

TONY DECESARE, PH.D.

Saint Xavier University
College of Liberal Arts and Education | Education Division
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EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D., **Indiana University**, Philosophy of Education (minor in Political Science)
- 2014 M.S.Ed., **Indiana University**, History and Philosophy of Education
- 2005 M.A., **Fairfield University**, Curriculum and Instruction
- 2001 B.A., **Fairfield University**, English (minors in Philosophy and Art History)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2023- Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL
Assistant Professor, Education Division, College of Liberal Arts and Education
- 2019-2023 DePaul University, Chicago, IL
Instructional Assistant Professor, Dept. of Leadership, Language & Curriculum
- 2015-2019 St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO
Assistant Professor, Department of Educational Studies

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, *Office of the Associate Dean for Teacher Education*, Indiana University
School of Education (2012-2015)

Associate Instructor, *Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies*, Indiana
University School of Education (2009-2014)

Student Teaching Supervisor, *Indiana University Community of Teachers (CoT)* (2011-2012)

English Teacher, *Xaverian Brothers High School*, Westwood, MA (2005-2008)

English and Social Studies Teacher, *The Woodhall School*, Bethlehem, CT (2001-2002)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Democratic and Civic Education
Children's Rights and Agency
Education Policy and Politics
School and Community Relationships

Teacher Education
Social Foundations of Education
Theories of Justice
Capability Approach

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Saint Xavier University

- The Profession of Teaching
- Historical and Social Trends in American Education
- Seminar in Teaching and Learning
- Supporting College and Career Readiness
- Educational Research Design and Development
- Capstone Research Seminar

DePaul University

- Seminar on Race, Power, and Resistance
- Culture, Power, and Education
- Ideology, Power, and Politics
- Philosophy of Education
- Youth Development, Ideology, Culture & Society
- Curriculum for Human and Community Development
- Curriculum Discourses and Perspectives over Time
- Teachers as Leaders
- Frameworks of Inquiry in Educational Research I

Saint Louis University

- Foundations of Education
- Professional Ethics
- Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods
- Just Schooling? (In)equity and Education in the United States (Honors Program)
- Studies in Philosophy of Education
- Philosophical Perspectives on Equality of Educational Opportunity
- History of American Education

Indiana University

- Introduction to Educational Thought
- The Study of Education and the Practice of Teaching

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- DeCesare, Tony (forthcoming). "The Adults are Not Alright: Theorizing Adult Democratic Education from the Capabilities Approach." *Educational Theory*, 74(5).
- DeCesare, Tony (2024). "Children's Rights and Agency: Promoting Participative Capabilities through Self-Directed Education." *On the Horizon: The International Journal of Learning Futures*, ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/OTH-04-2024-0021>
- DeCesare, Tony (2022). "The Future is Now: Rethinking the Role for Children in Democracy." *Philosophy of Education*, 78(3) p. 111-125.
- DeCesare, Tony (2022). "Catholic Social Thought and the Capability Approach: Toward a more Democratic form of Global Democracy Promotion." *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*, 19(2), p. 205-229.
- DeCesare, Tony (2020). "Centered Democratic Education: Public Schools as Civic Centers." *Philosophical Studies in Education*, 51, p. 33-43.
- DeCesare, Tony (2018). "Working Toward Transpositional Objectivity: The Promotion of Democratic Capability for an Age of Post-Truth Politics." *The Good Society: A Journal for Civic Studies*, 26(2-3), p. 218-233.
- DeCesare, Tony (2017). "Capability and the Obligation of Effective Power: The Global Promotion of Democratic Education for All." In Ann Chinnery (Ed.), *Philosophy of Education*, p. 225-239. Urbana, IL: Philosophy of Education Society.
- DeCesare, Tony (2017). "Re-thinking the Conceptual and Normative Implications of the 'Capability to be Educated': Children, Youth, and the Pursuit of Educational Equality." *Philosophical Studies in Education*, 48, p. 1-11.
- DeCesare, Tony (2016). "Still Leaving Citizens Behind: Re-conceiving the Civic Empowerment Gap as a Democratic Capability Gap." *Journal of Philosophy & History of Education*, 66(1), p. 13-26.
- DeCesare, Tony (2016). "A Capabilities Based Critique of Gutmann's Democratic Interpretation of Equal Educational Opportunity." *Philosophical Studies in Education*, 47, p. 129-139.
- DeCesare, Tony (2014). "Theorizing Democratic Education from a Senian Perspective." *Studies in Philosophy and Education* 33(2), p. 149-170.
- DeCesare, Tony (2012). "On the Potential Contributions of High School Philosophy to Ethical and Democratic Education." *Teaching Ethics* 13(1), p. 1-16.

