



City of Seattle Boards & Commissions Notice of Appointment

Appointee Name: Lakeya Afolalu

Board or Commission Name: Families Education Preschool and promise Levy Oversight Committee

Position Title: Member

☒ **Appointment** ☐ **Reappointment**

***Term of Position:** 6/1/2026 to 12/31/2027

☐ *Serving partial term (eligible for full terms thereafter)*

Appointing Authority: ☐ City Council ☒ Mayor ☐ Other: *Insert Appointing Authority*

City Council Confirmation Required? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Residential Neighborhood: *Include Seattle neighborhood or other city residence*

Appointee brief overview:

My commitment to educational equity is grounded in lived and professional experience across U.S. urban school contexts. As a Black woman of Nigerian and African American heritage and former elementary and middle school literacy teacher, I worked in public school systems in Detroit, Newark, Harlem, and Austin. These experiences taught me that educational equity demands strategic investment, community accountability, deep listening to students and families, and leadership willing to address systemic barriers at their roots. This understanding is fundamental to my unwavering approach to serving youth and families.

Building on this commitment, as an Assistant Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture at the University of Washington's College of Education, I integrate research, teaching, and advising to improve educational pathways from K–12 through higher education. My research examines how racialization, language, and systemic barriers shape educational access for African immigrant and transnational youth – the same populations the FEPP Levy aims to serve. I put this scholarship into practice by preparing future educators to work effectively with multilingual students of color and by providing sustained mentorship to students from underrepresented backgrounds as they navigate academic systems and college access. This work has supported students' admission to institutions such as The University of Texas at Austin, Stanford, and the University of British Columbia, many of whom now work as educators, researchers, and community advocates advancing educational equity in their communities. Watching my students transition from mentees to change-makers informs my understanding that effective educational investment requires resources and strategic initiatives rooted in care to address systemic barriers.

As a committee member, I am dedicated to listening to fellow members, community voices, and the students and families the levy supports. My experience navigating urban educational systems, research on marginalized students, and community-engaged work guide my contributions toward the committee's mission. This is an opportunity to learn, contribute my perspective and time, and promote collaborative decision-making centered on equity and accountability. My resume is attached. I am committed to continuing this work alongside the committee and the communities involved.

Appointing Authority Signature:

Date Signed: 5/1/26

Appointing Authority Printed Name and Title:

Katie B. Wilson
Mayor of Seattle

Lakeya Afolalu, Ph.D.

University of Washington, College of Education | Teaching, Learning & Curriculum |

Language, Literacy & Culture

website: [REDACTED] | email: [REDACTED] LinkedIn [REDACTED]

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

2021

Ph.D., Curriculum and Instruction, Language and Literacy Studies

Dissertation: *Relocating to America: Nigerian Immigrant Youths' Experience with Language, Literacy and Identity in Central Texas*

Teachers College, Columbia University

M.A., Curriculum and Teaching, Literacy Specialist Program

Thesis: *Reading with Purpose and Responding with Action: Critical Literacy in a Harlem Classroom*

Michigan State University

B.A., College of Education, Elementary Education, Language Arts

McNair Scholar

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Language, Literacy & Culture

2021 – present

University of Washington

Affiliate Faculty, African Studies Program

2023 – present

University of Washington

Affiliate Faculty, Banks Center for Educational Justice, College of Education.

2023 – present

University of Washington

RESEARCH AREAS

Immigration and Transnationalism; Black Transnationalism; African Transnational Youth Identities; Race, Racialization, and Ethnicity; Multiliteracies and Digital Literacies; Multilingualism; Transnational Literacies; Black Geographies; Intergenerational Family Language and Literacy Practices; Postcolonial Theory; Critical Ethnographic and Narrative Methodologies

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

Publications before 2022 appear under "Lakeya Omogun."

Afolalu, L. (accepted). Toward the African linguistic gaze in theory and practice. *Theory Into Practice*.

Afolalu, L., Smith, P., Austin, T. (in press). This is where we go: The quantum healing possibilities in languaging Black humanity. *Journal of Multicultural Education*.

