

Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program,
Middle Tennessee State University

Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program

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Faculty Profile: Dr. Mohammed Albakry



Dr. Albakry is a Professor of Applied Linguistics and an affiliate faculty in the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program at MTSU. He has held grants and research fellowships from Fulbright, the National Endowment for the Arts, Hanban

China, and the University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute. His peer-reviewed papers have appeared in numerous international journals including *Journal of Language & Literature*, *English World-Wide*, *World Englishes*, *Educational Theory*, and *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*, among others. Dr. Albakry's scholarly work generally takes up the intersection between the descriptive and prescriptive dimensions of language use, ideology in media discourse, theory and practice in translation studies, and language policies and politics in multilingual contexts.

Dr. Albakry is excited about joining

the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program and teaching Essentials of Linguistics. He also has plans about expanding the program's course offerings. Recently he proposed a 7000 level course on multilingualism and literacy, a class he looks forward to teaching soon. By examining issues of relevance for literacy educators who need to work with linguistically and culturally diverse groups, the course conceptualizes multilingual literacies as a valued resource rather than a deficit. The course will also explore the relationship between multilingualism and literacy and the interplay of the dominant forces involved in shaping this often

Sawyer-Rudler Grant

Dr. Diane J. Sawyer, for herself and on behalf of her nephew Michael C. Rudler, established the Fellowship for Research in Literacy Studies to honor the memory of Michael and Camile Sawyer and Delores Sawyer Rudler. This fellowship offers the means to carry forward the commitment of their family to the attainment of literacy for all. It was established to support doctoral student and/or faculty research in Literacy Studies. Dr. Sawyer held the Katherine Davis Murfree Chair of Excellence in Dyslexic Studies from 1989 until her retirement in 2010. During that time, the TN Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia was established in 1993. Dr. Sawyer also proposed the establishment of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program and she served as the first director of the program.

The 2015 award recipient is Jennifer Cooper. Applications for next year's award are due March 31.

GOT NEWS?

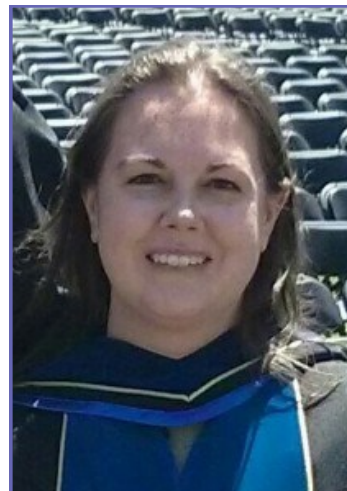
We would like to publish your news in our newsletters. Please let us know if you have published, presented, or performed other newsworthy events!

Also, if you have questions regarding the program, please email us and we will try to provide the answers in the next newsletter.

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Alumni News: Davonna Thomas

After graduating with her doctorate in May 2013, Davonna adjuncted at MTSU and Motlow State Community College for one semester. She then accepted a full-time faculty position at Coastal Carolina Community College in Jacksonville, North Carolina. There, she serves as an English instructor and Developmental Reading & English (DRE) Coordinator. She helped to develop curricula, course materials, and exams for four new developmental courses in response to the North Carolina Community College System Developmental Reading & English redesign.



Fall Semester Dates

Spring registration begins
November 9, 2015

Thanksgiving break
November 25-27, 2015

Last day of classes
December 2, 2015

Final Exams
December 4-10, 2015

Davonna published a peer-reviewed article this year in which she discussed how the shift in developmental reading and writing instruction at the college level (i.e., integration, acceleration, increased rigor, etc.) is creating new, exciting opportunities for developmental instructors and librarians to collaborate. She recently co-presented at the North Carolina Library Association (NCLA) Conference, where she discussed a scaffolded approach to developmental information literacy instruction.

Fall/Spring Conferences

Upcoming Conferences

Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA), New Orleans, LA
February 10-12, 2016

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, D.C.
March 2-5, 2016

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Calls for Papers

Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL
Deadline: 12/1/2015 (symposia); 1/31/2016 (posters)

Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Porto, Portugal
Deadline: Posters & Spoken Papers: 12/15/2015

Psychometric Society, Asheville, NC
Deadline: 3/1/2016

[http://
www.mtsu.edu/
literacy/](http://www.mtsu.edu/literacy/)

Presentations

- Clemens, N., Simmons, L., Davis, J., Simmons, D., & Oslund, E.L. (2015, February). What do reading comprehension tests measure with struggling adolescent readers? Spoken panel presentation at the Pacific Coast Research Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Coggins, J. (2015). Application of item response theory (IRT) to high school reading comprehension assessment. Poster session presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Hawaii.
- Coggins, J., Cooper, J., & Kim, J. K. (July, 2015). *Psychometric analyses of high school reading comprehension assessments: Comparisons using Classical Test Theory (CTT) and Item Response Theory (IRT)*. Poster session presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Hawaii.
- Davis, J. L., Fogarty, M., Oslund, E.L., Simmons, D., Anderson, L., & Clemens, N. (2015, February). Exploration of implementation fidelity in the context of a reading comprehension intervention. Poster presented at the Pacific Coast Research Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Davis, J.L., & Oslund, E.L. (2015, April). Role of fidelity of implementation in reading comprehension interventions for struggling readers. Poster presented at Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, San Diego, CA.
- Elleman, A. M., Barth, A., & Oslund, E.L. (2015, February). 'It's elementary, my dear Watson' - except, of course, when trying to discover what works for improving comprehension in adolescent readers: Evaluating the impact of the reading detectives program, a multi-strategy inference intervention for adolescents. Spoken panel presentation at the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Coast Research Conference in San Diego, CA.
- Elleman, A. M., & Talbert, S. (2015, April). Searching for deeper meaning: Evidence-based inference strategies for increasing the reading comprehension of struggling readers. Spoken presentation at the southern regional International Dyslexia Association, Nashville, TN.
- Fogarty, M., Anderson, L., Simmons, D.C., Davis, J.L., Oslund, E.L., Clemens, N., & Simmons, L. (2015, April). Investigating the effects of an Ipad enhanced comprehension intervention for adolescents with reading difficulties. Spoken panel presented at Exceptional Children Convention and Expo, San Diego, CA.
- Fogarty, M., Simmons, D., Anderson, L., Davis, J., Oslund, E.L., & Simmons, L. (2015, February). An examination of the effects of a technology-mediated intervention on adolescent struggling readers' comprehension. Spoken panel presentation at the Pacific Coast Research Conference, San Diego, CA.