DeCesare, Tony (2012). “The Lippmann-Dewey Debate Revisited: The Problem of Knowledge and the Role of Experts in Modern Democratic Theory.” *Philosophical Studies in Education* 43, p. 106-116.

DeCesare, Tony (2011). “Two Versions of the Capability Approach and Their Respective Implications for Democratic Education.” In Robert Kunzman (Ed.), *Philosophy of Education*, p. 226-234. Urbana, IL: Philosophy of Education Society.

Editor-Reviewed Articles

DeCesare, Tony (2021). “Philosophy of Education in Unprecedented Times: Seizing Opportunity in Calamity.” *Philosophical Studies in Education* 52, p. 1-8.

DeCesare, Tony (2016). “Rediscovering the Educating Forest through the Prefacing Trees: Drawing Lessons from Barber’s *Strong Democracy*.” In Natasha Levinson (Ed.), *Philosophy of Education*, p. 128-131. Urbana, IL: Philosophy of Education Society.

DeCesare, Tony (2016). “Children and the Realization of Justice.” *Talking Points*, 27(2), p. 28-29.

Book Reviews and Review Essays

DeCesare, Tony (2024). *The Cambridge Handbook of Democratic Education* by Julian Culp, Johannes Drerup, and Douglas Yacek (eds.). *Theory and Research in Education*. OnlineFirst, <https://doi.org/10.1177/14778785241279257>.

DeCesare, Tony (2020). *Jefferson’s Revolutionary Theory and the Reconstruction of Educational Purpose* by Kerry T. Burch. *Journal of Educational Controversy*, 14(1), p. 1-4.

DeCesare, Tony and Lyndsay Cowles (2018). *American Public Education and the Responsibility of Its Citizens* by Sarah M. Stitzlein. *American Journal of Education*, 124(4), p. 516-520.

DeCesare, Tony. (2016). “What Kind of Teacher for Our Citizens? A Review of *What Kind of Citizen? Educating Our Children for the Common Good*.” *Democracy and Education*, 24(2), p. 1-3.

Other Publications

DeCesare, Tony and Lyndsay Cowles (2018, March 6). “Unlock the Schools.” *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/columnists/unlock-the-schools/article_9826f0dc-bb1f-5965-a477-cb0183d4e9fd.html

DeCesare, Tony and Lyndsay Cowles (2018, March 1). “Throw the Doors Open.” *Education Week*. <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/03/07/after-parkland-where-do-we-go-from.html>

SCHOLARLY WORK IN PROGRESS

DeCesare, Tony (under review). “Preparing Democracy: Capability, Agency, and the Creative Task Still Before Us.”

DeCesare, Tony (in preparation). “Let First Graders Vote: Justifying Children’s Voting Rights by their Attachment to Social Institutions.”

DeCesare, Tony (book manuscript—in preparation). *Democratic Education and the Capabilities Approach: Pursuing Global Equity in Education*.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations (Peer Reviewed)

DeCesare, Tony (under review). “School Choice and Children’s Rights: Promoting the Capability to Choose One’s Own Education.”

DeCesare, Tony (under review). “Preparing Democracy for Children: A Defense of Voting Rights for First Graders.”

DeCesare, Tony, with Melissa Bradford and Thomas Noel (accepted for presentation, November 2024). “Applying a Childist Ethic to Schooling: Towards an Authentic Democratization of Schools.” *American Educational Studies Association*, Greenville, SC.

