

**Curriculum Vitae**  
**NICOLE ANN AMATO**

Madera Hall, 2726  
47 Los Angeles Ave, Camarillo, CA 93012  
[nicole.amato@csuci.edu](mailto:nicole.amato@csuci.edu)

**EDUCATION**

---

**August 2023 University of Iowa, PhD**

Teaching & Learning, emphasis in Literacy, Language & Culture  
Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies

**Dissertation:** *Reading and Responding to Anti-Oppressive Comics with Teacher Candidates*

**Committee:** Dr. Amanda Haertling Thein (advisor and co-chair), Dr. Saba Khan Vlach (co-chair), Dr. Carolyn Colvin, Dr. David Low, Dr. Rachel Williams

**2012 Furman University, MA**

Literacy Education, K-12

**2007 Clemson University, BA**

Secondary English Education, 9-12  
South Carolina Teaching License

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

---

**2023- Assistant Professor of English Language Arts & Literacy Education**

California State University, Channel Islands  
School of Education, Department of Teacher Education

**2022-2023 Mellon Sawyer Dissertation Fellow**

University of Iowa, Obermann Center for Advanced Studies

**2017-2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant**

University of Iowa, College of Education, Department of Teaching and Learning

**Courses Taught:**

EDTL3123: Reading and Responding to Children's Literature\*

EDTL3160: Primary Reading and Language Arts Methods, K-3

EDTL3391: Reading and Teaching Adolescent Literature\*

EDTL4171: Diversities and Exceptionalities in Literacy Instruction, K-8\*

*\*indicates courses were delivered both virtually and in-person*

**Field Supervision & Advising:**

EDTL4314: Introduction to Practicum in Secondary English

EDTL4315: Secondary English Education Field Experience

EDTL3160: Primary Reading and Language Arts Methods, K-3

**Research Assistant:**

*Strong Girls Read Strong Books: Service Learning in an Elementary School Book Club* with Dr. Nita Schmidt and Dr. Amanda Thein

*Mapping Trends in YAL Scholarship* with Dr. Amanda Thein and Dr. Mark Sulzer

*Building Partnerships with Elementary School Librarians* with Dr. Saba Khan Vlach

**Editorial Assistance:**

*English Teaching Practice & Critique* with Dr. Amanda Thein and Dr. Amanda Godley

**2012-2017 Classroom Teacher, English Language Arts, Grades 9-12**

Pritzker College Prep, Chicago, Illinois

**2007-2012 Classroom Teacher, English Language Arts, Grades 9-12**

Carolina High School & Academy, Greenville, South Carolina

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

---

**2022-2023 Andrew Mellon Sawyer Dissertation Fellowship (\$21,000)**

Seminar Focus: Racial Reckoning Through Comics, <https://tinyurl.com/raceandcomics>

**Spring 2021 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award (\$1,000)**

Graduate College, The University of Iowa

**Spring 2021 Research Paper Award (\$250)**

College of Education, The University of Iowa

Paper: "I'm fat. It's not a cuss word.": A Critical Content Analysis of YAL Featuring Fat Female Protagonists

**Spring 2021 Obermann Graduate Fellow (\$500)**

Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, The University of Iowa

Project: Developing Critical Consciousness with Teacher Candidates in a YAL Book Club

**Spring 2020 Adele Kimm Scholarship (\$2,000)**

Department of Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies, University of Iowa

Essay: Reimagining Critical Feminist Lenses with and for Feminist Young Adult Literature

**Spring 2019 Martin Luther King, Jr. Diversity Research Symposium (\$250)**

Second Place Award Winner in Graduate Student Research Competition, University of Iowa  
Poster: Hungry for Responsible Representation of Fat Bodies in Young Adult Literature.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

---

**Invited Column Editor**

Amato, N. & Priske, K. (upcoming, 2023-2028). Critical Curation: Reading Across Genre and Grades with Children's and Young Adult Literature. To be published bi-monthly in *The English Journal* under the editorship of Dr. Amy Burke, Dr. Aimee Hendrix-Soto, and Dr. Mandy Stewart.

**Peer Reviewed Journal Articles**

Spiering, J. & **Amato, N.** (2022). "Nothing to do but be borne and steered." Unpacking feminist scripts in Elana Arnold's *Damsel*. *International Journal of Young Adult Literature*.