- Afolalu, L.** (2025). Reading African young adult literature differently: A transnational lens on racial, ethnic, and linguistic identities. *The ALAN Review*, 53(1), 57-68.
- Afolalu, L.** (2024). More than my race: Deconstructing racial identities through digital literacies. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 59(2), 155-186.
<https://doi.org/10.58680/rte2024592155>
- Afolalu, L.** (2024). I'm still Nigerian: Navigating race through digital literacies. *Journal of Literacy Research*. Volume 56(3), 268 – 297. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1086296X241273989>
- Omogun, L. & Skerrett, A. &** (2021). From Haiti to Detroit through Black immigrant languages and literacies. *Journal of Literacy Research*, 53(3), 406-429.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1086296X211031279>
- Omogun, L.** (2021). Counterstories: Reimagining youth in multiethnic short story anthologies. *Black enough: Stories of being young & Black in America* edited by I. Zobo. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 64(5). <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaal.1143>
- Johnston, K., **Omogun, L.** & Lee, C. (2021). From New York City to the world: Examining critical global literacies in an English language arts classroom. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*, 35(2), 215-230.
- Skerrett, A. & **Omogun, L.** (2020). When racial, transnational, and immigrant identities and literacies meet: Black youth of Caribbean origin speak. *Teachers College Record*, 122(13).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/016146812012201302>
- Wetzel, M. M., Vlach, S. K., Svrcek, N. S., Steinitz, E., **Omogun, L.**, Salmerón, C., ... & Villarreal, D. (2019). Preparing teachers with sociocultural knowledge in literacy: A literature review. *Journal of Literacy Research*, 51(2), 138-157.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1086296X19833575>
- Omogun, L.** (2018). Immigrant student identities in literacy spaces. *Texas Education Review*, 6(2), 70-81.

WORKS UNDER REVIEW

- Afolalu, L.** (under review) Speak to me, my pikin: Preserving Nigerian identity and culture through intergenerational family language and literacy practices.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Afolalu, L.** (2024). Opening Space to Participate: One Nigerian Immigrant Girl's Use of Visual Arts to Navigate School-Based Linguistic Discrimination. In Watson, VM., Knight-Manuel, M. & Smith, P. (Eds.), [*Educating African Immigrant Youth: Schooling and Civic Engagement in K-12 Schools*, Teachers College Press.](#)

BOOK REVIEWS

Omogun, L. (2019). A Black immigrant narrative in Detroit city. *Ethnic and Third World Literatures*, 19, 23-24.

IN PREPARATION

Afolalu, L. & Hateka, D. (in preparation). Toward postcolonial integrations of West African students' culture and cultural artifacts in educational spaces.

Afolalu, L. & Wang, J. (In Preparation). Cultivating multiliterate postcolonial educational perspectives in language and literacy informal learning spaces.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION PROJECTS

Underlined = Graduate Student *Italicized* = Undergraduate Student

Seattle Multilingual Collective: Youth of Color Languages and Literacies

Principal Investigator: Lakeya Afolalu

Co-PIs: Sciatta Padmore, Sierra Dunaway, *Tima Ali*, Joy Lauterbach

March 2024 – Present

Postcolonial Perspectives of Language, Literacy, and Place

Principal Investigator: Lakeya Afolalu

Co-Researcher: Jiaqi Wang

January 2025 – Present

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2026– 2028 Humanities Washington, Speakers Bureau Scholar

2025 Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee Travel Award, Literacy Research Association

2025 Alan C. Purves Award (*Honorable Mention*), National Council of Teachers of English

2025 Eulalie and Carlo Scandiuzzi Creative Writers' Room Residency Fellow, Seattle Public Library

2025 Washington State Nonprofit Scholarship, Nonprofit Association of Washington

2024 – 2026 Early Career Educator of Color (EC-EOC) Leadership Fellowship Award, National Council of Teachers of English

2022 – 2024 Scholars of Color Transitioning into Academic Research Institutions Fellow, Literacy Research Association (LRA-STAR)

- 2022 Outstanding Dissertation Award**, Bilingual Education Research SIG, American Educational Research Association
- 2022 BIPOC Creative Writer Fellowship**, Sonoma County Writers
- 2020 – 2022 Cultivating New Voices among Scholars of Color Fellow (CNV)**, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
- 2020 Continuing Fellowship**, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2020 The Glen Workshop Fellowship**, Image Journal
- 2020 Austin’s Rising Star Winner**, DivInc. Champions of Change Award
- 2019 – 2020 Faculty First-Look Scholar**, New York University Steinhardt
- 2019 Continuing Fellowship**, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2016 – 2019 New Scholars Fellowship**, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2018 The Faculty/Student Collaboration Award**, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2014 Louise M. Berman Fellowship**, Kappa Delta Pi
- 2014 Minority Scholarship**, Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2012 Mildred B. Erickson Fellowship**, Michigan State University
- 2012 Glenn and Thelma Buell Endowed Scholarship**, Michigan State University
- 2009 Ronald E McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program**, Michigan State University

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Public scholarship before 2022 appears under “Lakeya Omogun.”

