

[sewilcox7@gmail.com](mailto:sewilcox7@gmail.com)

[www.susanwilcox.org](http://www.susanwilcox.org)

## Education

**Teachers College, Columbia University** - NYC

EdD May 1997 Department of Curriculum & Teaching (Theory, Practice & Research)

**Harvard University** - Cambridge, MA

EdM May 1992 Department of Human Development & Psychology (Technology in Education)

**Parsons School of Design/The New School University** - NYC

BFA MAY 1981 Communication Design & Photography

## Professional experience

Since 2015

**FireBeads Media** - NYC & Accra, Ghana

Co-founder/director of a company that develops original media and hosts the annual *Benpaali Young Filmmakers Festival* (a forum for trained and self-taught artists exploring heritage and popular culture) to harness heritage of the African Diaspora and address conditions limiting youth, particularly girls/young women's involvement in this work

2013-2015

**Fulbright Scholar** - Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies, School of Arts  
University of Ghana, Legon

TEACHING - Lecturer for *Introduction to Theories of Culture and Popular Culture in Ghana*; Field School Co-Director (Krobo Mountain/Akuse); Field School Senior Staff (Dodowa, Accra); Ad-hoc committee member for a) faculty promotion policy, b) teaching/graduate assistant roles, and c) strategic plan for the Museum of Archaeology; and co-developer of a) Field School Manual and b) *Exploring Ghana's Heritage at the Museum of Archaeology* Social Studies curriculum for senior high school students.

RESEARCH - A dual-focused qualitative study of coming of age in Ghana that explored the influence of *dipo* rites on initiates' sense of agency and engaged Adagana Youth Project in participatory research on youth development

since 2011

**Principal**, SEW Consulting

Collaborates with youth and adults, organizers and educators, researchers and funders to develop initiatives, activities and materials that are informed by collective knowledge, creative visioning and a commitment to justice. Activities include curriculum, program and staff development, ethnographic research, and learning and assessment for such clients as: Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol, Brooklyn Museum of Art, Carnegie Corporation of New York, Children's Television Workshop, Cool Culture, Goddard-Riverside Community Center/Community School Board #3, DreamYard Project, Institute for Education and Social Policy (New York University), Community Involvement Program (Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University), National Urban League, Nickelodeon, Nneka Youth Foundation (Ghana), Rockefeller Foundation, Scholastic, and Teachers & Writers Collaborative.

2011-2013

**Adjunct Lecturer**, School of Education, Department of Special Education & Leadership

The City College of New York/CUNY - NYC

Courses: *Urban Issues in a Diverse Society* and *Adolescent Development & Learning*

2006-2011 & 1998-2003

**Co-Executive Director and Program & Professional Development**, The Brotherhood/Sister Sol - NYC  
The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (BHSS) offers long-term, holistic and comprehensive educational and enrichment programs for Black and Latino/a youth working in partnership with New York City public schools and during after school and summer programming. Launched in New York City in 1995 as The Brotherhood, in 1998 I stepped down as the inaugural Board chair to create Sister Sol and become a Co-Executive Director in the renamed organization and help build a co-educational, gender equitable organization. As co-executive director (2006-2009 & 1998-2003) my responsibilities included providing organizational vision, leadership and fiscal development; overseeing fiscal management & human resources; co-coordinating staff supervision, development and evaluation; designing & implementing organizational evaluation strategies; ensuring program integrity and effectiveness, in particular for the Sister Sol Rites of Passage Program; and designing & coordinating Liberating Voices/Liberating Minds and the International Study Program in Africa & Latin America. For my final two years at BHSS (2009-2011), I moved to consultant status and focused on Program & Professional Development.

1998-99

**Adjunct Professor**

Teachers College, Columbia University (NYC) - Course: *Teaching and Learning in Urban Areas*  
Eugene Lang College, The New School University (NYC) - Courses: *Knowledge is Power: A Practicum in Community Based Education* and *Identity in the Creation of Communities of Learning*

1997-99

**Research Associate**, Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Teachers College - NYC

1994-98

**Executive Director**, International Youth Leadership Institute - NYC

IYLI is academic program that helps Black and Latino/a high school students develop their potential to contribute as leaders in their community and the larger society. Responsibilities included recruiting and screening applicants; facilitating bi-weekly workshops on global issues; developing program materials and activities for overseas programs in Africa and Latin America; co-facilitating fundraising strategies; and working with the parents' group.

