

## **Bio**

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**Dr. Xiu Chen Cravens**

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Xiu Cravens is a research assistant professor of education policy at the Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations, and holds an administrative appointment as Peabody College's assistant dean for international affairs. She teaches courses in international education policy analysis and conducts research in the areas of school leadership and school choice. Her research interests focus on the analysis of educational reform policies that are particularly related to the organizational and cultural contexts of schools in the United States and other countries in the world. Her academic work has been devoted mainly to two areas: understanding the role of school leaders (principals and superintendents) in a changing policy environment, and addressing the conceptual and methodological challenges of cross-cultural comparison and generalization in international education policy research. Recently, she conducted research studies on charter school effects with the National Centre on School Choice, the development and validation of the Vanderbilt Assessment of Leadership in Education® (the VAL-ED), and the cross-cultural validity and reliability of the VAL-ED in Chinese urban schools.