Op-Eds, Creative Nonfiction & Essays

Afolalu, L. (2024). “How the Arts Can Help Black African Immigrant Youths in School Spaces and Beyond.” *Notre Dame Center for Literacy Education*. <https://tinyurl.com/232mvbum>

Afolalu, L. (2024). “Why I Changed My Last Name”. *The Well*. <https://tinyurl.com/y8x4hb3u>

Afolalu, L. (2024). “Becoming A Woman Between Two Worlds.” *Medium*.

Afolalu, L. (2022). “Walking Forward: Navigating the Academic Journey as a Black Woman.” *The Well*. Intervarsity. <http://tinyurl.com/4p63t4p8>

Omogun, L. (2022). “Advocate for Your Child.” *ESSENCE Magazine*.

Omogun, L. (2021). "More Than a Mailbox: One Thing You Might Try as a Teacher." *Stenhouse Publishers Blog*.

Omogun, L. (2021). "Black, on Both Sides: Living Between My Nigerian and African American Identities." *Human Parts*. <https://tinyurl.com/yxhcm9wz>

Omogun, L. (2019). "The Truth About Being a Black Woman in a Liberal City." *ZORA Mag*. <https://tinyurl.com/y2atvnm>

Omogun, L. (2019). "Why I Won't Teach a Book About Police Brutality." *ZORA Mag*. <https://tinyurl.com/y3ay3bkx>

Public Speaking

Afolalu, L. (2024). "Speaking Through the Arts." *EDUTalk, College of Education, University of Washington*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rv53Kv6_AZY

Omogun, L. (2021). "(Be)coming Professional." *TEDx Talk*. <https://youtu.be/3377nOPruPI>

Video, Radio & Podcast Interviews

Honoring Students' Identities through Literacy & The Arts. A conversation with **Lakeya Afolalu**. (2023). In *Classroom Caffeine* Podcast series. **Host:** Dr. Lindsay Persohn. <http://tinyurl.com/yvhrxmav>

Research That Matters. New Faculty Spotlight: **Lakeya (Omogun) Afolalu**. (2022). In *Advancing Educational Justice*. The University of Washington, College of Education. <https://tinyurl.com/32he52pe>

How Embracing Our Identities Affirms Our Worth with **Lakeya Omogun**. (2022). In the *Unconditionally Worthy Podcast*. **Host:** Dr. Adia Goodon. <http://tinyurl.com/5cjm9zcd>

What Does It Really Mean to 'Fit In' At Work? with **Lakeya Omogun**. (2021). In *TEDx Shorts*. <https://tinyurl.com/258pjfb5>

Whether Austin Is a Progressive City or Not Could Depend on The Color of Your Skin. (2019). In *Austin NPR/KUT News*. **Interviewer:** Nadia Hamdan. <https://tinyurl.com/8fjaz4tw>

Produced Digital Media Scholarship

A Conversation: Nigerian Identities Across Countries. Video Documentary. (2022). **Producer:** **Lakeya Afolalu**. *Digital Arts Museum, Abuja, Nigeria*. <https://tinyurl.com/5n6n9m3a>

The Bridge: The University of Texas at Austin's Community-Based Learning Podcast. (2020). *The University of Texas at Austin*. **Co-Producers:** Brianna Davis-Johnson & **Lakeya Omogun**. <https://tinyurl.com/y3gazz78>

In the News

“Q&A: How 12 University of Washington Researchers Fell in Love with Their Research” (2024). In *The Daily*. The University of Washington. Journalists: Sarah McQuate and Lauren Kirschman. <https://tinyurl.com/4aw5dj23>

“Trump’s Plan for Education Shouldn’t Surprise You” (2024). In *The Daily*. The University of Washington. Journalist: Sophie Knight. <https://tinyurl.com/bdtnymjp>

“Embracing A Broader Definition of Literacy?” (2024). In *Advancing Educational Justice*. The University of Washington, College of Education. Journalist: Alice Skipton.