Amato, N. & Priske, K. (2021). Champagne problems and popular feminism: Naming white feminism in young adult literature marketed as feminist. *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature*, 4(1), Article 4.

Amato, N. (2021). From self-loathing to self-love: Peritextual analysis of fat-positive young adult literature. *The ALAN Review*, 48(3) 37-48.

Priske, K. & **Amato, N.** (2020). Rebellious, raging, & radical: Analyzing peritext in feminist young adult literature. *Voices from the Middle*, 28(2).

Amato, N. (2019). "I'm fat. It's not a cuss word.": A critical content analysis of young adult literature featuring fat female protagonists. *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*, 15(1).

**Invited Journal Articles**

Spiering, J., Lechtenberg, K., & **Amato, N.** (January/February 2020). Sexual assault and trauma in young adult literature. *School Library Connection*.

**Book Chapters**

Amato, N. & Spiering, J. (2023). Illustrating triple consciousness in Melanie Gillman's *As The Crow Flies*. In Maldonado, B. and DeHart, J. (Eds), *Arts Integration and Young Adult Literature: Increasing Visual Literacy and Critical Thinking Skills Through Graphic Novels*. Rowman & Littlefield.

Amato, N. & Spiering, J. (2022). Color palettes and peculiar panels: Studying narrative structure in Tille Walden's *On a Sunbeam*. In Greathouse, P. & Miller, H. (Eds), *Queer Adolescent Literature as a Complement to the English Language Arts Curriculum* (2nd ed.). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Thein, A., Lechtenberg, K., Spiering, J., & **Amato, N.** (2020). When the fire burns out: Ambivalence, despondence, and despair as responses to sexual trauma in Louise O'Neill's *Asking for It*. In Connors, S.P. & Hengtes, S. (Eds), *Girls on fire: Creating consciousness, informing action*. New York: McFarland.

### **Book Reviews**

Amato, N. (2021). [Review of the book *Everyday Advocacy: Teachers Who Change the Literacy Narrative*, by Cathy Fleisher and Antero Garcia]. *English Education*.  
<https://ncte.org/resources/journals/english-education/reviewing-the-field/>

### **White Papers**

Amato, N., Fixmer-Oraiz, N., Greyser, N., Khandelwal, M., Rand, J., & Williams, R. (2020). Abolition is a feminist project.  
[https://www.iowafreedomriders.org/assets/Abolition%20Feminism%20Invitation\\_Cited\\_7-22-2020.pdf](https://www.iowafreedomriders.org/assets/Abolition%20Feminism%20Invitation_Cited_7-22-2020.pdf)

### **NATIONAL REFEREED PRESENTATIONS**

---

Amato, N. (April 2023). "*Wait, are we really saying a Tik Tok is literacy?*": *Teacher candidates read and respond to anti-oppressive comics*. Paper presentation at AERA in Chicago, Illinois (Unable to attend due to COVID).

Amato, N. (December 2022). *Approaches to studying and teaching graphic novels: Using Rebecca Wanzo's The Content of our Caricature*. Study group presentation at LRA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Amato, N. & Priske, K. (December 2022). *Zine culture and youth activism in children's and young adult literature*. Study group presentation at LRA Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

Amato, N. & Spiering, J. (December 2022). "*Only white women get to be damsels in distress*": *Analyzing popular feminism in Elana Arnold's Damsel*. Paper presentation at Annual Conference for Literacy Research Association in Phoenix, Arizona.

Amato, N., Low, D, & Spiering, J. (November 2022). *The social justice potential of comics in language arts contexts*. Panel presentation at the National Council for Teachers of English annual conference in Anaheim, California.

