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AREAS OF RESEARCH & SPECIALIZATION

Culturally Relevant Literacy Instruction
Language and Literacy Learning K-12
Critical Literacy
School and Community Partnerships

EDUCATION

2006	Ed. D. Reading, Language, & Literature K - 12, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. Minor: Curriculum & Instruction
2000	M.A. Elementary Education, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
1997	B. Ed. Primary/Junior (K-8) Education, University of Windsor, ON
1992	Honors B. A. Political Science, University of Windsor, ON

CERTIFICATION

1998	Michigan Teaching Certification, Lansing, MI
1997	Ontario Teaching Certification, University of Windsor, ON
1997	Special Education & Learning Disabilities, Part I of III, University of Windsor, ON

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2011 – present	<i>Associate Professor of Literacy Studies</i> Department of Special Education and Literacy studies Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
2010 – present	<i>Lead Consultant</i> , SchoolRise, LLC., Kathryn Au & Taffy Raphael Whole School Transformation Project in Disciplinary Literacy, Adrian, MI
2008 – present	<i>Director</i> , <i>Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic</i> College of Education Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
2005 – 2011	<i>Assistant Professor of Literacy Studies</i> Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
2004 – 2005	<i>Full-Time Lecturer in Reading, Language, & Literature</i> , Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2004 – 2005	<i>Reading/Language Arts Consultant</i> , Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board, Windsor, ON
2002 – 2004	<i>Full-Time English Instructor</i> , St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology, Windsor, ON
2000 – 2002	<i>Full-Time Adjunct Instructor in Language Arts & Student Teaching Supervisor</i> , Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
1997 – 1999	<i>Elementary Teacher</i> , 3 rd grade regular and 5 th grade LD special education, Chippewa Valley School District, Macomb, MI
1991 – 1992	<i>Administrative and Research Assistant</i> , Mayor's Office, City of Windsor, ON
1990 – 1992	<i>Teacher Assistant</i> , Grade One, Victoria Elementary School, Windsor, ON

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Chapters

Piazza, S. V. (2011). It's not black and white: Stories of lived experience, reading, and assessments. In Malu, K. F. (ed.), *Voices in the Middle: Narrative Inquiry by, for, and about the Middle Level Community*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Piazza, S. V. & Duncan, L. E. (2012-in press). After-school literacy engagements with struggling readers. *Reading Writing Quarterly* 28(3).

Hall, L.A. & Piazza, S. V. (2010). Challenging texts. *English Journal* 99(5), 91-94. .

Vergunst, P. S. & Piazza, S. V. (2010). Couched literacy: Family interactions with texts at home. *Michigan Reading Journal* 42(2), 9-18.

Piazza, S. V. (2009). First steps toward third space. *Language Arts Journal of Michigan* 25(1), 17 – 21.

Piazza, S. V. (2008/2009). Exploring student thinking in an urban setting. *Michigan Reading Journal* 41(1), p. 6-14.

Hall, L.A. & Piazza, S.V. (2008). Critically reading texts: What students do and how teachers can help. *The Reading Teacher*, 62(1), pp. 32 – 41.

Invited Articles

Edwards, P.A. & Piazza, S. V. (2010). International discoveries: IRA delegation explores education in China. *Reading Today* 27(5), 28-9.

Dissertation

Piazza, S.V. (2006). Case studies of transactions between boys' lived experiences and texts. *Dissertation Abstracts International*, 67(05).

Manuscripts Under Review

Piazza, S. V. & Woods, A. Literacy Engagements with black adolescent males. Under review with Middle School Journal.

Piazza, S. V. Culturally responsive reading assessments: A critique of retellings, comprehension questions, and student interviews. Under review with Language and Literacy Journal.

Manuscripts in Draft

Piazza, S.V. & Prospero, J.H. Critiquing readiness: A conceptual analysis of teacher dispositions toward diversity (completed draft-undergoing revisions).

Piazza, S.V. Critical lessons on diversity in a rural second-grade classroom (completed draft-undergoing revisions).