“Can Seattle Close Literacy Gaps for Kids of Color with Science of Reading?” (2023). In *The Seattle Times*. Journalist: Monica Velez. <http://tinyurl.com/4rx8vjf>

“With New Addition, Imagine Children’s Museum Doubles In Size.” (2022). In the *Everett Herald*. Journalist: Janice Podsada. <http://tinyurl.com/ycxx6ujp>

GRANTS

Underlined = Graduate Student *Italicized* = Undergraduate Student

- 2025** **Principal Investigator.** *The Transnational Literacies and Multilingual Practices of African Girls*. National Council of Teachers of English Research Foundation Grant. Co-PIs: Sciatta Padmore, Sierra Dunaway, *Tima Ali*, Joy Lauterbach
- 2024 – 2025** **Principal Investigator.** *The Seattle Multilingual Youth of Color & Educator Collective*. UW Resilience Lab and the Campus Sustainability Fund. Co-PI: Sciatta Padmore
- 2022 – 2023** **Co-Principal Investigator.** *Co-Designing family-school transformative agency & identity affirming critical literacies of K-3 Black youth to catalyze systemic racial equity*. William T. Grant Foundation. Ann Ishimaru, PI. Dana Nickson, Co-PI. **(\$600,000)**

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentations before 2022 appear under “Lakeya Omogun.”

* = Co-presenter Underlined = Graduate Student *Italicized* = Undergraduate Student

Afolalu, L., Du, X., & Zhou, X. (2025, November). *The translanguaging practices of African transnational youth across spaces*. In **L. Afolalu (Chair)**, *Translanguaging Across Divides: Centering Multilingual Communities for Social Change*. Symposium accepted to the 2025 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference.

Afolalu, L., & Wang, J. (2025, November). *Cultivating postcolonial educational perspectives through race-conscious multiliteracies*. Paper accepted to the 2025 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference.

Afolalu, L., Hateka, D. (2024, November). *Towards decolonial integrations: West African multiliterate cultural artifacts in school and museum spaces*. Paper presented to the 2024 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference.

Afolalu, L. (2024, July). *Initial Research Presentation*. National Council of Teachers of English, Early Career Educators of Color (NCTE-ECEOC). Annual Summer Institute. Washington, DC.

Afolalu, L. (2023, December). *Decolonial research methods in partnership with Black African immigrant youth*. Paper accepted for presentation at the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA), Migration and the Media – International and Intercultural Communication Sections Conference. Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Afolalu, L. (2023, November). *Silently speaking: Nigerian girls' whispering multilingual practices*. Presented at the 2024 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference. Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

Afolalu, L., Nalubega-Booker, K., Frieson, & B. Presiado, V. (2023, November). *"Speak to me, my Pikin": Nigerian youth intergenerational linguistic practices*. In **L. Afolalu (Chair)**, *(Re)defining multilingualism: A collective conversation about Black youth multilingualistic experiences across spaces*. Symposium presented at the 2024 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference.

Afolalu, L. (2023, October). *Postcolonial methodological approaches*. Presented at the 2023 Conference on Anthropology and Education Annual Conference. New York, NY.

Omogun, L., Brown, T., Osibodu, M. (2023, April). *Becoming Black American through Black language and literacy Practices*. In **L. Omogun (Chair)**, *Black and Brown immigrant youth constructing and negotiating identity in Canada and the United States*. Symposium presented at the 2023 American Educational Research Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.

Omogun, L., Knight-Manuel, M., Robert, N., Akin-Sabuncu, S., Limperopulos, N., & Burris, M. Osibodu, M., Keegan, P. Berends, J., Watson, V.W.M., Beymer, A., & Johnson, L (2023, April). *Opening space for self: Nigerian immigrant youth agentive multiliterate practices*. In V.W.M. Watson (Chair), *African immigrant youth: Schooling, education, and civic engagement in the African Diaspora*, **Vice-Presidential Session** presented at 2023 American Educational Research Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.

Qiu, T., Du, X., Omogun, L., Portillo, Y., Rusoja, A., & Curiel, C. L. (2023, April). *The social, emotional, and cultural affordances of Black African multilingual and multiliterate practices*. In **T. Qiu & X. Du (Co-Chairs)**, *Multiliteracies in diverse contexts: New possibilities for school and community collaborations*. Symposium presented at 2023 American Educational Research Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.

Omogun, L. (2022, December). *Researching With (Not On) Black African immigrant youth through collaborative literacy research methodologies*. Presented at 2022 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference. Phoenix, Arizona.

Omogun, L. & Enciso, P. (2022, November). *Youth Identity Constructions through Popular Media*. Presented at 2022 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference [Virtual].

Omogun, L. & Enciso, P. (2021, November). *Storying Self: Nigerian immigrant youth navigation of racial, gender, and linguistic terrain*. Presented at 2021 National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference. [Virtual].

