



# International School Choice and Reform Conference

**2026 PROGRAM**

**JANUARY 8–11, 2026**

**ROME, ITALY**

# SPONSORS

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# Welcome!

Please join us for the fourteenth annual meeting of the International School Choice and Reform Conference (ISCRC), a global academic conference that gathers scholars who study various forms of school choice, systemic reform, and educational innovation. This includes scholarship on how school choice is enacted, the mechanisms that structure school choice programs, and both the direct and systemic effects of school choice and reform programs and initiatives.

The ISCRC invites researchers with multiple perspectives on these issues to attend our 2026 meeting, which will take place in Rome, Italy, on January 8-11, 2026.

Some of the research presented and discussed at this conference might be supportive of various forms of school choice, while other research presented at the conference will have a more critical stance. Some participants favor one form of choice while opposing other forms of choice. Conference participants are connected by the goal of using high-quality research to shed light on how school choice and reform policies play out when implemented.

From the graduate student to the senior scholar level, the ISCRC offers a unique opportunity for school choice researchers to gather in small groups. We accomplish this by including in the registration fee multiple meal and reception opportunities for participants to spend time together.

The ISCRC has grown into an important forum for the examination of diverse forms of education, including alternatives and reforms to district-run, traditional public schools. Its primary goal is to act as a means whereby scholars and practitioners can come together in small groups to debate and discover unanswered questions about school choice and reform and to identify areas of possible collaboration.

We are looking forward to connecting with you in Italy!

## ANGELA DILLS

Conference Chair

## ERIC WEARNE

Conference Co-Chair

## PLANNING COMMITTEE:

DREW CATT, Executive Director, EdChoice  
TOMMASO AGASISTI, Politecnico di Milano  
NINA BUCHANAN, University of Hawai'i  
ANGELA DILLS, Western Carolina University  
ANNA EGALITE, North Carolina State University  
JAY P. GREENE, Do No Harm  
HEIDI HOLMES, Brigham Young University  
TRIIN LAURI, Tallinn University School of Governance  
DAVID MARSHALL, Auburn University

RODRIGO QUERIOZ E MELO, Universidad Católica Portuguesa  
BENJAMIN SCAFIDI, Kennesaw State University  
M. DANISH SHAKEEL, University of Buckingham  
DEANI VAN PELT, Edvance Christian Schools Association  
ANGELA WATSON, Johns Hopkins University  
ERIC WEARNE, Kennesaw State University  
TIM WEEKES, Calsoyas Group  
PATRICK WOLF, University of Arkansas

**5:00 PM** Registration Opens

*Lower Level*

**6:00 PM** Welcome Remarks and Keynote

**Giove: Performance and Choice in Italian Schooling**

**Keynote Presenters:** Roberto Ricci (INVALSI) - The Performance of Italian Public and Private Schools

Chiara Iannarelli (Consiglio Regionale del Lazio) - Promoting School Choice Policies for Disabled Students

**Moderator:** Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano)

**6:30 PM** Welcome Reception

*Sapori dal Mondo (on site)*

sponsored by



*Breakfast on your own*

**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM** Kickoff

*Giove*

**9:30 AM - 11:00 AM** Concurrent Session 1 Choices

**Giove: How Institutions, Incentives, and Perceptions Shape Schooling in Choice Systems\***

**Chair:** Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University)

**Presenters:** Giovanni Antonini (Politecnico di Milano), Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano) — Can Schools Make a Difference? Evidence from Efficiency Analysis in the Italian Context

Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University) – Beyond Markets and States: School Choice and Institutional Diversity

Daion L. Daniels (University of Arkansas), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas) – Who Buys What with an Arkansas Education Freedom Account? Evidence from Private School and Homeschooling Families

**Vulcano+Vesta: Political and Professional Dimensions of Teaching\***

**Chair:** Michael Hartney (Boston College; Hoover Institution)

**Presenters:** Michael Hartney (Boston College; Hoover Institution), Carlos X Lastra-Anadón (IE University) – The Long-Run Effects of Teacher Unionization on Citizens' Political Participation

Natalie N. Schoettler (Auburn University), David T. Marshall (Auburn University), Tim Pressley (Christopher Newport University) – Teacher Experiences Across School Sectors Five Years After the Start of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Josh McGee (University of Arkansas) – Comparing the Charter and Traditional Public School Teaching Workforce: Preparation, Qualifications, Effectiveness, Wellbeing, and Working Conditions

Garion Frankel (Texas A&M University), Cooper Conway (Virginia Department of Education) – An Abundance Agenda in Educational Freedom

**Vittoria+Diana: International Perspectives on Homeschool Ecosystems†**

**Chair:** Kevin Boden (Home School Legal Defense Association)

**Presenters:** Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University), Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University) – Who Homeschools, Really?

