

FAITH ANN COUTS

Curriculum Vitae

(August 2026)

School of Education – University of California, Irvine
401 East Peltason Drive Suite 3200, Irvine, CA 92697
fcouts@uci.edu | [linkedin.com/in/faithanncouts](https://www.linkedin.com/in/faithanncouts)

RESEARCH INTEREST

Education Policy; Social Stratification, Inequality, and Mobility; Higher Education; College-to-Career Transitions; Career Services and Experiential Learning; Qualitative and Mixed Methods; Institutional and Organizational Contexts in Education; First-Generation and Underrepresented Students; Applied and Translational Research in Postsecondary Education

EDUCATION

- 2028* **University of California, Irvine**
Ph.D. Education (Education Policy Social Context) (**expected*)
M.A. in Education awarded en route, 2025
- 2023 **University of California, Irvine**
Bachelor of Arts Social Policy and Public Service
Honors: *Magna Cum Laude*
- 2021 **Saddleback College**
Associate of Arts in Sociology
Honors: *Summa Cum Laude*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023–present **Graduate Student Researcher: UCI Measuring Undergraduate Success Trajectories (MUST) Lab**
University of California, Irvine
Principal Investigator: Richard Arum, Ph.D.
- Lead Qualitative Researcher, College-to-Career Project**
Longitudinal qualitative study examining undergraduate experiences in co-operative education programs across multiple institutions.
- Graduate Researcher, Social Inequality and College-Career Pathways**
Contributing to research on race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and gender disparities in college experiences and employment outcomes using mixed-methods and sociological frameworks.
- Graduate Researcher, Spark Dashboard Project**
Supporting the co-design and development of a student-facing dashboard integrating academic, career service, and learning management system data to enhance student engagement and college-to-career readiness.
- 2022–23 **Undergraduate Research Assistant: Measuring Undergraduate Success Trajectories (MUST) Lab.**
University of California, Irvine
Principal Investigator: Richard Arum, Ph.D.
- 2022–23 **Project Researcher: Students Activating Social Innovation (SASI).** University of California, Irvine
Faculty Supervisor: Michael Dennin, Ph.D.

PUBLICATIONS

Collaborative Research Outputs

Arum, Richard, **Faith Coutts**, Oded Mcdossi, Enrique Eduardo Valencia-Lopez. 2025. *Northeastern University Co-op Experiential Workplace Learning Research Report*. Unpublished research report. University of California, Irvine and Northeastern University.

Arum, Richard, Oded Mcdossi, and **Faith Coutts**. 2024. *Improving College-Career Transitions: Interim Report to Strada Education Foundation*. University of California, Irvine.

Arum, Richard, Oded Mcdossi, Enrique Eduardo Valencia-Lopez, and **Faith Coutts**. 2024. *Improving College-Career Transitions: Project, Phase 1*. Unpublished final report submitted to Strada Education Foundation. University of California, Irvine.

Arum, Richard, Oded Mcdossi, Enrique Eduardo Valencia-Lopez, **Faith Coutts**, and Aidan Domondon. 2024. *Northeastern University's Co-op Experiential Learning Program: Preliminary Results from Spring 2024 Pilot Research Partnership*. Unpublished research report. University of California, Irvine and Northeastern University.

Arum, Richard, Oded Mcdossi, Enrique Eduardo Valencia-Lopez, **Faith Coutts**, and Aidan Domondon. 2024. *Northeastern University's Co-op Experiential Learning Program: Summary of the Contribution of the Co-op Preparatory Course*. Unpublished report. University of California, Irvine and Northeastern University.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Coutts, Faith, Oded Mcdossi, and Richard Arum. "The Reality Slap: How Gender and Generation Status Create Divergent Pathways to Career Preparation". Under Review at *American Journal of Sociology*.

Coutts, Faith, Enrique Valencia López, Danielle Shariff, and Richard Arum. "Microcosms of the Labor Market: How Universities Sort Students into Specialized vs. Exploratory Co-ops". Manuscript in preparation.

Valencia-Lopez Eduardo Enrique, Sofia Jaime, **Faith Coutts**, Oded Mcdossi, Richard Arum "Does Co-Operative Education Levels the College to Career Transition?" Manuscript in preparation.

Mcdossi, Oded, **Faith Coutts**, and Richard Arum. "First-Generation College Students and the Hidden Curriculum of Career Preparation". Manuscript in preparation.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

2022–23 **Social Science Honors Thesis:** *Understanding First-Generation College Transfer Students' Post-Transition Well-Being*. Department of Social Science. University of California, Irvine
Faculty Advisors: Richard Arum, Ph.D. and Jeanett Castellanos, Ph.D.

