

Seth S. Pollack, PhD

Bio



Dr. Seth Pollack is Professor of Service Learning, and the founding faculty director of the Service Learning Institute at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). Dr. Pollack's academic interests are in civic engagement, social change, and the role of educational institutions as facilitators of societal transformation. Dr. Pollack has a PhD in International Development Education from Stanford University and an MA in Organizational Sociology, also from Stanford. In 2005, he received the *Thomas Ehrlich Faculty Award for Service Learning*, recognized as the nation's outstanding faculty in the field of community service and civic engagement, for his contributions to integrating service learning with issues of diversity and social justice in higher education curriculum. In 2008-09, Dr. Pollack was a Fulbright Scholar in Cape Town, South Africa, at the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape, and worked on integrating service learning and social justice more explicitly in the higher education curriculum in South Africa. In 2013, California Campus Compact awarded Dr. Pollack the *Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence & Leadership in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education*. In 2015 he was named the *California State University Service Learning Fellow*, to facilitate a system-wide initiative on the assessment of service learning as a "High Impact Practice." During the 2017-18 academic year, Dr. Pollack is a European Union Fulbright-Schuman Scholar at the University of Brighton, UK, and the University of Bologna, Italy, focusing on the public mission of higher ed in the European context.

Dr. Pollack is the author of numerous articles and studies on service learning and civic engagement. Since 1997, he has provided the intellectual and organizational leadership for CSUMB's Service Learning Institute, nationally recognized as one of the leaders in the field. CSUMB is the only two-time recipient of the prestigious White House President's Award for Community Service in Higher Education (2006, 2010), and is the 2013 recipient of the Higher Education Civic Engagement Award, presented by the Washington Center.

Previous to his work in higher education, Dr. Pollack worked in international development, with a focus on participatory rural development, primarily working with rural women's groups in Mali, West Africa. He was country director for the American Friends Service Committee, and in 1986 worked with his Malian counterparts to establish the first Malian women's non-governmental organization: *Femmes et Developpement*. He founded the organization *Media for International Development*, and produced a series of documentary films entitled *The Quiet Revolution*, focusing on success stories in people-centered rural development. The award-winning, six-part film series aired on PBS and internationally in 1993, and featured segments from Bangladesh, Honduras, India, Nepal, Zimbabwe and Arkansas.

Dr. Pollack was born in New York City, and grew up in Boulder, Colorado. He did his undergraduate work at the University of Colorado, where he received a B.A. in International Affairs, focusing on Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. He has a deep love for story telling, and an appreciation for foreign languages and world music. He speaks French, German and Bambara, has a working knowledge of Hebrew and is currently learning Italian. He is the proud husband of Naomi, and the father of two daughters Alexandra (24) and Maya (21).