

Larry Schooler, Ph.D.
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EDUCATION

- 2019 Nova Southeastern University, Conflict Analysis and Resolution, Ph.D.
Dissertation: *Truth Talks: How North America's Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Engage the Public in Change*
Committee: Ismael Mvingi (chair, Nova Southeastern University), Robin Cooper (Nova Southeastern University), Toran Hansen (Salisbury University)
- 2000 Yale University, History, B.A.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-present Assistant Professor of the Practice (see courses below)

2020-2023 Lecturer

Department of Communication Studies, The University of Texas at Austin
Courses Taught:

- CMS (Communication Studies) 354 Conflict Resolution: survey course offered online and in-person that combines lecture, small group discussions, mediation simulation, guest speakers, case studies, news articles, and popular culture to learn how to analyze and help resolve conflict. Average instructor rating 4.5 out of 5.
- CLD (Communication and Leadership Degree) 332 Facilitative Leadership: newly designed course that combines in-depth study and skill building in facilitation with an understanding of its use in a leadership context. The final project involves design and delivery of a role play where students perform facilitation with stakeholders who have competing interests. Course content includes use of game shows to test student understanding of core concepts, student facilitation of course discussions, guest speakers who field questions from students, etc. Average instructor rating 4.7 out of 5.
- Plan II Honors Course in the History of Conflict and Its Resolution: Invited to design and deliver course for Plan II Honors program. With countless conflicts in multiple arenas around the world, from interpersonal and domestic to global and multinational, it is instructive to consider how both conflicts, and the ways they are resolved, have evolved over time and space. This course takes participants on a journey of discovery and understanding across geography and history. This course will examine a myriad of conflict types and ways that humans have attempted to resolve conflict: from war and violence in the public square, to prosecution and litigation; from ballot referenda to deliberative democracy. It will probe differences in how diverse cultures, religions, ethnic groups, races, and nations approach conflict—both its sources and its chosen strategies for resolution. It will challenge students to understand advantages and challenges associated with the various methods, and it will require students to design the best interventions to fit a particular conflict case study. It will incorporate guest speakers who have been parties to an array of conflict types and who have implemented a variety of conflict resolution strategies—from

negotiators of peace treaties to mediators of bitter divorces, from police officers and arbitrators of police department personnel matters to members of truth and reconciliation commissions. It will also involve simulations or re-enactments of past conflicts and ways in which they were resolved. Students will gain deep insights into what has caused conflicts in a variety of contexts, and how both our sources of conflict and methods for resolving it have (or have not) evolved. Average instructor rating 4.4 out of 5.

- Communication and Leadership Degree Internship Course (Spring 2023)

2013-present Senior Fellow

Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life, The University of Texas at Austin
Informal Course Taught:

- From Chaos to Collaboration: Public Engagement for the 21st Century (three-day multi-module training for government and nonprofit professionals)

2012-2015 Adjunct Lecturer

Department of Conflict Resolution, Southern Methodist University

Course Taught:

- HDDR 6336, From Chaos to Collaboration: Managing Public Disputes
Public Policy Dispute Resolution. Average teaching rating: 4.5 out of 5.

2010-present Fellow

Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution, The University of Texas at Austin

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-present Senior Director and Senior Facilitator

Kearns & West

2017-present Senior Fellow

National Civic League

2016-present Senior Advisor

Divided Community Project

2011-2019 President

Public Participation Partners

2017-2019 Subject Matter Advisor

Rockefeller Foundation / 100 Resilient Cities

2009-2017 Chief of Public Engagement, Facilitation, and Dispute Resolution

City of Austin, Texas (municipal government)

2010-2015 Ombudsman

United States Department of Defense

1999-2008 Reporter/News Anchor

National Public Radio

Voice of America

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2023 *Truth Talks: How North America's Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Engage the Public in Change*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books.

Book Chapters

2023 “Beyond the Town Hall: From Chaos to Collaboration in Community Listening.” In *Listening, Community Engagement, and Peacebuilding: International Perspectives*. London, UK: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.

Journal Articles

2018 “Volunteers and Public Engagement.” *National Civic Review*, 107 (3), 48–53.
doi: 10.1002/ncr.2018.107.issue-2

2018 “YOU’RE ON THE AIR! How Government Access Television Enhances Public Engagement. *Re-Imagining a 21st Century Democracy*,” 1(1), 19–24.

Public Scholarship (last five years)

2020, June 07. “After Floyd killing, we need a truth and reconciliation commission on race and policing.” USA Today.