Omogun, L. (2020, December). *Coming to America: Nigerian immigrant youth's constructed, negotiated, and imagined identities*. Presented at 2020 Literacy Research Association's Annual Conference. [Virtual].

Omogun, L. (2020, July). *Nigerian Immigrant Youth Language and Literacy Practices*. American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division K. San Francisco, CA. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19).

Omogun, L. (2019, December). *From Haiti to Detroit: One girl's journey of becoming a Black American*. Paper presented at 2019 Literacy Research Association's Annual Conference. Tampa, FL.

Omogun, L. (2019, November). *Place Matters: Inquiring into the identities of Black immigrant students in a southwestern city*. Presented at 2019 Literacy Research Association's Annual Conference. Tampa, FL.

Nxumalo, F., Valdivia Ramirez, F., Fernandez, D. Pablo, M., **Omogun, L.**, Pyle, A., & Sanchez Flores, F. (2019, April). *Towards Justice-Oriented Encounters with Human/More-than-Human Relationalities in Critical Place Inquiry*. Presented at the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Canada.

Skerrett, A., Vlach, S., **Omogun, L.**, Cort, T., Parton, C., Nash, B. (2018, July). *Changing Literacy Instruction to Address Students' Learning Needs in a Globalized World: A teacher-researcher endeavor in a Caribbean school*. Presented at the International Literacy Association, Austin, TX.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Afolalu, L. (2023, November). *Relocating to America: Nigerian immigrant youth languages, literacies, and identity constructions*. Presented at Literacy Research Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA.

Omogun, L. (2019, April). *Place matters: Inquiring into the identities of Black and Black American immigrant students in a southwest US liberal city*. Presented at American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division K, Pre-Conference Graduate Poster Session, Toronto, Canada.

Omogun, L. (2018, November). *The politics of Black immigrant youth identities*. L. Ramon Veal Research Seminar. Presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference. Houston, TX.

UNIVERSITY CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

Afolalu, L. (2025, March). When words aren't enough: Centering the arts in language and literacy education. In *Arts & Learning: Teaching for Social Justice Collective Presentations*. Presentation collaboratively planned and presented with Cap Peck and Yisha Zhao.

Omogun, L. (2015, April). *The Literacy Teachers Initiative Project: Uniting teachers across boroughs and states to become agents of change*. Presented at the Sixth Annual Diversity in Research and Practice Conference, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.

Omogun, L. (2015, April). Reading with purpose and responding with action: Critical literacy in a Harlem classroom. Presented at the Academic Festival: Ignite. Inspire. Innovate, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.

INVITED SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS

Underlined = Graduate Student *Italicized* = Undergraduate Student

Panelist, Literacy & Identities Study Group, *Literacy Research Association (LRA) Annual Meeting*, Las Vegas, NV, 2025.

Presenter, *Rethinking Race and Identity: Multilingualism and Literacy in Black Transnational Youth*, Psychology Department, University of Washington, May 9, 2025.

Keynote, *Classrooms Without Borders: Teaching and Learning with Immigrant and Transnational Youth in A Politicized Era*, Martin Mogensen Education Lecture Series, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, May 1, 2025

Panelist, “Where is the Trust? A Conversation Between Scholars on Trust and Literacy.” Panel to be presented at the 2025 Literacy Research Association Annual Conference.

Presenter, Community-Engaged and Culturally Sustaining Arts, Seattle Children’s Hospital, April 2025. (With Sciatta Padmore and *Dorcas Bosango*, Co-presenters)

Panelist, Integrating Faith into Practice, Intervarsity Faculty Ministry Conference, March 2025.

Panelist, *Navigating the Job Market – Holmes Scholar Panel*, College of Education, Clemson University, January 22, 2025.

Panelist, *Contesting Culturelessness: Developing Hemispheric Black Language Pedagogies in World Language Education*, Invited Colloquium for 2024 American Association for Applied Linguistics. March 2025. (With Drs. Aris Clemons, Tasha Austin, Patriann Smith & Shondel Nero)

Panelist, *Building on the Theories of Brian Street: What Does it Mean to Be a Person? What Does It Mean to Be a Person Alongside Literacy?* Invited Panel for the 74th Annual Literacy Research Association Annual Conference. December 2024.

Panelist, *Navigating the Transition from Doc Student to Faculty*. Scholars of Color Transitioning into Academic Research Institutions Fellow, Literacy Research Association (LRA-STAR), March 8, 2024.

