

Melissa A. Antonelli, Ph.D.

Department of Curriculum and Instruction
College of Education
Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431
Email: mantonel@fau.edu

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Florida Atlantic University, 2023

Major: Curriculum and Instruction

Area of Specialization: LGBTQ issues in education and inclusive curriculum

Dissertation Title: *The Educator Perspective: A Case Study Examining the Experiences of LGBTQ Educators with Inclusive Curriculum in K-12 Public Schools*

Montessori Accreditation in Elementary Education, Summit Quest Montessori, 2016

Major: Elementary Montessori Education

Summative Project: Reading Integration into 3rd Grade Public School Curriculum

Master of Education, Florida Atlantic University, 2011

Major: Elementary Education Plus Certification

Minor: Reading Specialization

Bachelor of Science, Duquesne University, 2007

Major: Public Relations and Advertising

Minor: Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Assistant Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida (2024-present)

Visiting Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction, College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida (2023-2024)

Adjunct Professor, Department of Curriculum & Instruction (formerly Teaching and Learning), College of Education, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida (2017-2020)

Montessori Magnet Coordinator and Resource Teacher, S.D. Spady Elementary School, Palm Beach County School District, Delray Beach, Florida (2017-2023)

Classroom Teacher, S.D. Spady Elementary School, Palm Beach County School District, Delray Beach, Florida (2012-2017)

Classroom Teacher, Hagen Ranch Elementary School, Palm Beach County School District, Boynton Beach, Florida (2012-2012)

PUBLICATION IN PRINT

Referred Journal Articles

Antonelli, M. A., & Sembiante, S. F. (2022). A systematic review of research on LGBTQ educators' experiences and LGBTQ curriculum in K-12 U.S. public schools. *Multicultural Education Review*, 14(2), 134-152. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2005615X.2022.2087031>

WORKS CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Referred Journal Articles

Antonelli, M. A. (Under review). Drag Queens and Social Justice: Analyzing LGBTQ Representation in Children's Literature Through Critical Literacy. *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*.

Antonelli, M. A. (Under review), Book Review: *LGBTQ Youth and Education Policies and Practices*, by Cris Mayo, *Voices of Reform: Educational Research to Inform and Reform*.

Referred Book Chapters

Antonelli, M. A. (2024, in revision) Chapter 15: Traditional Assessment: Why is it inappropriate? In E. N. W. Ariza (Ed.) *Not for ESOL teachers: What every classroom teacher needs to know about the linguistically, culturally, and ethnically diverse student*. (5th Ed). Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing.

WORKS IN PREPARATION

*Publications with doctoral student advisee

**Publication with graduate student

Referred Journal Articles

Antonelli, M. A., Vaughan, M., & **Barrett, M. (In preparation). "Don't Force It": An Action Research Study on AI Integration in Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Education Coursework. *Contemporary Issues in Technology and Teacher Education*.

Nightengale-Lee, B., & **Antonelli, M. A.**, & *Zito, T. (In preparation). 'Getting' into Necessary

Trouble': Demystifying Florida's Book Banning Legislation to Challenge Censorship in Literacy Education. *Rethinking Schools*.

Antonelli, M. A. (In preparation). Navigating the frontier of the academy: Reconciling My LGBTQ identity with my educational practices. *Educational Journal of Living Theories*.

Antonelli, M. A. (in preparation). The educator perspective: LGBTQ educator experiences with sexual identity in U.S. K-12 public schools. *Equity and Excellence in Education*.

REFEREED PRESENTATION AND PROCEEDINGS

*Presentation with graduate student

*Presentation with doctoral student advisee

International

Antonelli, M. A., Vaughan, M., & Barrett, M. (March, 2025) "Don't Force It": An Action Research Study on AI Integration in Undergraduate and Graduate Teacher Education Coursework. Paper presented at Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE). Orlando, FL. (Refereed)

Dernikos, B., Ferguson, D., Bailey, E., **Antonelli, M.A.,** Nightengale-Lee, B., & *Zito, T. (2024, December). Literacy as civil-rights agencies: Refusing and reorienting the narrative of *banned or challenged* text. Panel member for discussion at the annual conference of the Literacy Research Federation (LRA). Atlanta, GA. (Refereed)

INVITED NON-REFEREED PRESENTATION AND PROCEEDINGS

Regional/Local Presentations (Not Paid)

Antonelli, M.A. (2024, August). *A journey of "Queering": Challenging and transforming research and self*. Lecture, EDF 7578 Critical Foundations of Education Inquiry. Florida Atlantic University.

Antonelli, M.A. (2024, May). *LGBTQ+ educators' perspective on policy, practice, Curriculum and strategies for the classroom*. Invited keynote speaker for Connected Martin.

Antonelli, M.A. (2024, April). *Understanding LGBTQ issues in education*. Invited keynote speaker for Everyday Teaching 4 Joy & Justice, Lake Worth, FL.

Antonelli, M.A. (2023, August). *LGBTQ issues in education*. Invited keynote speaker, Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Induction, West Palm Beach, FL.

Antonelli, M.A. (2020, March). *Queer research: improving the representation of LGBTQ educators and inclusion of LGBTQ curriculum in K-12 public schools*. Presented at the Florida Atlantic College of Education Research Symposium, Boca Raton, FL.