Piazza, S. V., Edwards, P. A., & Li, G. English language literacy development for Chinese youth (outlined draft).

AWARDS

- 2010 *Strengthening Community Connections Award*, College of Education and Human Development Western Michigan University
- 2009 *Outstanding Research Session Award* for 2009 Literacy Research Association (formerly NRC), Area 3
- 2010 *Research and Development Award*, OVPR, Western Michigan University
- 2007 *Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award*, Finalist, International Reading Association

GRANTS, CONTRACTS & FUNDING

- 2010 Early Childhood Reading Grant, Target Stores, Funded, **\$2,000**
2010 Kohl's Cares for Kids Grant for Family Literacy nights in Kalamazoo Community, Funded, **\$500**
2009 International Education Faculty Development Grant, Funded **\$1,000**
2008 State Farm Insurance Grant Awarded in support of Securing Children's Opportunities, Possibilities, and Empowerment (SCOPE), Funded, **\$5,000**
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RESEARCH (HSIRB approved)

- 2008 – present *Clinical Studies in Reading*. Mixed methods study in progress within the Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic. (Principle Investigator – Susan V. Piazza).
- 2009 – 2010 *Literacy Tutoring with At-Risk Youth*. Mixed methods study conducted in the Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center and Clinic. Disseminated in *Reading Writing Quarterly*. (Principal Investigators: Susan V. Piazza & Lonnie E. Duncan).
- 2009 – 2010 *Early Literacy Ethnographies*. Disseminated in the *Michigan Reading Journal*. (Principal Investigator: Susan V. Piazza with students as graduate researchers).
- 2008 – 2009 *Teacher Explorations in Critical Literacy*. Ethnographic case study conducted in a rural second grade classroom. Dissemination/manuscript in draft. (Principal Investigator: Susan V. Piazza).
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LITERACY/RESEARCH CONSULTING

- 2010 - present IES Grant Application (Unfunded) *Development and Validation of the Culturally Responsive Elementary Classroom Literacy Inventory* with RDA Mentor Patricia Edwards, Distinguished Professor and Senior University Outreach Fellow at Michigan State University and President of the International Reading Association. (Project Consultant – Susan V. Piazza).
- 2010 – present Literacy Service Consultant (as clinic director), Collaborative IES Grant proposal (UNDER REVIEW) with Van Buren Intermediate School District & Walker Institute of Race and Ethnic Relations
- 2010 – present Literacy Service Consultant (as clinic director) for Grant Application (UNDER REVIEW) Project: Literacy Tutoring for Kalamazoo Juvenile Home Residential Treatment Program, Project Coordinator – Marge Karrs, Kalamazoo Public Library
- 2008 – present Literacy Research Advisory Panel Member, IES Grant Application (UNDER REVIEW) Project: Perspectives in Migrant Education in Michigan, Principle Investigator Karen Vocke, English Education (Project Consultant/Advisory Board Member)
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PRESENTATIONS

Peer Reviewed Research Presentations

- Piazza, S. V., Kaifish, A., and Miles, R. (under review). Michigan Reading Association 2011 Annual Convention.
- Piazza, S. V. (2011). *Examining the Complexities of Culturally Relevant Literacy Instruction. (Meet the Researcher Session)*. International Reading Association's Annual Research Conference, Orlando, FL.
- Piazza, S. V. (2010). Oral language and social literacies in the classroom. Presentation at Literacy Research Association (formerly NRC).
- Piazza, S. V. & Vergunst, P. S. (March, 2010). Teacher Studies of Family Literacy Practices. Paper presented at Annual Michigan Reading Association, Detroit, MI.
- Piazza, S. V. & Hall, L. A. (November, 2009). Sociocultural and Political Literacies in Teacher Education. Paper presented at the Annual National Reading Conference, Albuquerque, NM.
- Piazza, S. V., Hall, L.A., Gallager, D., Wiseman, A., Henry, L. A., Zawilinski, L., O'Byrne, I., & Castek, J. (November, 2009). Instructional Paths Less Travelled in Support of Struggling Readers. Chair and paper presentation in alternative research session at the Annual National Reading Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

