

STEPHANIE RENEE TOLIVER

The University of Colorado, Boulder

www.diversefutures.net | Stephanie.Toliver@Colorado.edu

ACADEMIC HISTORY

Education

2020 *Ph.D. Language and Literacy Education*, The University of Georgia, GA
 2015 *M.S. Curriculum and Instruction*, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
 2011 *B.A. English Education*, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL

Academic Positions

August 2020 Assistant Professor of Literacy and Secondary Humanities – University of Colorado, Boulder
 2018 – 2019 Graduate Teaching Assistant – The University of Georgia, Athens, GA
 2016 – 2018 Graduate Research Assistant – The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

Professional Employment

2015 – 2016 English/Gifted Teacher – Miller Grove High School, Lithonia, GA
 2011 – 2015 English/Reading Teacher – Leon High School, Tallahassee, FL

Certificates

2020 Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, The University of Georgia
 2015 – 2025 Georgia Educator Certificate in English 6-12 and Reading

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Applied (Funded)

2020 **Cultivating New Voices among Scholars of Color**, National Council of Teachers of English.
 2020 **Hugh Agee Award for Excellence in Research Focused on the Teaching of Literature**. University of Georgia (\$500).
 2019 **Ethnicity, Race, Multilingualism Travel Award**. Literacy Research Association, Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee (\$600).
 2019 **National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship**. National Academy of Education and Spencer Foundation (\$27500).

- 2019 **American Educational Research Association Minority Dissertation Fellowship in Education Research.** American Educational Research Association (Declined for Spencer).
- 2019 **Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Grant,** University of Georgia (\$2000).
- 2019 **Carol J. Fisher Award for Excellence in Research,** University of Georgia (\$500).
- 2018 **American Library Association Diversity Research Grant.** Black Girls Dreaming: Black Girls Analyzing and Evaluating Speculative Fiction by Black Authors., Literacy, and Outreach Services (\$2500). (With Mariah Parker; Contribution 90%)
- 2018 **UNCF-Mellon Faculty Teaching and Learning Institute.** Hampton University (\$500).
- 2018 **Coretta Scott King Book Awards Donation Grant.** American Library Association Ethnic and Multicultural Information Exchange Round Table (\$2000). (With Jennifer Graff)

Applied (Unfunded)

- 2018 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (Honorable Mention)

SCHOLARSHIP

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Toliver, S.R.** (2020). “We wouldn’t have the same connection”: Using read-alouds to build community with Black girls. *Voices from the Middle*.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2020). Afrocarnival: Celebrating Black bodies and critiquing oppressive bodies in Afrofuturist literature. *Children’s Literature in Education*. Online First Edition.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019). Breaking binaries: #BlackGirlMagic and the Black ratchet imagination. *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*, 15(1), 1-26.
- Toliver, S.R.** & Miller, K. (2019). (Re)Writing reality: Using science fiction to analyze the world. *English Journal*, 108(3), 51-59. (Contribution: 75%).
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018). Alterity and innocence: The hunger games, Rue, and Black girl adultification. *Journal of Children’s Literature*, 44(2), 4-15.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018). Imagining new hopescapes: Expanding Black girl’s windows and mirrors. *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature*, 1(1), article 3.
- Lewis Ellison, T., & **Toliver, S.R.** (2018). (CHAT)ting at home: A family’s activity theory system. *Voices from the Middle*, 25(3), 35-40. (Contribution: 50%).
- Toliver, S.R.** (2017). Unlocking the cage: Empowering literacy representations in Netflix’ Luke Cage series. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, 61(6), 621-630.

BOOK CHAPTERS

An asterisk (*) identifies an invited book chapter.

- Toliver, S.R.** (2020). Eliminating extermination; fostering existence: Diverse dystopian fiction and female adolescent identity. In R. Fitzsimmons & C. Wilson (Eds.), *Beyond the blockbusters: Themes and trends in contemporary young adult literature*. University of Mississippi Press.

Toliver, S.R. (Accepted) Decolonizing reader response: Critically analyzing Black female YA Speculative fiction alongside the author-produced epitext. In S. Witte, M. Gross, and D. Latham (Eds.) *Literacy Engagement through Epitextual Analysis*.