Antonelli, M.A. (2020, November). *An overview of Montessori education and philosophy in early Childhood classrooms*. Lecture, EEC 3214 A Blended Curriculum Birth – Age 8. Florida Atlantic University.

Antonelli, M.A. (2020, October). *LGBTQ issues and Transgender rights in schools concerning people, curriculum, and policy*. Lecture, EDF 3610 Education in Multicultural Society. Florida Atlantic University.

Antonelli, M.A. (2019, October). *An overview of Montessori education and philosophy in early childhood classrooms*. Lecture, EEC 3214 A Blended Curriculum Birth – Age 8. Florida Atlantic University.

Antonelli, M.A. (2017, January). *Literacy Toolkits: Anchor charts, teacher notebooks, and more*. Lecture, Literacy Fest. Palm Beach County School District.

Antonelli, M.A. (2017, November). *Guided reading instruction*. Lecture, AIT Student Workshop. Florida Atlantic University.

Invited Presentations (Paid)

Nichols, B., **Antonelli, M.A.**, & Butcher, L. (2025, February). Everyday science and nature journaling: Nurturing literacy skills in science students. A professional learning workshop will be presented at Grassy Waters Preserve.

COURSES TAUGHT AT FAU

Undergraduate Courses Taught

LAE 4353	Language Arts and Literature: Birth-Grade 8
RED 4348	Supervised Reading Practicum [Co-designed 2017, Redesigned 2023] *
RED 4750	Reading Development 2: Grades 3 - 8 *
RED 4554	Reading Diagnosis and Remediation: PreK-Grade 8 *

*Developed an online version of the course

ADVISING

Current Doctoral Dissertation Committee Membership (1)

Talia, Zito, Committee member. *Power, policy, and the politics of censorship: A critical policy discourse analysis of LGBTQ+ inclusive book challenges*. Committee member. Graduation expected Fall, 2025.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Service to the Institution

Department/School service

Ad Hoc Committee for Doctoral Qualitative Exams (Fall 2024), Member

Ad Hoc Committee for Doctoral Courses (Fall 2024), Member

Patterson Scholarship Committee (Fall 2023-present), Member

Wilson Literacy Planning Team (Fall 2023-present), Member

Undergraduate Advisory Council (Fall 2023-present), Member

Masters Advisory Council (Fall 2023-present), Member

Doctoral Advisory Council (Fall 2023-present), Member

Commencement Ceremony (Fall 2023, Spring 2024), Department Representation

Professional Engagement Event (Fall 2023), Faculty Representative

Summer Reading Endorsement Academy Committee (Fall 2019-Spring 2020), Member

College Service

Early Childhood Search Committee (Spring 2024), Attendee

Choose FAU Event (Spring 2024), Faculty Representative

Listening Session Ad-Hoc (Spring 2024), Committee Member

DOE Reading Endorsement Matrices (Fall 2023- Spring 2024), Committee Member

Undergraduate Orientation (Fall 2023), Faculty Representative

COE Student Achievement Council (Fall 2020- Spring 2021), Vice President

COE 20th Annual Research Symposium (Spring 2021), Co-Organizer

COE Student Achievement Council (Fall 2019-Spring 2020), Treasurer

University Service

Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (Fall 2024-present), Affiliate Faculty

Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Center (Fall 2024-present), Affiliate Faculty

Faculty Assembly: Honors and Awards Committee (2023- Present), Member

Service to the Discipline/Profession

Scholarly Review Activity

Journal of Multilingual Educational Research, Reviewer, (Fall 2024)

Florida Journal of Educational Research, Reviewer, (2021-present)

Journal of Literacy and Technology, Reviewer, (Summer 2024)

Florida Virtual School, Reviewer, (Fall 2020)

Professional Memberships

American Educational Research Association (AREA)

Division C Member Learning and Instruction (Spring 2025-Fall 2025)

Division B Member Curriculum Studies (Spring 2024-Fall 2024)

SIGS: Queer Studies, Writing and Literacies

Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Member (DKG)

Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society Rho Omega Chapter

National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME)

Literacy Research Association (LRA)

National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)

Human Rights Campaign (HRC)

Service to the Community/Public

S.D. Spady Elementary School Long-Term Tutor (2023-present)

S.D. Spady Elementary School Professional Development, Chairperson (2016-2024)

S.D. Spady Elementary School Leadership Team (2015-2023)

Palm Beach County School District Project Ignite, Administrator Designee (2020-2023)

Palm Beach County School District Accreditation, Point of Contact (2022)

Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Committee Member for Dress for Success Event (2020)

S.D. Spady School Elementary School Advisory Council, Chair (2017-2019)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Scholarship to attend the Faculty Success Program (FSP) National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD) (Fall 2024), awarded by Florida Atlantic University Office of the Provost.

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Florida Educator Certification

Elementary Education K-6

Reading Endorsement K-12

English for Speakers of Other Languages Endorsement

Clinical Educator, Palm Beach County School District

Reading Certification

Leveled Literacy Intervention

Spire Intervention

Fountas and Pinnell Reading Running Record

Leadership Certification

CSTAG Threat Assessment

District Point of Content Accreditation

Violence Intervention Techniques

Marzano Administration Observation Certification

Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt Certified

Additional Educational Certification

Google Educator

Youth Mental Health First Aid Certified

Culturally Responsive Teacher

Positive Behavior Intervention

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program)