

## Cathryn M. Mercier, Ph.D.

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Simmons University  
Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities  
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Boston, Massachusetts

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### Education

Boston University	Doctor of Philosophy	University Professors	2002
Simmons College	Master of Philosophy	English	1993
	Master of Arts	Children's Literature	1984
Mount Holyoke College	Bachelor of Arts	Psychology	1981

### Teaching Experience

#### **Simmons University**

#### **Professor of Children's Literature**

Associate Professor  
Assistant Professor  
Instructor

#### **July 2008-present**










July 2004-June 2008

July 1990-June 2004




September 1986-June 1990

Note: At Simmons, our teaching load is three courses per semester.

Graduate courses in Children's Literature currently include

-  Criticism of Children's Literature
-  Positionality in Children's and Young Adult Literature (capstone MAMS, co-taught with Amy Pattee)
-  Contemporary Young Adult Realism
-  The Picturebook
-  The Child in Fiction
-  Metafiction and Self-Reflexivity
-  Survey of Children's and Young Adult Literature
-  Series Fiction: Middle Grade
-  Mentorship I and Mentorship II

Undergraduate courses have included

-  Critical theory for the English Major
-  Extensive teaching in the MCC Culture Matter, the first-year, interdisciplinary writing course
-  LCIS: Reading the Child through the Child's Reading

Courses Taught outside Simmons

- 📖 “*The Chocolate War*: The Great American Young Adult Novel?” Children’s Books from a Global Perspective – a Classics Reading Programme, Departament de Didàctica de la Llengua i la Literatura i de les Ciències Socials Universitat Autònoma Barcelona. Online. April 7 – April 27, 2015; April 4-24, 2016
- 📖 English 126: “Hunger Games: The Spectacle of Young Adult Dystopia in Pop Culture,” Mount Holyoke College. Online, May 27- July 15, 2014.
- 📖 Independent study and thesis advising, topics include
  - Truth, Trauma, and Temporality in Recent Queer YA
  - Gender Performativity and Nationhood in High Fantasy Series
  - Race and Gender: Constructions and Enactments YA Dystopian Fiction
  - Food Marks Nation
  - Historical Fiction
  - Performative Girlhood in American Picturebooks,
  - What Can Queer Theory Tell Children’s Literature?
  - Syllabus Development: A Survey Course for Three Audiences

#### Academic Advising

- 📖 MA in Children’s Literature
- 📖 MFA in Children’s Literature
- 📖 Dual degree programs (MAMFA, MAMA-English, MAMAT, MAMS)
- 📖 Undergraduate PLAN (2016-17; 2017-2018)

#### University Leadership Positions

- Faculty Senate President-Elect (spring 2024)
- President’s Faculty Fellow (2021-23)
- Co-director (with Jason Wood), 2027 Strategic Strategy Planning Committee (2021-23)
- President’s Advisory Council: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging (2020-23)
- Faculty Senate Immediate Past-President (2021-2022); Faculty Senate President (2020-2021); Faculty Senate President-Elect (2019-2020)
- Academic Portfolio Management Committee (2020-2022)
- Search Committees (2020-2022): Interim Provost, Provost, Vice Provost, Vice President for Advancement
- Steering Committee NECHE 10-year accreditation self-study (2018-2020)
- Interim University Promotion and Tenure Committee (2019-2020)
- STAR Scholars, Center for Excellence in Teaching, Faculty Lead (2019-2020)
- Deans’ Search Committee (2017-18)
- Academic Re-Design Committee on Faculty Culture and Governance (co-leader of Ifill College) and Academic Re-Design Committee on Student Policies (spring 2017-spring 2018)
- Member-at-Large to the Simmons College Faculty Senate (2014-2017), including representation Academic Affairs Committee; Faculty Fiscal Affairs Committee; Administrative Reorganization
- Faculty lead on NEASC five-year report (2015)
- Simmons P.L.A.N. curricular redesign team (2013-4)
- Standards committee chair for NEASC accreditation self-study (2010)

#### Leadership and Service in the Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities (2018-present)

- Acting Chair of Communications (2021-present)
- Collaborator on Ifill Faculty Meetings (2019-2022; extension of role as Senator)
- Elected Co-Chair for Academic Leadership (2018-2019)

- Participant Graduate Strategy Team (2018-present)
- Promotions and Tenure Committee / CAS Legacy Committee (2018-2019)

Leadership and Service in the School of Library and Information Science (2013-2018)

- Dean's Ops Team (2013-2018)
- Rank Tenure and Appointment Committee (2014-2018)
- Assessment Committee (2013-16)
- Curriculum Committee (2013-16)

Past service in the College of Arts and Sciences

- Administrative Board (seven years, including two years as chair)
- Honor Board (six years)
- Faculty Council (three years)

**Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts** January 1986-June 1986

**Adjunct Lecturer**

Topics of Children's Literature: Coming of Age in Realistic Fiction  
Survey of Literature for Children and Young Adults

**Administrative Experience**

**Simmons University, Boston, Massachusetts**

**January 1985-present**

**Children's Literature**

Graduate Programs Director	July 2005-present
Director, Center for the Study of Children's Literature	July 2005-present
Associate Director	July 1991-June 2005
Assistant Director	January 1987-June 1991
Department Chair	July 2005-June 2022
Administrative Assistant	January 1985-December 1986

