

PAUL LACHELIER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Democracy entrepreneur with 20+ years of experience as a teacher, researcher and practitioner. Expertise in citizen participation developed as both a political sociologist and a grassroots leader in political party, election campaign, environmental, student, labor and nonprofit organizations. Energetic innovator skilled at partnerships, bridging divides, and mobilizing and managing people and logistics to accomplish domestic and international citizen engagement initiatives. These include founding a university labor center, running as a third-party candidate in a high-performing state legislative election campaign, organizing virtual dialogues between university students in the USA, France and Egypt, implementing a campus deliberative poll and a student voter mobilization field experiment, and connecting lower-income families in four countries to advance a family form of citizen diplomacy.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Founder & Director, *Learning Life, Washington, DC*
wk Aug. 2012–Present

50 hrs/

- Direct all aspects (planning, fundraising, programs, staff, research and evaluation, communications) of this nonprofit lab devoted to innovating education and global citizen engagement.
- Recruited, trained and supervised over 90 undergraduate and graduate interns, and more than 100 student and professional volunteers.
- Led staff in open-source as well as original survey, interview and participant observation investigations, analyzing and summarizing original data and/or extant information on a wide range of topics such as climate change, global food insecurity, and terrorism.
- Used the collected data to author and/or edit five research reports, six expert interviews, 25 fact sheets, 28 blog posts and 72 quizzes, synthesizing complex information for general audiences.
- Initiated innovative partnerships with various organizations, including the Newseum, DC Health Link, the City of Alexandria, VA, Georgetown University School of Medicine, FUSALMO in San Salvador, El Salvador, and the Collectif pour la Promotion des Groupes Vulnérables (CPGV) in Dakar, Senegal.
- Launched a Citizen Diplomacy Initiative, completing four research projects engaging lower-income families in the USA, El Salvador, Senegal and Jordan. Collected original data from this Initiative which demonstrated significant improvements in participants' tolerance, knowledge and interest in world affairs.

- Initiated an international mentoring program focused on international learning, recruiting, screening, training and supervising a team of 15+ mentors mentoring children, ages 7-18, in Washington DC, San Salvador and Dakar.

Writing Fellow, *School Readiness Consulting, Silver Spring, MD*

20 hrs/wk

Oct. 2013–Apr. 2014

- Wrote, edited and/or evaluated a variety of documents, including company news, profiles, speeches, literature reviews, grant applications and marketing materials.

Assistant Professor of Sociology, *Stetson University, Deland, FL*

50 hrs/wk Aug. 2008–May 2012

- Developed syllabi and taught undergraduate courses including Introduction to Sociology, Sociological Theories, How Americans Think, Power & Evil, Community Organizing for Social Change, and Methods & Styles of Social Science Communication.
- As a political sociologist, conducted interviews and experimental research, presented five conference papers, and wrote and published nine academic articles and newspaper op-eds on American political culture, student voter mobilization, and deliberative polling, among other topics.
- Initiated and collaborated with scholars overseas to complete well-regarded live virtual exchanges between students at Stetson, the University of Paris 8 and the American University in Cairo.
- Initiated and carried out a pilot campus deliberative poll that engaged a random sample of students in fact-and-discussion-informed deliberations on college affordability. Conducted pre- and post-deliberation surveys, which showed significant shifts in student opinions due to the deliberations.

Teaching Ass't & Sr. Thesis Advisor, *Harvard University, Cambridge, MA*

20

hrs/wk Sep. 2004–May 2007

- Co-led Social Studies 10 freshmen tutorials analyzing social and political theory.
- Closely advised Social Studies seniors in researching and writing their senior theses.
- Read, graded, and orally evaluated Social Studies senior theses.

SKILLS & SELECTED VOLUNTEERING

- **Active member**, *Virtual Exchange Coalition, July 2017-Present*: Resurrected the Coalition (founded in 2011) in 2017. Help lead outreach to grow the VEC.
- **Policy Researcher**, *U.S. Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, Washington, Sep.-Dec. 2015*: Conducted open-source research and wrote policy memos and summaries on the heroin epidemic, sugar subsidies, fisheries regulation, net neutrality, and home health care workers' pay and overtime, to help inform the issue positions of candidates for U.S. Senate.
- **Political Commentator**, *Fox News 35, Orlando, FL, Sep. 2011-April 2012*:

Offered on-air analysis and insight on the 2012 U.S. Presidential primary contests.

- **Member**, *American Sociological Association's Task Force on the Institutionalization of Public Sociology*, Washington, DC, Aug. 2004-Jun. 2005: Co-developed national recommendations for encouraging sociologists' engagement with non-academic publics.
- **Candidate for Massachusetts State Representative**, 26th Middlesex District, MA, Jan.-Nov. 2002: Ran a Clean Elections-funded campaign, including strategy, communications, fundraising, volunteer management, and voter identification and turnout. Received 37% of votes cast, one of the highest percentages among party candidates nationwide.
- **Research methods**: Practiced in social science methods including surveys, in-depth interviews, participant observation and field experiments.
- **Writing and editing**: Experienced writer, editor and book author, with my own and my students' articles published in a variety of print and online media including the *Boston Globe*, *truthout.org*, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Orlando Sentinel*, and the *Albuquerque Journal* (see below for selected publications).
- **Software**: Proficient in Google Docs, Microsoft Word, Wordpress, Hootsuite.
- **Languages**: French-American dual-national with Hispanic origins. Speak and write French and Spanish at advanced levels.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
2007

GPA: 3.7. Dissertation: "Democracy, Individualism and the Civil-Civic Citizen: Young American Professionals Talk about Community, Politics and Citizenship"

M.A. in Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
1998

GPA: 3.6. Thesis: "The Republican Alliance: Political Disengagement in a Political Association"

B.A. in Sociology, magna cum laude, Georgetown University, Washington DC
1994

GPA: 3.7. Thesis: A study of American bodybuilding ideology through content analysis of profiles in U.S. bodybuilding magazines.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

A full list of publications and presentations is available upon request.