***Toliver, S.R.** (Accepted) Beyond the problem: Afrofuturism as an alternative to realistic fiction in content analyses of Black girl literature. In M. Haddix, G. Muhammad, & D. Price-Dennis (Eds.), *Black Girl Literacies Collective Volume*

EDITOR-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

An asterisk (*) identifies an invited publication.

***Toliver, S.R.** (2019). Emancipating the Fantastic: Dismantling Antiracism in Speculative Fiction. *Council Chronicle*, 29(1), 22-26.

***Toliver, S.R.**, Jones, S.P., Jiménez, L., Player, G., Rumenapp, J., & Munoz, J. (2019). "This meeting at this tree": Reimagining the Town Hall Session. *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.117/2381336919869021> (Contribution: 25%).

Toliver, S.R. (2019, Jun 12). Imaginative spaces and connecting lines: SFF and the CSK. Retrieved from <https://www.hbook.com/2019/06/creating-books/imaginative-spaces-and-connecting-lines-sff-and-the-csk/>

*Donovan, S., & **Toliver, S.R.** (2019). Story first: Making a moment a movement. *The Alan Review, Summer*, 84-90. (Contribution: 50%)

***Toliver, S.R.** (2018). "I didn't know that people of color writing science fiction was a thing": The influence of librarians on Black girls' access to science fiction. *BCALA News*, 45(3), 21-24.

BOOK REVIEWS

An asterisk (*) identifies an invited book review.

***Toliver, S.R.** (2019). [Review of the book *The Dark Fantastic: Race and Imagination from Harry Potter to the Hunger Games*, by Ebony Elizabeth Thomas]. *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature*.

Toliver, S.R. (2016). [Review of the book *Nobody: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond*, by Marc Lamont Hill]. *Journal of Language and Literacy Education*, 12(2), 100-105.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Toliver, S. R. (Under Review). Freedom dreaming in a broken world: The Black radical imagination in Black girls' science fiction stories.

Toliver, S.R. (Under Review). Can I get a witness?: Speculative fiction as testimony and counterstory.

Toliver, S.R. (Accepted). "I Desperately Need Visions of Black People Thriving": Emancipating the Fantastic Through Black Women's Words. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*.

EVALUATION REPORTS

Graff, J. M., Shimek, C., Crawley, A., & Toliver, S. (2016). Internal evaluation of NCTE's 2016 Survey: How instructional materials are selected for use in literacy and English language arts programs. (Contribution: 15%)

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

An asterisk (*) identifies an invited publication.

Toliver, S.R. [Review of the book *Kingdom of Souls*, by Rena Barron]. *The Horn Book*.

Toliver, S.R. (2019). Build your stack: Ensuring Black girls' access to science fiction. Retrieved from <http://www2.ncte.org/blog/2019/09/build-your-stack-ensuring-black-girls-access-to-science-fiction/>

Toliver, S.R. (2019). On the history (and Future) of YA and speculative fiction by Black women: Stephanie Toliver on not deferring the dream of Black girls being Represented in YASF. <https://lithub.com/on-the-history-and-future-of-ya-and-speculative-fiction-by-black-women/>

Toliver, S.R. (2018, Aug 31). The unbearable darkness of privilege and why the Wall Street Journal needs to leave our literature alone. <https://blavity.com/the-unbearable-darkness-of-white-privilege-and-why-the-wall-street-journal-needs-to-leave-our-literature-alone>

Toliver, S.R. (2019, Feb 2). Old or new, here's why we need to critique problematic texts. <https://blavity.com/old-or-new-heres-why-we-need-to-always-critique-problematic-texts?category1=community-submitted&subCat=education>

Toliver, S.R. (2018, May 21). A pleasure to burn: A message from 'Fahrenheit 451' to the people of 2018. <https://blavity.com/a-pleasure-to-burn-a-message-from-fahrenheit-451-to-the-people-of-2018>

***Toliver, S.R.** (2018, March 12). What do A Wrinkle in Time, Huffpost, and YA summit in Las Vegas have in common? S.R. Toliver! [web log post]. <http://www.yawednesday.com/blog/what-do-a-wrinkle-in-time-huffpost-and-ya-summit-in-las-vegas-have-in-common-s-r-toliver>

Toliver, S.R. (2018, March 10). Black girl magic is written in the pages of 'A Wrinkle in Time'. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/opinion-toliver-black-wrinkle-in-time_us_5aa2de37e4b07047bec65dcf?epd

CREATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS

Toliver, S.R. (2018). Trial by father. In K. Garland (Ed.), *Daddy: Reflections of Father-Daughter Relationships*.