***Program Director, Graduate Programs in Children's Literature and Mentorship Coordinator***

- Admissions, including admission interviews, application review, admission decisions, collaborate with graduate admissions on recruitment events and merit awards
- Oversee Children's Literature Advisory Council on programming, Examination Collection/BookNook
- Oversee Teaching Assistant
- Oversee Dean's Fellow in Children's Literature
- Collaborate on the 2022 Ifill Mentor-in-Residence Rajani LaRocca
- Collaborate on the 2019 Inaugural Ifill Mentor-in-Residence Elizabeth Acevedo
- Co-teaching with SSW faculty member Gary Bailey on 2019 Ifill Faculty Growth Grant
- Supervise MFA program mentorships
- Maintain active alumni connections and programs, such as the first Alumni Reunion in January 2009
- Raised funds for the *Lee & Low...and Friends Scholarship Fund* (2014-15, first award 2016)
- Develop and maintain academic partnerships (e.g., Framingham State, Wheaton)
- Develop and maintain professional partnerships (e.g, Eric Carle Museum, Children's Book Council)
- Oversee student programming and work with Children's Literature Student Advisory Group
- Steward key donors to the graduate programs and the Center
- Coordinate 2017 Allen Smith Visiting Scholar with Artist-in-Residence Jack Gantos

**Director, Center for the Study of Children's Literature**

- Co-direct summer institutes (development of theme, speaker invitations, closing lecture, and brochure design)
 

2022 <i>Lost &amp; Found</i>	2019 <i>Make Way</i>	2017 (im) <i>Possible Dreams</i>
2015 <i>Homecoming</i>	2013 <i>Love Letters</i>	2011 <i>Body Electric</i>
2009 <i>Crimes and Misdemeanors</i>	2007 <i>Food, Glorious Food</i>	2005 <i>Midnight Gardens</i>
2003 <i>Let's Dance</i>	2001 <i>Brave New Worlds</i>	1999 <i>Halos and Hooligans</i>
1997 <i>As Time Goes By</i>	1995 <i>A Room of One's Own</i>	1993 <i>Acts of Light</i>
1991 <i>Me and My Shadow</i>	1989 <i>Masquerade</i>	1987 <i>Metamorphosis</i>
- Sponsor and Host, Boston Globe-Horn Book Awards (2013-2019)
- Host, Fulbright Scholar Pirtta Tolvanen, Finland, Fall 2022
- Co-founded "Horn Book at Simmons" annual Colloquium (2010-2017)
 

2017 <i>Resistance: Children's Books in Troubled Times</i>	2016 <i>Out of the Box</i>
2015 <i>Transformations</i>	2014 <i>Mind the Gaps</i>
2012 <i>Look Out!</i>	2013 <i>Building Character</i>
2011 and 2010, no specific theme	
- Founding member, Children's Books Boston (2013)
- Host Children's Books Boston events (two per year on campus and "Wicked Trivia" off-campus) (2013-21)
- Sponsor and host, *School Library Journal* Innovator BaseCamp, May 2017 and August 2018
- Host meetings for visiting boards, such as United States Board on Books for Young People (the U.S. division of the International Board on Books for Young People) and the International Literacy Association's Children's Literature Assembly (both held in 2016).
- Hosted Children's Literature Association Conference (2012)
- Sponsored and co-chaired South Africa Children's Book Event (2008).

**Department Chair in Children's Literature****July 2005-June 2022**

- Develop curriculum M.A. in Children's Literature, M.F.A in Writing for Children and dual degree programs with Education (MAT) and Library Science (SLIS); including 2020-21 program review and 2021-22 curricular change process
- Hire, supervise, and assess faculty
- Oversee assessment, including program learning outcomes, curriculum mapping, alumni surveys
- Develop and maintain budgets
- Direct off-site program at The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art

**Communications Department****July 2021-June 2023****Acting Department Chair**

- Oversee undergraduate curriculum in Communications Department, including tracks and minors
- Collaborate with faculty and University leadership on the Communications-CD program
- Hire, supervise, and assess faculty for on-ground and CD-online courses
- Oversee assessment, including program learning outcomes, curriculum mapping
- Develop and maintain budgets
- Collaborate extensively with Acting Assistant Department Chair

**Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences****July 2005-June 2012**

Worked with Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to oversee academic affairs

## Direct reports:

- Academic advising
- First-year writing program
- Multidisciplinary core course

- Writing Center, including Undergraduate Research Day
- Off-site graduate and undergraduate programs
- Doctoral programs (HPED, BEHV, EDLEAD)
- OPEN program
- Credit for Prior Learning Program
- In 2006-07, direct reports include the assistant dean for general education, graduate and undergraduate program directors in education, graduate and undergraduate program directors in special education; additional responsibility chairing special education department.

#### Regular responsibilities included

- Maintaining, negotiating, and advancing or closing contracts and relationships with off-site partners.
- Working closely with department chairs, graduate program directors, and academic staff.
- Facilitating CAS graduate and undergraduate program review
- Fostering and designing faculty development, including faculty mentor program, new faculty orientations, faculty grants committee, and curriculum retreats
- Facilitating Friars Leader-in-Residence Program
- Hearing grade grievances, monitor grade changes, including developing new grade grievance policy
- Approving graduate petitions for incompletes, leaves-of-absence, and late petitions to transfer credit.
- Monitoring CAS graduate and undergraduate course enrollments for adding/ closing sections
- Overseeing CAS faculty workload
- Submitted and received Fulbright Scholar from Muslim World for one semester

#### Served as Dean's Office representative on a variety of all-College committees

- Assessment Committee
- Curriculum Committee
- Undergraduate Retention Committee
- Building Advisory
- GEO Center Advisory Board (through COF)
- COF Teaching and Learning Conference
- COF 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee.

#### Curricular Innovations and Revisions

- The Simmons World Challenge, piloted in January 2011
- First-Year Program revisions in July 2016 and May 2010
- Simmons Honors Program Learning Communities, initial design & courses, fall 2004

In 2008-10, served on and chaired multiple sub-committees for the NEASC accreditation self-study.