DeCesare, Tony (accepted for presentation, November 2024). “Children’s Rights and Agency: Promoting Participative Capabilities through Self-Directed Education” *American Educational Studies Association*, Greenville, SC.

DeCesare, Tony (May 2024). “Voting is Child’s Play: Defending the Extension of the Franchise to First Graders.” *Saint Xavier University Faculty and Staff Scholarship Symposium*, Chicago, IL.

DeCesare, Tony (February 2024). “On the Ethics of Child (Dis)enfranchisement.” *Association for Practical and Professional Ethics*, Cincinnati, OH.

DeCesare, Tony (November 2023). “Voting is Child’s Play: Defending the Extension of the Franchise to First Graders.” *Critical Questions in Education*, Chicago, IL.

DeCesare, Tony (October 2023). “Justifying Children’s Voting Rights by their Attachment to Social Institutions.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Brown County, IN.

DeCesare, Tony (April 2023). “Theorizing Adult Democratic Education through the Capability Approach.” *American Educational Research Association*, Chicago, IL

- DeCesare, Tony and Melissa Bradford and Thomas Noel (April 2023). “Children as Contributive Citizens: Dialogue Between Scholars and Students of Self-Directed Education.” *American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies*, Chicago, IL.
- DeCesare, Tony (March 2023). “The Grown Ups are Not Alright: Theorizing Adult Democratic Education.” *Philosophy of Education Society*, Pre-Conference Workshop on Civic Education, Chicago, IL.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2022). “Let Kids Vote: Children's Political Rights as a Frontier of Justice.” *Teach-In on Global Justice Issues*, DePaul University, Chicago, IL.
- DeCesare, Tony (March 2022). “The Future is Now: Rethinking the Role for Children in Democracy.” *Philosophy of Education Society*, San Jose, CA.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2021). “What about ‘Current’ Citizens? Challenging the Future- and School-Orientation of Democratic Education.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Brown County, IN.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2021). “On the Educative Potential of Jefferson’s Ward Republics.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Brown County, IN.
- DeCesare, Tony and Katherine Booher (November 2019). “‘Maybe it’s time we let the kids lead’: Children as (Voting) Citizens.” *American Educational Studies Association*, Baltimore, MD.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2019). “(Re)Centering Democratic Education: Public Schools as Civic Centers.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Brown County, IN.
- DeCesare, Tony and Lyndsay Cowles (November 2018). “Schools as Civic Centers: A Partial Cure for What Ails Democracy.” *American Educational Studies Association*, Greenville, South Carolina.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2018). “Democracy (and Epistemic Justice) Now! In Defense of Children’s Political Participation.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Brown County, IN.
- DeCesare, Tony (March 2018). “Functionally Public Schools as ‘Civic Centers.’” *Philosophy of Education Society*, Chicago, IL.
- DeCesare, Tony and Lyndsay Cowles (October 2017). “In Order to Form a More Perfect Democracy: Re-Envisioning Democratic Education in an(other) Era of Bullshit.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, University of St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center, Mundelein, IL.

