

Sean Legnini

Berwyn, PA • 610-608-7256 • seanlegnini@gmail.com

ORCID: 0009-0007-3364-3386 • seanisdwelling.substack.com • pexelab.org

— EDUCATION —

Ed.D. Candidate - Educational Leadership , West Chester University	Expected 2027
Dissertation: <i>The Learning Body Entangled-in-the-World</i>	
Advisor: Dr. Matthew Kruger-Ross	
M.Ed. - Educational Leadership , Cabrini University	2017
M.S. - Arts Administration , Drexel University	2014
Thesis: <i>Models, Metrics, and Investment: Mixing Venture Philanthropy and the Arts</i>	
B.S. - Music Industry , Northeastern University	2012

— RESEARCH INTERESTS —

Phenomenology; education; ecophenomenology; learning as an entangled, ontological act; hermeneutic phenomenology; Innsbruck vignette research; visual phenomenology; photography-as-method; place-based and more-than-human learning; experiential education; teacher and student identities; artificial intelligence; public pedagogy

— ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS —

Co-Director, The PEXE Lab	2025 - Present
Develop frameworks for phenomenological research methods and pedagogies	
Research the phenomenon of teaching and learning	
Research artificial intelligence and effects on student and teacher identities	
Direct the lab's public-facing scholarship across Substack, Instagram, and podcasts	
Advisory Board Member, Pennoni Honors College @ Drexel University	2026 - Present
Advise on AI in education strategy and experiential learning programming, contributing expertise in phenomenological approaches to learning and AI adoption in higher education.	

— PUBLICATIONS —

Book Chapters

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (in preparation). Phenomenology for Educational Inquiry: An Introduction for Practitioner-Researchers. In *Qualitative Inquiry in Educational Research* (O. Gould-Yakovleva, Ed.)

Legnini, S., & Kruger-Ross, M. (under review). Phantom phones and the anxiety of incorporation. In *The Impact of No-Mobile-Phone-Phobia (Nomophobia) on Learning: Insights and Future Directions from PK to Higher Education* (G. Freeman & S. Bhattacharya, Eds.)

Book Reviews

Legnini, S. (2026). Plants in place, plants as place: A review of *Plants in Place* by Casey & Marder. *Environmental Philosophy*, 23(1), 224-227. <https://doi.org/10.5840/enviophil20262312>

Legnini, S. (forthcoming). A new philosophy of time: A review of *The Memory of the World: Deep Time, Animality, and Eschatology* by Ted Toadvine. *Phenomenological Reviews*.

Manuscripts Under Review

Legnini, S., & Kruger-Ross, M. (under review). Where's your line? How educators negotiate the boundaries of AI in professional practice. *Journal of Teacher Education*.

Legnini S., & Kruger-Ross, M. (under review). Phenomenology as necessity. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*.

— CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS —

Legnini, S. (2026, October 7). *Nature seeking bodies: A phenomenology of nature play* [Conference Presentation, forthcoming]. North American Association for Environmental Education 2026 Conference, Portland, OR, United States.

Kruger-Ross, M. & Legnini, S. (2026, August 12). *A Pedagogy of Dwelling: A Phenomenological Approach to Education* [Organized symposium]. 43rd International Human Science Research Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Legnini, S. (2026, August 12). *Dwelling sensuously: The body's imagination and the recovery of perception* [Paper presentation]. 43rd International Human Science Research Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (2026, August 12). *A pedagogy of dwelling with imagination, embodiment, and the clearing* [Conference presentation]. 43rd International Human Science Research Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Kruger-Ross, M., Schugar, H., & Legnini, S. (2026, April 11). *What will it see? Examining bias in AI-assisted qualitative research* [Conference presentation]. Leading Online Pedagogy and Engagement Conference, virtual.

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (2026, February 5). *Beyond the learning machine: Reclaiming experience in experiential education* [Conference presentation]. Eastern Educational Research Association 2026 Conference, Clearwater, FL, United States.

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (2026, February 5). *Between anxiety and courage: How K-12 teachers encounter generative AI in practice* [Poster presentation]. Eastern Educational Research Association 2026 Conference, Clearwater, FL, United States.

— GRANTS & AWARDS —

- Research Grant**, College of Education & Social Work, West Chester University 2026
Co-Principal Investigator. \$3,000. *From the Academy to the Public: A Phenomenological Self-Study of Scholarly Identity in Public Spaces*
- Dean's Professional Development Award**, West Chester University 2025

— RESEARCH EXPERIENCE —

Learning in Ecological Settings (IRB-FY2026-313)

Principal Investigator, 2026 - Present

Dissertation study capturing phenomenological vignettes of learners entangled in ecological settings.

Where's the Line? The Human/AI Paradox (IRB-FY2026-132)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2026 - Present

Qualitative study of how participants locate and negotiate their ethical boundaries of acceptable AI use.

EdD Advisor and Advisee Self Study (IRB-FY2026-133)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2026 - Present

Qualitative self study of the evolving dynamics of scholarly identity in the advisor and advisee during a dissertation phase.