In 2005-06, served as interim director of honors program, including teaching Hon 390, making admission decisions for incoming first-year students and rising sophomores, and representing the program at admission and orientation events, act as interim liaison for the Ayling-Travelli scholarship funds.

**Director of the President's Simmons Strategy Team** July 2010-2012

**Founding Director, "The Simmons World Challenge"** July 2010-2012

**Director, Multidisciplinary Core Course** July 2001-June 2005

Primary responsibility for directing the first-year course *Multidisciplinary Core Course: Culture Matters*, including teaching in the course, supervising faculty, designing faculty development opportunities, overseeing

curriculum review, summer book selection and distribution, collaboration with orientation, and related programming.

**The Horn Book, Inc.**  
**Marketing Assistant**

June 1983-December 1984

**Publications**

Books

*Working Class: Short Stories*. In editorial discussion.

*Reading Russell Freedman* (with Susan P. Bloom). Scarecrow, 2009.

*Presenting Avi* (with Susan P. Bloom). Macmillan/Twayne, 1997.

*Presenting Zibby Oneal* (with Susan P. Bloom). Macmillan/Twayne, 1991.

Chapters and Parts of Books

“Prizing Redux” (working title) in *Children’s Literature & Culture: An Introduction*, edited by Rebecca Rowe. Routledge, contracted; due January 2024.

“Realism” in *Keywords for Children’s Literature* (second edition). Philip Nel, Nina Mikkelsen and Lissa Paul, editors. New York University, 2021, pp. 168-171. (first edition pp.197-201)

“Taking a Second Look at First-Person Narration in Young Adult Realistic Fiction” in *Teaching Young Adult Literature*, Mike Cadden, Karen Coats, and Roberta Seelinger Trites, editors. Modern Language Association, 2020, pp. 222-230.

“Childhood’s Pictures: Framing the Contemporary Picturebook” in *Shimmer of Joy: 100 Children’s Picture Books in America*, Chris Loker editor. The Book Club of California, 2019 pp. 46-55.

short essays on Avi, Molly Bang, Beverly Cleary, David Macaulay, Patricia and Fredrick McKissack, Milton Meltzer, and Richard Peck in *Oxford Companion to Children’s Literature*. Ed. Jack Zipes. Oxford University Press, 2006. Volume 2, pp.103-4, 119-20, 311-12; volume 2, pp. 10, 58, 65-66, and 228.

"The Problems with Reviewing," *Essential Guide to Children's Books*. Ed. Anita Silvey. Houghton, 2002. pp. 380-3.

"Children's Literature" in *Encyclopedia of Feminist Literary Theory*. Ed. Beth Kowaleski-Wallace. Garland, 1997. pp. 73-74.

critical essay on Yoshiko Uchida in *Writers of Multicultural Fiction for Young Adults*. Ed. M. Daphne Kutzer. Greenwood, 1996. pp.423-35.

"Alternate Family Stories," *Children's Books and Their Creators*. Ed. Anita Silvey. Houghton, 1995. pp. 231-34.

critical essays on Molly Bang, Beverly Cleary, Helen V. Griffith, and Mavis Jukes, *Twentieth-Century Children’s Writers*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Ed. Laura S. Berger. St James, 1995. 60-61, 215-218, 415-416, 499-500.

essays on Yoshiko Uchida and Cynthia Voigt. *American Women Writers: From Colonial Times to the Present*. Ed. Carol Hurd Green and Mary Grimley Mason. Continuum, 1994. pp. 455-57; 466-67.

essays on Brock Cole, Amy Ehrlich, Paula Fox, and Cynthia Grant. *Twentieth-Century Young Adult Writers*. Ed. Laura S. Berger. St. James, 1993. pp. 140-41, 198-200, 219-21, 255-56.

essay on *Grandma Moses: Painter of Rural America*. *Masterplots II: Juvenile and Young Adult Biography*. Ed. Tracy Irons. Salem, 1993. pp. 780-83.

"Insights and Discoveries: Illuminating Textual Criticism." *Evaluating Children's Books: A Critical Look*. Ed. Betsy Hearne and Roger Sutton. University of Illinois, 1993. pp. 93-104. Translated into Spanish for publication by Banco de Libro, Venezuela.

"The Center for the Study of Children's Literature" with Susan P. Bloom. *Teaching Children's Literature: Issues, Pedagogy, Resources*. Ed. Glenn E. Sadler. Modern Language Association, 1992. pp. 207-11.

essay on *Unleaving*. *Masterplots II: Juvenile and Young Adult Fiction*. Ed. Frank N. Magill. Salem, 1991. pp. 1546-49.

essays on Beverly Cleary and Helen V. Griffith. *Twentieth-Century Children's Writers*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Ed. Daniel Kirkpatrick. St. James, 1989. pp. 209-10, 408-09.

"One Human Heart: A Conversation with Paula Fox." *Innocence and Experience: Essays and Conversations in Children's Literature*. Ed. Barbara Harrison and Gregory Maguire. Lothrop, 1987. pp. 250-58.

### Journal Publications

"Black and White and Read All Over Again." *Horn Book*. vol. 96, no. 3, 2020, pp 63-65.

"In Memoriam: Susan P. Bloom." *Horn Book*, vol. 95, no. 5, 2019, pp. 25-27.

"On Class." *Kirkus Reviews*, vol. 85, iss. 15, August 1 2017. [kirkusreviews.com/diversity/diversity-issues/class/](http://kirkusreviews.com/diversity/diversity-issues/class/)

Juror's Statement, Catalog for 2015 "Picture This!" exhibit, Danforth Art Museum, June 21, 2015.

Review of *Listen Slowly*, *The New York Times Book Review*, 10 May 2015, p. 24.

