ^ indicates postdoctoral scholar; +indicates practitioner

Refereed Journal Articles:

Gross, J., **Mirakhur, Z.,** Saulnier, S., and L. Massa-McKinley, L.+ 2025. "Examining Postsecondary Institutional Characteristics and Student Basic Needs Services: An Exploratory Analysis." *International Journal of Higher Education.* 14(6): 95-107. https://doi.org/10.5430/ijhe.v14n6p95

Samudre, M., Torelli, J., **Mirakhur, Z.,** and Morganti, M.* 2025. "The Composition of Implementation Drivers for Targeted and Intensive Behavioral Supports: An Exploratory Survey Study." *School Mental Health*. 17: 833-846. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12310-025-09770-1

Barton, N. and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2025. "One Step at a Time: Making the Case for Faculty Pedagogical Development and a Roadmap for Getting There." *About Campus*. 30(1): 7-15. https://doi.org/10.1177/10864822241306379

Douglass, H.*, Lowman, J., and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2024. "Unlocking Insights: Exploring the Profiles of School-Based Telefacilitators." *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in Schools*. 55(4): 1167-1178. https://doi.org/10.1044/2024_LSHSS-23-00193

Xiang, L., **Mirakhur, Z.,** Pilny, A., and Krall, R. 2024. "Measuring and Comparing Secondary Teachers' and Undergraduate Students' Knowledge of Complex Systems. *Education Sciences*. 14(8): 837: https://doi.org/10.3390/educsci14080837

Shen, L.*, **Mirakhur, Z.,** and LaCour, S. 2024. "Investigating the Psychometric Features of a Locally Designed Computational Thinking Assessment for Elementary Students." *Computer Science Education*. 35(2): 414-433. https://doi.org/10.1080/08993408.2024.2344400

Bieber, J., Jan, S.*, and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2024. "Examining Role Strain Among Academic Program Coordinators." *Journal of Faculty Development*. 38(2): 39-44.

Gottlieb, A., **Mirakhur, Z.,** and Schindeler, B.* 2024. "School Discipline, Police Contact, and GPA: A Mediation Analysis." *Educational Researcher*. 53(4): 223-232. https://doi.org/10.3102/0013189X241231988

Mirakhur, Z., Fancsali, C., and Hill, K. 2023. "Outsiders Within: How Do Black Girls Fit Into Computer Science For All?" *Transactions on Computing Education*. 24(2): 1-23. https://doi.org/10.1145/3633464

Uretsky, M., **Mirakhur, Z.**, Clark-Shim, H., Hill, K., and Henneberger, A. 2023. "The Promise of Persistence: Expanding the Framework for High School Completion." *Children & Schools*. 45(3): 139-150.

Mirakhur, Z., Chen, C., and Schwarz, S. 2022. "A Case Study in Inclusive Teaching." *To Improve the Academy*. 41(2): 1-25.

Millett, C., Kevelson, M., and **Mirakhur, Z**. 2021. "The Benefits of Infusing the Arts in a College Preparatory Program." *Journal of Learning Through the Arts*. 17(1): 1-26.

Mirakhur, Z., Fancsali, C., and Hill, K. 2021. "The Potential of CR-SE for K-12 Computer Science Education: Perspectives from Two Leaders." *Voices in Urban Education*. 50(1): 44-52. https://doi.org/10.33682/3en3-cbgn

Golann, J., **Mirakhur, Z.**, and Espenshade, T. 2019. "Collecting Ethnographic Video Data for Policy Research." *American Behavioral Scientist*. 63(3): 387-403. https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764218820566

Manuscripts Under Review:

Hill, K., Harvey, H., **Mirakhur, Z.,** Wu, T.*, and Flores, M. "Opportunities and Challenges in Identifying Doubled Up Students in New York City." Under review at *Educational Researcher*.

- Latest version of paper available as Annenberg EdWorking Paper #26-1519: https://edworkingpapers.com/ai26-1519

O'Hagan, K., and **Mirakhur, Z**. "Staffing Interventions to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness: Evidence from New York City." Under review at *Urban Education*.

- Latest version of paper available as Annenberg EdWorking Paper #24-970: https://doi.org/10.26300/vj6v-zn25

Samudre, M., **Mirakhur, Z.,** and LeJeune, L. "Improving Teachers' Implementation of Tier 2 Behavioral Supports Through Targeted Professional Development: A Multiple Methods Study." Under review at *Contemporary School Psychology*.