- DeCesare, Tony (May 2017). “The Praxis of Amartya Sen and the Promotion of Democratic Capability.” *Special Conference on Facts, Values, and Strategies in Citizen Politics*, Tufts University, Tisch College of Civic Life, Boston, MA.
- DeCesare, Tony (March 2017). “Capability and the Obligation of Effective Power: The Global Promotion of Democratic Education for All.” *Philosophy of Education Society*, Seattle, WA.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2016). “Re-thinking the Conceptual and Normative Implications of the ‘Capability to be Educated’ for the Pursuit of Educational Equality.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Bergamo Conference Center, OH.
- DeCesare, Tony (March 2016). “Rediscovering the Educating Forest through the Prefacing Trees: Drawing Lessons from Barber’s *Strong Democracy*.” *Philosophy of Education Society*, Toronto, Canada.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2015). “Democratic Education beyond Schooling: The Promotion of Democratic Capability.” *Society of Philosophy and History of Education*, St. Louis, MO.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2015). “Closing the Democratic Capability Gap: Sen and Democratic Education.” *Human Development and Capabilities Association*, Washington, DC.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2015). “Equality of What in Democratic Education? A Capabilities Alternative to Gutmann’s Democratic Interpretation of Educational Equality.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Bergamo Conference Center, OH.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2014). “A New Language for a *Present-Oriented* Democratic Education.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Bergamo Conference Center, OH.
- DeCesare, Tony (September 2013). “Toward a Senian Model of (Democratic) Democracy Promotion.” *Human Development and Capabilities Association*, Managua, Nicaragua.
- DeCesare, Tony and Cary Buzzelli (March 2013). “The Capabilities Approach: Implications for Democratic Education and early Childhood Education.” *Curriculum and Instruction Research and Creative Activity Symposium*, Bloomington, IN.
- DeCesare, Tony (March 2013). “Conceptualizing Capabilities: Amartya Sen and Deliberative Democratic Education.” *Philosophy of Education Society*, Portland, OR.
- DeCesare, Tony (March 2012). “On the Potential Contributions of High School Philosophy to Ethical and Democratic Education.” *Association for Practical and Professional Ethics*, Cincinnati, OH.

Awarded “Best Formal Paper on Precollege Ethics” by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics and The Squire Family Foundation

DeCesare, Tony (September 2011). “John Dewey on the Usefulness of High School Philosophy.” *Conference on Curriculum Theory and Practice*, Bergamo Conference Center, OH.

DeCesare, Tony (September 2011). “The Lippmann-Dewey Debate Revisited: On the Role of Experts in Democracy and the Possibility of Social Knowledge.” *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Bergamo Conference Center, OH.

DeCesare, Tony (March 2011). “To List or Not to List: Two Versions of the Capability Approach and Their Respective Implications for Democratic Education.” *Philosophy of Education Society*, St. Louis, MO.

DeCesare, Tony and Kristopher Holland (April 2010). “Plato’s *Theaetetus*: Pointing to an Epistemological Focus for Philosophy of Education.” *Philosophy of Education Society*, San Francisco, CA.

DeCesare, Tony (December 2009). “On the Ethics of Education as a Form of Aid between Nations.” *Philosophy of Education Society of Australasia*, Honolulu, HI.

DeCesare, Tony (November 2009). “Conceiving and Implementing Education as a Form International Assistance.” *Society for the Philosophical Study of Education*, Chicago, IL.

Workshop Presentations (Invited)

DeCesare, Tony (September 2017). “On the (Potential) Epistemic and Democratic Contributions of Children—Reflections from a Capabilities Approach Perspective.” *Workshop on the Catholic Social Tradition and the Capability Approach*, University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute and the Center for Social Concerns, South Bend, IN.

DeCesare, Tony, Amber Johnson and Elizabeth Embry (January 2017). “Handling Politically Sensitive Topics and Discussions in the Classroom.” *Thinking Critically, Thinking Creatively about Teaching*, St. Louis University, Reinert Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning (Winter Institute), Saint Louis, MO.

INVITED LECTURES, TALKS, AND INTERVIEWS

DeCesare, Tony (September 20, 2024). “Let’s be Less Schoolish: Toward a More Holistic Educational Approach to Reviving Democracy.” Response to the Presidential Address, *Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society*, Brown County, IN.

DeCesare, Tony (March 6, 2024). “The Capabilities Approach and (Adult) Democratic Education.” *Indiana University, School of Education*, Bloomington, IN.

DeCesare, Tony (February 16, 2022). “The Capabilities Approach and Education.” *Indiana University, School of Education*, Bloomington, IN.

DeCesare, Tony (December 14, 2021). “Centered Democratic Education” [Interview]. *Faculti*.
<https://faculti.net/centered-democratic-education/>

DeCesare, Tony (May 5, 2021). “Doctoral Dialogues: The Practice of Conference Submissions.”
DePaul University, College of Education, Education Doctoral Student Association,
Chicago, IL.