2021–22 **Field Study Thesis:** *University Adjustment in Non-Traditional Female College Students*. Social Policy & Public Service. Department of Social Science. University of California, Irvine
Faculty Advisor: Jeanett Castellanos, Ph.D.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2026 "Microcosms of the Labor Market: How Universities Sort Students into Specialized vs. Exploratory Co-ops." *Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28)*. New York, New York. With Enrique Valencia López, Danielle Shariff, and Richard Arum. (August 2026)

2026 "Microcosms of the Labor Market: How Universities Sort Students into Specialized vs. Exploratory Co-ops." *American Sociological Association*. New York, New York. With Enrique Valencia López, Danielle Shariff and Richard Arum. (August 2026)

2026 "From College to Career: How Co-ops Shape Initial Labor Market Transitions." *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting*. Los Angeles, CA. With Enrique Valencia López (presenter), Oded Mcdossi, and Richard Arum. (April 2026)

2026 "Microcosms of the Labor Market: How Universities Sort Students into Specialized vs. Exploratory Co-ops." *The Sociology of Education Association (SEA) Annual Conference*. Pacific Grove, CA. With Enrique Valencia López, and Richard Arum. (February 2026)

2025 "Divergent Pathways: How Generation Status and Gender Shape College Career Service Engagement." *American Sociological Association*. Chicago, IL. With Oded Mcdossi and Richard Arum. (August 8)

2025 "First-Generation College Students and the Hidden Curriculum of Career Preparation." *Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28)*. Los Angeles, CA. With Oded Mcdossi and Richard Arum. (August 7)

- 2025 ““Is a Co-op Worth It?” College Work-based Learning and Employment Outcomes.” *Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28)*. Los Angeles, CA. With Enrique E. Valencia López, Oded Mcdossi and Richard Arum. (August 6)
- 2025 “Navigating the Future: How Practical Experiences Shape Undergraduates’ Career Trajectories,” *UCI-Tübingen Global Research Initiative*. (January 14)
- 2024 “Navigating the Future: How Practical Experiences Shape Undergraduates’ Career Trajectories,” *UCI-MUST Fall Quarterly Meeting*. (November 2024).
- 2024 “Leveraging Institutional Data to Improve College-to-Career Transitions,” *Northeastern University*. With Richard Arum, Oded Mcdossi, Enrique Eduardo Valencia Lopez and Aidan Domondon (June 5).
- 2024 “Leveraging Institutional Level Data to Improve College-to-Career Transitions.” *Stanford University Pathway Network Seminar*. With Richard Arum and Oded Mcdossi (May 9).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lectures

- 2026 “What is Service Learning” (Guest Lecturer). *Introduction to Education*. School of Education, University of California, Irvine. (February 26)
- 2025 “Social Structure and Stratification” (Guest Lecturer). *Introduction to Education*. School of Education, University of California, Irvine. (November 20)
- 2025 “Ethical Uses of AI in Social Science Research: Practices and Possibilities” (Guest Lecturer). *Sociology of Education*, Department of Sociology, University of California, Irvine. (April 22)

Research Methods Instruction

- 2024–present “Research Methods Series” (Graduate Student Instructor). *MUST Lab (weekly methods workshops for undergraduate researchers)*. School of Education, University of California, Irvine.

Undergraduate Research Advising

- 2025–2026 Lily Wu (Honors Thesis Advisor). “From Exams to Experience: Reimagining Pathways through Co-op Education among Asian International Students.” Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine. Expected completion May 2026.

SERVICE

Mentoring and Advising

University of California, Irvine

- 2025–2026 LeadHER Mentor, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine
Selected to serve as a mentor in a professional development and leadership program supporting undergraduate women in the social sciences.
- 2024–present Graduate Student Peer Mentor, Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADE)
- 2023–present Undergraduate Research Assistant Mentor, UCI-MUST College-to-Career Project
- 2023–24 Project Advisor, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program
- 2022–23 Peer Advisor, Division of Career Pathways.
- 2022–23 Peer Educator, Student Outreach and Retention Center (SOAR).
- 2021–22 Program Advisor, Office of Civic Engagement.
- 2022 Financial Aid Lab Support Staff, Early Academic Outreach Program

