

## SANGEETA TYAGI, PH.D.

Center for Youth and Communities  
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### EXPERTISE

Innovative leader with a unique combination of academic research and teaching; rigorous learning and evaluation background; executive leadership and practitioner experience in the youth development and education sector; deep understanding of the mission driven sector; engagement with philanthropic strategy and impact; and academic credentials.

I have executive experience in building and assessing strategy with a focus on impact, in managing change and shepherding teams towards aligned action, developing partnerships across a wide range of stakeholders, building the capacity of community-based organizations, and strengthening board and management synergies. My career has been focused on the health and success of youth and communities globally and in building strong organizations that center youth voice, equity, and the communities the organizations serve. I teach about youth serving organizations sustaining themselves over time and achieving alignment between mission, strategy, culture, and day-to-day implementation. I bring deep expertise in youth leadership, education, youth employment, and community development; in postsecondary education transitions for first in family young people; in issues of equity and social justice; and in organizational development, health, and sustainability.

### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Department of Sociology, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. 1993

M.A., Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India. 1984

### EXPERIENCE

#### Current Engagements:

#### **Senior Social Scientist, Center for Youth and Communities, The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA -- July 2019 – present**

- *Director*, Center for Youth and Communities, July 1, 2023 --
- *Chair*, *Women, Gender and Sexuality concentration* of the Master of Public Policy (MPP) Program
- *Member*, MPP Program Committee
- *Member*, Research Steering Committee
- *Teaching courses* in the MBA and MPP programs on management of mission driven organizations; Women, gender, and sexuality policy; LGBTQ+ policy; Policy Implementation

***Funded Research, Evaluation, and Capacity Building Projects:***

- *Principal Investigator*, for USAID funded project to build the capacity of 22 higher education institutions in Ethiopia to graduate career ready graduates – January 2024 – March 2026
- *Principal Investigator*, for a New Profit funded project to assess the implementation and value of Google Certificates and IBM SkillsBuild in partnership with Jobs for the Future and four workforce boards – May 2023 – July 2024
- *Principal Investigator*, on a New Profit funded assessment of funder value across their grantee portfolio – April 2024 – January 2025
- *Co-Principal Investigator*, on Accelerate the Future funded project to diversify the mental health counseling workforce in MA through a partnership with higher education and community-based agencies – January 2024 – December 2026
- *Co-Principal Investigator*, on the Social Security Administration funded project as part of the Retirement and Disability Research Consortium March 2024 --
- *Principal Investigator*, Future of Work Grand Challenge initiative focused on rapid reskilling and connection to meaningful employment for workers hardest hit by the pandemic. Funded by New Profit, Inc. and implemented in partnership with XPRIZE, MIT SOLVE, and Jobs for the Future. August 2021 to June 2023
- *Member of team* that worked with six Ethiopian universities to help strengthen their employability development and career readiness practices and capacity. Worked closely with Save the Children, Ethiopia office on overall project management and strategy. June 2019 – June 2020

**Invited Member, Institutional Review Board (IRB), MDRC, New York, NY, January 2017 – present**

**Senior Advisor for Strategy, Impact, and Learning, Spring Point Partners, Philadelphia, PA -- January 2017 – present (Consultant)**

SPP is a social impact venture focused on grants and impact investments that champions community-driven change and promotes equity by investing in transformational leaders, networks, and solutions

- Advise SPP leadership on impact strategies, eco-system shifts, staffing, organizational culture
- Coach grantee CEOs of mission driven, community-based organizations on strategy, sustainability, scale, equity, organizational and board development, staff morale and culture, and partnerships

**Senior Advisor, Youth Futures Development Bank, Boston, MA – 2022 – present (Consultant)**

The YFDB is part of the Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN), a project at the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions. YFDB seeks to connect global infrastructure funding with opportunity youth training and employment pathways in the infrastructure development and home building sectors.

**Past Experiences:**

**Senior Advisor, Building Bridges, Boston, MA -- July 2021 -- 2022 (Consultant)**

Oversaw the launch; program strategy; board recruitment and development; partnerships; and operational/financial plans for a not-for profit organization focused on bridging the STEM divide among Boston's BIPOC communities.

**Executive Coach, Hopewell, Inc., Dedham, MA, January 2021 – December 2021 (Consultant)**

Hopewell is New England's leading provider of intensive foster care, supporting young adults transitioning out of foster care, and offering residential settings and support services for adults living with disabilities.

