

## The Urban Education Policy Program

presents a lecture by

**Dr. Peter Youngs**

of Michigan State University

New Teachers' Social Networks, Commitment Levels, and  
Retention Decisions in Urban School Districts



This presentation is based on a three-year study (through 2008-09) of 150 beginning elementary and middle school teachers in urban school districts in Michigan and Indiana. Drawing on social capital theory, the study employs surveys and interviews to investigate how mentoring, other district policies, and new teachers' social networks influence their commitment levels and labor market decisions. While several studies have examined the effects of mentoring and induction on early career teachers' experiences and retention decisions, none have considered how school-level social capital and social networks mediate the effects of district policy on new teacher commitment and retention.

**Date: Friday, October 5, 2007**

**Time: Noon-1:30pm**

**Location: Dewey Conference Room, Barus Hall**



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