


Amy Y. Li

University of Northern Colorado
Higher Education & Student Affairs Leadership
Department of Leadership, Policy, & Development
College of Education & Behavioral Sciences
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 AmyLiphd

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2016 Educational Leadership and Policy Studies: Higher Education
Statistics Concentration; Mixed Methods Certificate in Education Science
University of Washington
- M.Ed. 2012 Educational Leadership and Policy: Higher Education and Student Affairs
University of Utah
- B.S. 2007 Economics; Psychology
University of Utah

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor University of Northern Colorado (2016-present)

Research Areas

Higher education finance and public policy: performance funding, financial aid, student loan debt, “free” college/Promise programs, state appropriations, policy adoption and diffusion

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Li, A.Y. (2020). Dollars and sense: Student price sensitivity to law school tuition. *Journal of Law, Business, and Ethics*, 26(Winter), 47-70.
- Li, A.Y. (2020). Performance funding policy impacts on STEM degree attainment. *Educational Policy*, 34(2), 312-349. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0895904818755455>
- Li, A.Y., & Ortagus, J.C. (2019). Raising the stakes: Impacts of the Complete College Tennessee Act on underserved student enrollment and sub-baccalaureate credentials. *The Review of Higher Education*, 43(1), 295-333. <https://doi.org/10.1353/rhe.2019.0097>
- Li, A.Y. (2019). The weight of the metric: Performance funding and the retention of historically underserved students. *The Journal of Higher Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00221546.2019.1602391>

- Li, A.Y., & Zumeta, W. (2019). Helping students or just taking their cuts? How prioritization of state student aid programs responds to downturns in higher education appropriations. *Teachers College Record*, 121(8), 1-38. <http://www.tcrecord.org/Content.asp?ContentID=22707>
- Li, A.Y., Gándara, D., & Assalone, A. (2018). Equity or disparity: Do performance funding policies disadvantage 2-year minority-serving institutions? *Community College Review*, 46(3), 288-315. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0091552118778776>
- Li, A.Y., & Kennedy, A.I. (2018). Performance funding policy effects on community college outcomes: Are short-term certificates on the rise? *Community College Review*, 46(1), 3-39. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0091552117743790>
- Li, A.Y. (2017). Covet thy neighbor or “reverse policy diffusion”? State adoption of performance funding 2.0. *Research in Higher Education*, 58(7), 746-771. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-016-9444-9>
- Kelchen, R., & Li, A.Y. (2017). Institutional accountability: A comparison of the predictors of student loan repayment and default rates. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 671(1), 202-223. <http://doi.org/10.1177/0002716217701681>
- Li, A.Y. (2017). Dramatic declines in higher education appropriations: State conditions for budget punctuations. *Research in Higher Education*, 58(4), 395-429. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s11162-016-9432-0>
- Li, A.Y. (2017). The point of the point: Washington’s Student Achievement Initiative through the looking glass of a community college. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*, 41(3), 183-202. <http://doi.org/10.1080/10668926.2016.1179601>

Book Chapters

- Li, A.Y. (Invited). Budgeting processes in higher education institutions. In M.E. David & M.J. Amey (Eds.), *The SAGE encyclopedia of higher education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.
- Li, A.Y., & Gándara, D. (2020). The promise of “free” tuition and program design features: Impacts on first-time college enrollment. In L.W. Perna & E.J. Smith (Eds.), *Improving research-based knowledge of college promise programs* (pp. 219-239). Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association. <https://www.aera.net/Publications/-Online-Store/Books-Publications/BKctl/ViewDetails/SKU/AERWIRBKP>
- Li, A.Y., & Zumeta, W. (2015). State support for higher education. In J. Huisman, H. de Boer, D. Dill, & M. Souto-Otero (Eds.), *The Palgrave international handbook of higher education policy and governance* (pp. 463-482). London, UK: Palgrave/Macmillan.