**Special Advisor, YouthBuild International, Somerville, MA, January 2017 – December 2021  
(Consultant)**

YBI is a global intermediary for YB programs across 22 countries

- Developed strategy and partnerships for the launch of YouthBuild India.
- Provided capacity building related to youth voice, engagement and leadership strategies and practices for India partners working on youth education and employment
- Member of design and strategy team for Global Opportunity Youth Network (GOYN) -- a multi-country youth employment initiative co-created by the Aspen Forum for Community Solutions, Prudential Foundation, YouthBuild International, Global Development Incubator, and Accenture.
- Participated in community mapping process for GOYN's launch in Kenya and India

**President, YouthBuild USA, Somerville, MA, September 2014 – December 2016**

Lead the national intermediary organization for a network of 260 community-based youth education and training programs and schools serving 9,000 low income, out-of-school youth each year. YouthBuild programs and schools provide a high school credential, support for postsecondary education, service opportunities, career and leadership development, and skills training

- Oversaw fundraising and budget management for \$38 million organization with 100+ staff.
- Set vision for the organization's growth, priorities, and sustainability in the context of global and national trends in youth education, employment, voice, and leadership. Aligned organizational systems and protocols with the growth and scale of the organization
- Served as chief liaison with systems partners, funders, program partners. Grew YouthBuild's engagement and influence in the youth development, education, workforce, criminal justice sectors and on the systems that impact the lives of low-income youth and communities
- Responsible for all program innovation and capacity building initiatives for the YouthBuild field; internal policies/culture/staffing issues; communication
- Part of three-member Executive Management Team that worked with Deloitte to develop a five-year strategic plan (2017 – 2021). Responsible for developing and overseeing the internal processes to build buy-in and to create the implementation details underlying the strategic plan
  - **Advisory Board Member**, Re-imagine Learning Initiative, New Profit, Inc., Boston, MA, 2015,
  - **Member of the Scaling Impact Council**, Service Year Alliance, Washington, DC, 2016

**Chief Program Officer, YouthBuild USA, Somerville, MA, June 2010 – August 2014**

Managed the multi-year change process that moved the national YouthBuild network from a majority GED granting and jobs-focused network to a majority diploma-granting and postsecondary education and careers-focused network. Member of four-person Executive Management Team.

- Raised over \$15 million in multi-year grants. Responsible for leading YouthBuild USA's program initiatives related to innovation, impact, and scale across the YouthBuild network
- Oversaw the launch of a criminal justice initiative in partnership with OJJDP, introduced a new partnership with Starbucks and Schultz Family Foundation to launch a co-created "customer service excellence training (CSET)"
- Managed the organization's relationship with USDOL for the federal YB funding. Won two consecutive five-year technical assistance contracts through a national competitive process

- Served as chief liaison with research organizations, such as MDRC, Brandeis University Heller School, Social Policy Research Associates, Mathematica Policy Research, to identify key research questions, and support the design and implementation of research initiatives for program improvements
- Member of the Department of Labor’s Research Advisory Group on YouthBuild’s Random Assignment Evaluation.
  - **President’s Award**, YouthBuild USA, 2011
  - **Staff of the Year**, Presented by the National Directors Council of the YouthBuild network, 2011

**Senior Vice President for Education, YouthBuild USA, Somerville, MA, 2008 – 2010**

Raised \$10 million in Gates, Open Society and other foundation grants to fund a postsecondary completion pilot with six YB schools and programs.

- Designed and launched the organization’s innovative postsecondary completion program, which was instrumental in changing the field’s vision and culture related to higher education for out of school youth.
- Launched the YouthBuild Charter School of California, an accredited, multi-site charter school serving low-income, out of school youth across the state. Hired the founding Executive Director of the school, recruited and developed the governing board, and oversaw the successful launch of the school in August 2008
  - **Outstanding Achievement Award**, YouthBuild USA, 2009
  - **Founding Board President** -- YouthBuild Charter School of California, Los Angeles, CA, June 2008 – June 2021

**Vice President, Education and Workforce Development, YouthBuild USA, Somerville, MA, 2005 – 2008**

Oversaw the capacity building and strategy to strengthen the YouthBuild network’s education and workforce development practices, partnerships, and outcomes. Raised \$8 million from multiple foundations for multi-year projects

- **President’s Leadership Award**, YouthBuild USA, 2006
- **Outstanding Supervisor Award**, YouthBuild USA, 2006
- **Board Member**, International Institute of Boston, an immigrant and refugee resettlement organization.

**National Director of Education, YouthBuild USA, Somerville, MA, 2003 – 2005**

Planned and implemented a five-year, \$5+ million Gates Foundation funded initiative to develop and strengthen 33 high-achieving, diploma-granting schools in the YouthBuild network. Oversaw all education related capacity building for local programs

- **Innovator of the Year Award**, YouthBuild USA. 2004

**Chief Operating Officer, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Cambridge, MA, 2000 – 2002**

Oversaw planning and operations for an international human rights organization with \$5 million annual budget and \$8 million endowment. Supervised seven functional departments.

**Director of Administration, Exploration School, Inc., Norwood, MA, 1996 – 2000**

Oversaw year-round planning for three summer programs. Built new systems for enrollment marketing, staff hiring, curriculum development.