"Becoming a Book Detective." *Horn Book*, vol. 90, no. 3, 2014, p. 41.

"Borderland Sentinels." *Horn Book*, vol. 80, no. 5, 2004, pp. 545-52.

"Critical Connections: Professional Reading." *Horn Book*, vol. 78, no. 4, 2003, pp. 487-92.

"Revision, (Re)membering, and Recursion: The Cultural Moorings of Jadine in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*." *Abafazi*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2002, pp. 41-45.

"Critical Connections: Professional Reading from 2001." *Horn Book*, vol.78, no. 3, 2002, pp. 301-10.

"Professional Reading: 2000-2001." *Horn Book*, vol. 77, no. 3, 2001, pp. 289-99.

"Hitty Overboard." *Horn Book*, vol. 76, no. 2, 2000, pp. 107-09.

"Limitless Wonder of Story." *Children's Literature*, vol. 24, 1996, pp. 231-34.

"Bridges in Realistic Fiction: Reappraising Beverly Cleary's Young Adult Novels." *Oregon English Journal*, vol.17, no. 1, 1995, pp. 54-57.

"Is Androgyny Possible? A Look at *Wuthering Heights*." *Essays and Studies*, vol. 45, no. 1, 1987, pp. 11-13.

### Reviews of Professional Books

*Appalachian Children's Literature: Annotated Bibliography* by Roberta Teague Herrin and Sheila Quinn Oliver. *Journal of Appalachian Studies*, vol. 16, no.1-2, 2010, pp. 2005.

*Welcome to Lizard Motel* by Barbara Feinberg. *Horn Book*, vol. 81, no. 2, 2005, pp. 219-220.

*Kiddie Lit* by Beverly Lyon Clark and *The American Child: A Culture Studies Reader* by Caroline F. Levander and Carol J. Singley. *Horn Book*, vol. 80, no. 4, 2004, pp. 472-3.

*Beyond the Pale: New Essays for a New Era* by Marc Aronson. *Horn Book*, vol. 80, no. 1, 2003, pp. 107-8.

*Inside Picture Books* by Ellen Spitz. *Journal of Youth Services*. vol. 14, no. 1, 2000, pp. 24-26.

*Reading Otherways* by Lissa Paul. *Journal of Youth Services*. vol. 12, no. 4, 1999, pp. 38-9.

"Information Over Easy." *Everyone's Guide to Children's Literature* by Mark West. *TALL*, vol 7, no. 3, 1998, pp. 96-97.

*Telling Time: Angels, Ancestors and other Stories* by Nancy Willard. *Journal of Youth Services*. vol. 8, no.1, 1994, pp. 91-92.

*The Seed and the Vision* by Eleanor Cameron. *Horn Book*. vol. 75, no. 4, 1994, pp. 475.

### Exhibits

Guest Curator, "Playing with Pictures: Picturebook Metafiction. Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art, Amherst, MA. Opening May 4, 2024.

Guest Co-Curator, "Let's Talk: Animals from the Collections." An exhibit from the Permanent Collection of the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. August 8, 2020-January 24, 2021. Curation began in September 2019; April 2020 opening delayed by COVID. Support included social media posts, virtual gallery tour on October 19 2020, and three educator workshops in November 2020.

### Papers and Presentations

"More Artists at Play," a public opening plan with four artists exhibited in "Playing with Pictures," The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA May 11, 2024.

"Artists at Play," a members' opening night panel with four artists exhibited in "Playing with Pictures," The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA, May 3, 2024

"Let's Play: An Introduction the Metafictive Picturebook," Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India (OL), November 4, 2023.



"The Wonder of Picturebooks: Delight and Visual Literacy," Keynote at Children's Education, Redefined; Language Literacy, Redesigned, China(OL), June 11, 2023.

"Future Tense: A Scholar's Legacy," Closing Plenary, Second Beverly Lyon Clark Symposium, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, April 8, 2023.

"Book-Keeping," Pat Keogh Memorial Lecture at the Swiacki Children's Literature Festival at Framingham State University, November 5, 2022.

"Ekua Holmes: The Liberating Art of the Picturebook," a conversation at the Boston Book Festival, Boston, MA, October 29, 2022.

"Me and Oge: Interviewing Oge Mora" and "A Conversation with Anika Aldamuy Denise," Rhode Island Children's Book Festival, Lincoln School, Providence Rhode Island. October 22, 2022.

"Visual Conversations: Childhood, New England, and Picturebook Art," William and Arlene Brewster Endowed Lecture, Portsmouth Historical Society, Portsmouth NH, August 18 2022.

"On *Why Heaven is Far Away*," 2022 Phoenix Picture Book Award Round Table, Children's Literature Association, Atlanta, GA (virtual), June 2 2022

"Beverly Lyon Clark: In Tribute," at Symposium Remembering Beverly Lyon Clark, Wheaton College, Norton, MA, April 2, 2022.

"Picture Book Power," Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, November 10 2021.

"Legacies," Pat Keogh Memorial Keynote Lecture at the Swiacki Children's Literature Festival, Framingham State University, Framingham MA. November 3 2021.

"Inside the Artist's Studio with Oge Mora: A Virtual Conversation," Rhode Island Children's Book Festival, Lincoln School, Providence Rhode Island. January 26, 2021.

"Disruptions: 2020 Children's Books." Pat Keogh Memorial Lecture at the Swiacki Children's Literature Festival at Framingham State University, virtual, November 5, 2020.

"Talking Back: A Series of Three Educator Workshops on Anthropomorphism in Children's Picture Books." "Talking Animals-Confusing Realism" on November 16 2020; "Environmental Justice" on November 23, 2020; and "Stereotyping and Racism" on November 30, 2020.