Technical Reports, Policy Briefs, and Other Publications

- Li, A.Y., & Mishory, J. (2018). Financing institutions in the free college debate. Washington, DC: The Century Foundation. <https://tcf.org/content/report/financing-institutions-free-college-debate/>
- Li, A.Y. (2018). Lessons learned: A case study of performance funding in higher education. Washington, DC: Third Way. <https://www.thirdway.org/report/lessons-learned-a-case-study-of-performance-funding-in-higher-education>
- Li, A.Y., Kennedy, A.I., & Sebastian, M.L. (2018). Policy design matters: The impact of performance funding policies on community college credential completions (WISCAPE Policy Brief). Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Wisconsin Center for the Advancement of Postsecondary Education (WISCAPE). <https://wiscapewisc.edu/wiscapewisc/publications/policy-briefs/pb028>
- Zumeta, W., & Li, A.Y. (2016). Assessing the underpinnings of performance funding 2.0: Will this dog hunt? New York, NY: TIAA Institute. <https://www.tiaainstitute.org/publication/assessing-underpinnings-performance-funding>
- Li, A.Y., & Zumeta, W. (2016). Performance funding on the ground: Campus responses and perspectives in two states. New York, NY: TIAA Institute. <https://www.tiaainstitute.org/publication/performance-funding-ground-campus-responses>
- Li, A.Y. (2014). Performance funding in the states: An increasingly ubiquitous public policy for higher education. *Higher Education in Review*, 11 (Online). <https://sites.psu.edu/higheredinreview/2014/02/14/performance-funding-in-the-states-an-increasingly-ubiquitous-public-policy-for-higher-education/>

Manuscripts Under Review

- Li, A.Y., Laderman, S.A., Weeden, D.D., & Tandberg, D.A. (Revise and resubmit). Reducing uncertainty: Do state finance policies protect against volatility in higher education funding? In J. Delaney (Ed.), *Volatility in state spending for higher education*. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.
- Gándara, D., & Li, A.Y. (Revise and resubmit). Promise for whom? Free-college programs and enrollments by race and gender at public, two-year colleges. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.
- Li, A.Y., & Kelchen, R. (Under review). The paper chase: Institutional and state-level factors related to paying back student loan debt among public, private, and for-profit colleges. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Li, A.Y., & Kelchen, R. (Working paper). Policy diffusion of equity metrics in performance funding policies: A traditional and dyadic survival analysis.

Li, A.Y. (Working paper). Tracing higher education topics on Twitter: Free college and forgiving student loan debt.

Li, A.Y. (Working paper). Law school prices and the enrollment of students from different racial backgrounds.

Li, A.Y., & Rodriguez, M. (Working paper). Four decades of performance funding and counting. In M. Titus & L. Perna (Eds.), *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research*, 36.

Gándara, D., Li, A.Y., & Billings, M. (Working paper). Promise program effects on institutional tuition revenues.

Li, A.Y. (Working paper). College recruitment and branding for millennials: What's in a Tweet?

Media Coverage

Quoted, works cited, panelist, or contributor for: The Chronicle of Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, EdSource, Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pensions, The Education Trust, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Time Money, The Australian, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Education Commission of the States, Education Writer's Association, The Century Foundation, Law.com, The Hechinger Report, American Council on Education, Diverse Education, E-Learning, Higher Learning Advocates, Wallethub, Community College Review Podcast Series, Greeley Tribune.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Funding Awarded

2018-2020	Sponsored Research Fellowship Program, University of Northern Colorado, summer salary and one course release. Project: Policy diffusion of equity metrics in performance funding policies for higher education.
2017-2019	American Educational Research Association Research Grant. Project: The “promise” of free tuition and impacts on college enrollment: Differences across race and socioeconomic status. Co-PI with PI Denisa Gándara. \$35,000.
2017-2018	AccessLex / Association for Institutional Research. Project: Dollars and sense: Student price sensitivity to law school tuition costs. PI. \$49,423.
2017	Research, Dissemination and Faculty Development grant, University of Northern Colorado. Project: Sentiment analysis of twitter data on “free” college during #election2016. \$3,708.
2016	Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program, University of Washington, \$1,552.
2015-2016	American Educational Research Association dissertation grant, \$20,000.
2015	Association for Institutional Research dissertation grant, \$20,000 (declined).

- 2012-2015 Institute of Education Sciences Pre-Doctoral Training Fellowship, University of Washington Collaborative Researchers for Education Sciences Training (CREST), \$102,000.
- 2014 Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Science Research, Jerome M. Clubb Scholarship, University of Michigan, \$3,500.
- 2005 Cambridge University Study Abroad Scholarship, University of Utah, \$750.
- 2004-2007 Presidential Scholarship, University of Utah, \$30,000.