- Hinton, K., Chandler, K., Anderson, D., Flowers, T., Thomas, P., Hill, C., Charles, Q., Vlach S., Gander, M., Munoz, J. & **Amato, N.** (November 2022). *Afro-Latinx & BIPOC Sueños: Implementing bright practices with life writing for youth and adults (AAL Special Interest Group)*. Roundtable discussion at the National Council for Teachers of English annual conference in Anaheim, California.
- Amato, N. & Priske, K. (July 2022). *Making zines, democratic multiples, and radical road maps: Using DIY crafts in the ELA methods classroom*. Panel presentation at ELATE Summer Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Amato, N., Lindo, T., & Priske, K. (July 2022). *Taking up Archaeology of Self in the ELA methods classroom*. Panel Presentation at ELATE Summer Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.
- Amato, N. & Priske, K. (April 2022). *Champagne problems: Young adult literature marketed as feminist*. Roundtable presentation at AERA Annual Conference in San Diego, California.
- Amato, N. & Priske, K. (December 2021). *Feminist lenses for reading and responding to children's and young adult literature*. Study Group Presentation at the Annual Conference of the Literacy Research Association in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Amato, N. & Priske, K. (November 2021). *Exploring intersections of feminism, activism, and literacy practices in YA literature*. A Panel Presentation at Annual Conference for National Council for Teachers of English. (Virtual).
- Amato, N. & Spiering, J. (November 2021). *Developing inclusive and affirming curriculum: Merging queer-themed YA texts with secondary ELA curriculum standards and teaching*. Roundtable Presentation at Annual National Council for Teachers of English. (Virtual).
- Amato, N. (April 2021). "No one would be fucking your fat ass": *Exploring the relationship between fatness and desire in fat-positive young adult literature*. Paper to be presented at the "Let's Talk About Sex in YA" Conference at the University of Cambridge, UK. (Unable to attend due to COVID-19).
- Amato, N. (December 2020). *Developing a graphica course for pre-service teachers*. Study Group Presentation at Virtual LRA Conference.
- Amato, N., Spiering, J., & Lechtenberg, K. D. (April 2020) *Conceptual curation: Toward a more collaborative and critical approach for English language arts teachers and school librarians*. Roundtable Session at AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA (Conference Canceled due to COVID-19)
- Amato, N. (June 2020) *Reading the body: Representations of gender, fatness, and (dis)ability in children's picturebooks featuring animals*. Paper presentation at Annual Conference for Children's Literature Association in Bellevue, Washington. (Conference Canceled due to COVID-19)

- Amato, N. & Priske, K. (December 2019). *Rebellious, raging, and radical: A critical content analysis of the portrayal of female adolescence in fiction and non-fiction YA Texts*. Paper presented at Annual Conference for Literacy Research Association in Tampa, Florida.
- Amato, N., Rushek, K.A., Limlamai, N., Bohney, B., Neville, M., Spinner, B., Hendrix, A. (July 2019) *Teaching the pre-service teachers where we left off: Reflecting and interrogating the transition from ELA teacher to teacher educator*. Presented at the national English Language Arts Teachers of English (ELATE) annual conference in Fayetteville, AK.
- Thein, A., **Amato, N.**, Rushek, K.A. (July 2019). *Perspective-taking as activism in English education: Saving the world through small changes that matter*. Roundtable discussion at the national English Language Arts Teachers of English (ELATE) annual conference in Fayetteville, AK.
- Amato, N. (June 2019). *The fictions of being fat and female*. Paper presented at Annual Conference for Children's Literature Association in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Amato, N. (December 2018). *Hungering for responsible representation of fat female bodies in young adult literature*. Roundtable discussion at The Annual Meeting of the Literacy Research Association in Indian Wells, California.
- Amato, N. (November 2018). *Rethinking literature circles: Defining roles for critical inquiry of multicultural and political texts*. Roundtable discussion at The National Council for Teachers of English in Houston, Texas.
- Amato, N. (November 2018). *Teaching graphic novels in the pursuit of equity*. Panel presentation at the National Council for Teachers of English in Houston, Texas.
- Amato, N. (July 2018). *Leveraging conversations about censorship in the classroom*. Workshop leader at the International Literacy Association Annual Conference in Austin, Texas.
- Amato, N. and Strait, T. (November 2016). *A tale of two cities: multicultural literature as advocacy*. Panel presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Amato, N. and Thomas, P.L (November 2016). *Confronting educator advocacy with pre-service and early career teachers: The southern dilemma*. Roundtable discussion at the National Council for Teachers of English Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Amato, N. (November 2015). *Exploring Identity politics in ya literature*. Roundtable discussion at the National Council for Teachers of English Annual Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Amato, N. (November 2015). *To ban or not to ban? confronting issues of censorship in the classroom*. Workshop leader at the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of NCTE annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Amato, N., Johnson, S., Methvin, S., Pepper, A., Schmidt, R. R., Svec, M., & Thomas, P. L. (November 2011). *Teaching "fruitfully and creatively" under the weight of mandates: Our past, present, and future*. Panel presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting, National Council of Teachers of English in Chicago, IL.