2020, June 05. “The Argument for a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission.” Texas Standard.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

“Truth and Reconciliation: An Approach to Reforming Public Safety Institutions.” *International City County Management Association and Association for Conflict Resolution*, September 2022.

” Social Distancing Meets Public Engagement: Communicating and Listening During COVID-19.” *National Association of Government Communicators*, August 2020.

“Tradeoff Technology: Budget Visualization for Equity, Accountability, Engagement, and Fiscal Sustainability.” *American Society for Public Administration*, June 2020.

“Beyond the Town Hall: Municipal Civic Engagement for the 21st Century.” *National League of Cities University, City Summit*, November 2019.

“Truth Talks: How Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Allow the Public to Help Resolve Conflicts.” *Association for Conflict Resolution*, September 2019.

“Making Your Stakeholders and Constituents into Your Allies and Partners.” *Catalyst Water Policy Conference*, June 2019.

“Dealing with Difficult Topics and Stakeholders.” *National Association of Counties*, March 2019.

“Listening to the Community: A New Paradigm for Public Engagement.” *International Listening Association conference, Simon Fraser University*, March 2019.

“Changing the Way We Communicate with the Public.” *National Association of Government Communicators*, June 2018.

“Effective Ways to Engage the Public and Bring Them to Consensus.” *Texas Recreation and Park Society*, November 2017.

“Technological Assets in Participatory Democracy.” *International Observatory for Participatory Democracy*, June 2017.

“From Chaos to Collaboration: Effective Ways to Manage Public Meetings.” *International Association of Facilitators*, May 2017.

“Opening Budgets to Public Engagement.” *National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation*, October 2016.

“Building Civic Infrastructures to Engage a Diverse Public in Local Decision-Making.” *National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation*, October 2016.

“Blending Live and Digital Strategies for Public Engagement.” *City County Communications and Marketing Association*, September 2016.

“Best Practices in Preparations for Mediation, Arbitration, and Litigation.” *American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section*, April 2016.

“When the People Mediate: How Citizens Build Community Consensus.” *American Bar Association Dispute Resolution Section*, April 2014.

“Engaged and Online: Emerging Technologies for Civic Engagement.” *Harvard University*, October 2013.

“Looking Ahead: A New Framework for Public Participation.” *Frontiers of Democracy Conference, Tufts University*, July 2013.

“From Chaos to Collaboration: Effective Ways to Manage Public Meetings.” *International Association of Facilitators*, June 2013.

“A New Paradigm for Public Engagement.” *Texas Christian University*, December 2012.

“A Revolution for Public Participation.” *International Association for Public Participation*, October 2012.

“Beyond the Town Hall: A New Era in American Public Engagement.” *German Marshall Fund*, October 2012.

“If You Engage Them (Where They Are) They Will Come...Again and Again.” *American Society for Public Administration*, March 2012.

“From Chaos to Collaboration: How Elected Officials Can Improve Public Engagement.” *Texas Municipal League*, February 2012.

“Benefits and Pitfalls of Crowdsourcing Community Involvement.” *City County Communications and Marketing Association*, September 2011.

“Building a Vision with Sustained Community Engagement.” *Alliance for Innovation Transforming Local Government*, June 2011.

AWARDS

2016 Winner, *Top Public Affairs Programming*, Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors

2012 Winner, *Top Government Web/E-Government Tool*, Public Technology Institute

2009 Winner, *Peacemaker Award*, Austin Dispute Resolution Center

2004 Winner, *Radio Deadline Reporting*, Society of Professional Journalists

2003 Winner, *Use of Sound*, Edward R. Murrow Award, Radio Television News Directors Association

2002 Winner, *Top Radio Feature*, Associated Press

2017 Finalist, *Distinction/Best Practice in Citizen Participation* International Observatory on Participatory Democracy

2016 Finalist, *Democracy Medal*, Pennsylvania State University McCourtney Institute for Democracy

2013 Finalist, *Austin Under 40 Award (Government)*, Austin Young Men’s Business League

2016 Semifinalist, *Innovations in American Government* Harvard University Kennedy School of Government

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

President, International Association for Public Participation (U.S. affiliate)

Board Member, National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation

Leadership Council Member, Association for Conflict Resolution, Environment and Public Policy Section

Executive Committee and Board Member, Interfaith Action of Central Texas

Board Chair, Generation Citizen Central Texas

Board Member, Congregation Agudas Achim
Mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Hospital Advocate, SAFE Alliance