

Ira David Socol

educational environment, technology, and practice consultant

College of Education
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824
socolira@msu.edu

1352 East Pointe Ridge
Holland, MI 49423
irasocol@gmail.com
616.204.0296

Areas of interest: history of education and technology; space and time in education, universal design for learning; universal design technology; new media and education; social constructions of literacy; social constructions of disability; comparative educational history; disability studies; postcolonial theories; critical postmodern theories; philosophies of education; theories of technology development; new media and democracy; Irish literature; microfiction; football (soccer).

EDUCATION

Doctoral Program, 2005-present

Michigan State University
Special Education Technology
Advisors: Susan Peters, Lynn Fendler

Certification in Assistive Technology, 2002

California State University - Northridge
Assistive Technology Applications Program

Certification in Employment Training, 2002

Michigan State University
Employment Training Specialist Program

Bachelor of Arts, 2000

Grand Valley State University
Criminal Justice/Juvenile Justice
Cognate in Educational Psychology

Certification as Police Officer, 1983

New York City Police Academy
State University of New York

Undergraduate Studies, 1978-1982

Pratt Institute, School of Architecture
Architecture

Undergraduate Studies, 1978

Parsons School of Design – The New School
Architecture and Interior Design

Undergraduate Studies, 1975

College at Purchase
State University of New York
Art and Film

Undergraduate Studies, 1973-1977

Michigan State University
Studio Art

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Michigan State University** Teaching Assistant/Instructor 2007-2010
- Special Education Students in the Regular Education Classroom (CEP 452)
- Michigan State University** Teaching Assistant/Instructor 2009
- Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms (CEP 842)
- Grand Valley State University** Adjunct Faculty 1994-1996, 2006
- Assistive Technology – online course (EDS 621) including design of curriculum
 - Lettering and Type (Art and Design Studio Course)
 - Introduction to Graphic Design (Art and Design Studio Course)
- Pratt Institute – Manhattan Center** Instructor 1980-1981
- Introduction to Architectural Design (Studio Course)

EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANCIES

- Educology Partners LLC** Senior Provocateur
<http://www.educologypartners.com/>
- Albemarle County Public Schools** Charlottesville, VA, 2010-
- Universal Design Technology and Strategy consulting in a large public school system.
- Black River Public School** Holland, MI, 2010-2011
- Special Educational Technology and Universal Design consulting with faculty and students in an urban K-12 charter school.
- Godfrey-Lee Public Schools** Wyoming, MI, 2011
- Technology integration and staff development advisor to Sixth Grade Campus in a high-needs public school district.
- Michigan Integrated Technology Supports** Lansing, MI, 2009-
- Technology support and training for statewide Universal Design initiative.
 - Development of MITS Freedom Stick, statewide UDL/Assistive Technology Initiative
 - Development of UDL Firefox Browser Add On Collections in cooperation with Mozilla Corporation.
 - Webinars in Assistive Technology

NON-TEACHING EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

- Michigan State University** Research and Teaching Assistant, 2005-2011
- Developer of the Assistive Technology Demonstration Workstations for the College of Education.
 - Developer of learning program for Assistive Technology hardware and software (US Department of Education SETS grant).
 - National Center for Supported Electronic Text component research study in digital text comprehension – Principal Investigator.
 - Virtual History Museum – Accessibility Consultant. Instructor in Assistive Technology
- Michigan Department of Energy, Labor, and Economic Growth/Rehabilitation Services** Assistive Technology Consultant 2008-
- Evaluation, technology selection, strategy development for agency customers.
 - Advisor to Assistive Technology Project.

Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth/Rehabilitation Services

Assistive Technology Specialist 2003-2008

- Evaluation, technology selection, strategy development, training for agency customers.
- Development, maintenance, and research – Holland Assistive Technology Resource Laboratory.
- Other assignments in transition and support for customers on Social Security.

Heartside Ministry, Inc.

Information Technology Coordinator 2000-2002

- Novell 5.1.1 network design, development, installation and administration for homeless service agency.
- Web site development, design, and weekly maintenance for 80-page plus site, including job search site that was used by multiple agencies.
- Staff management and budget development for annual operations and \$100,000 tech improvement fund.
- Grant Writing, including successful bid for \$75,000 towards \$100,000 tech budget from Grand Rapids Foundation.

Grand Valley State University

Information Technology Consultant 1997-2000

- Research, design, installation, training and maintenance of Assistive Technology computer systems for multi-campus university.
- Computer network consultant.
- Network hardware consultant.
- Learning Technology Support to K-12 school districts.

Midwest Business Systems

Consultant/Trainer/Installer 1993-1997

- Installation, configuration, system development and staff training for Novell network, PC and Macintosh school computer systems.

Lake Michigan Examiner

Technology and Design Coordinator 1990-1995

- Designed and installed computer pagination system.
- Newspaper Redesign.
- Editorial Page Editor.

Muskegon Lake Company

Designer 1988-1992

- Graphic Designer.

New York City Police Department

Police Officer 1983-1988

- Police Officer.
- Computer Database Developer.