\*Single Papers

†Research Panel

‡Critical Conversation: Research

John M. Kristof (EdChoice), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – A Large-Scale Survey of American Homeschoolers  
Gabriela Costa (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro), Paula Lellis (Catholic University of Salvador), Jessica Wingerter (University of São Paulo), Julia Gondim (University of São Paulo) – Cognitive and Socioemotional Development in Brazilian Homeschooling: A Longitudinal Study  
Paula Lellis (Catholic University of Salvador) – Legal Discourse on Homeschooling in Brazil: A Corpus-Based Study

**Bacco+Terra: Do Declining Enrollments Spell Disaster for Public School Districts? Effects of Enrollment Shifts on Public School District Resources and Implications for School Choice Programs‡**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University)

**Participants:** Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University), Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), Martin F. Lueken (EdChoice)

**Saturno+Cerere: States are Finally Getting Education Back – What Should They Do with It?§**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Matt Frendewey (yes. every kid.)

**Participants:** Halli Faulkner (yes. every kid. foundation.), Jim Blew (Defense of Freedom Institute), Derrell Bradford (50CAN)

**11:15 AM - 12:45 PM Concurrent Session 2 Choices**

**Vulcano+Vesta: Educational Quality and Differentiation in Choice Systems\***

**Chair:** Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas)

**Presenters:** Kaire Pöder (Estonian Business School), Faisal Mohammed (Estonian Business School), Triin Lauri (Tallinn University), Nilay Rammul (Estonian Business School) – Balancing Equity and Excellence: A Meta-Analysis of Tracking, School Choice, and Stratification in Basic Education

Ashley Hill-Rieske (University of Arkansas), Kristen Scott (University of Arkansas), Jonathan Wai (University of Arkansas) – Beyond Readiness: Investigating Where Early Algebra Works Best Examining Public, Charter, and Private School Contexts in the Era of School Choice

Kelly Carter (Johns Hopkins University) – Funding Quality: How School Choice Mechanisms Shape Play-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education

Alli Aldis (EdChoice), Jonathan Plucker (Johns Hopkins University), Jennifer Madsen (New Jersey Association for Gifted Children) – School Choice and Advanced Education

**Vittoria+Diana: Book Discussion – Implementing Universal Private Educational Choice (Part I)†**

**Chair:** John M. Kristof (EdChoice)

**Presenters:** Albert A. Cheng (University of Arkansas) – Arkansas

James V. Shuls (Florida State University) – Florida

Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – The Intersection of Universal Educational Choice and Homeschooling

**Discussant:** John M. Kristof (EdChoice)

**Bacco+Terra: Reforming Education at the Root: New Research on the State of Merit, Free Inquiry, Free Speech, and Administrative Bloat in Higher Learning – and Their Relationship to K–12 Challenges§**

**Organizer and Moderator:** David Hunt (Aristotle Foundation)

**Participants:** Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), Ian Kingsbury (Educational Freedom Institute), Catharine Kavanagh (Cardus)

## **Saturno+Cerere: Sorting and Opportunity in Comparative Education Markets\***

**Chair:** Daion L. Daniels (University of Arkansas)

**Presenters:** Kevin Jan Zuchanek (Wuppertal Research Institute for the Economics of Education), Kerstin Schneider (CESifo; Leibniz Institute), Anna Makles (Wuppertal Research Institute for the Economics of Education), Thomas Gößl (Wuppertal Research Institute for the Economics of Education) – The Costs of Losing Admission Lotteries – The Transition from Primary to Secondary School in Bremen

Sonia Exley (London School of Economics and Political Science), Anne West (London School of Economics and Political Science) – Choosing—and Being Chosen by—Academically Selective Schools: Inequality of Opportunity and Path Dependency in Germany and England

