

Large Group Discussion Leader

Mark Pancer, PhD



Mark Pancer is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, Canada. Dr. Pancer has had a long-standing interest in young people and how their involvement in their communities affects their development and sense of well-being. For the last fifteen years he has been one of the principal investigators in the Better Beginnings, Better Futures project, a large provincially funded initiative designed to prevent emotional, social, school and physical problems in children and youth living in economically disadvantaged communities. Community resident participation was a key feature of this initiative. He has also served as one of the lead researchers with the Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement, a national network of academic researchers and youth-serving organizations that was established by the Canadian government to generate research that would contribute to the enhancement of positive youth engagement in Canada. Dr. Pancer's most recent research has focused on the ways in which community settings can be made more "youth-friendly" so as to encourage greater youth participation, and how policies such as mandatory community service affect young people's attitudes towards volunteering and civic participation. Recent papers on these topics have been published in the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, the *Journal of Community Psychology*, and the *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

Small Group Discussion Leaders

Shelley Billig, PhD

Dr. Shelley H. Billig is Vice President of RMC Research Corporation. She has served as Principal Investigator of several national and regional studies that have examined the impact of participation in service-learning on young people, examining civic, academic, social-emotional, and career outcomes using experimental and quasi-experimental designs and case studies. One recent result of her studies, combined with others, was the formation of the new standards and indicators for K-12 service-learning quality. She is currently testing the indicators and early results are promising. Dr. Billig also conducts research on systems of school and district support and on teacher quality. She has authored, edited, or co-edited 14 books and dozens of articles in peer-reviewed journals.

Christy Buchanan, PhD

Christy Buchanan is Professor of Psychology at Wake Forest University. She received her doctorate in Developmental Psychology from the University of Michigan, and worked at Stanford University before moving to Wake Forest University in 1992. Dr. Buchanan's research addresses adolescent development in the family, examining how adolescent-parent relationships, parenting practices, and adolescents' well-being are influenced by factors such as family structure, parents' and children's beliefs and expectations about adolescence, culture and ethnicity. She has an interest in factors that promote positive development at adolescence, and has recently become involved in research on civic development, including how family and school factors (particularly approaches to service requirements) might influence the development of civic attitudes and intentions.



Gustavo Carlo, PhD



Gustavo Carlo is the Carl A. Happold Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He obtained his Ph. D. from Arizona State University. His main research interest is in prosocial and moral development in children and adolescents, particularly on the roles of moral cognitions, moral emotions, parenting, and culture in prosocial behaviors. Dr. Carlo has authored many peer-reviewed articles in journals such as *Child Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Journal of Research on Adolescence*. He has also published several book chapters, including the chapter on altruism in the recently-published *Handbook of Moral Development*. He co-edited (with Carolyn Pope Edwards) the 51st Nebraska Symposium on Motivation volume on Moral Development through the Life Span and has edited several special journal issues on moral development. He is past Associate Editor for the *Journal of Research on Adolescence*, serves on several editorial boards, and has served on NIH and NSF panels. His research has been supported by grants from NSF, NIH, and he received a Research Excellence Award in Positive Psychology from the APA and the John Templeton Foundation.



Daniel Hart, PhD

Daniel Hart is a Professor of Psychology at Rutgers University. His research focuses on the development of civic competence, identity, and personality, and morality, particularly among youth in urban areas. He has two lines of work. One investigates the relation of community characteristics such as poverty, youthfulness, and diversity on the civic behavior (volunteering and rioting), attitudes, and knowledge. Second, he and his colleagues are studying the precursors to civic engagement. In recent and ongoing research, he has identified personality characteristics and extracurricular activities that facilitate entry into civic engagement.

Ben Kirshner, PhD

Ben Kirshner is an assistant professor in educational psychology and adolescent development at the University of Colorado, School of Education. His research examines young people's sociopolitical meaning-making and the features of learning environments that support their exercise of agency. Dr. Kirshner's approach is grounded in cultural-developmental theory, which attends both to people's psychological processes and the local contexts that shape their development. His ethnographic research about youth activism led to findings about effective adult guidance strategies and the roots of collective agency. In recent work, Dr. Kirshner developed a participatory action research study to understand the impact of a school closure on students. He also has an ongoing study of a community organization that mentors and supports young people who seek to become the first in their families to go to college. He teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in learning theory, adolescent development, and community-based research. From 1993 to 1997 he was education program manager in a youth organization in San Francisco's Mission District.



Loreto Martínez, PhD

Loreto Martínez is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. Her research combines interests in evolutionary psychology and social-community psychology to understand the processes of individual, family, and community involved in human development. In recent years, she has studied the civic identity and autonomy in adolescents. Specifically, her work focuses on the opportunities for participation in school and community activities are related to identity development and social competence of adolescents, as well as the relationship between the opportunities for social participation and civic and political attitudes of adolescents. Her work has been funded by various sources including the Johann Jacobs Foundation. Dr. Martínez has also authored a book entitled *Neighborhood Context and the Development of African-American Children*.