"YA: Friendship...and Its Ending," panel moderation with Justin Reynolds, Amy Spalding, and Ashley Woodfolk, Boston Book Festival, virtual. October 22, 2020.

"Out of This World with John Rocco. Boston Book Festival, virtual, October 19, 2020.

"Books with Friends: Conversations about 2019 Books." a cross-professional presentation with Eliza Brown (bookseller) and Emily Prabhaker (educator), The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, December 7, 2019.

"Pictures & Conversations." Keynote, Swiacki Children's Literature Festival, Framingham State University, Framingham, MA November 7, 2019.

“Talking with Oge Mora.” Facilitated discussion, Rhode Island Children’s Book Festival, Lincoln School, Providence RI, October 19, 2019.

“Refracting the Gaze: Brutal Realism in Works by Rita Williams-Garcia.” paper, The Children’s Literature Association, Indianapolis, IN. June 14, 2019.

“Out of Wonder.” presentation, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. December 16, 2018.

“The Paradox: Children’s Literature and the Holocaust.” presentation at the Temple Bnai Tikva, Canton, MA. November 29, 2018.

Interview with M. T. Anderson. Boston Book Festival, Boston, MA. October 28, 2018.

“What Does Radical Change Mean Today?” invited panel convener and moderator, 12<sup>th</sup> IBBY Regional Conference/ USBBY, Seattle, WA. October 21, 2018.

“On Stage—A Conversation with David Macaulay and Chris Van Allsburg.” Rhode Island Festival of Children’s Books, Providence, RI. October 14, 2018.

“Mira Bartok: *Wonderling*” interview, Rhode Island Festival of Children’s Books, Providence RI. October 14, 2018.

“Career Collaborators: Jerry and Gloria Jean Pinkney.” interview, The Rhode Island Children’s Book Festival, Providence, RI. October 13, 2018.

“Troubling Comfortable Readings.” seminar, Horn Book at Simmons, Boston, MA. October 7, 2018.

“50 Years...and Counting with *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.” a presentation and conversation with Eric Carle, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. September 15, 2018.

“Apertures of Change: *Skim* and *This One Summer*.” paper, The Children’s Literature Association, San Antonio, TX. June 29, 2018.

“50 Years: The Sydney Taylor Book Awards Re-Viewed.” panel convener and presenter, The Association of Jewish Libraries, Boston, MA. June 19, 2018.

“Author, Scriptor, Reader: Andrew Smith and *Grasshopper Jungle*.” paper, The Children’s Literature Association, University of Florida, Tampa, FL. June 22, 2017.

“Professional Engagement: Where Do I Begin? 5x5 Q&As.” presentation, *SLJ* Innovator BaseCamp. Boston, MA. May 20, 2017.

“The Story Behind the Story: Adults Reading Young Adult Literature.” a panel discussion with Tobin Anderson, Julie Berry, and Tara Sullivan. Maynard (MA) Public Library, April 08, 2017.

“A Matter of Perspective.” presentation, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. December 9, 2016.

“The Curious and the Giveable.” presentation, Boston Atheneum, Boston, MA. December 4, 2016.

- “The Academic Study of Children’s Literature – Hopeful Passages.” invited lecture, Children’s Literature New England, Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, VT. November 12, 2016.
- “A New Hat for Jon Klassen.” Children’s Keynote Introduction at the 2016 Boston Book Festival, Boston, MA. October 15, 2016.
- “Power of Friendship in Middle Grade Fiction: A Conversation with Ali Benjamin, Jo Knowles, and Paul Griffin.” Boston Book Festival, Boston Public Library, Teen Central, Boston, MA. October 15, 2016.
- “Closing the Box.” closing, Horn Book at Simmons Symposium, Simmons College, Boston, MA. October 1, 2016.
- “Reanimating *Arlene Sardine*.” paper, The Children’s Literature Association. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH. June 9, 2016.
- “And the Winners Were: Behind the Medals.” panel convener, Children’s Books Boston. Boston, MA. February 23, 2016.
- “Pictures and Conversations...*After Alice*.” presentation, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. December 12, 2015.
- “*Matchless*: An On-Stage Interview with Gregory Maguire.” Central Square Theatre, Cambridge, MA. November 17, 2015.
- “Transforming Class Structures in Children’s Literature.” seminar, Horn Book at Simmons Colloquium, Boston, MA. October 3, 2015.
- “Introducing Libba Bray: A Diviner.” Young Adult Keynote Speaker, Boston Book Festival, Boston, MA. October 24, 2014.
- “Middle Grade: Family and Friends. A Moderated Conversation with Patricia Reilly Giff, Tamara Ellis Smith, and Rebecca Stead.” Boston Book Festival. Boston, MA. October 24, 2015.
- “Grace Lin: Conversation with the Artist.” Rhode Island Festival of Children’s Book Authors and Illustrators. Providence, RI. October 17, 2015.
- “There’s No Place Like Home.” Closing Lecture, Center for the Study of Children’s Literature, Homecoming Summer Institute, Boston, MA. July 26, 2015.
- “The Importance of *The Giver* in Today’s Literary Landscape,” presentation, West Roxbury Reads, Boston Public Library, West Roxbury, MA. April 4, 2015.
- “Prizing Children’s Literature: An Insider’s Look at Process and Results.” seminar, Wheaton College, Norton, MA. March 25, 2015.
- “Ways of Reading.” seminar, Simmons College Alumni Day, Boston, MA, March 21, 2015.
- “Inseparable: Library Science and Connections Across Disciplines: A Panel with Allen Smith Visiting Scholar Paul Sturges.” SLIS, Simmons College, Boston, MA. March 5, 2015.
- “The Iridescence of Books.” presentation, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. December 7, 2014.