WEBSITE

<https://www.DiverseFutures.net>

A website dedicated to listing and reviewing speculative fiction books featuring Black female characters. There is a specific page for young adult and middle-grades novels to assist teachers in finding texts. Over 200 books are currently listed on the site, and authors from indie publishing houses to larger publishing houses are represented.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING SESSIONS

An asterisk (*) identifies an invited workshop.

- ***Toliver, S.R.** (2019, May). “Diverse Fantastic Characters and Where to Find Them: Decolonizing the Imagination in ELA Classrooms.” Workshop given at the Young Adult Literature Summit in Las Vegas, NV.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, February). “What’s in a name?: Using SFL to deconstruct diverse characters in literature.” Professional Development session given at the Journal of Language and Literacy Education Conference in Athens, GA.
- ***Toliver, S.R.** (2018, February 17). “Extrapolation and Society: Science Fiction and Life.” Guest Lecturer, The Deep Center Block by Block Student Workshop, Savannah, GA
- ***Toliver, S.R.** (2017, October 20). “Science Fiction: Socially Just; Generally Ignored.” Guest Lecturer, The Deep Center Teacher Artist Workshop, Savannah, GA

NATIONAL REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

An asterisk (*) identifies an invited presentation.

- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, November). *Of Angels and Monsters: Identity and Monstrosity in Akwaeke Emezi’s Pet*. Paper will be presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference (virtual).
- Toliver, S.R.** (2020, April). *Luminescent threads and kindred dreams: Black girls using afrofuturism to build a womanist imagination*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference in San Francisco, CA. Canceled due to Covid-19.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2020, April). *Space is the place: Black girls making and claiming space in the fantastic*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference in San Francisco, CA. Canceled due to Covid-19.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2020, April). *The story is in the data: An Afrofuturistic approach to restorying the dissertation*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference in San Francisco, CA. Canceled due to Covid-19.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, December). *Upending the hierarchy: Making room for womanism in literacy research with Black girls*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Tampa, FL.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, December). *“I desperately need visions of Black people thriving: Combatting a dream erased through science fiction stories*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Tampa, FL.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, December). *Silent no more: Black women authors using the paratext to influence reader response*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Tampa, FL.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, November). *#NerdingWhileBlack: Anti-Black Racism in survey responses centered on Black women’s reading histories*. Paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference in Baltimore, MD.

- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, November). *Can Black girls dream, too?: Science fiction, Black Girls, and ELA*. Paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, November). *We need to talk: Dispelling the canon myth with pre-service educators*. Paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- Bickmore, S., Rumohr-Voskuil, G., Canady, F., Saldana, R., **Toliver, S.R.**, Dorrity, R. (2019, November). *Choose carefully: First literature choices in high school English classes*. Paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference in Baltimore, MD.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, June). *When the speculative gets real: Creating carnivalesque spaces in Afrofuturist literature to combat social injustice*. Paper presented at the Children's Literature Association Conference in Indianapolis, IN.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2019, February). *Science fiction and social justice: A Match made in the future*. Paper presented at the Journal of Language and Literacy Education Conference in Athens, GA.
- ***Toliver, S.R.**, & Parker, M. (2019, January). *Black girls dreaming: Black girls analyzing and evaluating speculative fiction by Black authors*. Presentation given at American Library Association Midwinter conference in Seattle, WA, January 26, 2018. (Contribution: 90%).
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018, November). *To Nnedi, with love: Black girl herstories, magic, and ratchet imagination*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Indian Wells, CA.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018, November). *Alterity and innocence: The hunger games, Rue, and Black girl adultification*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Indian Wells, CA.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018, November). *Afrocarnival: Social justice conversations in Afrofuturist young adult literature*. Paper presented at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference in Birmingham, AL.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018, June). *(Re)Writing the future: Helping students use science fiction to analyze their worlds*. Paper presented at the Summit on the Research and Teaching of Young Adult Literature in Las Vegas, NV.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018, June). *Missing dreams: Black girl literacy research and the absence of speculative fiction*. Paper presented at the Summit on the Research and Teaching of Young Adult Literature in Las Vegas, NV.
- Toliver, S.R.** (2018, April). *Genre privilege: A review of literary genres used in Black girl literacy research*. Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference in New York City, NY.
- Lewis Ellison, T. and **Toliver, S.R.** (2018, April). *(CHAT)ting at home: An African American fathers' engagement with sons using activity theory systems*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Conference in New York City, NY. (Contribution: 25%).
- Toliver, S.R.** (2017, November 29). *Beyond the problem: Afrofuturism as a counter to realistic fiction about Black girls*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Tampa, FL.
- Lewis Ellison, T., **Toliver, S.R.**, and Aziz, S. (2017, November 29). *Visions of conflict: A critical*

content analysis of racism, social justice, violence, and hope in Muslim and African American graphic novels. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Tampa, FL. (Contribution: 50%).

Toliver, S.R. (2017, November 19). *I, too, can live long and prosper: Young adolescent women of color as futuristic heroines.* Paper presented at the National Council for Teachers of English Conference in St. Louis, MO.

Toliver, S.R. (2017, February 4). *Eliminating extermination: Changing the bleak futuristic outlook for Black girls through Afrofuturism.* Paper presented at the Journal of Language and Literacy Education Winter Conference in Athens, GA.

STATE/REGIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Strickland, T. H., & **Toliver, S.R.** (2019, March). *(Don't) put that book away: Honoring student voice and choice through science fiction and fantasy.* Paper presented at the Georgia Children's Book Awards Conference in Athens, GA. (Contribution: 50%).

UNIVERSITY PRESENTATIONS

Toliver, S.R. (2018, March). *(Re)Writing reality: Using science fiction to analyze the world.* Presentation given at departmental research conference in Athens, GA, April 20, 2018.

Toliver, S.R. (2017, March). *Live long and prosper: Promoting culturally flourishing literature through science fiction.* Presentation given at departmental research conference in Athens, GA, March 4, 2017.

TEACHING

Courses	Terms	Enrollment
EDUC 8155: Advanced Topics in Literacy Education: Critical Race Theory in Literacy Research – This course examines critical race theory and research related to literacy and literacy education. (CU Boulder)	Fall 2020	8
EDUC 4295/5295: Narrative and Story in the Humanities: Explores a wide variety of texts that might be used in secondary English and Social Studies classrooms. Examines philosophies and instructional approaches to the teaching of reading and literature. Considers the influence of story and storytelling in the construction of personal and societal meaning. (CU Boulder)	Fall 2020	6
LLED 4461: Practicum in English Education Provides orientation to English education in public school settings through class discussions, on-site	Fall 2019	12

observations, and collaborative inquiry experiences. (UGA)		
LLED 5465: Student Teaching in Secondary English Education Student teaching in the public school setting under the supervision of faculty members. (UGA)	Spring 2019	3
LLED 5465: Student Teaching in Secondary English Education Student teaching in the public school setting under the supervision of faculty members. (UGA)	Fall 2018	4
LLED 4461: Practicum in English Education Provides orientation to English education in public school settings through class discussions, on-site observations, and collaborative inquiry experiences. (UGA)	Fall 2018	17

SERVICE

LEADERSHIP

- 2018 – 2019 *Senior Conference Coordinator*, Literacy Research Association Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group
- 2017 – 2018 *Junior Conference Coordinator*, Literacy Research Association Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group
- 2017 – 2018 *Conference Co-Chair*, Journal of Language and Literacy Education

EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2019 – *Reviewer*, Research in the Teaching of English
- 2019 – *Reviewer*, The Urban Review
- 2018 – *Reviewer*, Voices from the Middle
- 2016 – 2018 *Editorial Review Board Member*, Journal of Language and Literacy Education

PEER REVIEWER FOR CONFERENCE PROPOSALS

- 2018 – *Reviewer*, American Educational Research Association
- 2017 – 2019 *Reviewer*, Literacy Research Association Annual Conference
- 2016 – 2018 *Reviewer*, Journal of Language and Literacy Education Winter Conference
- 2016 *Reviewer*, Georgia Children’s Book Awards Conference

INVITED SPEAKER

- June 2020 *Joy Is an Act of Resistance: Black Teen Literature as a Tool for Transformation* with Kekla Magoon and Sarah Sarigianides. Young Adult Literature Summit (virtual).

- Apr. 2020 *When You're Dreaming in a Broken World: Speculative Fiction in a Traditional Field.* Speculative Education Colloquium (virtual).
- Mar. 2020 *Black Girls, Unmuted: Centering the Speculative Fiction Stories of Young Black Girls.* Black Girl Magic Conference, University of Connecticut. Canceled due to Covid-19.
- Oct. 2018 Curating your conference experience, Language and Literacy Education Graduate Student Organization, University of Georgia
- Oct. 2018 Spilling the Secrets on Academic Writing: Writing Grants, Dissertations, and More!, University of Georgia College of Education Research Mentoring Program for Graduate Students of Color
- Mar. 2018 "That's the hate they're giving us, baby, a system designed against us": Imagining Social Justice in Schools, University of Georgia College of Education Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference
- Nov. 2017 Future Visiting Scholars Program Graduate Panel, University of Georgia Graduate School
- Oct. 2017 Transitioning from Minority-Serving Institutions to Predominately White Institutions - Imposter Syndrome in Graduate School, University of Georgia Graduate School

GUEST LECTURES

- May 2020 Speculative Counterstories: Black Girls Using Science Fiction and Fantasy Narratives to Critique Injustice. University of Pennsylvania (virtual).
- Mar. 2020 Challenging the Possible in Literacy Research, University of Cincinnati (virtual).
- Feb. 2020 Womanism and Black Feminism in Literacy Research, University of Colorado, Boulder (virtual).
- Feb. 2019 Science Fiction and Fantasy in the Middle Grades Classroom, Oklahoma State University (virtual).
- Oct. 2018 How do we resist narrowed ideas about which texts we can and cannot use in secondary English classrooms?, University of Georgia
- Sept. 2018 Science Fiction and Fantasy in the Middle Grades Classroom, Oklahoma State University
- Sept. 2018 Using Science Fiction to Analyze the World, University of Georgia
- Apr. 2018 Constructing Identities: Macro Narratives, Micro Readings, and Black Girls, University of Georgia

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019 – 2020 *President*, International Association for Reading Graduate Students, University of Georgia
- 2019 *Committee Member*, Literacy Research Association Ad Hoc Committee on Equity and Inclusion
- 2018 – 2019 *Treasurer*, International Association for Reading Graduate Students, University of Georgia
- 2017 – 2018 *Co-Chair of Issues and Concerns Committee*, UGA Graduate and Professional Scholars
- 2017 – 2020 *Planning Committee*, UGA College of Education Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Conference
- 2017 *Facilitator*, UGA Family and Community Literacy Speaker Symposium
- 2017 *Author Host*, Georgia Children's Books Awards
- 2017 *Facilitator*, UGA Multicultural Service and Programs Social Justice Retreat

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC SERVICE

- March 2019 *Panelist*, Kidlitcon, The Frightful Fantastic
March 2019 *Moderator*, Kidlitcon, Diverse Fantasy in the Real World

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 2019 – Children’s Literature Association
2017 – 2020 Literacy Research Association
2016 – American Education Research Association

Divisions:

- G – Social Context of Education
- K – Teaching and Teacher Education

Special Interest Groups:

- Literature
- Writing and Literacies
- Arts-Based Educational Research
- Narrative and Research

- 2016 – National Council of Teachers of English