Saddleback College

- 2020 Outreach Support Staff: Breakthrough San Juan Capistrano

University and Professional Service

University of California, Irvine

2025-26	Open Paper Session Reviewer, Sociology of Education Program Committee American Sociological Association (ASA) 2026 Annual Meeting
2026	Organizer, ADSE “ <i>Second Year Research Paper Milestone</i> ” Cross Cohort Conversations (April 23)
2025	Organizer, ADSE “ <i>First Year Poster Milestone</i> ” Cross Cohort Conversations (Jan 8)
2024	Organizer, <i>Grad School Personal Statement Workshop</i> (October 18)
2024	Panelist, <i>Graduate Student Life Panel</i> CP-LEADS (July 11)
2024	Organizer, <i>Grad School Panel</i> Social Policy and Public Service (May 20)
2024	Organizer, <i>Graduate School Workshop</i> UCI-MUST Lab (May 2024)
2024	Poster Presentation Judge, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (May 17)
2024	Organizer, <i>Cross Cohort Conversations, “What I Wish I would Have Known”</i> ADSE (January 18)
2024-present	Ph.D. Faculty Representative, Associated Doctoral Students in Education
2023-present	Ph.D. Cohort Representative, Associated Doctoral Students in Education

INTERNSHIPS

2022	Teaching Assistant: UC Davis Global Affairs. Chiang Mai, Thailand Supported English language instruction in Thai government primary schools (Grades 3–5). Collaborated with local educators and Chiang Mai University student teachers in curriculum planning and co-curricular activities.
2022	Field Study Intern: Student Outreach and Retention Center (SOAR). University of California, Irvine Led qualitative interviews with 15 non-traditional students to examine mentorship, institutional climate, and post-pandemic adjustment. Developed a needs assessment and strategic recommendations to support student retention.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2026	Learning Engineering Tools Competition Grant Winner <i>Organized by The Learning Agency, Program of Renaissance Philanthropy.</i> Growth Prize Grant Winner (\$150,000) “Spark: a student-centered, mobile-first, personalized dashboard.” Co-PI with June Ahn, Co-PI and Richard Arum, PI (2026-2027).
2023	Order of Merit <i>School of Social Science, University of California, Irvine</i> Recognizes the top 2% of social sciences undergraduate students exemplifying a commitment to academic distinction, leadership and service to the school, campus and community.
2023	Chancellor’s Award of Distinction <i>Alumni Association, University of California, Irvine</i> Recognizes exceptional graduating seniors for academic excellence, leadership, and service.
2023	Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research <i>Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, University of California, Irvine</i> Awarded for research on first-gen transfer student well-being, with a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
2022	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Grant <i>University of California, Irvine (\$350)</i> Awarded a grant to conduct and present research at annual UROP symposium
2022	Independent Achiever Award <i>University of California, Irvine (\$3000)</i> Recognizes and supports independent students demonstrating academic promise, and courage to carve their own paths and strive for their careers while working to support themselves and their education.

2022 **Distinguished Anteater Award**

Alumni Association, University of California, Irvine (\$1500)

Merit-based award honoring students for their contributions to campus programs, clubs, research, and community engagement.

2022 **Schonfeld Scholarship**

School of Social Science, University of California, Irvine (\$1000)

Awarded to a top undergraduate for academic achievement and service to the university community.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association (ASA): *Sociology of Education; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility; Organizations, Occupations, and Work*

Sociology of Education Association (SEA)

Research Committee 28 on Social Stratification and Mobility (RC28), *International Sociological Association (ISA)*

Women of the Dean's Leadership Society, *University of California, Irvine School of Social Science*

Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society (PTK)

CERTIFICATIONS

CITI Program | Research and HIPAA Privacy Protections Certificate

Issued October 2022 - Expires October 2027

Credential ID 51970501

CITI Program | Social and Behavioral Investigators Certificate

Issued January 2022 - Expires January 2027

Credential ID 46521857

REFERENCES

Richard Arum, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology and Education

Relationship: Faculty Advisor

University of California, Irvine

3231 Education Irvine, CA 92697

949-824-2534

richard.arum@uci.edu

June Ahn, Ph.D.

Senior Associate Dean of Academic Personal | Professor of Education and Learning Sciences

Relationship: Co-advisor

University of California, Irvine

401 E. Peltason Drive, Suite 3200, Irvine, CA 92697

june.ahn@uci.edu

Michael Dennin, Ph.D.

Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education | Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

Relationship: Undergraduate Faculty Supervisor

University of California, Irvine

611 Aldrich Hall Irvine, CA 92697

949-824-7761

mdennin@uci.edu

Jeanett Castellanos, Ph.D.

Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies | Professor of Teaching, Department of Social Sciences

Relationship: Undergraduate Faculty Advisor

University of California, Irvine

2231 Social Science Plaza B Irvine, CA 92697

949-824-6298

