

# **Eileen Parsons, Ph.D.**

**Associate Professor of Science Education, School of Education at UNC-Chapel Hill**

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Associate Professor of Science Education

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## **Description**

Eileen Parsons studies the influences of socio-cultural factors, specifically race and culture, on learning in science and participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Her research uses primarily, but not exclusively, qualitative methods to investigate the cultural and racial responsiveness of practices with respect to African American students in K-12 learning environments with a focus on middle school and cultural and racial inclusiveness for traditionally underrepresented students of color in undergraduate STEM. Learning and participation of students of color also foreground her scholarship. Her scholarship centers and extends critical and socio-cultural theories that weigh the historical and contemporary positioning of people of color. Her research and scholarship are inspired by the belief that diverse perspectives and voices result in the most innovative, equitable, and productive approaches to a society's challenges.

Parsons's future research and scholarship interests include a K-postsecondary cross-disciplinary synthesis of STEM literature on students of color; mixed-methods longitudinal examinations of youths and their adult significant others (e.g., parents) science learning and participation in culturally responsive informal learning environments; and STEM education policy.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, International Affairs, Research, Philanthropy, Program Development, Public Policy

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## **Topics**

Broadening participation in STEM , STEM Education policy , African American education, Racial equity

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## **Affiliations**

National Association for Research in Science Teaching , American Educational Research Association , American Association for the Advancement of Science

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## **Past Talks**

**Mindset, agency, and African American high school students**

Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association

**A critical race theory critique of Next Generation of Science Standards: Manifestations of racism as ordinary and interest convergence.**

Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association

**Critical race theory and the Next Generation of Science Standards: Implementation to address  
"Racism as ordinary" and "counter storytelling."**  
National Association of Research in Science Teaching International Meeting

**Awaken the dialogue: Race and the experiences of Black faculty in the science education community**  
National Association of Research in Science Teaching International Meeting

**What are the perceptions of scientists held by Black college students majoring and not majoring in  
scientific fields?**  
National Association of Research in Science Teaching International Meeting,

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## **Education**

**Cornell University**  
Ph.D. Science Education

**Cornell University**  
M.S. Science Education

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**  
B.S. Science Teaching (chemistry)

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## **Accomplishments**

**Contribution of Research to Practice Award**  
2005, Association for Science Teacher Education "Contribution of Research to Practice" Award

**Science Policy Fellow**  
2011, American Association for the Advancement of Science Policy Fellow

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