1994-95

**Research Associate**, National Center for Research on Vocational Education, Institute for Education and the Economy, Teachers College - NYC  
Conducted research comparing school-to-work and traditional curriculum in New York City high schools

**Standardized Patient**, Stony Brook School of Medicine, Winthrop University Hospital - Mineola, NY  
Trained and assessed medical students using a curriculum focused on promoting skills in the taking of patients' social and medical histories, diagnosing alcohol and sexual abuse, and engendering positive patient-doctor rapport

1992-93

**Production Researcher**, Children's Television Workshop - NYC

Designed/conducted field studies and archival research; assessed scripts and treatments; and supervised interns for network TV programs jointly developed by the Research, Content and Production Teams

1991-92

**Research Assistant**, Harvard Graduate School of Education - Cambridge, MA

Conducted research exploring the educational content of rap music and videos

**Production Research Assistant**, Blackside Film & Television Productions, Inc. - Boston, MA

Conducted archival research and interviews for two segments of *The Great Depression* (an 8-part documentary developed for public television)

1990-94

**Group Coordinator/Associate Director**, International Youth Leadership Institute - NYC

1987/1988

**Group Leader**, Operation Crossroads Africa, Inc. - NYC

Led student and adult volunteers on 8 week-long development projects in rural Ghana and Botswana focused on school and home construction

### Conference participation & presentations (select)

#### REFEREED

Chair of *Framing Education as an Act of Liberation* with Curtis Acosta, Keith Catone, Leigh Patel, and Bree Picower at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in San Francisco (29 April 2013)

*Co-Creating Emancipatory Education for Youth Empowerment* co-presented with Leigh Patel at *Disrupting the Discourse: Discussing the "Undiscussable"* at the Alumni of Color Conference, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA (4 March 2012)

*Let My Soul Spit: Young People Write for Reflection and Inspiration* presented at *Crossing Borders: Exploring Local and Global Perspectives on Race, Inequality and Education* at the Alumni of Color Conference, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA (7 March 2009)

*Insights from Ground Level: A Grassroots Approach to Liberatory Education* at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in NYC (25 March 2008)

*Culture, Politics and Activism, Critical Pedagogy and Content for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in NYC (24 March 2008)

*Content, Perspective, Dialogue: A Model of Youth Development* at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in NYC (24 March 2008)

*This Ain't School: Engaging Youth in Critical Issues* presented at *Free Minds, Free People: A Conference on Education for Liberation* in Chicago, IL (27 June 2007)

*A Framework for Understanding the Meaning and Impact of Education for Liberation* with T. Mack presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association in Chicago, IL (March 2007)

*Liberating Voices/Liberating Minds: Strategies of and Impact of Community Based Educational Model* co-presented at *Growth, Strength, and Action: Honoring Our Commitment to Individuals and Communities of Color* at the Alumni of Color Conference, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA (4 March 2006)

*Rites of Passage for Social Change* workshop co-presented at *Reconnecting the I and We: Building Community for Change* at the Alumni of Color Conference. Harvard University Graduate School of Education in Cambridge, MA (1 March 2004)

*Is Travel the Best Education? An Evaluation of the Global Development Program and Its Associated Overseas Study Programs* presented during the Graduate Poster Session at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Research Association in NYC (April 1996)

*A Critique of the "American Dream": The 1960s Revisited* with A.I. Matthews presented at the 74th Annual Conference of the National Council of the Social Studies in Phoenix, AZ (November 1994)

*New Ways to Evaluate Embedded Science in a New Saturday Morning Cartoon: An Episode on Buoyancy* with S. Mendelsohn presented at the Annual Conference of the New England Educational Research Association in Portsmouth, NH (April 1993)

#### INVITED

Panelist at *Art as a Weapon* Conference hosted by DreamYard Project, Bronx, NY (January 16, 2017)

Guest speaker on the occasion of commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Holy Trinity School coordinated by the Public Affairs Desk, United States Mission in Ghana (27 January 2015)

Guest speaker on the occasion of commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at America Corner (Accra) and Morningstar School coordinated by the Public Affairs Desk, United States Mission in Ghana (22-23 January 2014)

*Coming of Age in Ghana* presented at the Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies, University of Ghana-Legon (8 May 2015)

Moderator of panel at Heritage Management Conference hosted by Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies, University of Ghana-Legon (13 September 2013)

Guest speaker on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the March on Washington at America Corner (University of Ghana-Legon) coordinated by the Public Affairs Desk, United States Mission (28 August 2013)

Panelist in the course A Multi-Disciplinary Look at The South Bronx and Harlem: Two Communities in the Balance of Hope and Despair (Redux) (Professor Lynn Roberts) at CUNY School of Public Health at Hunter College on the topic of "Childhoods Lost, Stolen & Reclaimed Part One (Education): Zoning in on Leaving No Child Behind & Taking Them Beyond (October 11, 2012)

Guest speaker in the course Literacy Pedagogy & Assessment (Professor Leigh Patel) at Boston College to discuss "With Pen & Paper: A Poetic License for Change" an unpublished paper by with E. Candelario & D. Taylor. (September 2012)