Dillon McGill (Texas Tech University) – Revealed Preferences and the Segmentation of Urban Education Markets

Faisal Mohammed (Estonian Business School), Kaire Pöder (Estonian Business School), Niveditha Prabakaran (Estonian Business School) – Postponing School Choice? How Detracking Reforms Shape Student Achievement Across Performance Levels: Evidence from Germany

## **12:45 PM - 2:00 PM Lunch and Keynote**



**Giove: Conversation on School Choice in Italy**

**Keynote Panelists:** Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano), Andrea Maccarini (University of Padova)

**Moderator:** Brian Kisida (University of Missouri)

## **2:15 PM - 3:45 PM Concurrent Session 3 Choices**

**Giove: Values, Governance, and Parental Decision Making\***

**Chair:** Paul DiPerna (EdChoice)

**Presenters:** Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), Rian R. Djita (Association of Christian Schools International) – Choice and Constraints: Experimental Evidence from the Private Christian School Sector

Rian R. Djita (Association of Christian Schools International), Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University) – What School Characteristics do Students Consider when Choosing a College or University? Experimental Evidence from the K–12 Private Christian School Sector

Triin Lauri (Tallinn University), Kaire Pöder (Estonian Business School), Kadi Kalm (University of Tartu) – Loosely Governed Choice and the Challenge of Inclusion: The Case of Estonia's Hybrid School Market

Daniel Pampuch (Christian Schools Australia), Darren Iselin (Christian Schools Australia) – The Virtue of Values: Parent Choice in Contemporary Australian Non-Government Faith-Based Schools

**Vulcano+Vesta: Evidence and Outcomes in Private School Choice\***

**Chair:** Keri Hunter (Stand Together Trust)

**Presenters:** Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas), M. Danish Shakeel (University of Buckingham), Harry A. Patrinos (University of Arkansas), Daion L. Daniels (University of Arkansas), Al Mansor Helal (University of Arkansas), Md. Jewel Sarker (University of Arkansas), Taylor Wilson (University of Arkansas) – The Impact of Private School Choice on Student Attainment around the Globe: A Meta-Analysis & Returns to Education Study

Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice) – *The 2026 EdChoice Friedman Index – All Students, All Options, All Dollars*

Anna J. Egalite (North Carolina State University), Matthew Springer (Basis Policy Research), Matthew Pepper (Basis Policy Research) – Why Parents Choose Vouchers

David Figlio (University of Rochester), Matthew Chingos (Urban Institute), Krzysztof Karbownik (Emory University) – The Effects of Ohio's EdChoice Voucher Program on College Enrollment and Graduation

**Vittoria+Diana: Federal Scholarship Tax Credit - What Does It Mean for Children Across the U.S. and How Can the Movement Support Successful Implementation?**§

**Organizer and Moderator:** Lauren May (Step Up For Students)

**Participants:** Peter Murphy (Invest in Education), Ashling Preston (American Federation for Children), John Schilling (2020 Strategies)

**Bacco+Terra: Creating a Cohesive Voice for School Choice in America**#

**Organizer and Moderator:** Kirianne Suriano (Charter Schools USA)

**Participants:** Kirianne Suriano (Charter Schools USA), Paula Jackson (Charter Schools USA)

**Saturno+Cerere: Too Much of a Good Thing? Navigating the Political Economy of Funding School Choice Expansion**‡

**Organizer and Moderator:** David Hunt (Aristotle Foundation)

**Participants:** James V. Shuls (Florida State University), Kevin Boden (Home School Legal Defense Association), Catharine Kavanagh (Cardus), John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment), Renee Miller (Colorado Homeschool Enrichment)

**4:00 PM - 5:30 PM** Concurrent Session 4 Choices

**Giove: The Accountability Mirage - Failures of the Public-School Accountability System**§

**Organizer and Moderator:** Matthew Ladner (The Heritage Foundation)

**Participants:** Matthew Ladner (The Heritage Foundation), Ian Kingsbury (Education Freedom Institute)

**Vulcano+Vesta: Legal Frameworks and the Future of Pluralist Schooling**\*

**Chair:** Aaron Saiger (Fordham University School of Law)

**Presenters:** Aaron Saiger (Fordham University School of Law) – School Choice and the Supreme Court’s Public School Docket  
Amanda U. Potterton (University of Kentucky) – Kentucky’s Ongoing Resistance to School Choice Reform Efforts: An Analysis  
Alexandre Magno Fernandes Moreira (European Law Association) – Minimum Learning Standards in International Law: Safeguarding Educational Freedom in a Globalized Framework