- Piazza, S. V. and Laansma, L. (2009). Critical lessons on diversity in a rural second-grade classroom. Research Presentation, Michigan Reading Association's Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI.*
- Piazza, S. V. (2008). Exploring critical literacy and multicultural texts in a rural setting. Paper presentation at the National Reading Conference, Orlando, FL.*
- Piazza, S. V. and Livingston, J. (2008). Two studies exploring student thinking about texts. Paper accepted for the National Reading Conference, Orlando, FL.*
- Hall, L. and Piazza, S.V. (2008). Using texts to transform or maintain? How issues of diversity impact student/teacher interpretations of text. Research Poster Presentation at the 53rd Annual International Reading Association, Atlanta, GA.*
- Piazza, S.V. and Livingston, J. (2008). Critiquing popular literacy assessments. Research presentation at the Michigan Reading Association's Annual Conference, Detroit, MI.*
- Piazza, S.V. (2007). Beyond Comprehension Assessments. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Reading Conference, Austin, TX.*
- Piazza, S.V. & Hall, L. (2007). Critically reading texts: What students do and how teachers can help. Paper presented at the meeting of the National Reading Conference, Louisville, KY.*
- Piazza, S. V. (2007). Case studies of transactions between boys' lived experiences and texts. Dissertation of the Year Award Poster Presentation at IRA Research Conference, Toronto.*
- Piazza, S.V. (2006). Studies of literacy: Transactions between boys' lived experiences and texts. Paper presentation at the Ethnographic and Qualitative Research in Education Conference, Cedarville, OH.*
- Piazza, S.V. (2006). Conversations about reading with fourth-grade African American boys. Symposium conducted at Michigan Reading Association's Annual Conference, Detroit, MI.*
- Feathers, K.M., Piazza, S.V., Livingston, J., and Creech, N. (2004). Revising Before You Write. Symposium conducted at NCTE's Whole Language Umbrella Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO.*
- Feathers, K.M., Piazza, S.V., Livingston, J., and Creech, N.(2004). Oral reading assessments and classroom instruction. Symposium presented at Michigan Reading Association Annual Convention. Detroit, MI.*
- Feathers, K.M., Piazza, S.V., Livingston, J., and Creech, N.(2003). Oral Reading Assessments and Classroom Instruction. Symposium presented at International Reading Association Annual Convention, Orlando, FL.*

Invited Research Presentations

- Piazza, S. V. (2011). Balancing Literacy Learning in Urban Settings. 30th Annual University of Wisconsin Reading Research Symposium. University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.*
- Piazza, S. V. (2011). Reflections on Culturally Responsive Reading Research. (Research Featured Address). International Reading Association's Annual Research Conference, Orlando, FL.*
- Piazza, S. V. (2011). Examining the complexities of culturally relevant literacy instruction. (Invited Session:Meet the Researchers). International Reading Association Reading Research Conference, May 2011, Orlando, FL.*

Invited Presentations

- Piazza, S. V. (2011). Theory to Practice: Balancing Literacy Learning in Urban Settings. 30th Annual University of Wisconsin Reading Research Symposium. University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.*
- Piazza, S. V. (2010). Reflections on Service Learning in Literacy Education. WMU Service Learning and Office of Faculty Development presentation.*
- Piazza, S.V. (2008). Professional Development Workshops for Baldwin Public Schools (High School), Baldwin, MI.*
- Prosperi, J.D.H. & Piazza, S.V. (2004). Going Beyond Tolerance. Symposium presented at St. Clair College Colloquium on Diversity, Windsor, ON.*
- Piazza, S.V. (2002). Focus on Literacy. Professional Development Workshops provided for Windsor-Essex Catholic District Schools, Windsor, ON.*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Department Service

SPLS Website Committee, 2009 - present
Search Committee for SPLS Chair, 2008/2009
Faculty Senate (Substitute Senator for SPLS Department), Fall 2007
SPLS Sabbatical Review Committee, 2006
Editorial Board, *Reading Horizons*, Western Michigan University, 2005
Co-Presenter of Literacy Studies Unit Workshop for Part-time Faculty, 2006