Torelli, J., **Mirakhur, Z.,** Boyles, E., Cicalese, L.*, and Fischer, S.* "Discovering What Teachers Need: Applying Human-Centered Design to Refine the Life Skills Program for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities." Under review at *Focus on Autism and Other Developmental Disabilities*.

Papers in Progress:

Mirakhur, Z., Littlepage, M.*, and Hill, K. "Building Evidence to Advance Meaningful Integration in New York City." Targeted at *Education Administration Quarterly*.

Mirakhur, Z., Moore, I.^, Potterton, A., Clontz, K., and Cole, A. "Early-Stage Sensemaking in Community School Implementation." Targeted at *Education Policy Analysis Archives*.

Mirakhur, Z., Mota Thurston, S., and Ribovich, L. "A Case for the Humanities in Understanding Desegregation and Integration." Targeted at *AERA Open*.

Mirakhur, Z., Michalik, J.*, Vahidi, E.^, and Kaufmann, R. "Engineering Faculty Communication Strategies for Mental Health." Targeted at the *Journal of Engineering Education*.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings:

Fancsali, C., Klevan, S., and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2021. "Making Research Practice Partnerships Work: An Assessment of the Maker RPP." *Proceedings of RESPECT'21*. 1-6.

Crasto, E. and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2021. "Computer Science Instruction and Academic Outcomes in Other Subjects." *Proceedings of SIGCSE'21*: 1333.

Fancsali, C., **Mirakhur, Z.**, Klevan, S., and E. Rivera-Cash. 2019. "'Making' Science Relevant for the 21st Century: Early Lessons from a Research-Practice Partnership." *FL2019: Proceedings of Fablearn 2019*: 136-139.

Book Reviews, Reports, and Policy Briefs:

Pavlakis, A., Roberts, J. K., Richards, M., Hill, K. and **Mirakhur, Z**. 2023. "Educational Practices to Identify and Support Students Experiencing Homelessness." Providence, RI: The Annenberg Institute. https://edresearchforaction.org/research-briefs/identifying-and-supporting-students-experiencing-homelessness/ (Original brief published in 2020).

Crawford, C.+, Kuyenga, M., Talley, L., **Mirakhur, Z.**, and Clark, H. 2023. "Organizing for Educational Equity in Computer Science: Lessons from New York City's CS4All Initiative." New York, NY: New York City Department of Education.

Mirakhur, Z. 2023. "Review of 'Districts That Succeed: Breaking the Correlation Between Race, Poverty, and Achievement.'" *Teachers College Record.* https://journals.sagepub.com/page/tcz/collections/bookreviews_2022

Fancsali, C., **Mirakhur, Z.**, Klevan, S. and Rivera-Cash, E. 2022. "Integrating Computer Science and Computational Thinking into Elementary Science: Lessons Learned from the Maker Partnership." New York, NY: The Research Alliance for New York City Schools. https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/research-alliance/research/lessons-learned-maker-partnership

Mirakhur, Z. 2021. "Review of 'Technology Segregation: Disrupting Racist Frameworks in Early Childhood Education.'" *Education Review.* 28: 1-5. https://doi.org/10.14507/er.v28.3161

Hill, K. and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2019. "Homelessness in NYC Elementary Schools: Student Experiences and Educator Perspectives." New York, NY: The Research Alliance for New York City Schools. https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/research-alliance/research/publications/homelessness-nyc-elementary-schools

- Press Coverage: Metro NY, CBS New York, Chalkbeat, Patch, KRTV, WNYC, WINS, Route Fifty

Hill, K. and **Mirakhur, Z**. 2018. "Pathways and Trajectories of Persisting Students." New York, NY: The Research Alliance for New York City Schools. https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/research-alliance/research/publications/persisting-students

- Winner of AERA Division H's Outstanding Publication Award for Applied Research Reports (2019)

Other Writing (Selected):

Mirakhur, Z., Wentworth, L., Arce-Trigatti, P., Farrell, C., Weddle, H. and Leach, S. 2026. "What Are Pathways to Working in RPPs?" *NNERPP Extra.* 8(2): 9-13. https://doi.org/10.25613/D6QV-V940

Mirakhur, Z., Crawford, S.*, and Driskel, W.* 2025. "Varied Uses of Class Time: A Case Study of EPE 301." *Greater Faculties.* 4(1): 9. https://uknowledge.uky.edu/greaterfaculties/vol4/iss1/9