Katherine A. Curry (Oklahoma State University), Jentre Olsen (Oklahoma State University) – Educational Pluralism on Trial: The Intersection of Faith, Law, and School Choice

**Vittoria+Diana: Technology, Transparency, and School Decision-Making**\*

**Chair:** David T. Marshall (Auburn University)

**Presenters:** Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Anthony Maranto (University of Texas at Dallas) - Private, Charter, and Microschool Model Analysis Using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, M. Danish Shakeel (University of Buckingham)

David T. Marshall (Auburn University), Tim Pressley (Christopher Newport University) – The Short-Term Effectiveness of Virginia’s K–12 Cell Phone Ban

Genia Rachkovski (Tel Aviv University) – Beyond Test Scores: Does Public Information on School Satisfaction and Violence Levels Affect Parental School Choice?

Jennifer Claire Wolverton (Microcollective for AI, Robotics, and the Sciences [MARS]) – School Choice and Artificial Intelligence: Why Small Schools Will Lead the AI Age

**Bacco+Terra: Exploring the Role of Independent School Associations in the Quality and Accountability of Independent Schooling**‡

**Organizer and Moderator:** Joanna DeJong VanHof (Cardus)

**Participants:** Deani Van Pelt (Edvance Christian Schools), John Jagersma (Association of Independent Schools and Colleges in Alberta), Catharine Kavanagh (Cardus)

**Saturno+Cerere: The K-12 Poverty Trap Index†**

**Chair:** David Hunt (Aristotle Foundation)

**Presenters:** John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment), David Hunt (Aristotle Foundation) – The K-12 Poverty Trap Index: Assessing the Evidence of the Equity Effects of Funding School Choice

Nathan Gray (Young Harris College), Madison Dorris (Young Harris College) – The Connection Between Choice-by-Relocation and Socioeconomic Polarization

**5:45 PM - 6:30 PM** Bus Travel to Cultural Experience and Dinner - Must RSVP to Attend

*Meet Outside Hotel*

**6:30 PM - 10:30 PM** Cultural Experience and Dinner - Must RSVP to Attend

**Village Festival**

**L'Antico Casale La Carovana**

**Viale di Vigna Pia, 33 - 00149 Roma**

Return buses will operate on demand, beginning at 9:30 PM

sponsored by **Stand Together Trust.**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10**

**DAY 3**

*Breakfast on your own*

**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM** Kickoff

*Giove*

**9:30 AM - 11:00 AM** Concurrent Session 5 Choices

**Giove: Education Freedom and Financial Accountability: Is It Possible for ESAs to Have Both?§**

**Organizer:** Katherine Bathgate (EdChoice)

**Moderator:** Adam Peshek (Stand Together)

**Participants:** Robert Enlow (EdChoice), Michael Petrilli (Thomas B. Fordham Institute), Katherine Bathgate (EdChoice), Lauren May (Stand Up for Students)

**Vulcano+Vesta: Residential Patterns and the Dynamics of Educational Choices\***

**Chair:** Hannah K. Denker (University of Arkansas)

**Presenters:** Greg Phelan (Kennesaw State University), Christian Buerger (Indiana University Indianapolis), Erdal Asker (University of West Georgia) – Charter Schools, Home Values, and School Zone Changes in Indianapolis

Samuel Musser (University of Arkansas), Albert A. Cheng (University of Arkansas) – The Year-by-Year Primary and Secondary Education Histories of Private-Schooled Individuals

Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas) – Available Space...The Final Frontier

Hannah K. Denker (University of Arkansas), Kyle F. Butts (University of Arkansas) – Choosing Early: Patterns of School Choice and Stability in the First Years of Schooling