Secondhand Experiences in Teaching (IRB-FY2025-374)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2025 - Present

Qualitative study of teachers using their own life experience as teaching vignettes for their students.

Place & Study Abroad (IRB-FY2024-305)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2024 - 2025

Qualitative study of the ways that place, time, and community can embed itself into student learning.

— TEACHING & CURRICULUM EXPERIENCE —

- Founder & Director**, Trophic Education 2023 - Present
Registered nonprofit providing pro bono curriculum design and educational programming support to schools, nonprofits, and research organizations. Focus on expanding access to experiential science curriculum and building grant-fundable educational programming.

Middle School Teacher, Department Chair, The Shipley School, Bryn Mawr, PA 2016 - 2023

Courses Taught: Science (Grades 6 & 8), Mathematics (Grade 6), STEAM & Makerspace (Grades 6-8)

Curriculum Leadership: PK-8 Science Curriculum Coordinator (Dept. Chair), PK-12 STEAM Curriculum Coordinator (Dept. Chair)

Selected Contributions:

- Built the PK-8 STEAM program and curriculum from the ground up
- Designed, advocated for, and fundraised the renovation of a classroom into a fully equipped makerspace
- Authored a PK-8 science scope and sequence aligned to NGSS and NSTA
- Led faculty professional development on rubrics and authentic assessment practices
- Member, Curricular Development Group and Schedule Committee
- Grade 6 and 8 advisor, Science Olympiad Team Founder and Coach, Varsity Golf and Middle School Soccer coach

— **PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP** —

Co-Host, *Public Pedagogy* 2026 - Present

A podcast that interviews scholars to share their academic work in a publicly accessible way.

Co-Host, *The Line* 2025 - Present

A podcast on the social construction of AI ethics.

Author, *Sean is Dwelling* - Substack (seanisdwelling.substack.com) 2025 - Present

Selected Essays:

- Disorientation (2026)
- The Path, The Road (2026)
- What is it to Learn? (2026)
- 'Becoming' Highlights (2026)
- Everything Resides in the World (2026)

— **SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS** —

Board Member, E.C.H.O.E.S. Around the World 2012-2018

Member, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

Member, American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Member, International Merleau-Ponty Circle

— **PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE** —

Co-Founder, COO & Director of Good, SuperMighty 2013-2015

Development Associate, Weathervane Music 2012

Hockey Coach (USA Hockey CEP Level 4) 2008 - Present

Snider Hockey, Emerson College, West Chester Quakers, Jr. Flyers, Team Philadelphia

Sean Legnini

Berwyn, PA • 610-608-7256 • seanlegnini@gmail.com
ORCID: 0009-0007-3364-3386 • seanisdwelling.substack.com • pexelab.org

— EDUCATION —

Ed.D. Candidate - Educational Leadership, West Chester University Expected 2027
Dissertation: *The Learning Body Entangled-in-the-World*
Advisor: Dr. Matthew Kruger-Ross

M.Ed. - Educational Leadership, Cabrini University 2017

M.S. - Arts Administration, Drexel University 2014
Thesis: *Models, Metrics, and Investment: Mixing Venture Philanthropy and the Arts*

B.S. - Music Industry, Northeastern University 2012

— TEACHING & CURRICULUM EXPERIENCE —

Founder & Director, Trophic Education 2023 - Present
Registered nonprofit providing pro bono curriculum design and educational programming support to schools, nonprofits, and research organizations. Focus on expanding access to experiential science curriculum and building grant-fundable educational programming.

Middle School Teacher, Department Chair, The Shipley School, Bryn Mawr, PA 2016 - 2023
Courses Taught: Science (Grades 6 & 8), Mathematics (Grade 6), STEAM & Makerspace (Grades 6-8)

Curriculum Leadership: PK-8 Science Curriculum Coordinator (Dept. Chair), PK-12 STEAM Curriculum Coordinator (Dept. Chair)

Selected Contributions:

- Built the PK-8 STEAM program and curriculum from the ground up
- Designed, advocated for, and fundraised the renovation of a classroom into a fully equipped makerspace
- Authored a PK-8 science scope and sequence aligned to NGSS and NSTA
- Led faculty professional development on rubrics and authentic assessment practices
- Member, Curricular Development Group and Schedule Committee
- Grade 6 and 8 advisor, Science Olympiad Team Founder and Coach, Varsity Golf and Middle School Soccer coach

— ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS —

Co-Director, The PEXE Lab 2025 - Present
Develop frameworks for phenomenological research methods and pedagogies
Research the phenomenon of teaching and learning
Research artificial intelligence and effects on student and teacher identities
Direct the lab's public-facing scholarship across Substack, Instagram, and podcasts

Advisory Board Member, Pennoni Honors College @ Drexel University 2026 - Present

Advise on AI in education strategy and experiential learning programming, contributing expertise in phenomenological approaches to learning and AI adoption in higher education.