2019 "[Food Culture Project Results Are In!](#)" Learning Life blog post.

2019 "[Seven Ways of Being in the World](#)," Learning Life blog post.

2019 "[Families: A New Voice for a More Caring World](#)," Learning Life blog post.

2018 "[Democratize Diplomacy! Family-to-Family Collaboration for a Better World](#)." *Childhood Education* 94:6:40-50.

- 2018 [“Globalization, Inequality & Opportunity”](#) Learning Life blog post.
- 2018 [“Cross-National Ethnographic Study Comparing the Food Cultures of Lower-Income Families in Washington D.C. and Dakar, Senegal”](#) a research poster co-presentation with Drs. Kim Bullock and Melissa See at MedStar Health Research Symposium on 4/30 in Rockville, MD, and Unity Health Care’s Annual Poster Day on 5/1 in Washington, DC.
- 2017 [“A Neighborhood Approach to International Diplomacy,”](#) Learning Life blog post.
- 2016 *The Civil-Civic Citizen: Democracy, Individualism & Citizenship among Young Americans*. Saarbrücken, Germany: Lambert Academic Publishing.
- 2016 [“What’s Your Position in the World?”](#) Learning Life blog post.
- 2016 “The Citizen Diplomacy Initiative: Action & Evidence,” with Britany Gatewood at the Corporation for National & Community Service Research Summit, 12/14-15, Washington, DC.
- 2016 [“Global Citizens for Our Global Age”](#) Learning Life blog post.
- 2015 [“Information, Knowledge & Inequality in Modern Societies”](#) Learning Life blog post.
- 2014 [“Can Face-to-Face Mobilization Boost Student Voter Turnout? Results of a Campus Field Experiment,”](#) co-authored with David Hill, Ph.D., *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* 18:61-88.
- 2013 [“Social Science for Incidental Learning”](#) Learning Life blog post.
- 2012 [“The Civil Citizen”](#) *eJournal of Public Affairs* 1:1 (inaugural issue).
- 2012 [“On the Importance of Knowledge”](#) Learning Life blog post.
- 2011 [“Beyond Political Crisis: Deliberation?”](#) *West Volusia Beacon* 8/11, *Orlando Sentinel* 8/12.
- 2010 [“Deliberative Polling: Deepening Community Participation”](#) *New Directions in Community-Based Research*, eds. Jennifer M. Pigza and Mary Beckman.
- 2010 “Can We Reverse Reality? Coordinating Campus Resources to Improve Student Political Engagement.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities’ American Democracy Project, 6/17-19, Providence, RI.
- 2010 [“Central Florida: Political Epicenter of the World,”](#) *Orlando Sentinel*, 9/14, *Chicago Tribune* 9/16.
- 2010 [“Independent Voters: Are They Weakening Democracy?”](#) with Eric Weltman. *Daytona Beach News-Journal*, 2/18, and under different titles in *New Jersey’s Home News Tribune*, 2/21, Truthout.org, 2/11.
- 2009 [“Public Sociology and Community Organizing: Moving from CBR to COSC,”](#) *SPPS Newsletter* (newsletter of the ASA Section on Sociological Practice & Public Sociology) Winter 2009: 3-4.
- 2009 “The Myth of the Independent Voter” and “Applying for and Starting Your Assistant Professorship: Insights & Suggestions.” Paper and panel presentation, respectively, at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, 4/1-4, New Orleans, LA.
- 2008 [“Individualism in America: Are We Missing the Problem?”](#) Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, 8/1-4, Boston, MA.

- 2006 "[Teaching the Unspoken: Practices of Professional Sociologists](#)," *Teaching/Learning Matters* (newsletter of ASA Section on Teaching & Learning in Sociology) 35:2:9-11.
- 2006 "[Democracy, Knowledge and the Division of Labor](#)" *Humanity & Society* 30:2:167-179.
- 2006 "[A Manifesto for Knowledge Democracy](#)." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, 8/11-14, Montreal, Canada.
2005. "A Sociologist Runs for Office: Poignant Lessons from the Field." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, 3/17-20, Washington D.C.
- 2005 "[Toward a Democratic Ethic for the New Year](#)." *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* 1/1, *Albuquerque Journal* 1/2
- 2004 "Public Sociology: Towards Knowledge Democracy," *Political Sociology: States, Power, and Societies* (newsletter of the ASA Political Sociology Section) 10:3:6-7.
- 2003 "[The Division of Labor, Part 3: Insights from the Political Field](#)," *From the Left* 24:3:5-6, 13.
- 2003 "Making Parties Matter," co-authored with Eric Weltman. *The Patriot Ledger*, 6/7.
- 2002 "[Toward a Living Democracy](#)," co-authored with Eric Weltman. *Boston Globe*, 7/6. Article also picked up by the national Common Dreams News Center.
- 2002 "[Making History, Making Democracy Un-Extraordinary](#)." *Radical Teacher* 64:31-35.
- 2002 "[9-11 and the Triumph of Capitalism](#)." *Logos: Journal of Modern Society and Culture* 1:2:120-122.
- 2001 "[Theorizing Political Participation](#): Insights from Pragmatism and Symbolic Interactionism." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction, 8/20-21, Anaheim, CA.
- 2000 *The World of Sociology*. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group. Encyclopedia entries written on: coercion, hegemony, Max Horkheimer, ideology, interaction, oligarchy, political organization, public opinion, rationalization, status, values.