

Susan V. Piazza, Ed. D.
Assistant Professor of Literacy Studies
Coordinator, Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center & Clinic
Western Michigan University
College of Education
3407 Sangren Hall
Kalamazoo, MI 49008
susan.piazza@wmich.edu

Office (269) 387-3578

Home (616) 554-5035

AREAS OF RESEARCH & SPECIALIZATION

Pre-service and In-service teacher development
Sociocultural & Critical Issues in Literacy
Comprehension Assessments
Reading Clinic/Literacy Tutoring
Migrant families and literacy experiences

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

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

ACCREDITATIONS

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

2005 – present *Assistant Professor of Literacy Studies*
 Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies
 Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

2008 – present Coordinator, Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center & Clinic
 Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies
 Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

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|-------------|--|
| 2004 – 2005 | <i>Full-Time Lecturer in Reading</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 Professor</i> , St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology, Windsor, ON |
| 2000 – 2002 | <i>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 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 Grade School, Windsor, ON |

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS & ACTIVITIES

Peer Reviewed Publications

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

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

Submitted for publication

Piazza, S. V. and Hall, L. A. (2008). Literacy and equity: Insights from teachers and teacher educators. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Piazza, S. V. (2008). Retelling identities: Beyond comprehension assessments. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Proserpi, J.H. and *Piazza, S.V.* (2008). Critiquing readiness: A conceptual analysis of teacher dispositions toward diversity. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Publications in progress:

Piazza, S. V. (2008). Culturally responsive reading assessments: A critique of retellings, comprehension questions, and student interviews. Manuscript in preparation.

Piazza, S.V. (2008). Critical lessons on diversity in a rural second-grade classroom (working title). Manuscript in preparation.

Piazza, S. V. & Duncan, L. (2008). Literacy tutoring with at-risk youth (working title). Manuscript in preparation.

HONORS & AWARDS

2007 *Outstanding Dissertation of the Year Award*, Finalist. International Reading Association.

PRESENTATIONS

Peer Reviewed

- Piazza, S. V. (2009). Critical lessons on diversity in a rural second-grade classroom. Presentation at the *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 Conference*, 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. and Hermann-Wilmarth, J.(2007). Using controversial children's literature. Presentation at *Michigan Council of English Teachers (MCTE) Bright Ideas Annual Conference*, Lansing, 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. (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 Conference*, 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 Conference*, Orlando, FL.

Invited Presentations

Piazza, S.V. (2008). Professional Development, High School Content Area Literacy, Baldwin Public Schools, 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.

SERVICE ACTIVITY

College and University

Coordinator of the Dorothy J. McGinnis Reading Center & Clinic (2008 – present)
Search Committee for SPLS Chair, 2008/2009
Doctoral Dissertation Committee, Shannon Mortimore, English Ed, 2008-present.
Doctoral Dissertation Committee, Brandi Pritchett, CECP, 2008-present
WMU Faculty delegate/attendee for the 18th Annual Equity in the Classroom Conference, Big Rapids, MI. (March 30 & April 1, 2008)
University Committee for Leadership on Diversity, Social Justice, and Inclusion, 2007 – present
Ism Table Talk Monthly Co-host, Fall 2007 – present
Race Exhibit Community Leadership Planning Committee, 2007 – present
Presenter, WMU Research and Creative Activities Day, Fetzer Center, April 2007
Faculty Senate (Substitute Senator for SPLS Department), Fall 2007
Academic Integrity Committee, SPLS Department Representative (2006-present)
Elementary Education Committee Member/Literacy Studies Unit Representative (2006 – present)
Lee Honors College, Chair of Honor's Thesis Project for Christina Harning & Jenna Hiller (2006 – 07)
SPLS Sabbatical Review Committee (2006)
Co-Presenter of Literacy Studies Unit Workshop for Part-time Faculty (2006)
Guest Editor, *Reading Horizons*, Western Michigan University (2005)

State, National, and International

Member of the Editorial Review Board, Michigan Reading Journal, 2008 – present
Member of the Editorial Review Board, *READ: Reading Exploration and Discovery*, Louisiana Reading Association Journal. 2008 – present
Coordinator of SCOPE (Securing Children's Opportunities, Possibilities, and Empowerment), WMU Literacy Tutoring, in partnership with Kalamazoo Community Foundation, Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI), and JEHT Foundation, 2007-present
Field Council Representative, National Reading Conference, 2007 – present
Review Team Chair, Michigan Department of Education, Reviews of state-wide initial certification Reading courses, 2007-08
Anti-Racism Training with Crossroads and Kalamazoo ERAC/CE, 2007
National Reading Conference Proposal Reviewer. 2005-present
Kentwood Public Schools Parent Advisory Council (KPAC), District Level, 2007-08

Michigan Alliance of Reading Professors, Active Member, 2006- present
Liaison with Grand Rapids Public Schools and EUP, 2006
Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board Literacy Committee and PD Developer, 2001-02
Book review of *Essay Essentials* for Thomson Nelson Publishing, (April, 2004)

GRANT RELATED WORK

Piazza, S. V. & Baer, A. (2005). *Continuous improvement of academic and instructional community in literacy education*. President's Innovation Fund. Unfunded.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

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|----------------|---|
| 2007 – present | Michigan Alliance of Reading Professors (MARP) |
| 2003 – present | National Reading Conference (NRC) |
| 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) |
| 2006 – 2007 | American Educational Research Association (AERA) |
| 1997 – 2005 | Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) |
| 2001 – 2002 | Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI) |