College of Education and Human Development Service

International Education Committee, 2010 – present
Race Exhibit Community Leadership Planning Committee, 2007 – 2009
Elementary Education Committee Member/Literacy Studies Unit Representative, 2006 – 2008

Doctoral Dissertation Committees

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Bernice Patterson, CECP, 2010 – present
Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Katharine Colles, CECP, 2009 – present
Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Sara Greene, CECP, 2009 - present
Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Brandi Pritchett, CECP, 2008-present
Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member for Shannon Mortimore, English Ed, 2008-2009

Western Michigan University Service

Advisory Board Member, Migrant Education Research Initiative, 2009 – present
Academic Integrity Committee, SPLS Department Representative, 2006-2009
University Committee for Leadership on Diversity, Social Justice, and Inclusion, 2007 – 2009
Faculty delegate/attendee for the 18th Annual Equity in the Classroom Conference, Big Rapids, MI. March 30 & April 1, 2008
Ism Table Talk Monthly Co-host, Fall 2007 – 2008
Presenter, WMU Research and Creative Activities Day, Fetzer Center, April 2007
Lee Honors College, Chair of Honor's Thesis Project for Christina Harning & Jenna Hiller, 2006 – 07

Local Community Service

Member, Kent County Literacy Council, Michigan Reading Association
Member, Board of Directors, Children's Defense Fund – Kalamazoo Freedom School, 2010 – present
Member, Board of Directors, Kalamazoo Chapter of Parents for Public Schools, 2010 – present
Family Literacy Night Coordinator, Douglas Community Center & Boys and Girls' Club, Kalamazoo, MI, 2010
WMU Representative for community SCOPE project (Securing Children's Opportunities, Possibilities, and Empowerment) Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative, literacy tutoring, 2007 – present
Participant in Anti-Racism Training with Crossroads and Kalamazoo ERAC/CE, 2007 – 2008
Kentwood Public Schools Parent Advisory Council (KPAC). (District Level), 2007-2009

State Service

Member-at-Large, Board of Directors, Michigan Reading Association, present
Candidate for Vice President, Michigan Alliance of Reading Professors, present
Member, Board of Directors, Michigan Alliance of Reading Professors, 2010 - present
Supplemental Education Service (SES) Provider Representative, State of Michigan, 2009 – 2010
Michigan Reading Association's Professional Development Committee, 2009 - present

Member of the Editorial Review Board, Michigan Reading Journal, 2008 – 2010
Review Team Chair, Michigan Department of Education, Reviews of state-wide initial certification
National Service

Guest Editor, Struggling Reader Issue for *Reading Writing Quarterly*, 2010
Book review/endorsement for Heibert (2009) *Reading more, reading better*. Guilford Press.
Member of the Editorial Review Board, *READ: Reading Exploration and Discovery*, Louisiana Reading Association Journal, 2008 – present
National Reading Conference, Field Representative, 2007 - present
National Reading Conference Proposal Reviewer. 2005-present

International Service

Member of the Albert Kingston Award Committee, Literacy Research Association (LRA) 2010 - present
Member of Research Grant Review Committee for International Reading Association, 2010 – present
Language and Literacy Education Delegate from WMU for China Visit in November 2009, Eisenhower People to People Citizen/Professional Delegation.
Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board Literacy Committee (2004-05)
Book review of *Essay Essentials* for Thomson Nelson Publishing, Canada (April, 2004)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2008 – present	Michigan Alliance of Reading Professors (MARP)
2006 – present	American Educational Research Association (AERA)
2003 – present	Literacy Research Association (LRA)
2002 – present	Michigan Reading Association (MRA)
2002 – present	Women in Literacy and Life Assembly (WILLA)
2001 – present	National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
2001 – present	Whole Language Umbrella Association (WLU)
2001 – present	International Reading Association (IRA)
2005 – 2008	Ethnographic and Qualitative Research in Education (EQRE)
1997 – 2005	Ontario College of Teachers (OCT)
2001 – 2002	Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)