Speaker, *Making Sense of Race, Ethnicity & Immigration through Textual Analysis Methodology*. EDLPS 526 Course, College of Education, The University of Washington. March 1, 2024.

Speaker, *Black African Immigrant Youth Identities*, Inlier, Unite to Achievement Summit, Policy Division, Inlier Learning, November 16, 2023.

Panelist, *Women of Color Research Panel*, Sisterhood Initiative, College of Education, The University of Washington, November 8, 2023.

Speaker, *Languages and Literacies of Communities in Southeastern Michigan*. College of Education, Wayne State University. June 26, 2023.

Panelist, Omogun, L., *A Historical Perspective: Supporting Youth Identities through Literacies*. College of Education, University of Washington, May 10, 2023. (With jas moultrie and Cristina Barriot)

Speaker, *Writing for the Public*. Research Initiative for Supporting Education in the Caribbean (RISE Caribbean), May 9, 2023.

Keynote, *Journeying on to the Promise Land*, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ceremony, Western Oregon University, January 17, 2023.

Keynote, *Unraveling from their Narrative: A Journey of Embracing All Our Identities*. Western Oregon University, November 15, 2022.

Panelist, *Creating the Job Materials*. Black Scholars Conference, June 15, 2022.

Speaker, *Identity, Arts & Literacy in the Lives of Adolescent Youth*. New York City Department of Education Community-School Partnership Series, April 26 – May 1, 2022.

Speaker, *(Re)locating to The United States: Nigerian Immigrant Youth Identity Constructions Through Languages and Literacies*. Bilingual Education Research Special Interest Group (BER-SIG) Business Meeting. American Educational Research Association (AERA). April 2, 2022.

Presenter, *Rest and Care as a Doctoral Student*. Critical Conversations Collective. The Banks Educational Center for Educational Justice, College of Education, The University of Washington. Seattle, WA, March 3, 2022.

Panelist, *Multilingual Power and Literacies*. Martha King Center for Language and Literacies, The Ohio State University. Columbus, Ohio, November 10, 2021.

Panelist, *Job Hunt Jumpstart*. Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group, Literacy Research Association (LRA), July 7, 2021.

Presenter, *Diversify Your Skillset: Using University Resources Strategically*. Texas Career Engagement Center, The University of Texas at Austin. Austin, Texas, September 9, 2020.

Omogun, L. (2019, November). *Testimonios of Doctoral Students of Color: Grounding Ourselves Alongside our Practice*. Presented at National Council of Teachers of English, Tampa, FL.

Panelist, *Gentrification Across the Nation*. Ignite Political Power in Every Young Woman. *The University of Texas at Austin*. Austin, Texas, April 24, 2019.

Panelist, Inclusive Conversations: Building Interracial Sisterhood at Work. *SXSW*. Austin, Texas, March 12, 2019.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

The University of Washington, College of Education

Graduate Courses in Teaching, Learning & Curriculum

- EDC&I 568: Youth Multiliteracies: Multimodality, Culture & Identity Win. 2022 – Win. 2024
- EDC&I 528A: Foundations of Language, Literacy, and Culture Fall 2021 – Fall 2023

Graduate Course in Elementary Teacher Preparation Program

- EDTEP 533: Language, Culture, and Power in the Writing Classroom Win. 2022 – Win. 2025

Undergraduate Course in Undergraduate Programs

EDUC 405A: Postcolonial Identities in the Arts, Education, and Society Fall 2023 – Fall 2025

The University of Texas at Austin, College of Education,

Instructor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, Language & Literacy Studies

- TC 358: Community Engagement Fall 2020
- EDC 370 E-1: Reading Methods Fall 2018 – Fall 2020
- EDC 370 E-2: Language Arts Methods SP2019/F2017/SP2017
- EDC 339E: Adolescent Literacy SU2020
- EDC 339 D: Reading Assessment and Development SP2020/SP2019
- EDC 339 C: Community Literacies SP2019
- EDC 370 E-1: Reading Methods F2016/SP2017
- EDC 370 E-2: Language Arts Methods F2016/SP2016

Field Supervisor, The University of Texas at Austin

- Generalist Preservice Teachers SU2018
- Student Teachers - Literacy Preservice Teacher SP2018
- Intern II -Literacy Preservice Teachers SP2017/F2017
- Intern I -Generalist Preservice Teachers SU2017

STUDENT ADVISING

**Denotes co-advising*

Doctoral Advising (Current)