DeCesare, Tony (February 2017). “The Conception of the Human Person in the Capabilities
Approach: From Entitlements to the Duties of Global Justice.” *University of Notre Dame,*
Kellogg Institute and the Center for Social Concerns, South Bend, IN.

DeCesare, Tony (February 8, 2016). “Children’s Capabilities: Aspirations, Rights, and Special
Needs.” *Indiana University, School of Education,* Bloomington, IN.

DeCesare, Tony (October 29, 2015). “Promoting Children’s Agency: A Capabilities Approach
Perspective.” *Indiana University,* Bloomington, IN.

DeCesare, Tony (February 19, 2013). “The Capabilities Approach and K-12 Education.” *Indiana*
University, School of Education, Bloomington, IN.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Saint Xavier University

University

- Assessment Steering Committee, 2024-Present
- Institutional Review Board, 2023-Present

College of Liberal Arts and Education

- Curriculum Committee, 2024-Present

Education Division

- Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning Work Group, 2024-Present
- Search Committee, Director, Education Division, 2024

DePaul University

University

- Committee on Contingent Faculty, 2020-2023

Saint Louis University

University

- Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee, 2016-2019 (Co-Chair, 2016-2018)
- Honors Faculty Council, 2017-2019
- Faculty Mentor, Reinert Center Certificate in University Teaching Skills Program, 2017-2019
- Grant Proposal Reviewer, Investigative Learning Experience (ILEX) Grants, 2019, 2017
- Presidential Scholarship Interviewer, 2016

- Grant Proposal Reviewer, President’s Research Fund (PRF) Grants, 2016

School of Education

- Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Education Policy and Equity, 2018
- Foundations of Education Program Review Committee, 2016-2018
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2015-2017
- Policies and Procedures Committee, 2016-2017
- Faculty Research Symposium Series (Organizer), 2016-2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Philosophy of Education Society

- Conference Management Committee, 2022-2024
- Assistant to Program Chair, 2010-2011

Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society

- Program Committee, 2023; 2018-2021; 2016
- Conference Program Chair, 2020

North American Capabilities Association

- United States Coordinator, 2018-2022

John Dewey Society

- Nominating Committee (Chair), 2021

American Educational Studies Association

- Proposal Review Team Co-Leader (“Educational Policy and Politics” submissions), 2016
- Proposal Reviewer, 2016

Editorial Service

- *Philosophical Studies in Education*
 - Contributing Editor, 2021
 - Editorial Board, 2023-2024, 2019-2020, 2018-2019, 2015-2016
- Ad hoc Manuscript Reviewer: Harvard University Press, *Critical Questions in Education*, *Democracy and Education*, *Peace & Change: A Journal of Peace Research*

HONORS AND AWARDS

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| 2021 | Nominated for “Excellence in Teaching” Award , DePaul University |
| 2019 | Faculty Member of the Year , Saint Louis University, Honors Program |
| 2018 | Nominated for “Outstanding Scholarly Work” Award , Saint Louis University |

- 2017 **Outstanding Contributions to Saint Louis University**, St. Louis University, Cura Program
- 2016 **Professor who Inspires Excellence in the Classroom**, St. Louis University, Department of Athletics
- 2012 **Best Formal Paper on Precollege Ethics**, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE) and The Squire Family Foundation
- 2012 **Outstanding Associate Instructor Award**, Indiana University, School of Education
- 2011 **Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Finalist**, Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society (OVPES)

GRANTS

Summer Research Awards in Humanities (2019), Saint Louis University, Office of the Vice President for Research, \$3985.00. Not Funded.

Research Growth Fund (2018), Saint Louis University, Office of the Vice President for Research, \$16055.70. Not funded.

Active Learning Grant (2010), Campus Instructional Consulting, Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Indiana University, \$1500. Funded.

Writing-Teaching Grant (2010), Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Indiana University, \$1500. Funded.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
 American Educational Studies Association (AESA)
 Philosophy of Education Society (PES)
 Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society (OVPES)
 Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (APPE)
 Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA)
 North American Capabilities Association (NACA)