

## In Pursuit of Happiness Funding: The Triumphs and Travails of (Re)Envisioning a Line of Research



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Dr. Luke Rapa studies how contextual, sociocultural, and sociopolitical factors shape key developmental and psychological processes and promote or constrain individual's development and academic success. Dr. Rapa has an interest in the development of youth navigating adversity, marginalization, and inequitable societal conditions. Additionally, Rapa supports projects that provide targeted professional development to teachers in high-needs, priority schools to address critical student learning needs. Rapa is co-director of the Center for the Recruitment and Retention of Diverse Educators (CREDE), is associate editor for *Applied Developmental Science*, serves on the editorial boards of three other peer reviewed journals, and is currently co-editing three edited book volumes. He chairs the AERA Adolescence and Youth Development special interest group and serves as the program coordinator for the Learning Sciences PhD program.

Dr. Rapa will share the evolution of a project aiming to generate new insights and understandings of inequities within the South Carolina Juvenile Justice System. Initially envisioned as a project to replicate prior research, the project has gone through a few "iterations". Dr. Rapa will share his experiences developing funding proposals in response to Foundation RFPs, talk through challenges and successes, and discuss how "missed opportunities" in securing funding have helped enhance the quality of both the ongoing and (re)envisioned future scholarship within this line of research.