O'Hagan, K. and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2024. "Do 'Bridging the Gap' Social Workers Improve Attendance for Students Experiencing Homelessness?" Research Alliance's Blog, *Spotlight on New York City Schools*. https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/research-alliance/research/spotlight-nyc-schools/do-bridging-gap-social-workers-improve-attendance

Mirakhur, Z. and Hill, K. 2019. "How Do Elementary-Aged Students in New York City Experience Homelessness?" Research Alliance's Blog, *Spotlight on New York City Schools*. https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/research-alliance/research/spotlight-nyc-schools/how-do-elementary-aged-students-new-york-city

Mirakhur, Z., Sludden, J., Soltani, J., and McGuinness, S. 2018. "NYC Public Schools: What Does it Mean to be the Nation's Largest School District?" Research Alliance's Blog, *Spotlight on New York City Schools*. https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/research-alliance/research/spotlight-nyc-schools/nyc-public-schools-what-does-it-mean-be-nations

Hill, K. and **Mirakhur, Z.** 2018. "Persisting Students' Pathways and Experiences Through High School." *Education Week's* Urban Education Reform Blog on Bridging Research and Practice. https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-persisting-students-pathways-and-experiences-through-high-school/2018/08

Grants and Awards

Active Grants:

American Sociological Association. *Identifying and Serving Vulnerable Students: Evidence from Rural Kentucky.* Co-Principal Investigator. ($3,000) — 2026

Lumina Foundation Subaward from Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. *Student Voices: Supporting Postsecondary Students with Dependent Children.* Co-Principal Investigator. ($20,499) — 2025-2026

National Science Foundation. *The Engineering Wellness Center: Redefining Success for Engineering Students*. Evaluator. ($1,199,649) — 2025-2027

Past Grants, Fellowships, and Awards:

University of Kentucky UNITE Research Priority Area: *Evaluation and Replication of a Comprehensive Tier 2 System: Equipping Schools to Provide Alternatives to Suspensions.* Co-Principal Investigator. ($44,360) — 2025-2026

U.S. Department of Education. *Kentucky's Statewide Full-Service Community Schools Program.* Co-Investigator. ($2,202,628) — 2023-2027 (terminated in 2025)

University of Kentucky UNITE Research Priority Area. *Identifying and Serving Students Experiencing Homelessness*. Co-Principal Investigator. ($49,979) 2024-2025

University of Kentucky College of Education. *Evaluation of a Comprehensive Tier 2 System: Equipping Schools to Provide Alternatives to Suspension*. Co-Investigator. ($19,683) 2024-2025

New York City Public Schools. *Identifying and Serving New York City Students in Temporary Housing*. Co-Principal Investigator. ($40,000) 2024

National Science Foundation. *Engineering WISE (Wellness through Integrated Support and Engagement)*. Co-Investigator. ($99,663) 2023-2024

Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. *Student Basic Needs: Equity Audit*. Principal Investigator. ($7,000) 2022-2023

University of Kentucky Research and Creative Activities Award: *Understanding Homelessness Among High School-Aged Students in New York City*. Principal Investigator. ($8,000) 2022

National Science Foundation Sub-Award from New York University. *Maker Partnership Project*. Principal Investigator. ($6,000) 2020-2021

Fellowships and Awards:

Writing Fellowship, EdResearch for Action 2025

Training Fellowship, Institute on Mixture Modeling for Equity-Oriented Researchers, Scholars, and Educators (IMMERSE) 2023-2024

University Administrative Fellowship, Princeton University 2016-2017

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Pre-Doctoral Traineeship in Demography, Princeton University 2013-2016

Phi Beta Kappa, The University of Chicago 2008

Neighborhood Schools Program Merit Award, The University of Chicago 2008

Conference and Seminar Presentations Since 2020

Using Stakeholder Data to Identify Optimization Targets for a School-Based Prevention Program: Discover Phase of a Discover-Design-Build-Test Framework Study. Intervention Optimization Annual Conference, Bethesda, MD: May 2026.

Early-Stage Sensemaking in Kentucky's Full-Service Community School Initiative. American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA: April 2026.

Service Coordinators in Community Schools: Role Re-Definition and Evolution. AERA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO: April 2025.

The Approach of School Staff to Identifying and Serving Doubled Up Students: Evidence from New York City.

- Association for Education Policy and Finance (AEFP) Annual Meeting, Washington, DC: March 2025.
- Sociology of Education (SEA) Association Annual Meeting, Pacific Grove, CA: February 2025.