“*The Little Prince Flies Again*,” panel moderator with actors, playwright, director, New Repertory Theatre, Boston, MA. November 23, 2014.

“Introducing Rick Riordan: Master of Myth.” Children’s Keynote Speaker, Boston Book Festival, Boston, MA, October 24, 2014.

“Reality into Fantasy Young Adult Literature.” panel moderator, The Boston Book Festival. Boston, MA. October 24 2014.

“Hold Fast to Dreams.” seminar, The Rhode Island Children’s Book Festival, Providence RI. October 17, 2014.

“The Class Gap: Money Matters.” seminar, Horn Book at Simmons Colloquium, October 11, 2014.

“Resisting Divergencies: Erasing Sexed Innocence.” paper, The Children’s Literature Association Annual Conference. Columbia, SC, June 20, 2014.

“Wordless Picturebooks: Trending.” speaker and panel moderator, *School Library Journal*, “Day of Dialog,” New York, NY, May 28, 2014.

“Different Paths.” panel convener and participant, Lowell Lecture Series 2014: Gateway to Reading, Boston Public Library, May 13 2014.

“So You Want to Choose the 2014 Caldecott?” workshop, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. December 8, 2013.

“Class on Class.” workshop, Children’s Book Council-Diversity Committee. November 30, 2013.

“Hidden Pleasures: (Re)Defining Nonfiction.” panel convener, National Council of Teachers of English, Annual Convention, November 22, 2013.

“Educators’ Night at The Carle with Jack Gantos: A Public Conversation.” The Eric Carle Museum of Picturebook Art, 2013 Educators’ Night, October 30, 2013.

“SWAK: Closing *Love Letters*.” Closing Lecture with Megan Lambert, Simmons College, Center for the Study of Children’s Literature Summer Institute, July 28, 2013.

“Reading, Talking, Deciding.” workshop, American Library Association, Roundtable for Social Responsibility, Coretta Scott King Award Jury, Chicago, IL., June 29, 2013.

“Peter Sis: Reading Bridges on the Wings of Story.” a conversation at The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, 2013 BERL Lecture Luncheon, May 4, 2013.

“So You Want to Choose the 2014 Caldecott?” seminar, The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. December 09, 2012.

“Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: Children’s Literature.” presentation, Rhode Island Children’s Book Festival, Providence, RI, October 13, 2012.

“Critical Reading and Picturebooks.” workshop, American Library Association, Roundtable for Social Responsibility, Coretta Scott King Award Jury, Anaheim, CA, June 23, 2012.

“Redefining a Simmons Education: Premiering the Simmons World Challenge.” presentation, Simmons College, 1899 Society Luncheon, April 2012.

“Sexing Innocence.” seminar, at The Body Electric, Summer Institute, Center for the Study of Children’s Literature, Simmons College, July 31 2011.

“Higher Ed 2.0, or that was then, this is now.” Presentation, Simmons College , 1899 Society Breakfast. January 2011.

“Information Books or Nonfiction: A Matter of Positioning.” workshop, 2011 Robert F. Sibert Committee, American Library Association, Washington DC. June 26, 2010.

Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal Presentation, Newbery/Caldecott/Wilder Banquet, American Library Association, Chicago, IL. July 12, 2012.

“Positionality: Teaching the Unspeakable in Literature for Children and Young Adults.” paper with Amy Pattee. Children’s Literature Association Conference, Charlotte, NC. June 12, 2009.

“Not Wild About Harry.” seminar and panel, Simmons College Presidential Inauguration, Boston, MA. March 30, 2007.

“Only the Relationships Change: Becoming a Dean.” paper, ANAC summer conference, Naperville, IL. June 14-16, 2006.

"The Critique of Informational Books." workshop, 2006 Sibert Committee guest speaker, midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. January 16, 2005.

Open Session with the 2006 Caldecott Committee, "Reading Pictures, Reading Books, Reading Picturebooks." workshop, midwinter meeting of the American Library Association. January 15, 2005.

2004 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Presentations, ALSC Awards Ceremony, annual meeting of the American Library Association. June 28, 2004.

"Conversations with...Nancy Garden." Foundation for Children's Books, Boston College, Boston, MA. February 24, 2004.

"Reviewers' Spectacles." presentation, Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators Annual Conference, Simmons College, Boston, MA. November 15, 2003.

"Book Awards: An Insider's View." presentation, Society of School Librarians International, annual meeting, Boston, MA. November 7, 2003.

"Breaking Out *Beyond the Pale*: Young Adult Literature." presentation, Massachusetts School and Media Library Association Annual Meeting, Sturbridge, MA. November 3, 2003.

"Words and Pictures: The Power of Art and Poetry to Illuminate African American Experiences." A Conversation with Marilyn Nelson," The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA: September 2003.

"Young Adult Literature--Capture the Call." presentation, Massachusetts School Media Library Association. Sturbridge, MA. October 28, 2002.

"First-Year Course as a Site for Faculty Development." presentation, Lilly Atlantic Conference. Towson, MD. April 13, 2002.

"A Conversation with Ellen Wittlinger." Foundation for Children's Books. Boston College. Boston, MA. February 12, 2002.

"The Best of 2001 -- Children's Picturebooks of Note." presentation, Winchester Public Schools. Winchester Public Library. November 14, 2001; Barnes and Noble Bookstore, Walpole, MA. October 17, 2001.

"Children's Literature Today." paper, Lake Placid Institute. Lake Placid, NY. October 27, 2001.

"Constructing Childhood in American Picturebooks." paper, American Literature Association. Cambridge, MA. May 26, 2001.

"Angels and Wild Things: Award-Winning Picturebooks." seminar, Mount Holyoke College. South Hadley, MA. May 25 and June 1, 2001.