**Vittoria+Diana: A Survey of Homeschool Policy and Participation†**

**Chair:** Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University)

**Presenters:** Alanna Bjorklund-Young (Johns Hopkins School of Education), Angela R. Watson (Johns Hopkins University) – How Political and Other Factors Drive State Homeschool Participation

\*Single Papers

†Research Panel  
‡Critical Conversation: Research

keturah abdullah (University of Michigan) – The 5 W’s of State-Level Homeschooling Policy: A Study of 12 States

Christy Batts (North Carolina State University) – Public Education Resources for Homeschoolers in North Carolina

Daion L. Daniels (University of Arkansas), Albert A. Cheng (University of Arkansas) – Education Freedom in Practice: How Homeschool Families in Arkansas Use EFA Funds

**Discussant:** Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas)

**Bacco+Terra: Private Partners, Public Classrooms: New Intermediaries in Teacher Hiring and Retention†**

**Chair:** Ellen Goldring (Vanderbilt University)

**Presenters:** Ellen Goldring (Vanderbilt University), Angela Cox (Vanderbilt University) – Staffing Agencies in Public Education: A District Response to Teacher Shortages

Marjolein Camphuijsen (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Jan Baan (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Maaïke Witvoet (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam), Melanie Ehren (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) – Teaching on New Terms: Professional Identities of Private Practice in the Netherlands

Madeline Mavrogordato (Michigan State University), Jason Burns (Michigan State University) – Keeping Top Teachers: District and Charter Leaders’ Perspectives on an External Partnership to Retain Educator Talent in the United States

Josep M. Nadal-Fernandez (Tulane University) – Becoming Permanent: Evidence from Chile on the Interplay Between Teacher Job Protection and School Competition

**Discussant:** Anna J. Egalite (North Carolina State University)

**Saturno+Cerere: Charter School Teacher Quality and Student Outcomes\***

**Chair:** Nathan Marshall (Brigham Young University)

**Presenters:** Nathan Marshall (Brigham Young University), Heidi H. Erickson (Brigham Young University) – Selective Factors Impacting Charter High School Enrollment

Sarah McKenzie (University of Arkansas), Roy McKenzie (University of Arkansas) – Teacher Quality and Charter School Persistence: Impacts on Student Learning and Enrollment Patterns

Yongmei Ni (University of Utah), Andrea Rorrer (University of Utah), Charisse Gulosino (University of Memphis) – Unequal Outcomes? STEM Enrollment and Achievement in Charter vs. Traditional Public Schools

Christopher Saldaña (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Laura Davalos (University of Wisconsin-Madison) – The Impact of State Financial Intervention on District Marketization

**11:15 AM - 12:45 PM Concurrent Session 6 Choices**

**Giove: Collaboration and Capacity in Education Reform\***

**Chair:** Nina Buchanan (University of Hawai’i)

**Presenters:** Paul E. Peterson (Harvard University), Carlos X Lastra-Anadón (IE University) – Do We Need More Adults in U.S. School Districts or Do Too Many Cooks Spoil the Broth?

Vladimir Kogan (Ohio State University), Michael Hartney (Boston College; Hoover Institution), Parker Baxter (University of Colorado Denver) – The Politics of Private School Vouchers: Evidence from Three Statewide Referenda

**Vulcano+Vesta: Leadership and Change in School Choice Environments\***

**Chair:** Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas)

**Presenters:** Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas), Misty Gallo (University of Arkansas), Nathaniel Bork (University of Arkansas), James V. Shuls (Florida State University) – Learning to Lead 2026: What Topics Do Ed Leadership Graduate Programs Cover?

Carolyn Herrington (Florida State University) – Accountability, School Choice and the Role of the State: The Case of Florida, 1975-2025

Martin F. Lueken (EdChoice) – Do School Choice Programs Lead to Public School Closures? Evidence from 30 Years of State-Level Data

Josep M. Nadal-Fernandez (Tulane University), Douglas N. Harris (Tulane University) – When Schools Come and Go: Decomposing Average School Performance Through Market Dynamics

**Vittoria+Diana: Contested Classroom: School Choice and Culture Wars in the United States†**

**Chair:** Brian Kisida (University of Missouri)

**Presenters:** Heidi H. Erickson (Brigham Young University), Matthew H. Lee (Kennesaw State University), Brian Kisida (University of Missouri), J. Cameron Anglum (Lehigh University), Gary W. Ritter (Saint Louis University), Jennifer Gontram (Saint Louis University) – School Choice and Culture Wars: CRT Exposure and Viewpoint Diversity Across Educational Sectors

Brian Kisida (University of Missouri), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice), James V. Shuls (Florida State University), Gary W. Ritter (Saint Louis University) – What Should Schools Teach About America?