Applied and Unfunded

- 2019 William T. Grant Foundation: Use of Research Evidence. Project: A mixed methods analysis of research capacity and utilization in state higher education agencies. Co-PI with PI David Tandberg and Co-PI Erik Ness. Unfunded after full proposal review, \$650,000.
- 2018 William T. Grant Foundation: Reducing Inequality. Project: How free college programs affect college choice and persistence for different student subgroups. PI with Co-PI Denisa Gándara. Unfunded after full proposal review, \$400,000.
- 2018 Spencer Foundation Small Research Grant. Project: Policy adoption of equity metrics in performance funding policies for higher education. Unfunded, \$50,000.
- 2018 Peter G. Peterson Foundation U.S. 2050. Project: Confronting the ‘diversity problem’ in the technology sector: An intersectional analysis of educational returns by race and sex. Co-PI with PI OiYan Poon and Co-PI Varisa Patraporn. Unfunded, \$50,000.

AWARDS

- 2018 Office of Sponsored Programs New Faculty Recognition Award, University of Northern Colorado
- 2017 Honorable Mention, 2017 Dissertation of the Year Award, Association for the Study of Higher Education

GRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Washington

- 2013-2016 Assessing the Underpinnings of Performance Funding 2.0, with William Zumeta (PI). Funded by TIAA Institute. Examine policy implementation and institutional responses to performance funding in Pennsylvania and Ohio. Conduct interviews with state policymakers and college officials. Design protocol, recruit participants. Conduct qualitative data analysis and document analysis.
- 2012-2016 Funding State Student Aid Programs during Economic Downturns, with William Zumeta. Conduct multinomial, logistic, and time series analyses to investigate state funding of need-based aid during economic downturns. Build panel datasets from public sources (e.g. Census Bureau, IPEDS).

- 2014 Center for Workforce Development, with Elizabeth Litzler. Conduct assessment of initiatives by National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT). Assist on projects aligned with NCWIT goal to improve higher education participation and retention in STEM for females and underrepresented students of color. Design surveys. Summarize grant applications. Combine longitudinal datasets.
- 2014 Accountability and Agency in Teacher Preparation Programs, with Charles Peck. Funded by Spencer Foundation. Conduct literature review on connections between external accountability and institutional responses to data usage for improvement of teacher education programs.
- 2014 Landscape Analysis of Performance Funding in the States, with William Zumeta. Funded by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, prepared for Gates Foundation Postsecondary Team (Seattle). Research and organize information on state performance funding metrics and design features.
- 2012-2014 Center for Innovation and Research in Graduate Education, with Maresi Nerad. Conduct summative assessments, design and administer surveys, analyze responses. Edit book manuscript.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Utah

- 2010-2012 Study Abroad Advisor (Asia-Pacific region), Learning Abroad Office
Advise students on study abroad opportunities. Develop new programs. Assess programs through student surveys. Manage internal scholarship guidelines and committees. Manage relations with foreign partner institutions. Design promotional materials. Conduct recruitment. Hire and supervise Peer Advisors.
- 2008-2010 Administrative Assistant to the Director, Learning Abroad Office
Plan delegation visits of administrators from foreign universities. Maintain website. Process new hires and payroll reporting. Coordinate faculty committees. Provide administrative support. Collect data for annual report.
- 2011 M.Ed. Intern, Assessment, Evaluation, and Research in Student Affairs
Conduct formative and summative assessment using student surveys and institutional-level data. Benchmark to peer institutions. Co-Chair Student Affairs Action Coalition to articulate extracurricular student learning outcomes. Teach workshop on Student Voice software.
- 2008 Data Verifications Specialist, Registrar's Office
Handle departmental deposits, deposit reconciliations, and financial record-keeping. Advise students on transcripts and FERPA legal privacy guidelines.

Verify information with employers, credentialing specialists, insurance companies, and lenders.

Fidelity Investments

2007-2008 Financial Representative
Provide client guidance, strategies, and support regarding financial markets.
Execute stock and mutual fund trades, disburse funds, discuss tax implications.
Discuss investment vehicles, retirement accounts, and small business plans.
Generate leads, support customer asset growth. Series 7 and 63 security licenses.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Li, A. (April, 2020). Tweet at me: Tracing #highered affordability policies using Twitter data. Poster to be presented at the American Educational Research Association Satellite Conference on Educational Data Science. Stanford, CA.

Gándara, D., **Li, A.**, & Billings, M. (March, 2020). Promise program effects on institutional tuition revenues. Paper to be presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Fort Worth, TX.