"Wings of Story." presentation, Norfolk Parent-Teacher Association. Norfolk, MA. May 22, 2001.

"A Conversation with Robie Harris." Foundation for Children's Books. Boston College. Boston, MA. January 16, 2001.

"Children's Books of Note – 2000." presentation, Winchester Public Schools. Winchester Library. Winchester, MA. November 30, 2000.

"A Conversation with Jack Gantos." Foundation for Children's Books. Boston College. Boston, MA. February 8, 2000.

"Angels and Wild Things: Images of the Child in Children's Picturebooks." paper, Simmons College. Boston, MA. 30 January 2000; Beebe Lyceum, 15 November 2001; Jaffrey (NH) Public Library, winter 2002.

"A Showcase of 1999 Picturebooks." presentation, Foundation for Children's Books. Boston, MA. October 30, 1999.

"What a Pip! Great Expectations and Jack Maggs." Brookline Literature Program. Brookline Public Schools. Brookline, MA. September 15, 1999.

"If Piaget and Vygotsky were Literary Critics: Developmental Psychology Reads *Frog and Toad are Friends*." Paper, Third Biennial Conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children's Literature. Nashville, TN. March 25-27, 1999.

"Trends and Titles in 1998 Children's Books." presentation, Foundation for Children's Books. Boston College. Boston, MA. November 14, 1998.

"Whose Views? Who Decides?: The Struggle over 'Family Values' and Its Influence on Children's Books." panel moderator, P.E.N. New England. Radcliffe Institute. Cambridge, MA. December 7, 1997.

"Gay and Lesbian Theory: Lenses for Re/viewing Literature for Young Adults." paper and panel moderator, Second Biennial Conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children's Literature. Nashville, TN. April 10-12, 1997.

"Virginia Woolf: The Seed of Eleanor Cameron's Vision." paper, Second Biennial Conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children's Literature. Nashville, TN. April 10-12, 1997.

"Pictures and Conversations." presentation, Boston Chapter of the Women's National Book Association. Boston, MA. December 1995.

"Peter Hunt: Where are the Children in the Criticism of Children's Literature?" paper, First Biennial Conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children's Literature. Nashville, TN. April 20-22, 1995.

"Literature Study Groups: Collaborative Connections for Teachers, Parents, and Students." paper, 39th Annual International Reading Association Convention. Toronto, Ontario. May 1994.

"Literature Study Groups for Teachers: A Celebration of Learning." paper, 82nd Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, Lexington, KY. November 1992.

"Insights and Discoveries: Illuminating Textual Criticism." paper, 34th Allerton Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL. October 1992.

"Echoes of Genius: Eleanor Cameron and Virginia Woolf." paper, Modern Language Association. San Francisco, CA. December 1991.

"For Adults, Too: The Wind in the Willows." 1987 Regional Scholar. "Not for Children Only," a program of the American Library Association. Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy, MA. Fall 1987.

**Invited** Director's Cabinet, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy. June 2014-2023  
**Posts**

"Taking a *Walk in the Woods*." Calling Caldecott Blog. <https://www.hbook.com/story/blogs/a-walk-in-the-woods> January 5, 2024.

"To Be or Not To Be Eligible: *The Real Dada Mother Goose* with Vicky Smith and Shelley Isaacson. Calling Caldecott Blog. <https://www.hbook.com/story/blogs/to-be-or-not-to-be-eligible-the-real-dada-mother-goose> January 13, 2023.

"Resisting *Lift* by Dan Santat." Calling Caldecott Blog. <https://www.hbook.com/?detailStory=lift>. December 4 2020.

On *The Journey* by Francesca Sanna. <http://Onehundreddaysonehundredbooks.blogspot.com/2017/02/the-journey-francesca-sanna.htm>.

"Judged purely on artistic merit": The 2016 New York Times Best Illustrated Books. Calling Caldecott Blog. <http://www.hbook.com/2017/01/blogs/calling-caldecott/judged-purely-on-artistic-merit-the-2016-new-york-times-best-illustrated-books/>

**Award Committees**

Appointed Jurist, 2023 Ezra Jack Keats Awards, University of Southern Mississippi, May 2023-April 2026.

Chair, 2024 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Committee, Horn Book, Inc., July 2023-June 2024.

Judge, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Subaru SB&F Prize for Excellence in Science Books, June 2013-December 2023.

Panelist, 2023-24 Children's Writer-in-Residence, Associates of the Boston Public Library, August 2023

Eric Carle Honors, Honors Award Committee, January 2014 – present.

Invited Member, 2023 Oregon State Book Awards, Oregon Literary Council, Portland, Oregon. September 2022-April 2023.

Elected Member, The Phoenix Picture Book Award Committees (2020, 2021, 2022) of the Children's Literature Association, July 2019-June 2022.

Chair and Panelist, 2021 National Book Award-Young People's Literature, National Book Award Foundation, March 2021 – December 2021.

Coretta Scott King Book Award Committee, Social Justice Round Table, American Library Association. July 2016-2022.

Elected member, 2019 Geisel Award Committee, Association of Library Services to Children, American Library Association, January 2018-June 2019.

Convener and Judge, Susan P. Bloom Children's Book Discovery Award. 2017-2020.

Judge, Letters to Literature, Massachusetts Center for the Book, January-March 2016.

Appointed member, Selection Committee, National Ambassador for Youth Literature, Library of Congress/ Children's Book Council/ Every Child Can Read, August 2013-December 2015.

Juror, "Picture This!" for the Danforth Art Museum's juried exhibit of children's book illustration, May-June 2015.

Chair, YALSA Writing Award, YALSA-American Library Association, July 2013-June 2014.

Judge, *New York Times* Best Illustrated Books 2012, Fall 2012.

Elected Member. 2012 Randolph Caldecott Committee. American Library Association. January 2011-June 2012.