Gary W. Ritter (Saint Louis University), Colyn Ritter (EdChoice) – Public Attitudes and Teacher Responses to Political Intervention

Gerard Robinson (University of Virginia) – When Conservatives Become Abolitionists: Lessons the Abolish the Police Movement Can Teach Us Concerning Government Agencies and School Choice

**Bacco+Terra: Parent Support and How it Creates Student Success#**


**Organizer and Moderator:** Colleen Hroncich (Cato Institute)

**Participants:** Lauren May (Step Up For Students), Shiren Rattigan (Colossal Academy; Innovative Educators Network), Kimberlee Tucker (Homeschool Hive)

**Saturno+Cerere: Philosophies of Black Home Education: Perspectives from families in Various Regions of the United States#**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Timberly L. Baker (Arkansas State University)

**Participants:** Cheryl Fields-Smith (University of Georgia), Najarian Peters (University of Kansas), Christal Gamble (EdChoice Parent Corps Ambassador Fellow)

**12:45 PM - 2:00 PM** Networking Lunch  **KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY**  
*Sapori dal Mondo (on site)* sponsored by  **COLES COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**  
 **THE NATIONAL HYBRID SCHOOLS PROJECT**

**2:15 PM - 3:45 PM** Concurrent Session 7 Choices

**Vulcano+Vesta: Homeschooling Identity and Ecosystems\***

**Chair:** Christy Batts (North Carolina State University)

**Presenters:** Peter Stock (Canadian Centre for Home Education), Joseph Woodard (Canadian Centre for Home Education) – Home Education Growth in Canada – 2019-2025

“Rosenrot” Mireille Schulpke (Clonlara School) – Beyond the Kitchen Table: Understanding Homeschooling Through the Lens of Learning Ecosystems

Lindsay Gibson (University of Glasgow), Kaili C. Zhang (University of Glasgow) – Beyond Education and Care: Reframing Homeschooling as a Multifaceted Educational Approach

De’ja Wood (Vanderbilt University) – Understanding Black Families’ School Choice as Acts of Refusal in Politicized Educational Landscapes

**Vittoria+Diana: Book Discussion – Implementing Universal Private Educational Choice (Part II)†**

**Chair:** John M. Kristof (EdChoice)

**Presenters:** David T. Marshall (Auburn University) – Alabama

Heidi H. Erickson (Brigham Young University) – Utah

\*Single Papers

†Research Panel  
‡Critical Conversation: Research

Angela Dills (Western Carolina University), Anna J. Egalite (North Carolina State University) – North Carolina

Benjamin Scafidi (Kennesaw State University) – The Fiscal Impact of Universal Private School Choice

**Discussant:** John M. Kristof (EdChoice)

#### **Bacco+Terra: In Covid's Wake: School Closures, Science, and the Failure of Pluralism§**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Robert Maranto (University of Arkansas)

**Participants:** Stephen Macedo (Princeton University), Frances Lee (Princeton University), Paul E. Peterson (Harvard University), Tommaso Agasisti (Politecnico di Milano), Rodrigo Queiroz e Melo (Universidade Católica Portuguesa), Patrick J. Wolf (University of Arkansas)

#### **Saturno+Cerere: School Choice and Home Education in the Age of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence‡**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Najarian Peters (University of Kansas)

**Participants:** Gerard Robinson (University of Virginia), Alejandro David Tamez (University of Kansas)

### **4:00 PM - 5:30 PM** Concurrent Session 8 Choices

#### **Giove: School Choice Support and Constituencies – Using Public Opinion Data to Open New Doors‡**

**Chair:** Colyn Ritter (EdChoice)

**Presenters:** James V. Shuls (Florida State University), Lynn Woodworth (Florida State University), Zach Goldberg (Florida State University) – Seeds of Support: How Experience and Exposure Shape Public Opinion on School Choice

