



Design Studio for Ethics and Civics Pedagogy Research & Evaluation Fellow

The [Design Studio for Ethics and Civics Pedagogy at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics \(ELSCE\) at Harvard University](#) seeks to fill an **18 month post-graduate fellowship to research educators' ethics and civics learning**. This is a new, grant-funded position that will be situated within the ELSCE.

Our constitutional democracy is at a crossroads, facing deep partisan and philosophical polarization. Understanding of and trust in our democratic institutions are dangerously low, and misinformation is higher than ever. Universities must take a leading role to revive ethics and civics education, and educating for democracy, across the educational spectrum (including both K-16 and lifelong learning). Universities need to create new institutional partnerships that will fundamentally change how the fundamentals of democratic knowledge—ethics, civics, history, and more—are transmitted to students of all ages. We must engage learners in domains that have become unfamiliar and restore trust in our institutions as stewards of a healthy democratic culture. We seek to develop their capacity to act ethically and in support of democracy across the multiple contexts of their lives. This has never been more pressing.

The Design Studio at the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University is a hub where scholars, practitioners, and policymakers collaborate to:

- generate ethics and civics learning tools and assessments for use across disciplines, professions, and learners' lifespans;
- amplify and grow innovative projects and initiatives across the university that are working to improve ethics and civics learning; and
- educate a new generation of students, professionals, and leaders to tackle the hardest civic and ethical challenges of our time.

Design Studio-affiliated members design and provide programming that helps students, educators, and policy-makers in both K-12 and higher education gain skills, expertise, and experience in engaging with difficult historical/social/political issues, identifying and addressing values in their work, and promoting ethical reflection and a culture of civil disagreement. The Design Studio takes an experimental, collaborative approach to design and implement programs that are research-based and research-driven in order to create robust, scalable resources to support life-long civic and ethical learning and engagement.

We seek an **outstanding qualitative researcher with a collaborative and team-based orientation to co-design and co-conduct mixed-methods research and evaluation in the areas of values, politics, ethics, and civics learning**. Specifically, the Design Studio seeks to better understand:

- What are participants experiencing, learning, and doing in response to Design Studio professional learning/development and training programs?



- How do Design Studio learning participants engage with others about challenging ethical and civic issues, values, and pathways for action?
- How are Design Studio professional learning/development and training programs impacting or shaping participants' beliefs, dispositions, and skills, particularly with respect to ethical and civic development?
- How do educators from different sociopolitical contexts and backgrounds understand, engage with, and teach (or avoid teaching) about contested civic and ethical issues?

Design Studio Faculty Director and Harvard Graduate School of Education Professor Meira Levinson will act as the faculty sponsor for this postgraduate researcher position. The successful candidate will also work closely with the Chief Assessment Scientist for the Design Studio, Dr. David Kidd, and other Design Studio and initiative staff. The postgraduate researcher will lead components of research design, IRB/human subjects management, recruitment and coordination of consent and assent processes, data collection and analysis, ongoing reporting of results with team members, and preparation of reports and presentations for educators, funders, and other external parties.

The successful candidate will have:

- robust research credentials as evidenced either by a Ph.D. or by a research-oriented master's degree (including M.Ed., MPH, MSW, or M.A.) plus two or more years working on a research team;
- demonstrated qualitative research expertise (designing studies, collecting data, interpreting results), ideally in a K-12 or higher education setting;
- training or experience in survey design (qualitative & quantitative questions);
- expertise in using both qualitative software (such as Dedoose, NVivo, or Atlas.ti) and quantitative software (e.g., SAS, R, SPSS);
- experience working with Institutional Review Boards on human subjects reviews;
- outstanding written and oral communication skills;
- demonstrated ability to work and communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders (e.g., K-12 school/district administrators and teachers, curriculum designers, researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, instructors);
- a commitment to scholarly rigor and an orientation toward detail;
- experience with and enthusiasm for working both independently and as part of a diverse team.

Strong candidates will have deep knowledge and experience with professional learning and development, as well as at least three years' experience in K-12 educational settings.

About the Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics. The Center seeks to strengthen teaching and research about pressing ethical issues; to foster sound norms of ethical reasoning and civic discussion; and to share the work of our community in the public interest. Our culture is highly collaborative, and we work hard to support each other. There is a lively series of events and discussions that all Center members are encouraged to attend.



Annual compensation will be based on work experience / education; minimum \$65,000, max \$75,000. Details about benefits to be provided in the context of an offer.

We are looking for someone to start as soon as possible. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. This is an 18 month hybrid position, with the possibility of renewal based on performance and available funding.

Minimum qualifications: PhD in a relevant field or M.A., M.Ed., MSW, MPH, or other research-oriented masters degree with significant relevant research experience; individuals with many different backgrounds will be considered.

Harvard is an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, age, protected veteran status, disability, genetic information, military service, pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions, or other protected status.

If you believe that you qualify for at least 70% of this job description we encourage you to apply. We know that [imposter syndrome](#) and the [confidence gap](#) can prevent strong candidates from applying to a job unless they see themselves as a 100% fit. We would love to hear from you.

How to apply: Email CV; cover letter; names, titles, and e-mail addresses of three potential referees; and 2 relevant work samples (e.g. report, white paper, research article, dissertation chapter, etc.) to Vickie Aldin, valdin@fas.harvard.edu. with the subject line: Design Studio Research and Evaluation Fellowship. All applications received by February 1, 2024 will receive full consideration.

Questions? Please direct any questions to Vickie Aldin, valdin@fas.harvard.edu.