Examining Three Models for Supporting Students Who Experience Homelessness: Evidence from New York City.

- AERA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: April 2024.
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA: November 2023.
- Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA: September 2022.
- University of Kentucky—Martin School 2021 Spring Seminar Series: April 2021.
- Education Research Section, Princeton University, Virtual: March 2021.
- AEFP Annual Meeting, Virtual: March 2021.
- SEA Association Annual Meeting, Virtual: February 2021.

School Discipline, Police Contact, and GPA: A Mediation Analysis.

- AERA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: April 2024.
- APPAM Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA: November 2023.

Early Findings from the Kentucky Basic Needs Equity Audit.

- APPAM Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA: November 2023.
- Kentucky Basic Needs Action Network. Virtual: May, 2023.

Professional Development for Culturally Relevant Education in K-12 Computer Science: Evidence from New York City.

- AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL: April 2023.
- AEFP Annual Meeting, Denver, CO: March 2023.

Understanding Complex Systems: Comparing Secondary Teachers' and Undergraduate Students' Knowledge and Perspectives. AERA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL: April 2023.

So You Think You Can Survey? Best Practices in Survey Data Collection. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA: November 2022.

Examining the Importance of School Context for Persisting Students.

- AERA Annual Meeting, Virtual: April 2022
- AEFP Annual Meeting, Virtual: March 2021.

Persisting Students in Different Spaces: A Comparative Analysis. AERA Annual Meeting, Virtual: April 2022.

Building Evidence to Advance Meaningful Integration in New York City.

- University of Kentucky—UNITE Research Showcase: May 2022.
- AERA Annual Meeting, Virtual: April 2022.
- AEFP Annual Meeting, Virtual: April 2022.
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting, Austin, TX: March 2022.

Capacity, Access, and Participation: Assessing Multiple Dimensions of Equity in a Districtwide Computer Science for All Initiative. AERA Annual Meeting, Virtual: April 2021.

Building a Stronger Afterschool: How Researchers and Program Staff Can Translate Data into Impact. Accepted to AERA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA: April 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).

Examining the Research and Policy Shaping School Integration Efforts: Lessons from New York City. Accepted to AEFP Annual Meeting, Fort Worth, TX: March 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).

Postsecondary Teaching

University of Kentucky

Undergraduate Course:

- EPE 301: Education in American Culture: Course coordinator since 2023-2024

Graduate Courses:

- Social Policy Issues and Education (EPE 602): Taught in fall 2026 (modality: synchronous online)
- Survey Research Methods in Education (EPE 619): Taught 18 times in total, most recently in summer 2026 (modality: in-person; asynchronous online)
- Sociology of Education (EPE/SOC 661): Taught in spring 2021, 2023, 2025 (modality: in-person; synchronous online)
- Advanced Survey Research Methods in Education (EPE 712): Taught in spring 2022 and 2024 (modality: in-person; synchronous online)

- Seminar in Educational Policy Studies (EPE 773): Taught in fall 2022, 2026 (modality: synchronous online)

Princeton University

Undergraduate Courses:

- Urban Sociology (SOC/LAS 210)
- Hustles and Hustlers (SOC 223)
- Race and Ethnicity (SOC/URB 227)
- The Western Way of War (SOC 250)

Other Instructional Responsibilities:

- McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning—Graduate Fellow: 2014-2017 (selected to support the professional development of other graduate student instructors at Princeton)
- Princeton University Preparatory Program—Sociology Instructor: Summers, 2014-2016 (program for high-achieving low-income students in communities surrounding Princeton)

Advising at the University of Kentucky

Completed advising responsibilities:

Postdoctoral scholar:

- Isaiah Moore, Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Justice, Virginia Commonwealth University (2025-2026)

Doctoral committee co-chair:

Note: * indicates students where I served as primary advisor

- Paul Poggemeyer, Ph.D. in Sociology (2026)
- Hannah Edelen,* Ph.D. in Education Sciences: Educational Evaluation and Policy (2026)
- Rachelle Aker, Ph.D. in Education Sciences: Curriculum and Instruction (2024)

Doctoral committee member:

Ph.D. in Education Sciences

- Holly Hapke (Curriculum and Instruction; 2026)
- Eleni Filippatos (Educational Leadership; 2025)
- Elizabeth Mercurio (Educational Leadership; 2025)
- James Murray (Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry; 2025)
- Busari Isiaka (STEM Education; 2024)
- Kendra Hansen (Physical Education; 2024)
- Mia Morales (Educational Evaluation and Policy; 2023)