William Mattox (James Madison Institute) – The Intersection of Schooling Preferences and Family Size: What We Learned From Florida Voters

Colyn Ritter (EdChoice) – Unconventional Supporters of School Choice: Diving Into the Crosstabs

Paul DiPerna (EdChoice) – Undercurrents of the School Choice Waves: Americans' Values and Priorities in K–12 Education

#### **Vulcano+Vesta: Public Systems, Private Actors, and the Next Phase of Reform\***

**Chair:** John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment)

**Presenters:** Kim Shaw (University of Arkansas), Taylor Wilson (University of Arkansas), Miranda Vernon (University of Arkansas) – Who Stays and Who Leaves? Predicting Public School Retention in the Era of School Choice

John Merrifield (Institute for Objective Policy Assessment) – How to Build on U.S. School Choice Expansion Progress: And Dodge New Minefields

Lori L. Taylor (Texas A&M University), Timothy Gronberg (Texas A&M University), Dennis W. Jansen (Texas A&M University) – Making Vouchers Work in Rural Areas: A Simulation

Peter Colenso (Global Schools Forum), Aashti Zaidi Hai (Global Schools Forum) – “All Hands on Deck”: The Critical Role of Non-State Actors in Basic Education in Low and Middle-Income Countries

#### **Vittoria+Diana: Empirical Research and Theory on Homeschooling and the Choice to Homeschool from Over a Dozen Countries‡**

**Chair:** Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute)

**Presenters:** Albert A. Cheng (University of Arkansas), Nathan Honeycutt (University of Arkansas) – The Intellectual Courage of Homeschooled College Students' and their Support for Academic Freedom

Catherine Sunshine (Ulster University) – Happy at Home? A Comparative Study of Psychological Well-Being and Psychiatric Risk in Home-and-School-Educated Children

Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute) – The Match of Mismatch Between Individuals' Worldviews and Their Views on School Choice as Applied to Homeschooling

Sílvia Cópío (Aberta University), Gabriela Costa (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro), Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute), Erika di Martino (Fondazione Libera Schola), Dorcass Ross (Bolivian Homeschool Community)– The Impact of Legal Frameworks on Homeschooling Families: A Comparative Study of Portugal, Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, the United States, Italy, and Other Selected European Countries (Spain, France)

**Bacco+Terra: America at 250: Are our Students Ready, and What Must Change to Reboot Civics Education?§**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Madison Marino Doan (The Heritage Foundation)

**Participants:** Jonathan Butcher (The Heritage Foundation), Soren Schwab (Classic Learning Test), Tiffany Hoben (Cardinal Institute)

**Saturno+Cerere: Accountability on Whose Terms – Theoretical Approaches in Educational Pluralism§**

**Moderator:** Leslie Hiner (EdChoice)

**Participants:** Joanna DeJong VanHof (Cardus), Josyane Zingg (OIDEI), Alexandre Magno Fernandes Moreira (European Law Association)

**5:30 PM Conclusion of Regular Programming for the Day**

*Dinner on your own*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 11**

**DAY 4**

*Breakfast on your own*

**9:00 AM - 9:15 AM Kickoff**

*Giove*

**9:30 AM - 11:00 AM Concurrent Session 9 Choices**

**Giove: What the Feds Can Do and Should Do to Expand School Choice: A Policy Conversation on Populations Under Federal Jurisdiction§**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Madison Marino Doan (The Heritage Foundation)

**Participants:** Madison Marino Doan (The Heritage Foundation), Jonathan Butcher (The Heritage Foundation), Matthew Ladner (The Heritage Foundation)

**Vulcano+Vesta: Book Discussion – Fighting for the Freedom to Learn: Examining America’s Centuries-Old School Choice Movement†**

**Chair:** James V. Shuls (Florida State University)

**Presenters:** James V. Shuls (Florida State University) – *Fighting for the Freedom to Learn: Examining America’s Centuries-Old School Choice Movement (Part I)*

Neal McCluskey (Cato Institute) – *Fighting for the Freedom to Learn: Examining America’s Centuries-Old School Choice Movement (Part II)*