Li, A. (March, 2020). Public rhetoric on student loans and debt: A text analysis of Twitter users' data. Paper to be presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Fort Worth, TX.

Ballerini, V., Pingel, S., Callahan, K., Deaton, R., Gándara, D., Leigh, E. W., **Li, A.**, Moreland, A., & Wright-Kim, J. (November, 2019). Different promises: Emerging evidence on the origin, variability, and effects of free-college programs. Symposium presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Portland, OR.

Li, A., & Kelchen, R. (March, 2019). A stratified and dyadic survival analysis: Policy diffusion of equity metrics in performance funding policies for higher education. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Kansas City, MO.

Li, A. (November, 2018). Tracing topical themes on Twitter: #freecollege #studentloans, and @realDonaldTrump. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Tampa, FL.

Li, A., & Kelchen, R. (November, 2018). Policy diffusion of equity metrics in performance funding for higher education. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Tampa, FL.

Li, A., Laderman, S., Weedin, D., & Tandberg, D. (June, 2018). Reducing uncertainty: Do state finance policies protect against volatility in higher education funding? Paper presented at the Forum on Volatility in State Spending for Higher Education. Urbana-Champaign, IL.

- Li, A., & Kelchen, R. (May, 2018). The paper chase: Student loan default and repayment rates across higher education sectors. Paper presented at the University of Denver Public Policy Forum. Denver, CO.
- Li, A. (May, 2018). The growing price tag of legal education: Enrollment of students from different racial groups. Paper presented at the University of Denver Public Policy Forum. Denver, CO.
- Li, A. (April, 2018). Tuition rising: The relationship between law school tuition prices and student enrollment. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association. New York City, NY.
- Gándara, D., & **Li, A.** (March, 2018). Making good on promises: Design features and enrollment effects of two-year free college programs. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR.
- Li, A. (November, 2017). Performance funding policies and campus perspectives: Retaining underrepresented students and “intended” unintended consequences. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Houston, TX.
- Li, A., & Sebastian, M. (November, 2017). Dollars and sense: Student price sensitivity to law school tuition. Paper presented at the AccessLex Legal Education Research Symposium. Clearwater Beach, FL.
- Gándara, D., & **Li, A.** (October, 2017). The “promise” of free tuition at two-year colleges: Impacts on total and low-income student enrollment. Paper presented at the Understanding College Promise Programs Research Conference, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.
- Li, A., & Ortagus, J. (March, 2017). The impact of the Complete College Tennessee Act on sub-baccalaureate credentials and historically underrepresented student enrollment. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Washington, DC.
- Li, A. (November, 2016). Performance funding policy impacts on STEM degree attainment. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Columbus, OH.
- Assalone, A., Jones, S., **Li, A.**, Gándara, D., Elliott, K., & Jones, T. (November, 2016). Can equity be bought? Performance-based funding and racial equity. Symposium presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Columbus, OH.
- Kelchen, R. & **Li, A.** (August, 2016). Which factors affect student loan repayment rates? Paper presented at the Student Loan Research Conference, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

- Li, A. (April, 2016). In high demand: Performance funding policy impacts on STEM degree attainment. Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association. Washington, DC.
- Li, A. (November, 2015). Covet thy neighbor? Diffusion of performance funding 2.0 across state borders. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Denver, CO.
- Li, A., & Kennedy, A. (November, 2015). Performance funding policy effects on community college outcomes: Are short-term certificates on the rise? Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Denver, CO.
- Li, A. (April, 2015). Funding higher education appropriations: Political and economic conditions. Paper presented at the Western Political Science Association. Las Vegas, NV.
- Li, A. (February, 2015). Initial state cuts to higher education appropriations. Paper presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Washington, DC.
- Li, A. (November, 2014). The space between policy adoption and policy impacts: Performance funding policy implementation at a community college. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education. Washington, DC.
- Dougherty, K., Gándara, D., **Li, A.**, Hillman, N., Ness, E., Kinne-Clawson, A., Miller, T., Reindl, T., & Delaney, J. (November, 2014). The state of performance funding in the states: Origin, design, implementation, and effects. Symposium presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Public Policy Pre-Conference. Washington, DC.
- Li, A., Hernandez, J., & Zumeta, W. (November, 2014). Helping students or just taking their cuts? How funding of state student aid programs responds to economic downturns. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. Albuquerque, NM.
- Li, A. (March, 2014). Incentive funding programs to improve community college outcomes. Poster presented at the Association for Education Finance and Policy. San Antonio, TX.
- Matsen, S., **Li, A.**, Hernandez, J., & Zumeta, W. (March, 2013). What happens to state student aid funding during recessions and why? Poster presented the Association for Education Finance and Policy. New Orleans, LA.
- Li, A. (May, 2012). Accountability through performance funding: United States, England, and China. Poster presented at the NAFSA Association of International Educators. Houston, TX.