Other:

- David Shi, Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration (2026)
- Maddie Trudeau, Ph.D. in Studies in Higher Education (2026)
- Stephen Farley, Ph.D. in Studies in Higher Education (2025)

- Hannah Douglass, Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences (2024)
- Danielle Duffy Chipman, Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration (2024)
- Tanya Gardner, Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration (2024)
- Katherine Lynch (2024), Ph.D. in Special Education (2024)
- Ndaru Prapti, Ph.D. in Special Education (2023)
- Samer Jan, Ed.D. in Educational Policy Studies, Measurement, and Evaluation (2022)

Master's committee member:

- Lynn Maamari (2024)
- Jennifer Disponette (2022)
- Michael Moore (2022)
- Dorothy Ross (2022)

Ad hoc advising:

- Jo R. King, Ph.D. in Public Policy, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, External reader (2025)
- Jaylene Patterson, Martin Scholar (departmental fellowship) (2024)
- Kaitlyn O'Hagan, Ph.D. in Public Policy, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University, External reader (2024)
- Lijun Shen, Martin Scholar (2021)

Ongoing advising responsibilities:

Doctoral committee co-chair:
Note: * indicates students where I serve as primary advisor
Ph.D. in Studies in Higher Education

- Carrie Atzinger*
- Mike Brown
- Jasmine Prince*
- Unique Young*

Other:

- Madeline Byrd, Ph.D. in Education Science: Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry

Doctoral committee member:
Ph.D. in Education Sciences

- Rachael Corrone (Health Education)
- Spencer Crawford (Educational Evaluation and Policy)
- Jamie Frye (Educational Leadership)
- Brandon Howlett (Educational Leadership)
- Casey Humphrey (Educational Leadership)
- Temidayo Jaiyesimi (Curriculum and Instruction)
- Albert Kalim (Educational Leadership)
- Tonya May (Curriculum and Instruction)

- Ted Nilsson (Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry)
- Heidi Schmidt (Philosophical and Cultural Inquiry)
- Liz Smith (Curriculum and Instruction)

Ph.D. in Studies in Higher Education

- Cara Franke
- Britt Frye
- Annissa Langworth
- Courtney McCalla
- Barry Pollack
- Charity Powell
- Wesley Whistle
- Brandon Williams

Other:

- Christopher Brida, Ed.D. in Educational Leadership
- Anastacia Cole, Ph.D. in Educational Psychology
- Mark Kruger, Ph.D. in Special Education
- Desiree LaPeer, Ph.D. in Sociology
- Emily Webb, Ph.D. in Special Education
- Samadhi Weeratne, Ph.D. in Family Science

Service

Service to Department and College:

Advisory Board, College of Education Evaluation Center	2023-present
Member, Celebrating University Research Across the Enterprise (CURATE) Committee	2023-2026
Member, Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation Admissions Committee	2021-present
Member, College of Education Inclusiveness Committee, University of Kentucky • Co-chair	2020-2022 Fall 2022

University-Level Service:

Mentor, Start to Finish Mentorship Program	2022-present
Survey Advisor, Graduate Student Congress—Housing Taskforce, University of Kentucky	2020-2021

Service to Discipline:

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
Division L

- Chair, Awards Committee — 2026-present
- Co-Chair, Section 3 Conference Program Planning Committee — 2024-2026
- Chair, Outstanding Publication Competition, Policy Report Category — 2024

Division H

- Chair, Outstanding Publication Competition, Program Evaluation Category — 2020

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)

- Qualitative Policy Scholars Community Group, Co-Chair — 2023-2025
- Scholars of Color Community Group, Co-Chair — 2022-2023
- Scholars of Color Community Group, Brown Bag Series Co-Organizer — 2021-2022

Sociology of Education Association (SEA)

- Member, Board of Directors — 2021-2023
- Conference Chair, Fall Mini-Conference — 2023-2024

Ad hoc reviewer:

- Journals: *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Educational Policy Children and Youth Services Review; Journal of Educational Change; Transactions on Computing Education; American Journal of Evaluation; Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research; Journal of Disability Policy Studies*
- Grant applications: Spencer Foundation
- Conference submissions: American Educational Research Association (AERA); Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP); Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM); Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE); Research on Equity and Sustained Participation in Engineering, Computing, and Technology (RESPECT)