PUBLICATIONS**Articles**

Greteman, A. and Socol, I. (2012). Performativity and Disidentification: Subverting Identity politics through stereotypical embrace or rejection. In Jenkins, P. (Ed) (2012) *Teacher Identity and the Struggle for Identity*. Lanham, Maryland, Rowman and Littlefield.

Moran, P. and Socol, I. (2011). Why September 11, 2001 Must Be in Our Classrooms. In *The New York Times Learning Network*, 29 August 2011.

<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/08/29/teaching-911-why-how/>

Socol, I. (2010). The Unhappy Place: What libraries can do to welcome kids who struggle with print.

School Library Journal, 1 May 2010. <http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/article/CA6727276.html>

Socol, I. (2007). For Troubled Students, More Protection, Not Less. Inside Higher Education. 20 April 2007. <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2007/04/20/socol>

- Socol, I. (2006). Stop Chasing, Start Learning From, High Tech Cheaters. *Inside Higher Education*. 25 May 2006. <http://www.insidehighered.com/views/2006/05/25/socol>
- Bouck, E., Chin, H.Y., Courtad, C.A., Hunt, P., Meier, B., Okolo, C., Shankland, R., Socol, I., & Tian, J. (2006). Assistive Technology Survey: Exemplary Uses and Barriers to Further Uses of Assistive Technology in Michigan's Schools. Michigan IDEA Partnership, State Board of Education (Michigan).
- Socol, I. (2005). The Time is Now. *Leading Change*. Center for Educational Networking. Michigan.
- Socol, I. (1992). Trained to Do Our Dirty Work. *The New York Times*, 2 May 1992, p. 23.

Books

- Socol, I. (2007). *The Drool Room*. River Foyle Press.
- Socol, I. (2007). *A Certain Place of Dreams*. Very Short Stories. River Foyle Press

Short Stories

- Socol, I. (2005). *The Lenten Diaries*. *Smokelong Eight*. 15 March 2005. <http://www.smokelong.com/flash/2091.asp>
- Socol, I. (2000). *Au Sable Hall*. *Amaranthus*, Grand Valley State University. Allendale, Michigan.

Blogs

- Socol, I. (2005-present). SpeEdChange. Education and educational technology blog. <http://speedchange.blogspot.com/> (29,000 unique hits from 117 nations in 2009)
- Socol, I. (2005-present). The Narrator. Microfiction blog. <http://americannarrator.blogspot.com/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Socol, I. and Moran, P. "If learning is to be constant, Space, Time, Technology, Pedagogy, Curriculum must be the Variables." ICT in Education Conference | Comhdháil ICT san Oideachas 2012. Keynote and Conference Follow-Up. Thurles, County Tipperary, Republic of Ireland, May 2012.
- Thornton, M. and Socol, I. "Academic Choice and Student-Driven Learning." Breaking Traditions 2012. Charlottesville, Virginia (and virtual), April 2012.
- Socol, I. and Moran P. "Space Not Place. Building Learning Environments, Real, Virtual, and Imagined." Virginia Chapter of the Council of Educational Facility Planners International 2012 Annual Conference "Designing Beyond the 3 R's." Keynote Session. Roanoke, Virginia, February 2012.
- Moran, P. and Socol, I. "The Iridescent Classroom." Instructional Technology Strategies Conference, Invited Principal Presentation, Portland, Oregon, February 2012.
- Thornton, M., Kelly, C., Cousins, K., Techman, M., Payne, E., Moran, P., and Socol, I. "Choice, Collaboration, Creation: Contemporary Learners Engage the World." Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Williamsburg, Virginia, November/December 2011.
- Moran, P. and Socol, I. "The Chieftain and the Tribal Environment: Exploring Learning Frontiers in the Post-Gutenberg Society." Technology in Education Leadership Conference Keynote. Copper Mountain, Colorado, June 2011.
- Socol, I. "Liberating Classrooms through Technology Choice." Computers in Education Society of Ireland Meet. Invited Presentation. Tipperary Institute Conference. Thurles, Republic of Ireland, May 2011.
- Socol, I. "The Accessible Internet: Universal Tools in the 'Cloud'." Michigan Council for Exceptional Children Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2011.
- Socol, I. "Universal Design and Disability Rights Workshop." Instructional Technology Strategies Conference. Invited Presentation. Portland, Oregon, February 2011.