**Vittoria+Diana: Charter Governance, Design, and Student Outcomes\***

**Chair:** Sherrie Reed (University of California, Davis)

**Presenters:** Sherrie Reed (University of California, Davis), Heather Rose (University of California, Davis), Wendi McCaskill (University of California, Davis) – *Chronic Absenteeism in California’s Charter Schools*

Jamison White (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools) – *Specialization and Spillover: How Charter School Models Shape District-Wide Outcomes*

Shelby Smith (University of Southern California), Adam Kho (University of Kentucky) – *The Choice No One Talks About: Charter Authorization Decisions*

\*Single Papers

†Research Panel  
‡Critical Conversation: Research

Natalie Camarena Lopez (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools), Yueting “Cynthia” Xu (National Alliance for Public Charter Schools) – High-Performing Charter Schools for English Language Learners: A National Analysis of Academic Outcomes and Institutional Practices

### **Bacco+Terra: Character, Choice, and Civic Development Across School Models\***

**Chair:** John Thompson (Kennesaw State University)

**Presenters:** Darren Iselin (Christian Schools Australia), Daniel Pampuch (Christian Schools Australia) – Practices That Enable Student Flourishing in Australian Private Schools in a Disenchanted Age

Dane Roberts (Brigham Young University) – Thick Character Education Without School Choice: Lessons from Taiwan’s Virtue-Based Public Education

John Thompson (Kennesaw State University) – Are Hybrid Schoolers Reluctant to Participate in Private School Choice Programs? Experimental Evidence from a National Sample of Hybrid School Leaders

John M. Kristof (EdChoice), Nathanael Snow (Ball State University) – School Choice and the Development of Civic Virtue: Insight from Adam Smith and Classical Political Economy

### **Saturno+Cerere: Family Freedom in Education: Homeschooling, Pluralism Innovation, and Regulatory Diversity in Europe and the Americas§**

**Organizers and Moderators:** Sílvia Cópico (Aberta University), Alexandre Magno Fernandes Moreira (European Law Association)

**Participants:** Erika di Martino (Fondazione Libera Schola), Brian D. Ray (National Home Education Research Institute), Gabriela Costa (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro), Kevin Boden (Home School Legal Defense Association), Josyane Zingg (OIDEI)

## **11:15 AM - 12:45 PM** Concurrent Session 10 Choices

### **Giove: A Winning Strategy and a Winning Message: How Choice Wins on Policy and Politics#**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Kristen Forbriger (City Fund)

**Participants:** Marlon Marshall (City Fund), Will Marshall (Progressive Policy Institute), Rachel Canter (Progressive Policy Institute)

### **Vulcano+Vesta: The Social Architecture of School Choice: Well-Being, Access, and Parental Agency\***

**Chair:** Sharon Masinelli (Valdosta State University)

**Presenters:** Sharon Masinelli (Valdosta State University) – Educating Hearts and Minds: A Critical Conversation on SEL and Hybrid Homeschooling

Shericka Smith (Fayette County Public Schools), Ashley Johnson (Memphis Shelby County Schools) – Beyond Academics: Fostering Social-Emotional Learning and Mental Health in International Homeschool Environments

Nilay Rammul (Estonian Business School) – School Choice as a Social Dilemma: Are Parents Defecting or Signaling?

### **Vittoria+Diana: Beyond Compliance: Rethinking Accreditation for Independent Schools in a School Choice Era#**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Brian W. Polk (The Society for Classical Learning)

**Participants:** Brian W. Polk (The Society for Classical Learning), Eric Wearne (Kennesaw State University), Katherine Bathgate (EdChoice), Keri Hunter (Stand Together Trust)

### **Bacco+Terra: Scaling Innovation: How Career Academy Network of Public Schools Transforms Systems Beyond Their Walls#**

**Organizer and Moderator:** Candy Van Buskirk (Career Academy Network of Public Schools)

**Participants:** Jeremy Lugbill (Career Academy Network of Public Schools), Aimee Evan (WestEd), Jim Thorne (Career Academy Network of Public Schools), Sara Timm (Career Academy Network of Public Schools)

## **12:45 PM** Conclusion of Conference



# International School Choice and Reform Conference

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**JANUARY 15-18, 2027**

**TBA**