— RESEARCH INTERESTS —

Phenomenology; education; ecophenomenology; learning as an entangled, ontological act; hermeneutic phenomenology; Innsbruck vignette research; visual phenomenology; photography-as-method; place-based and more-than-human learning; experiential education; teacher and student identities; artificial intelligence; public pedagogy

— PUBLICATIONS —***Book Chapters***

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (in preparation). Phenomenology for Educational Inquiry: An Introduction for Practitioner-Researchers. In *Qualitative Inquiry in Educational Research* (O. Gould-Yakovleva, Ed.)

Legnini, S., & Kruger-Ross, M. (under review). Phantom phones and the anxiety of incorporation. In *The Impact of No-Mobile-Phone-Phobia (Nomophobia) on Learning: Insights and Future Directions from PK to Higher Education* (G. Freeman & S. Bhattacharya, Eds.)

Book Reviews

Legnini, S. (in press). Plants in place, plants as place: A review of *Plants in Place* by Casey & Marder. *Environmental Philosophy*.

Legnini, S. (forthcoming). A new philosophy of time: A review of *The Memory of the World: Deep Time, Animality, and Eschatology* by Ted Toadvine. *Phenomenological Reviews*.

Manuscripts Under Review

Legnini, S., & Kruger-Ross, M. (under review). Where's your line? How educators negotiate the boundaries of AI in professional practice. *Journal of Teacher Education*.

Legnini S., & Kruger-Ross, M. (under review). Phenomenology as necessity. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*.

— CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS —

Legnini, S. (2026, October 7). *Nature seeking bodies: A phenomenology of nature play* [Conference Presentation, forthcoming]. North American Association for Environmental Education 2026 Conference, Portland, OR, United States.

Kruger-Ross, M. & Legnini, S. (2026, August 12). *A Pedagogy of Dwelling: A Phenomenological*

Approach to Education [Organized symposium]. 43rd International Human Science Research Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Legnini, S. (2026, August 12). *Dwelling sensuously: The body's imagination and the recovery of perception* [Paper presentation]. 43rd International Human Science Research Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (2026, August 12). *A pedagogy of dwelling with imagination, embodiment, and the clearing* [Conference presentation]. 43rd International Human Science Research Conference, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Kruger-Ross, M., Schugar, H., & Legnini, S. (2026, April 11). *What will it see? Examining bias in AI-assisted qualitative research* [Conference presentation]. Leading Online Pedagogy and Engagement Conference, virtual.

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (2026, February 5). *Beyond the learning machine: Reclaiming experience in experiential education* [Conference presentation]. Eastern Educational Research Association 2026 Conference, Clearwater, FL, United States.

Legnini, S. & Kruger-Ross, M. (2026, February 5). *Between anxiety and courage: How K-12 teachers encounter generative AI in practice* [Poster presentation]. Eastern Educational Research Association 2026 Conference, Clearwater, FL, United States.

— GRANTS & AWARDS —

Research Grant, College of Education & Social Work, West Chester University 2026
Co-Principal Investigator. \$3,000. *From the Academy to the Public: A Phenomenological Self-Study of Scholarly Identity in Public Spaces*

Dean's Professional Development Award, West Chester University 2025

— RESEARCH EXPERIENCE —

Learning in Ecological Settings (IRB-FY2026-313)

Principal Investigator, 2026 - Present

Dissertation study capturing phenomenological vignettes of learners entangled in ecological settings.

Where's the Line? The Human/AI Paradox (IRB-FY2026-132)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2026 - Present

Qualitative study of how participants locate and negotiate their ethical boundaries of acceptable AI use.

Edd Advisor and Advisee Self Study (IRB-FY2026-133)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2026 - Present

Qualitative self study of the evolving dynamics of scholarly identity in the advisor and advisee during a dissertation phase.

Secondhand Experiences in Teaching (IRB-FY2025-374)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2025 - Present

Qualitative study of teachers using their own life experience as teaching vignettes for their students.

Place & Study Abroad (IRB-FY2024-305)

Co-Principal Investigator, 2024 - 2025

Qualitative study of the ways that place, time, and community can embed itself into student learning.

— PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP —**Co-Host, *Public Pedagogy***

2026 - Present

A podcast that interviews scholars to share their academic work in a publicly accessible way.

Co-Host, *The Line*

2025 - Present

A podcast on the social construction of AI ethics.

Author, *Sean is Dwelling* - Substack (seanisdwelling.substack.com)

2025 - Present

Selected Essays:

- Disorientation (2026)
- The Path, The Road (2026)
- What is it to Learn? (2026)
- 'Becoming' Highlights (2026)
- Everything Resides in the World (2026)

— SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS —**Board Member, E.C.H.O.E.S. Around the World**

2012-2018

Member, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

Member, American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Member, International Merleau-Ponty Circle

— PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE —**Co-Founder, COO & Director of Good, SuperMighty**

2013-2015

Development Associate, Weathervane Music

2012

Hockey Coach (USA Hockey CEP Level 4)

2008 - Present

Snider Hockey, Emerson College, West Chester Quakers, Jr. Flyers, Team Philadelphia