Ackerlind, S., Burton, B., **Li, A.**, & Hurtado, T. (March, 2012). Bridging the gap: Connecting data to learning outcomes. Symposium presented at the NASPA Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education. Phoenix, AZ.

TEACHING

University of Northern Colorado

HESA 611: Organization and Administration of Higher Education

HESA 612: Higher Education Assessment and Evaluation

HESA 683: Finance and Resource Management in Higher Education

HESA 690: Public Policy in Higher Education

HESA 680: Law in Higher Education

HESA 675: Field Experience in Higher Education

HESA 696: Special Topics: Accountability, Performance, and Policy Processes

SRM 600: Introduction to Graduate Research (online; weekend)

Dissertation Committees, Doctoral Students (* denotes dissertation defended)

1. Drew Lail (Chair)
2. Cyrus Fernandez (Chair)
3. Mel Lafferty (Chair)
4. Shannon Wawrzyniak (Chair)
5. Shanika Harvey (Chair)
6. Amanda Davis (Chair)
7. Alicia Sepulveda
8. Rebecca Woulfe*
9. Rachel Robinson Christeson*
10. Olympia Frascione-Stefanski (K-12)
11. Megan Friesen (advisor)

Advisor, Master Students (* denotes graduated)

1. Mary Bodkin Salinas*
2. Mary (Betsy) Hendrick*
3. Brynn Cox*
4. Taylor Maziarka*
5. Daniel Westerlind*
6. Alexander DeHaven*
7. Devon Schotterbeck*
8. Lupita Maria Arellano*
9. Abdul (Hadi) Alamer*
10. Jennifer Lutes
11. Emily Barclay
12. Danielle Pacheco
13. Oksana Maksimov
14. Savana Griego
15. Angel Tran

16. Efren Herrera Hurtado

SERVICE**National**

Technical Review Panel, 2020-22 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study
 Technical Review Panel, 2019-20 National Postsecondary Student Aid Study
 Advisory Group, State Higher Education Finance, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (2019-20)

Manuscript Reviewer: *Journal of Higher Education, Review of Higher Education, Educational Researcher, Research in Higher Education, Community College Review, Educational Policy*

Invited Presentations:

Panelist. (September, 2018). Higher ed 2020: College affordability ideas for the next Congress and beyond. The Century Foundation. Washington, DC.
 Panelist. (September, 2018). Busting financial aid myths. Education Writers Association Higher Education Seminar. Las Vegas, NV.
 Panelist. (July, 2017). Advocating for education research. Webinar presented by the American Educational Research Association.
 Participant. (November, 2016, 2017). Scholars who lunch: Conversations with newly minted and early career scholars. Roundtables presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education.
 Presenter. (November, 2016). The renaissance of performance funding: Policy adoption, implementation, and impacts. Fall research conference of the American Educational Research Association. Washington, DC.

Departmental/University

Co-Chair, Diversity and Equity Committee, College of Education, University of Northern Colorado (2019-present); Member (2018-present)
 Faculty Advisor, HESAL Student Organization, University of Northern Colorado (2017-2018)
 Member, Assistant Professor Search Committee, University of Northern Colorado (2016-2017)

Chair, Committee for Outstanding Faculty Award, University of Washington (2014-2015)
 Co-Chair, Student Affairs Action Coalition, University of Utah (2011-2012)
 Chair, Study Abroad Scholarship Committee, University of Utah (2011-2012)
 Coordinator, International Exchange Committee, University of Utah (2008-2012)

Professional Affiliations

Association for the Study of Higher Education (2012-present)
 Association for Education Finance and Policy (2013-present)

American Educational Research Association (2013-2016)
 NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (2010-2012)
 NAFSA Association of International Educators (2009-2012)

OTHER SKILLS

Technical Skills

Stata, R, LaTeX, NVivo, Canvas, Qualtrics

Languages

Mandarin Chinese (Native)