

# Research THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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## MY RESEARCH

I have three main research areas: spirituality/religion/culture in education; well-being in education; and sex education. All of these areas for me include praxis: a coming together of theory and practice. Pedagogy is at the heart of my work, with a view to inspiring and challenging students to take up the most urgent issues of our time. In practice this looks like how we challenge religious fundamentalism and white supremacy, how we stay well in a disorienting world, the need for comprehensive sex education, and changing demographics and what they tell us about diversity.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Handlarski, Denise. (2022). "Stressed out and Zoomed out": Well-Being, Teacher Education, and the Online Space, In Jacobsen, M. & Smith, C. (Eds.) *Online Learning and Teaching from Kindergarten to Graduate School* (pp. 433-456). Canadian Association for Teacher Education.

Handlarski, D. (2022). *Radical Reclamations: Reviving Jewish Birth Practices*. *Journal of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement*, 13(2), 13.

## COLLABORATORS

Trent Arts Research Group  
Dan Libenson and Lex Rofeberg of Judaism Unbound

## What are you currently working on?

I am currently work on comprehensive sex education resources for teachers and students, a project about archival documents found by historians that relate to my grandfather's testimony in a post-Holocaust trial, and what they mean for Holocaust education, and an arts-based project about Jewish communal belonging.

## What has given you the most joy in your research?

I love building connections with people. I recently completed a SSHRC-funded project on religious and cultural approaches to combatting the loneliness epidemic. I love research that is collaborative and also that has a meaningful impact on the communities and students I am privileged to serve.

## What's next?

The Trent School of Education has recently shifted to a success-based assessment (pass/fail) model. Along with some colleagues we are researching the pedagogical impacts of "ungrading" policies. I am continuing to work on comprehensive sex education, especially as it is adapting to a changing political and cultural landscape.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION