

# Chelsea Waite

## CURRICULUM VITAE (LAST UPDATED AUGUST 2024)

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Chelsea Waite is an education policy researcher interested in school innovation, equity, and system change. Her work investigates uncommon learning models, what effect they have on students, families, and teachers, and what stands in the way of their success.

## Education

### MST SOCIAL INNOVATION, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE - JUDGE BUSINESS SCHOOL (2018)

Dissertation: “Tempered Radicalism Across Boundaries: Power Dynamics in Cross-Organizational Change-Making” (Advisor: Jennifer Howard-Grenville). Summary available [here](#).

### BA HISTORY WITH HONORS, BROWN UNIVERSITY (2011)

Thesis: “The American Drink: Coffee and Mass Consumption in America from WWII to the 1960s” (Advisor: Robert Self).

## Employment history

### CENTER ON REINVENTING PUBLIC EDUCATION

(AT MARY LOU FULTON TEACHERS COLLEGE, ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY)  
Positions: Research Principal (current); Senior Research Analyst

Oct 2021 - present

### CLAYTON CHRISTENSEN INSTITUTE FOR DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION

Position: Education Research Fellow

Oct 2018 - Aug 2021

### DIGITAL PROMISE

Positions: Program Director, Senior Program Manager, Executive Assistant

Nov 2013 - Mar 2018

### UNIVERSIDADE DE PERNAMBUCO - CAMPUS PETROLINA

Position: English Teaching Assistant

Feb 2012 - Aug 2013

## Research Publications

Hill, P., McCann, S., Rainey, L., & Waite, C. (2024). When challenges never let up: School district leaders steer through hazards in Baltimore and Chicago. *Center on Reinventing Public Education*. Retrieved from <https://crpe.org/district-leaders-hazards-in-baltimore-and-chicago-public-schools/>

Waite, C. & Sims, M. (2024). A good life for every student: High schools embrace many pathways to success. *Center on Reinventing Public Education*. Retrieved from <https://crpe.org/a-good-life-for-every-student-2024/>

Pangelinan, C., Casimere, H., and Waite, C. (2024). A new normal: Maintaining high expectations and flexibility for high school students. *Center on Reinventing Public Education*. Retrieved from [https://crpe.org/wp-content/uploads/Kipp\\_innovspotlight\\_final.pdf](https://crpe.org/wp-content/uploads/Kipp_innovspotlight_final.pdf)

Waite, C. (2023). What the end of “college for all” means for high schools. *Center on Reinventing Public Education*. Retrieved from [https://crpe.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-the-Student-23\\_C-WAITE.pdf](https://crpe.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-the-Student-23_C-WAITE.pdf)

Waite, C. & Avelar, J. (2023). Dreaming and designing the future of equitable, student-centered schools: What we’re learning from the Canopy project. *The Canopy project*. Retrieved from <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f4d2fb82f14bf3a2a0372fd/t/64e41ba1647a792b14c351aa/1692670889394/Canopy+Report+2023.pdf>

Chu, L. & Waite, C. (2023). Different choices, equal chances: Helping high school students achieve success on their own terms. *Center on Reinventing Public Education*. Retrieved from <https://crpeorg.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/Nokomis-Teaching-Case-Study-FINAL.pdf>

Waite, C. & Pangelinan, C. (2022). Is a diploma enough? Setting ambitious visions for success in high schools. *Center on Reinventing Public Education*. Retrieved from <https://crpeorg.wpengine.com/wp-content/uploads/Opportunity-Academy-Teaching-Case-Study-Final.pdf>

Waite, C. & McCann, S. (2022). Innovation in action: How creative schools are designing a more equitable education system. *The Canopy project*. Retrieved from <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FmK6kwZOJzh4H2ASZw8yjez9A8DDUD4J/view>

Waite, C. (2021). Not a lost year: K–12 innovation during 2020-21 and how to nurture it post-pandemic. *Christensen Institute*. Retrieved from <https://www.christenseninstitute.org/publication/canopy-2021/>

Waite, C. (2021). New England profiles of innovation: Common Ground High School. *Center on Reinventing Public Education*. Retrieved from <https://crpe.org/new-england-profiles-of-innovation-common-ground-high-school/>

Waite, C. (2021). Peer connections reimaged: Innovations nurturing student networks to unlock opportunity. *Christensen Institute*. Retrieved from <https://www.christenseninstitute.org/publication/peer-connections/>

Waite, C. & Arnett, T. (2020). Will schools change forever? Predicting how two pandemics could catalyze lasting innovation in public schools. *Christensen Institute*. Retrieved from <https://www.christenseninstitute.org/publication/school-change/>

Arnett, T. & Waite, C. (2020). A new blueprint for schools: 3 strategies help you plan for an uncertain future. *The Learning Professional* 41(3), 38-31. Retrieved from <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/new-road-map-schools/docview/2417379136/se-2>

Waite, C. (2020). Spotlight on project-based learning: Seeing the forest and the trees. *Childhood Education: Innovations* 96(2), 30-41. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00094056.2020.1733860>

Waite, C. (2019). A view from the Canopy: Building collective knowledge on school innovation. *Christensen Institute*. Retrieved from [https://www.christenseninstitute.org/publication/canopy/?post\\_types=publications](https://www.christenseninstitute.org/publication/canopy/?post_types=publications)

Angevine, C., Cator, K., Roschelle, J., Thomas, S. A., Waite, C., & Weisgrau, J. (2017). Computational thinking for a computational world. *Digital Promise*. Retrieved from <https://digitalpromise.dspacedirect.org/items/a84a9ab5-6541-417f-ba96-4a66715e7732>

Alencar de Sá, E.M. & Waite, C. (2013). Contribuições do programa ETA/Fulbright/CAPES no curso de Língua Inglesa e Suas Literaturas da Universidade de Pernambuco Campus Petrolina. In A. Brawerman-Albini & V. da Silva Medeiros (Eds). *Diversidade cultural e ensino de língua estrangeira* (pp. 153-162). Campinas, SP, Brasil: Pontes.

## Media mentions and contributions

Waite, C. (2024, April 24). What the end of 'college for all' means for America's high schools. *The 74 Million*, Future of High School. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/what-the-end-of-college-for-all-means-for-the-future-of-americas-high-schools/>

Waite, C. (2024, April 9). 189 innovative school leaders: Teacher staffing, AI, mental health top ed issues. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/189-innovative-school-leaders-teacher-staffing-ai-mental-health-top-ed-issues/>

Geduld, A. (2024, January 29). Researchers study six New England high schools to find path for student success. *The 74 Million*, Future of High School. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/researchers-study-six-new-england-high-schools-to-find-path-for-student-success/>

Waite, C. (2023, May 22). Teachers want to innovate. Schools that won't let them are losing out. *The 74 Million*, Opinion. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/teachers-want-to-innovate-schools-that-dont-let-them-are-losing-out/>

Waite, C. (2023, April 12). SEL, mentoring, career prep: Schools that deliver what parents say they want. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/sel-mentoring-career-prep-schools-that-deliver-what-parents-say-they-want/>

Waite, C. (2022, December 8). Institutionalism, not policy, is the biggest barrier to reinventing high schools. *The Thomas B. Fordham Institute*, Flypaper. Retrieved from <https://fordhaminstitute.org/national/commentary/institutionalism-not-policy-biggest-barrier-reinventing-high-schools>

Waite, C. (2022, September 8). Trends in education innovation from 161 school leaders. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/exclusive-new-analysis-trends-in-education-innovation-from-161-school-leaders/>

Waite, C. & Fisher, J.F. (2022, April 26). There's an effective way to guide our students through mental health problems. *The Hechinger Report*, Opinion. Retrieved from <https://>

[hechingerreport.org/opinion-theres-an-effective-way-to-guide-our-students-through-mental-health-problems/](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-theres-an-effective-way-to-guide-our-students-through-mental-health-problems/)

Waite, C. (2022, April 19). New data: Innovations in 161 schools to aid marginalized students. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/analysis-from-a-lakota-focused-microschool-to-service-opportunities-for-kids-with-disabilities-innovations-from-161-schools-to-aid-marginalized-students/>

Waite, C. (2022, January 3). Challenging 5 big assumptions about education: How 232 schools are innovating. *The 74 Million*, Opinion. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/232-innovative-schools-challenging-5-big-education-assumptions-canopy-project/>

Paterson, J. (2021, November 9). Building a Culture of Classroom Collaboration. *NEA Today*, NEA News. Retrieved from <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/building-culture-classroom-collaboration>

Waite, C. (2021, July 19). How colleges can support more students using the power of peers. *EdSurge*, Higher Education. Retrieved from <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2021-07-19-how-colleges-can-support-more-students-using-the-power-of-peers>

Waite, C. (2021, June 3). The power of peer networks can help students rebound. *The 74 Million*, Opinion. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/waite-how-schools-can-harness-the-power-of-peer-networks-to-help-students-rebound-during-and-after-covid-19/>

Waite, C. (2021, March 9). 5 notable trends in school innovation. *eSchoolNews*, Digital Innovation. Retrieved from <https://www.eschoolnews.com/educational-leadership/2021/03/09/5-notable-trends-in-school-innovation/>

Waite, C. (2020, December 6). What COVID-era learning looks like in 144 innovative schools around the country. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/analysis-what-covid-era-learning-looks-like-in-144-innovative-schools-around-the-country/>

Waite, C. (2020, November 12). Will 2020 nurture transformation, or a return to normal? *Education Next*, Blog. Retrieved from <https://www.educationnext.org/will-2020-nurture-transformation-or-a-return-to-normal/>

Waite, C. (2020, October 20). Will the positive changes schools make last into the future? New framework helps leaders plan for tomorrow. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/waite-will-the-positive-changes-schools-make-now-last-into-the-future-new-framework-helps-leaders-plan-for-tomorrow/>

Zalaznick, M. (2020, October 19). Get access to doing something new during COVID. *District Administration*. Retrieved from <https://districtadministration.com/get-access-to-doing-something-new-during-covid/>

Waite, C. (2020, June 11). How student agency can ease the pain of remote learning and teaching. *EdSurge*, Remote Learning. Retrieved from <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2020-06-11-how-student-agency-can-ease-the-pain-of-remote-learning-and-teaching>

Berdik, C. (2020, April 23). How school districts are outsmarting a microbe. *The New York Times*, Education. Retrieved from <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/23/education/learning/coronavirus-online-class-public-schools.html>

Waite, C. (2019, October 7). 6 education innovation trends you may not know about, from 173 diverse schools you may never have heard of. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/waite-6-education-innovation-trends-you-may-not-know-about-from-173-diverse-schools-you-may-never-have-heard-of/>

Waite, C. (2019, September 4). Our picture of school innovation is incomplete. Can it be fixed? *EdSurge*, Education Research. Retrieved from <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2019-09-04-our-picture-of-school-innovation-is-incomplete-can-it-be-fixed>

Waite, C. & White, J. (2019, July 22). Before jumping on the ed tech bandwagon, identify your school's problem then find the right blended learning solution. *The 74 Million*, Analysis. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/analysis-before-jumping-on-the-ed-tech-bandwagon-identify-your-schools-problem-then-find-the-right-blended-learning-solution/>

White, J. & Waite, C. (2019, January 30). 5 myths to bust about blended learning, what it is, and the benefits it has for students. *The 74 Million*, Opinion. Retrieved from <https://www.the74million.org/article/commentary-5-myths-to-bust-about-blended-learning-what-it-is-and-the-benefits-it-has-for-students/>

## Speaking engagements

### Conference presentations

- World Education Summit (Virtual, 2024)
- Grantmakers for Education (Atlanta, 2024; Virtual, 2022)
- National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) Conference (Oakland, 2024)
- ExcelinEd (Salt Lake City, 2022)
- Aurora Institute Symposium (Virtual, 2022; Palm Springs, 2019). **Recording from 2022:** "Getting Smarter Together: Finding and Sharing Information about Innovative Schools," <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HOAGWG3ezGU>
- Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) (Nashville, 2022)
- Teaching and Learning Forum (Virtual, 2021). **Recording:** "Doing More with Less: Three advantages of blended learning," [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGue\\_apRYIs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGue_apRYIs)
- EdPalooza (Virtual, 2020)
- WISE/Skoll Forum (Virtual, 2020)
- SxSW EDU (Austin, 2019; Austin, 2018)
- SIIA EdTech Industry Network (San Francisco, 2019)
- ICT4ED International Expert Meeting (Seoul, 2017)
- EduTECH Asia (Singapore, 2017)
- Tech-Assisted Learning Conference (Abuja, 2015)

