

International School Leadership Development Network Study Summary

We would like to collect information about the research studies being conducted as part of the International School Leadership Development Network. For each study you have conducted (or are conducting), please provide the following information:

1. Research team members' names and affiliations.

Anna Sun, Rowan University

2. Which project area does your research study address?

Leadership for social justice

Leadership in high-need schools

3. Briefly describe the study setting, participants, data collection instruments, and dates of the investigation.

Six PreK-8 elementary schools in two urban settings in South New Jersey were chosen, serving in two predominately low-income family communities. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 6 principals who have been in the principal positions for 2 to more than 20 years. All interviewed were recorded and lasted about 60 minutes.

4. List key findings of the study.

Black and Hispanic principals in this study defined social justice as about equal rights, equal opportunities, and equal dignity for every student – regardless of race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, and socioeconomic status. The data of who they were and how they had become social justice leaders presented in this study revealed that both black and Hispanic principals, due to their backgrounds and minority status, were aware of pressed social justice issues in schools, in local communities and in national context. They had possessed comprehensive views on and knowledge of socially injustice issues, and seemed willing to strive toward diversity, to bridge divides, to close gaps, and to speak up on behalf of students and teachers.

5. Presentations and publications reporting the study.

Sun, A. (2018, April). Social justice leadership in urban schools. Paper presented at the annual convention of American Educational Research Association (AERA), New York, NY.

Sun, A. (2017, November). Social Justice Leadership in Urban Schools: What do Principals of Color do to Promote Social Justice? Paper presented at the annual convention of University Council for Education (UCEA), Denver, CO.

Sun, A. (2015, November). Leadership and Social Justice in High-Need Schools: Voices of Principals. Paper presented at the annual convention of University Council for Education (UCEA), San Diego, CA.

Sun, A. (2013, November). Micro and macro contexts of schooling: Understanding social justice in American education. Paper presented at the annual convention of University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA), Indianapolis, IN.

Publications:

Sun, A. (under review). Social justice leadership in urban schools: What do black and Hispanic school principals do to promote social justice? *Alberta Journal of Educational Research*.