Guest speaker in the course Social Context in Education (Professor Leigh Patel) at Boston College on the topic of "The myth of meritocracy and exploration of how schools reproduce social class in America." (23 February 2012)

Participant at the Ford Foundation Secondary Education, Structural Racism and Educational Justice Meeting and presented, *They Don't Think I'm Going to Make It? Watch Me*. NYC (4-5 October 2010)

Panelist on *Research, What Have you Done for Me Lately?* at Crossing Borders: Exploring Local and Global Perspectives on Race, Inequality and Education, the Alumni of Color Conference, Harvard University Graduate School of Education. Cambridge, MA (6 March 2009)

Facilitator on *Developing a Strong Board of Directors* for grantees of the Third Wave Foundation. Amherst, MA (31 March 2009)

Panelist on *Gender Justice in the New Age of Youth Development* at the Annual Conference of Grantmakers for Children, Youth and Family in Chicago, IL (16 October 2008)

Panelist at *Girls to Women and Boys to Men: Building Successful Gender-Based Youth Programs* co-sponsored by the Partnership for After School Education and The Educational Alliance in NYC (19 May 2005)

Panelist on *Who, What, Where, Now: A Dialogue* at the Long Walk to Freedom Public Programs sponsored by Community Works in Atlanta, GA (21 July 2002)

Presenter at the *Digital Divide II Conference 2002* sponsored by The Center for Urban Youth & Technology, School of Education at the University at Albany (5 June 2002)

Presenter at *Character Education & Critical Thinking* at Yonkers Public Schools staff training, Yonkers, NY (6 February 2002)

Presenter at *Helping Youth Develop Positive Self Images* at Character Education for Safe Schools Conference, Education and Learning Coalition of Westchester and Putnam, Pleasantville, NY (14 November 2001)

Presenter at *Family Involvement in Reaching Challenging Academic Standards: Approaches that Promote High Achievement in Middle School through High School* at Improving America's Schools conference, US Department of Education, Louisville, KY (3 October 2000)

Presenter at *Meeting the Needs of Children in Diverse Communities* conference sponsored by the Manhattan Country School, NYC (27 February 1998)

Facilitator for *What Will it Take to Build a Community Movement for School Reform?*, a conference sponsored by the Institute for Education and Social Policy (NYU), NYC (10 October 1998)

Facilitator for *Community-Based Organization/School Collaborators for After-school Programs: Linking Educational Standards and Youth Development Strategies for Student Success* invitational conference co-sponsored by The After-School Corporation, The Board of Education of the City of New York, New Visions for Public Schools, Community-School Connections, and the Institute for Urban Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC (20 June 1998)

Planner/Facilitator for *Preparing Urban Youth for Global Leadership* conference co-sponsored by the International Youth Leadership Institute and the Institute for Urban Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC (3 April 1998)

Panelist on *Helping Students of Color Gain Social, Academic and Leadership Skills for Success* at the meeting of the Multicultural/Gender Equity Committee of the Manhattan Country School, NYC (23 March 1998)

*Sensible Evaluation of Community Youth Programs* presented at Forging Alliances: Redefining the Relationship of Community, Schools and Families sponsored by the Institute for Urban Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC (3 December 1997)

*Developing a Curriculum on Africa for Middle School Students* presented at Teaching About Africa sponsored by the Institute for African Studies, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, NYC (27 June 1996)

Non-Governmental Organization Representative at *Habitat II, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements* in Istanbul, Turkey (1-11 June 1996)

*History, Culture, Geography and Environment: The Pedagogic Approach of the International Youth Leadership Institute* presented at Teaching About Africa sponsored by the Institute for African Studies, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, NYC (6 June 1995)

## Publications

*The Hand Book*, photographic stories for young readers and cultural explorers (2016). Accra, Ghana: Afram Publications

*Let My Soul Spit: Young People Write for Reflection and Inspiration* in Listening to and Learning From Students. Schultz, B. D. (Ed.). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing (2011) and in The Sophist's Bane, The Journal of the Society of Professors of Education. Chicago: Northeastern Illinois University (Spring 2009)

*My Sister, My Brother, Myself, Critical Exploration of Sexism and Misogyny at The Brotherhood/Sister Sol* in Teach Freedom, Education for Liberation in the African American Tradition. Payne, C. & Strickland, C. (Eds.) New York: Teachers College Press (2008)

*Rites of Passage, Preparing Youth for Social Change* with K. Lazarre-White and J. Warwin in *After School Matters*, 3, 52-60. New York: The Robert Bowne Foundation (Spring 2004)

*A+ Strategies for Strong Partnering* with A. Henderson in *Schools in the Middle: Theory into Practice*, 8, 3. NASSP (November/December 1998)

*Finding Community, Forming Identity: Exploring the Role of Youth Programs Serving Blacks and Latinos* in IUME Briefs No. 7. New York: Institute for Urban Education, Teachers College (October 1998)