### Webinars (selection)

- Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), "Multiple Pathways to Postsecondary Success" (April 2024).
- Center on Reinventing Public Education, "A 'good life' for every student" (March 2024). **Recording:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z60wtyyXw\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z60wtyyXw_g)

- Learning Futures Collaboratives, “Designing the New American High School” (August 2022). **Recording:** “Center on Reinventing Public Education: Chelsea Waite,” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxD8PJEYx\\_U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxD8PJEYx_U)
- Overdeck Family Foundation, “Using Technology to Accelerate Student-Centered Learning” (June 2022). **Transcript and recording:** <https://overdeck.org/news-and-resources/article/using-technology-to-accelerate-student-centered-learning-an-interview-with-nonprofit-leaders/>
- Aurora Institute, “Exploring Innovative School Models in the Canopy project’s Interactive Database” (March 2021). **Recording:** <https://aurora-institute.org/event/exploring-innovative-school-models-in-the-canopy-projects-interactive-national-database/>
- Transcend Education, “Will schools change forever?” (October 2020). **Recording:** <https://vimeo.com/473507758>

### **Workshops and trainings (selection)**

- ExcelinEd (Salt Lake City, 2022): 3-hour workshop for state agency leaders in the Network for State Innovation Partners.
- Grantmakers for Education (Atlanta, 2023): 3-hour workshop for philanthropic leaders in education.
- EduTech Asia (Singapore, 2017): 2-hour maker learning facilitator training for educators.
- Azraq Refugee Camp (Jordan, 2017): 4-day maker learning facilitator training for university students.

### **Private briefings (selection)**

- Innovative Quality Schools board meeting (April 2024): Briefing on innovative K-12 schools in the Canopy project.
- Consortium of Florida Education Foundations steering committee meeting (November 2021): Briefing on peer-to-peer models for mental health support.

## **Blog posts**

Following is an illustrative selection from dozens of blog posts published while employed by the Center on Reinventing Public Education and the Christensen Institute.

### **Topic: Pandemic learning and response**

- [For these six schools, pandemic-era innovation demanded “know thyself”](#), Center on Reinventing Public Education, December 2021.
- [Learning loss is problematic, but so are some of the solutions it's generating](#), Christensen Institute, June 2021.
- [For schools, COVID changes the playing field, not the goal of the game](#), Christensen Institute, November 2020.

### **Topic: School innovation**

- [A nationwide look at high schools breaking the mold](#), Christensen Institute, June 2021.
- [New analysis: Where and how are schools implementing equity approaches?](#), Christensen Institute, April 2021.
- [Why we need diverse data to understand what works in education](#), Christensen Institute, October 2019.

**Topic: Peer-to-peer learning**

- The need for academic support is greater than ever. Can peers help meet it?, Christensen Institute, February 2021.
- Online peer learning: a growing trend sees two different approaches, Christensen Institute, December 2020.

**Topic: Technology**

- Free edtech won't lead to lasting change in schools, but here's what could, Christensen Institute, July 2020
- Could Minecraft disrupt traditional instruction?, Christensen Institute, November 2019.

**Topic: Innovation in assessment**

- A future beyond test scores: Innovative schools need support to measure and communicate other learning outcomes, Center on Reinventing Public Education, February 2024.
- The dormant potential of extracurriculars for remaking assessment, Christensen Institute, December 2019.

**Service**

Board Chair, Community Share ([www.communityshare.org](http://www.communityshare.org))

Board Member, The Feast ([www.the-feast.org](http://www.the-feast.org))

Coming of Age Youth Mentor, University Unitarian Church