## **Academic Experience**

### **Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology Department, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA, 1995 – 1996**

- **Member, External Review Committee** to evaluate Women's Studies Department at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, PA. 1995 – 1996

### **Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Sociology Department, Roanoke College, Salem, VA, 1992 – 1995**

- **Faculty-Scholar Award**, Roanoke College, Salem, VA, 1993
- **Faculty Research Grant**, Roanoke College, Salem, VA, 1993

### **Adjunct Faculty, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, 1989 – 1991**

## **RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND POLICY PRESENTATIONS**

Keynote, *Summit on Communities and Affordable Homes*, US Green Building Council Annual Conference, Washington DC, November, 2015

Plenary presentation at the *Individual, Cities, and National Service Advancing Youth Opportunity* Forum, Points of Light National Conference on Volunteering and Service, Houston, TX, October, 2015

Presentation: "First Jobs" at America Forward's launch event for "*Moving America Forward: Innovators Lead the Way to Unlocking America's Potential*," a briefing book intended for 2016 Presidential candidates and policymakers, Washington DC, October, 2015

Panel Facilitator: *VISTA 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration*, Massachusetts State House, Boston, August, 2015

Panel Presenter for Cities United (Institute for Youth, Education, and Families) presentation, "*Educational Enrichment Strategies to Support the Achievement of African American Men and Boys: What Role Can Cities Play?*" July, 2014

Lecture on, "Conditions for Learning" at Conference on *Effective Practices to Support Student Engagement and Success*, College of William and Mary, School of Education, September, 2012

Panel Presentation on "Positive Youth Development Approach to Developmental Risk Avoidance" at the Youth-Nex Inaugural Conference on *Forward Thinking: Preparing Our Youth for the Coming World*, University of Virginia, School of Education, October, 2011

Workshop Presenter at launch of the *High School Graduation Initiative*, U.S. Department of Education, Washington D.C., 2011

Panel Presentation on "Postsecondary education for out of school youth – policy and scale implications," Gates Foundation Education Annual Conference, Seattle, 2010

Panel Presentation on “Out of School Youth and Postsecondary Education” at conference, *Double the Numbers*, hosted by Jobs for the Future, New Orleans, 2009

Panel Presenter at New England Board of Higher Education’s *Readiness Revised: Advancing Student Readiness and College Success Forum*, Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, 2008

Participant in national working groups formed to advise on strategy, research and policy on youth education, youth employment, youth leadership for the: *American Youth Policy Forum, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Aspen Institute, Association for High School Innovation, Forum for Youth Investments, Jobs for the Future, National Youth Employment Coalition, New Profit, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Justice (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention), U.S. Department of Labor, Youth Transition Funders Group, Walmart Foundation, 2003 –*

Paper presented on “Writing in Search of a Home: Geography, Culture and Language in the Creation of Racial Identity” at the *Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meetings*, Baltimore, 1994

Panel participant at the *Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting*, Boston, MA. “**Changing Educational Institutions for Equity and Inclusion,**” 1993

## RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND POLICY REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Tyagi, S.T., Hughes, D.M., Tai, T. and Burack, C. (2020). *Education Works: Transferable Life Skills Trainers’ Guide and Curriculum*, University Edition. Save the Children US and Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University for USAID’s Building the Capacity for Youth Activity: Institutional Capacity Development Support for Ethiopian Institutions of Higher Education.

Tyagi, S., Burack, C. and Hughes, D.M. (2020). *Education Works: Career Development Center Management Course*, University Edition. Save the Children US and Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University for USAID’s Building the Capacity for Youth Activity: Institutional Capacity Development Support for Ethiopian Institutions of Higher Education.

Hughes, D.M., Tyagi, S., Burack, C.B., Lakshmikanthan, R., and Teklu, A. (2019). *Assessment of Student Employability and Career Development in Ethiopian Universities* Rapid Assessment Reports for Bahir Dar, Hawassa, Jigjiga, Jimma, Mekelle, and Samara Universities. Save the Children US and Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University.

Curnan, S., Hughes, D., Tyagi, S., and Haque, Z., *Closing the opportunity Gap: Feasibility Study for a New Norwalk Partnership Initiative*. Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School. 2018

### Blog Post:

“*First Jobs*” for Opportunity Youth, New Profit, Inc., 2015

<http://www.americaforward.org/blog/10092015connecting-opportunity-youth-to-first-jobs-and-meaningful-career-pathways-by-sangeeta-tyagi-president-youthbuild-usa>

### Books:

**Names We Call Home: Autobiography on Racial Identity**, eds., Sangeeta Tyagi and Becky Thompson. Routledge Press, New York, NY. 1995

**Beyond A Dream Deferred: Multicultural Education and the Politics of Excellence**, eds., Sangeeta Tyagi and Becky Thompson. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, MN. 1993

- Winner of *The Gustavus Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in North America*, 1994

**Research Papers:**

“Multicultural Education and the Sociological Imagination,” in *Teaching Sociology*, vol.21, no.2, April. 1993