Basheera Agyeman* (Language, Literacy, and Culture)

Jiaqi Wang (Language, Literacy, and Culture)

Sciatta Padmore* (Culturally Sustaining Education)

Doctoral Dissertation Committee (Current)

Puja Patel (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum)

Simone Ngongi-Lukula (Educational Policy, Organizations & Leadership)

Chris Arguedas (Culturally Sustaining Education)

STUDENT ADVISING CONT'D

Master's Thesis Advising, Chair (Current)

Alexandra Meallet

Myrna Landa

Mercy Naw

Master's Thesis Advising, Chair (Completed)

Sydney Ying-Tung Lin (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, 2025)

Pinsheng Liu (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, 2025)

Rongxuan Huang (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, 2025)

Megan Borgeson (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, 2024)

Chi Chang (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, 2024)

Baoyi Ma (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, 2024)

Zach Long, M.Ed. (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2023)

Master's Thesis Committee Memberships, 2nd Reader (Current)

NA

Master's Thesis Committee Memberships, 2nd Reader (Completed)

Emily Pierce (In Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, 2025)

Nova Lucero (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum M.Ed. 2024)

Sam Rubin (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum M.Ed. 2024)

Cristina Barriot (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2023)

Nesrin El-Isa, M.Ed. (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2023)

Fariha Khalil (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2023)

Rebecca Lund (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2023)

Ana María Ruiz Gómez (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2023)

Eva Wharton (Instructional Leadership, M.Ed., 2023)

Ashley Liddell (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2022)

Grace Deery-Schmitt (Teaching, Learning & Curriculum, M.Ed., 2022)

Master's Advising (Non-Thesis)

2025 – 2026: 3 students

2024 – 2025: 3 students

2023 – 2024: 7 students

2021 – 2022: 2 students

INVITED GUEST LECTURES

Qualitative Research Methods in Language Research. Spanish Linguistics, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, April 2, 2024.

Identity & Language in Teacher Education. College of Education, University of Georgia, October 31, 2022.

The Role of Poetry in Literacy Teaching and Learning. College of Education, San Diego State University, April 8, 2022.

Historical Conversations on Schooling. Community Engagement & Leadership Education (CELE), Center in Undergraduate Academic Affairs (UAA), The University of Washington, March/April 2022.

Identity, Power, and Privilege. Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, The University of Texas at Austin, September 30, 2021.

Navigating Systems of Power. Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, The University of Texas at Austin, April 25, 2021.

SERVICE

International Service

2022 – 2025 **Advisory Board Member,** Discovery Digital Arts Museum, Abuja, Nigeria

National

Reviewer for Professional Journals, 2018 – present

Alliance for African Partnership, Michigan State University Press

Bank Street Occasional Papers Series

English Teaching: Practice and Critique

International Multilingual Research Journal

Journal of Language & Literacy Education (JoLLE)

Journal of Literacy Research

Linguistics and Education

TESOL Journal (TJ)

Teachers College Record

Texas Educational Review

Committee Memberships

2025 – 2027 **Secretary,** Black Caucus Executive Board, Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC)/ National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)

2024 – 2027 **Member,** Field Council, Literacy Research Association (LRA)

2022 – 2025	Committee Member , Student Outstanding Research Committee, Literacy Research Association (LRA - SORA)
2023 – 2024	Committee Member , Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee Member, Bilingual Education Research Special Interest Group (BER-SIG), American Educational Research Association (AERA)
2023 – 2024	Committee Member , English Language Arts Teacher Educators (ELATE) Nominating Committee, National Council of Teachers of English
2017 – 2022	Committee Member , Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group, Literacy Research Association (LRA-DSICG)
2019 – 2020	Graduate Student Representative , American Educational Research Association Division K (AERA-K)
2021; 2024	Advisory Board Member. <i>Co-Designing family-school transformative agency & identity affirming critical literacies of K-3 Black youth to catalyze systemic racial equity.</i> William T. Grant Foundation. Ann Ishimaru, PI. Dana Nickson, Co-PI. Mia Williams, Co-PI. (\$600,000.00)

Mentorship Programs

2023 – 2024	Mentor , African Scholars in Education Research, Michigan State University
2023	Mentor , Literacy Research Association Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group Proposal Mentoring Project (LRA-DSICG)

The University of Washington

2023 – present	Advisory Group Member , Vice Provost for Research's Early Career Advisory Committee (ECAG)
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College of Education, The University of Washington