*The International Youth Leadership Institute's Fifth Summer Fellowship Program in Ghana, West Africa* in IUME Newsletter Vol. V, New York: Institute for Urban Education, Teachers College (Fall 1994)

## Reports, papers & research

*Exploring Initiates' Perception of Dipo & Its Influence on Their Sense of Agency* (August 2014)

*There's A Bigger World Out There, Youth Leadership Development through International Study* for The Brotherhood/Sister Sol (May 2007)

*Speak to Her Who Understands You: An Exploration of Single Sex Community Based Programs for Young Women* for The Robert Bowne Foundation (December 2004)

*Blurred Boundaries: How Community Programs Nurture Knowledge of Self and Acceptance of Others* for an unpublished collection (2001)

*Now More Than Ever: Parent Involvement in Middle School Education* with A. Henderson for Carnegie Corporation of New York (September 1998)

*"Taina": A Study of Teens' Interests, Lifestyles and Concerns* for Perez-Minton Productions, Nickelodeon, NYC (February 1998)

*An Evaluation of the Community Involvement Program* for the Institute for Education and Social Policy, New York University, NYC (May 1998)

*Five New Haven Schools' Progress Toward Renewing the School Development Program* for the Rockefeller Foundation, NYC (September 1996)

*PEER Project: An Identification of Multi-site, Statewide Organizations Working to Build Public Support for Education and/or School Improvement* for the Institute for Education and Social Policy, New York University, NYC (June 1996)

*PEER Project: A Complete Listing and Organizational Topology of Organizations Identified While Researching Multi-site, Statewide Organizations Working to Build Public Support* for Education and/or School Improvement for the Institute for Education and Social Policy, New York University, NYC (June 1996)

*A Study of the Appeal and Comprehensibility of the "CRO Ice Age Magazine"* with I. Sroka for Children's Television Workshop, NYC (February 1996)

*A Study of the Appeal of Draft Art of Scholastic's KidPrint* with I. Sroka for Children's Television Workshop, NYC (January 1996)

## Curriculum development

*Exploring Heritage at the Museum of Archaeology* with Gideon Agyare for the Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. (June 2015)

*Field School Manual* with for the Department of Archaeology & Heritage Studies, University of Ghana, Legon. (January 2015)

*Why Did That Happen? Content, Perspective Dialogue: A Workshop Model for Developing Young People's Reflective Writing.* New York: The Brotherhood/Sister Sol. (2009)

*Brother, Sister, Leader: The Official Curriculum of The Brotherhood/Sister Sol.* New York: The Brotherhood/Sister Sol. (2006)

*Hidden Heroes: Youth Activism Today* for the Andrew Goodman Foundation, New York, NY (January 2000).

*Academic Excellence, Social Justice and Community Organizing: The ACORN High School Curriculum Guide* with the ACORN School Committee for ACORN, Brooklyn, NY (October 1998)

*South Africa Today: A Case Study of a Multicultural Society* for the Institute for African Studies, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, New York, NY (December 1996)

*A Critique of the "American Dream": The 1960s Revisited* with A.I. Matthews (December 1993)

*An Interdisciplinary Math and Science Intervention Program: A Guide for Implementation* for the National Urban League (December 1993)

## Professional affiliations & service

Fulbright Scholar Peer Review Committee for West & Central Africa (since 2015)

*Ongoing Planning Committee Member & Co-Founder*, Free Minds Free People (2007-2013, 2017, 2019), a bi-annual national conference that develops and promotes education as a tool for liberation

*Advisory Board*, Education for Liberation Network (2007-2013)

American Education Research Association

- *Advisory Board*, Grassroots Community & Youth Organizing for Education Reform SIG (2011-2013)
- *Committee Member*, Outstanding Dissertation Award for Division B-Curriculum Studies (2011)

*Advisory Board*, Alumni of Color Conference, Harvard Graduate School of Education (2002-2004)

*Selected Appointment*, Teachers College Screening Committee for Professor of Curriculum Theory in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching (Spring 1997)

*Member*, Student/Faculty Colloquium in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching, Teachers College (1993-94)

*Co-founder*, The Coalition, a network of undergraduate and graduate Black students' associations at Harvard University (1991)

*Co-chair*, Black Students' Union at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education (1991-92)

## Select awards

- *Distinguished Service Award* at the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of International Youth Leadership Institute (2014)
- *Union Square Special Achievement Award* for community organizing (2007)
- *Harlem Renaissance Award* (Abyssinian Development Corporation, 2003)
- *Union Square Award* for community organizing (Fund for the City of New York, 2001)
- *The Long Walk to Freedom* for continuing the legacy of Civil Rights activists of the 1960s (Community Works, 2000)