



The Politics of Inquiry: Education Research and the "Culture of Science"

Benjamin Baez, Deron Boyles

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Argues against the "culture of science" currently dominating education discourse and in favor of a more critical understanding of various modes of inquiry.

In *The Politics of Inquiry*, Benjamin Baez and Deron Boyles critique recent trends in education research to argue against the "culture of science." Using the National Research Council's 2002 report *Scientific Research in Education* as a point of departure, they contend that the entire discourse on education science reflects a number of distinct but mutually constitutive political forces or movements that use science and education to shape what we can think, and, thus, what we can become. These forces include the attempts to restrict democracy via scientism; the uses of academic classifications for organizing the world into social groups; the imperatives of the informational society, which seek precision in order to convert the world into "data" for easy governing; and the effects of transnational capitalist exchanges, which convert everything into a cost-benefit analysis, and which make us all complicit in ways we do not fully grasp. Baez and Boyles examine these forces and offer an alternative to the current pushes to make educational inquiry scientific.

"...in this clear and cogently argued book, Baez and Boyles expose how particular social, political, and economic forces, including the rise of globalization and neoliberalism, shape this increasingly dominant view of science, research, and education." — *Education and Culture*

"...should be required reading for those who seek to defend academic freedom and democratic thought in today's threatened academy." — *CHOICE*

"I loved this book." — Patti Lather, *Teachers College Record*

Benjamin Baez is Associate Professor of Higher Education at Florida International University and coeditor (with Marybeth Gasman and Caroline Sotello Viernes Turner) of *Understanding Minority-Serving Institutions*, also published by SUNY Press.

Deron Boyles is Professor of Philosophy of Education at Georgia State University and editor of *The Corporate Assault on Youth: Commercialism, Exploitation, and the End of Innocence*.

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