2025 – present	Faculty Advisory Board Member , Seattle Teacher Residency (STR)
2023 – 2025	Area Representative , Faculty Council Teaching, Learning & Curriculum Area, College of Education
2023 – 2024	Committee Member , Learning Sciences & Human Sciences (LSHD) Search Committee
2022 – 2023	Committee Member , Early Childhood (ECE)/Early Childhood and Family Studies (ECFE) Search Committee

Public and Local Service

2025 – present	Appointed Member , <i>Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy Oversight Committee</i> , Department of Education & Early Learning, City of Seattle
2024	Advisory Council Member , Rainier Beach Action Coalition
2022	Presenter , Chief Stealth International High School College and Career Fair

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
 Member, Teaching and Teacher Education, Division K
 Member, Social Context of Education, Division G
 Member, Caribbean and African Studies in Education SIG
 Member, Language and Social Practices
 Diversity Scholars Network, National Center for Institutional Diversity, The University of Michigan
 Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC)
 Literacy Research Association (LRA)
 National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE)
 National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity, Faculty Success Program

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE.

2022 – present	Founder and Executive Director, LitiArts, Inc. Oversee programming, fundraising, and strategic direction of a nonprofit organization integrating literacy, arts, and identity-affirming education for youth. Lead partnerships with schools, libraries, and community organizations to expand access to arts-integrated literacy programs for students of color.
2019	Director , Summer Art Program, <i>University of Maryland, College Park</i>
2015 – 2017	Director , <i>Raising Educational Achievement Coalition of Harlem Summer Program Teachers College, Columbia University</i>
2013 – 2016	Literacy Teacher , Grade 7, <i>New York City Department of Education</i>
2011 – 2013	Elementary Teacher , Grade K-3 All Subjects, <i>Detroit Public Schools</i>
2009 – 2011	Literacy Teacher , Grades 6-7, <i>Greater Newark Charter School</i>

PROFESSIONAL TEACHER CERTIFICATIONS

NEW YORK STATE CERTIFICATIONS

2019 – Present	Birth – Grade 6 Literacy Specialist
2014 – Present	Grades 1 – 6 Childhood Education
2014 – Present	Grades 5 - 9 English Language Arts

MICHIGAN STATE CERTIFICATIONS

2013 – Present	Kindergarten – Grade 5 Generalist
2013 – Present	Grades 6 – 8 Language Arts
2013 – Present	Grades 6 – 8 Self-Contained, Generalist

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CERTIFICATIONS

Nonprofit Leadership

2024 Management Essentials Online Connection Certificate

Nonprofit Leadership Center

Funded by The Allstate Foundation

Families Education and Promise Levy Oversight Committee

17 Members: Pursuant to [Ordinance 127238], 12 members subject to City Council confirmation, with initial term provision for positions 1, 3, 6, 9, and 11 being 18-months to establish staggered terms. 2-year terms for all positions thereafter.

- 6 City Council-appointed
- 6 Mayor-appointed
- 5 By Ordinance

Roster as of [insert date]

Position Number	Position Title	Appointee Name	Term Begin Date	Term End Date	*Term Number	Appointed By
1	Member	Amruta Mane	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
2	Member	Fathima Garcia	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
3	Member	Leon Garnett	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
4	Member	Erica K. Johnson	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
5	Member	Gabriel de los Angeles	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	City Council
6	Member	Sofia Michelakis	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	City Council
7	Member	James Williams	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
8	Member	Jessica Tollenaar Cafferty	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
9	Member	Girard Montejo-Thompson	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
10	Member	Lizbet Huizar	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
11	Member	Lakeya Afolalu	6/1/26	12/31/27	1	Mayor
12	Member	Zamzam Mohamed	6/1/26	12/31/28	1	Mayor
13	Mayor of Seattle	Katie Wilson	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
14	Libraries, Education and Neighborhoods Committee	Maritza Rivera	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
15	School District Superintendent	Benjamin Shuldiner	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
16	School District Board Member	Joe Mizrahi	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238
17	Chancellor of Seattle Colleges	Rosie Rimando-Chare unsap	N/A	N/A	1	Ordinance 127238

Self-identified diversity chart

Appointing Authority	Male	Female	Transgender	Non-Binary	N/A	Asian	Black/ African American	American Indian/ Alaska Native	White/ non-Hispanic	Hispanic/ Latinx	Pacific Islander	Middle Eastern	Multi-racial	N/A
Mayor														
Council														
Other														
Total														

City Council districts represented

*P is for partial initial term. Appointee is eligible for full terms thereafter.