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Presentations

- Fotidzis, T. S., & Kim, J. K. (July, 2015). Item validation for a 5th grade CCSS reading comprehension test for SpEd and non-SpEd students. Poster session presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Hawaii.
- Ki, E.-J., Park, H., & Kim, J. K. (2015, August). *A Reliable and Valid Measure of Strategic Decision*. Paper presented at Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication at San Francisco, CA.
- Kim, J. K., & Fotidzis, T. S. (July, 2015). Differential item functioning (DIF) analysis for the second grade E2L and non-E2L students on a reading comprehension test. Poster session presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Hawaii.
- Kim, Weon. (2015). Comparisons of IRT and TRT models for a testlet-based test of eighth-grade reading comprehension. Poster session presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Hawaii.
- Moon, H., Kotz, S., & Magne, C. (2015). Regular meter facilitates semantic integration during silent reading. Poster presentation at the Seventh Meeting of the Society for the Neurobiology of Language, Oct 14-17, Chicago, IL.
- Oslund, E.L., Simmons, D., & Clemens, N. (2015, February). Multicomponent models of struggling and adequate adolescent readers' comprehension. Spoken panel presentation at the Pacific Coast Research Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Oslund, E.L., Simmons, D.C., & Clemens, N. (2015, July). Multicomponent reading comprehension models: A latent profile analysis of struggling and adequate adolescent readers. Poster session presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Hawaii.
- Rollins, A., & Oslund, E.L. (2015, April). Linguistic input of fathers during a picture book reading activity. Poster presented at Play Symposium, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
- Rollins, A., Oslund, E.L. (2015, March). What are the differences in language use between mothers and fathers during child interaction. Poster presented at MTSU Scholar's Week Poster Session, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Rollins, A., Wallace, K., Oslund, E.L. (2015, February). Comparing text complexity in narrative and expository passages on TCAP and NAEP reading tests. Poster presented at Middle Tennessee State University Literacy Conference, Murfreesboro, TN.
- Thompson, P., Elleman, A. L., & Kim, J. K. (July, 2015). *Scaffolding emergent literacy skills in pre-kindergarten through writing instruction*. Poster session presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading, Hawaii.

Publications

- Clemens, N. H., Davis, J. L., Simmons, L.E., Oslund, E.L., & Simmons, D.C. (2015). Interpreting secondary students' performance on a timed, multiple-choice reading assessment: The prevalence and impact of non-attempted items. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, 33, 154-165. doi:10.1177/0734282914547493
- Cornett, R. P., & Kim, J. K. (2015). Psychometric analysis of the Elementary Experience Scale and its predictability of elementary literacy scores. *Scientia Et Humanitas*, 5, 91-104.
- Moon, H., & Magne, C. (2015). Noun/verb distinction in English stress homographs: An ERP study. *NeuroReport*, 26, 753-757.
- Oslund, E.L., Simmons, D.C, Hagan-Burke, S., Simmons, L.E., Coyne, M.D., Kwok, O., & Taylor, A. (2015). Can curriculum-embedded measures predict the later reading achievement of kindergarteners' at risk of reading disability? *Learning Disability Quarterly*, 38, 3-14. doi:10.1177/073194871
- Seo, D. G., Kim, J. K., & Kim, K. (2015). Characteristics of item parameter estimation for the multidimensional item response theory (MIRT). *Korean Journal of Psychology: General*, 34, 619-640
- Simmons, D. C., Kim, M., Kwok, O., Coyne, M. D., Simmons, L. E., Oslund, E.L.,...Rawlinson, D. (2015). Examining the effects of linking student performance and progression in a tier 2 kindergarten reading intervention. *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, 48, 255-270. doi:10.1177/00222194134970974524752

Awards

Joanne Coggins received a grant for \$2000.00 from APM, Inc. \$995.00 of the grant was used to purchase Xcalibre 4.2 (psychometric software), and the rest helped fund travel to the 2015 Annual Conference of the Society for the Scientific Study of Reading in Hawaii.

Congratulations to two of the Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program's recent graduates—Dr. Rachel L. Peay Cornett and Dr. Penny Thompson—for being selected to serve on the state's Early Literacy Council.

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Program News

Eleven new students were admitted to the program in Fall 2015.

The following students successfully completed the practicum:
Spring 2015 – Zack Barnes, Kim Bell, Wencheng Hu, Heechun Moon

Summer 2015 – Laura Briggs, Joanne Coggins, Perry Loudon

The program **congratulates** the following students for passing the preliminary examination:

Casey Brasher, Joanne Coggins, Melanie Maxwell, Heechun Moon, Tyra Pickens, and Summer Talbert

Upcoming Events . . .

The Literacy Studies Ph.D. Program

presents

4th Annual MTSU Literacy

Research Conference

January 30, 2016

Proposal Deadline: December 5, 2015

FAMILY DAY

