In an era in which national politics has increasingly descended to the level of tabloid journalism and national education policy is in increasing disarray, remarkably successful and inspiring efforts to pursue educational reform and justice through grass-roots politics mainly go unnoticed by the national media. Mark Warren, a sociologist concerned with the revitalization of American democratic and community life, collects and reports on many of these efforts in his recent book *Lift Us Up Don’t Push Us Out!* In his talk, Warren will discuss the need for a grassroots movement to transform public education, led by people most affected – parents and students from low-income communities of color – along with educators and allies from other social justice movement. He will provide examples from the book of organizing and alliance building efforts and discuss the challenges to building a broader and more intersectional social justice movement with racial and educational justice at its center.