Elected Chair, 2009 Laura Ingalls Wilder Award Committee, American Library Association. Fall 2006 and through summer 2009.

Chair. 2004 Robert F. Sibert Informational Book Award Committee. American Library Association. Appointed November 2002 for service January 2003-June 2004.

Judge. 2003 Massachusetts Book Award. Massachusetts Center for the Book. May - September 2003.

Chair and Judge. 2001 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Committee. January-September 2001.



Appointed Member. 2001 Sibert Committee of the Association of Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. January 2000-June 2001.

Appointed Member. 1999 Newbery Award Committee of the Association of Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. January 1998-June 1999.

Chair and Judge. 1994 Boston Globe-Horn Book Award Committee. January 1993-October 1994.

Elected Member. 1994 Caldecott Award Committee of the Association of Library Services to Children, a division of the American Library Association. January 1993-June 1994.

## Professional and Discipline-Based Service

Host Committee Member, Family Nurturing, 2023 GALA Honoring Eku Holmes. John F. Kennedy Library, March 31, 2023.

Confidential Evaluator, The MacArthur Fellows Program, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. As needed. (four reports since 2000)

Referee, *Journal of Children's Literature* and *Children and Libraries: the Journal of the Association for Library Service to Children*. June 2003-present.

Co-Editor, The Children's Literature Association Newsletter, June 2017-May 2021.

Interviews on Junot Diaz's first children's book. *The Boston Globe*, Thursday, January 11, 2018; *The Houston Chronicle*, March 9, 2018.

Mentor. Boston Athenaeum. Boston, Massachusetts. March 2016-2018.

Project Lead, Massachusetts Center for the Book Early Literacy Project, May 2015-August 2017.

Manuscript Evaluator. University of Tennessee Press. Academic manuscript. August 2016.

Manuscript Evaluator. Bloomsbury Press. Academic manuscript. July 2016.

Organizing Committee, Young Adult Services Division, American Library Association for 2016 Midwinter Conference, Boston, MA, January 2014-January 2016.

Selection Committee for Teen Presenters, Best Fiction for Young Adults Program, American Library Association, 2015 Midwinter Conference, Boston, MA, November 2015-January 2016.

Delegate, Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly, June 2012-June 2015.

NECHE (formerly NEASC) external evaluator: accreditation visit November 2019, accreditation visit November 2017, substantial change visit March 2013, accreditation visit April 2012.

Chair, Conference Planning Committee, 2012 Children's Literature Association Conference, "Literary Slipstreams" at Simmons College, June 13-17, 2012.

Chair, Paper Selection Committee, 2012 Children's Literature Association Conference, "Literary Slipstreams" at Simmons College, June 13-17, 2012.

Interviews on the death of Maurice Sendak, NBC Nightly News, May 08, 2012; NBC Today Show, 09 May 2012; *The Washington Post*, 08 May 2012.

Conference Planning Committee Member, "Arts & Humanities: Toward a Flourishing State?" Association of American Colleges and Universities: Network for Academic Renewal, November 3-5, 2011, Providence, RI.

Manuscript Referee. Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Journal, January 2000-2011.

A variety of external reviews for tenure candidates and promotion candidates at other institutions.

## **Board Service**

Trustee of the Melrose Public Library, Melrose, Massachusetts. April 2016-present. Co-Director of five year strategy plan, June 2018-October 2019. Trustee delegate to the Melrose Building Committee.

Committee member, Exhibits & Collections Committee (to 2021) and the Carle Honors Committee. The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, Amherst, MA. January 2014-present.

Director's Cabinet, Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy. June 2014-2023

2015-2016 Advisory Board, "Doors to the World: Global Children's Literature for Critical Multicultural Literacies" Language, Literacy, Culture, University of Massachusetts-Amherst. July 2015-2020.

Trustee. The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art. Amherst, MA. January 2014-present. Including service on Exhibits and Collections Committee, The Carle Honors Committee, and chair of the Nominating Committee.

## **Professional Development**

CliftonStrengths Champion Program, Simmons University, June 14 2023.

Academic Leadership Training, Colleges of the Fenway, Spring 2017.

Certified, Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, NC, Assessment Suite. December 3-4, 2012. Sponsored by The President's Office.

Coaching for Greater Effectiveness program, Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, NC, December 5-7, 2012. Sponsored by The President's Office.

HERS, Higher Education Leadership program, Wellesley College, Academic Year 2011-2012 (four intensive weekend sessions). Selected and sponsored by the Provost's Office.

Leadership Development Program, Center for Creative Leadership, Greensboro, NC, March 7-11, 2011. Selected and Sponsored by The President's Office.

Sloan Career Flexibility Faculty Development program, Executive Education, Simmons College, Academic Year 2008-2009. Selected and sponsored by the Dean's Office, College of Arts & Sciences.

### Awards and Honors

McGrath Global Research Fund for Faculty	2024
Carven Fellowship, Examined Life Program, Teach Greece	2022-2023
Alden Poole Mentoring Award, Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities, Simmons University	2018
Priscilla McKee Award for Exceptional Service, Simmons University	2017
Haas Artist in Residence, Wheaton College, Norton, MA	2015
Profile, ALSC Voices in <i>ALSC Connect</i> (May) American Library Services to Children, American Library Association	2014
Dean's Award for Excellence in Academic Advising, Simmons University	2003
Gertrude Marcy Dissertation Award. Simmons University	2002
Davis Foundation Grant. Colleges of the Fenway	1999-2000
University Professors Fellowship. University Professors Program, Boston University	1998-1999
Frances Mary Hazen Fellowship. Mount Holyoke College	1998-1999
Stephen H. Davol Fellowship. Mount Holyoke College	1998