## INVITED GUEST LECTURES

---

- 2022 Theater Arts Department, *Queering the Teacher: A Roundtable Discussion*, University of Iowa
- 2022 Katie Priske's seminar *Secondary English Language Arts Methods*, University of Iowa
- 2021 Dr. Hyaewol Choi's seminar *Food, Body, & Belief: A Global Perspective*, University of Iowa
- 2020 Dr. Farzad Salamifar's seminar *Francophone Graphic Memoirs*, University of South Carolina
- 2020 *MLK Symposium* at Mt. Vernon High School, Iowa
- 2019 Dr. Saba Vlach's seminar *Reading and Responding to Children's Literature*, University of Iowa

## GRANTS AND FUNDING

---

- 2022 Audrey Qualls Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2022 College of Education Research Funds (\$1,000)
- 2021 The ALAN Foundation Grant (applied, but unfunded)
- 2021 Graduate College Summer Fellowship (\$5000)
- 2021 Mary Bywater Dissertation Research Grant (\$1,000)
- 2019 Audrey Qualls Travel Grant (\$300)
- 2019 Graduate and Professional Student Government Award (\$250)
- 2019 Graduate Student Senate Award (\$750)
- 2018 Audrey Qualls Travel Grant (\$600)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE)  
Literacy Research Association (LRA)  
American Educational Research Association (AERA)  
Assembly for Literature on Adolescents of NCTE (ALAN)  
English Language Arts Teacher Educators (ELATE)  
Children's Literature Association (ChLA)  
Comics Studies Society

## SERVICE

---

### National

*Journal of Language & Literacy Education* External Review Board  
 Manuscript Reviewer *English Teaching Practice & Critique*  
 Manuscript Reviewer for *The ALAN Review*  
 LRA Conference Proposal Reviewer  
 LRA Conference Chair and Discussant

### University

September 2022      Invited Panel Member for Graduate College External Advisory Board

2022-2023            Advisor for Honors Thesis, University of Iowa  
 Abigail Patterson, *LGBTQ+ Inclusive Curriculum in the Elementary Classroom*

2021-2022            Co-advisor for Honors Thesis, University of South Carolina  
 Celia Casciani, *Drawn In: An Exploration of the Graphic Narrative*

### Department

2018-2020            Baker Teacher Leader Center Workshops  
 2017-2019            Mock Job Interviews for Pre-Service Teachers in College of Education

### Community

2022-Present        Youth programming at LGBTQ Archives & Library  
 2021-Present        Meal delivery program with Iowa City Mutual Aid  
 2020-Present        Meal preparation with Iowa City Free Lunch Program

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

---

Fall 2022            Social Justice Reading Group, Center for Teaching, University of Iowa  
 Office of Teaching, Learning, and Technology

Fall 2022            Durham Arts & Humanities Night School Bar  
 Teach-in: *bell hooks on Engaged Pedagogy* with Dr. Annu Dahiya

Spring 2022        Durham Arts & Humanities Night School Bar  
 Seminar: *Coming to Voice: Feminist and Anti-Racist Theories of Language* w/Dr. Dahiya



- Spring 2022    Durham Arts & Humanities Night School Bar  
Seminar: *Outside the Box: Space and Time in Graphic Novels* with Dr. Erin Hollis
- Jan 2022        The DreamYard Project, Teacher Conference Day: Art and Social Justice  
Workshop: *Fashion as Activism* with Moriah Carlson
- 2021-2022      Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, University of Iowa  
Working Group: Anti-racist Education: Changing Practices, Curriculum, & Policies
- 2020-2022      ARC: Anti-Racist Collaborative, University of Iowa, College of Education

## REFERENCES

---

### **Dr. Amanda Thein**

Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture  
Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education  
Dean of the Graduate College  
University of Iowa  
(612) 382-2836  
[amanda-haertling-thein@uiowa.edu](mailto:amanda-haertling-thein@uiowa.edu)

### **Dr. Saba Khan Vlach**

Assistant Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture  
University of Iowa  
(214) 335-4871  
[saba-vlach@uiowa.edu](mailto:saba-vlach@uiowa.edu)

### **Dr. Carolyn Colvin**

Associate Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture  
University of Iowa  
(319) 335-5588  
[carolyn-colvin@uiowa.edu](mailto:carolyn-colvin@uiowa.edu)