- Socol, I. "Toolbelt 2.0." Instructional Technology Strategies Conference. Invited Presentation. Portland, Oregon, February 2011.
- Socol, I. "Mobile Learning Your School." Instructional Technology Strategies Conference. Invited Presentation. Portland, Oregon, February 2011.
- Socol, I. "Universal Design Technologies and Disability Rights." Instructional Technology Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, November 2010.
- Socol, I. "Breaking All Boundaries: Universal Design in the Global Future." Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, October 2010.
- Socol, I. "Cultural Institutions, Contemporary Learning, Universal Design." New York Hall of Science invited presentation. Queens, New York, April 2010.
- Socol, I. "Toolbelt Theory 2.0: universal design through student tech choice." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, San Diego, California, March 2010.
- Socol, I. "Gramsci, Foucault, and liberation technology: shaping and activating the global learning space with social networking." Comparative and International Education Society Conference, Chicago, March 2010.
- Socol, I. "Creating Literacy at the Start: Text-To-Speech and Beginning Readers." Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois, October 2009.
- Socol, I. "The Global Education Learning Community: Twitter as Liberation Technology." Comparative and International Education Society – Midwest Conference, Kent State University, Ohio, October 2009.
- Socol, I. "FreeTech – Ubiquitous Tools as Individualized Supports." Michigan Integrated Technology Supports Summer Teacher Institute, Traverse City, Michigan, June 2009.
- Socol, I. "Evaluating for Technology – Task Components and Task Solutions." Michigan Integrated Technology Supports Summer Teacher Institute, Traverse City, Michigan, June 2009.
- Socol, I. "Toolbelt Theory for Everyone – Preparing for a Lifetime of Learning." Michigan Integrated Technology Supports Summer Teacher Institute, Traverse City, Michigan, June 2009.
- Socol, I. "Access to University Success for Dyslexic Students: Mobiles, Old Computers, and Free Software." Computer Assisted Learning 2009, Brighton, England, United Kingdom, March 2009.
- Socol, I. "Text-to-Speech from the Start – A Primary Support for Lifespan Learning." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, Los Angeles, California, March 2009.
- Socol, I. "Supporting Writing: Text-To-Speech and Spellcheck for All of Us." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, Los Angeles, California, March 2009.
- Socol, I. "FreeTech – Ubiquitous Tools as Individualized Supports." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, Los Angeles, California, March 2009.
- Socol, I. "Ubiquitous Systems, Global Education, Universal Design." Pac/Rim Conference on Education, Normal, Illinois, October 2008.
- Socol, I. "Universal Design Technology, How to Embrace Toolbelt Theory." Teaching and Technology Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, September 2008.
- Socol, I. "Toolbelt for the Lifespan – Learning How to Learn Assistive Technology." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, Los Angeles, California, March 2008.
- Socol, I. "Listening to Themselves: Student Writers Editing with Free Text-to-Speech." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, Los Angeles, California, March 2008.

- Socol, I. "Universal Design – The Only Path to True Inclusion." Michigan Rehabilitation Association Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2007.
- Socol, I. "The Toolbelt – building Task-based Assistive Technology Decision-Making in Transition." Michigan Rehabilitation Association Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2007.
- Socol, I. "Universal Design in Education and Employment." Keynote. Disability Awareness Day, Dearborn, Michigan, October 2007.
- Socol, I. "Developing Your Own Assistive Technology Solutions." Disability Awareness Day, Dearborn, Michigan, October 2007.
- Socol, I. "Literacy Technology in the Primary Classroom." (Poster Presentation) Computer Assisted Learning 2007, Dublin, Republic of Ireland, March 2007.
- Socol, I. "The Toolbelt – Task-Based, Student-Centered Assistive Technology Decision-Making." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, Los Angeles, California, March 2007.
- Socol, I. "Universal Design – Education for All." Teaching and Technology Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, January 2007.
- Socol, I. "Elementary Literacy Technology." Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, October 2006.
- Socol, I. "The Toolbelt Theory – Task-based Student Technology Self-Determination." Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, October 2006.
- Socol, I. "The Universally Designed Classroom – a Technology Circus." Disabilities Studies in Education Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, May 2006
- Socol, I. "TEST after SETT, student decision-making in Assistive Technology choices." Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference at California State University-Northridge, Los Angeles, California, March 2006.
- Socol, I. "Literacy Technology in the Classroom." Michigan Council for Exceptional Children, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2006.
- Socol, I. "Literacy Technology for Secondary Students Seeking to Attend College." Michigan Rehabilitation Association Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2005.
- Socol, I. "High Tech Reading Support Across the Grades." Learning Disabilities Association of Michigan Conference, East Lansing, Michigan, October 2005.
- Socol, I. "Digital Reading and Writing Support in Transition." Adult Basic Education Conference, Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 2005.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Design Lab, learning space design outreach project advisor, New York Hall of Science, 2011-present
- Human +, exhibition development advisory group, New York Hall of Science, 2007-present.
- PLP Ontario International Cohort, Educator Professional Development. Experienced Voices Group Leader. 2010.
- PLP Ontario International Cohort, Educator Professional Development. Training Webinars on Knowledge Construction and Passion-based Learning, 2010.
- Virtual Hall of Science, New York Hall of Science and Greater Southern Tier BOCES SciCentr. Advisory Committee, 2007-2010.
- Ghotit.com development group, online support for spellcheck technology development, 2007-2010.
- Assistive Technology Professionals, online support group, 2007-2010.
- IDEA Partnership, Michigan Department of Education, 2005.
- CREATE@gvsu, Grand Valley State University collaborative project, Academic Computing and Department of Psychology, 1998-2000.

AWARDS

Chief of Operations Award, New York City Police Academy, 1983
Disability Student Scholarship, Grand Valley State University, 1999