

Value Tensions in Teacher Practice: A Dynamic Systems Perspective on Developing Value-Oriented Teacher Identities

Professor Avi Kaplan

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Professor Kaplan will introduce a dynamic systems framework on teacher identity and its formation as highly contextualized, practice-based, idiosyncratic, and ever-changing that, nevertheless, manifests general principles with implications for teacher preparation and professional development. The presentation will put a special emphasis on teachers' experiences of value tensions in practice, and on environmental supports for the constructive negotiations of these tensions in the formation of resilient value-oriented teacher identity.

Avi Kaplan is Professor of Educational Psychology at the College of Education and Human Development, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA. Avi's recent research involves the application of the Complex Dynamic Systems approach to identity and motivation processes, and the use of collaborative design-based interventions for promoting motivation and identity exploration around educational content. His current projects include a US National Science Foundation funded collaborative research on designing an exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History that aims to promote diverse visitors' identity exploration of their inventiveness, and a James S. McDonnell Foundation funded multi-institution intervention to promote social studies teachers' professional identities that support facilitating student-led discussions in secondary classrooms about difficult histories. Avi is a visiting faculty member at the Mandel Center for Leadership in the Negev, Israel, where he supports leadership identity development of Arab and Jewish civic servant officials, physicians and medical students, and community members of the region. He is a former President of the Division of Educational Psychology of the American Psychological Association, and the former Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Experimental Education. He is a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association, the Association of Psychological Science, the Division of Educational Psychology of the American Psychological Association, and the Eastern Psychological Association.

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