

Updated: June 2025

James Avery Hunt Smith

He/They

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Education

- Simmons University** MAs in Children's Literature and Teaching *May 2024*
- Thesis: *Trauma, Innocence, and Sideways Growth in Picturebooks about Boys in Dresses*
- Universidad de Alcalá** MA in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language *June 2022*
- Thesis: *Español en (con)texto: El género en la Literatura Infantil y Juvenil*
- Carleton College** BA in English and Linguistics *June 2019*
- English Thesis: *Disruptive reading in the K-3 classroom*
- Linguistics Thesis: *Radical multilingualism in Junot Díaz's The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*
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Publications

- Picturing Change** *Summer 2026*
• Abstract accepted for the *Engaging Young People in the Climate Emergency through Authentic Texts* with Brill Education
- (Trans)mediating Nimona** *Winter 2025*
• Abstract accepted for the *Journal of Popular Culture* special issue on Monsters and the Monstrous
- Beyond Visibility** *Spring 2025*
• Article accepted for *The Lion & the Unicorn* special issue on Queer Texts for Youth
- But the Boys are Still Bullies** *Oct 2022*
• Paper in *Boyhood Studies* 15(1-2)
- Possession in Minangkabau** *Mar 2017*
• Paper in Proceedings of 43rd Berkeley Linguistics Society Conference
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Presentations

- Queering the Gap** *Jan 2026*
• Paper to be presented at the 2026 Modern Language Association Conference
- A Natural Queer** *April 2025*
• Paper presented at the 2025 Popular Culture & American Culture Association Conference
- Jacob's New Series** *Sept 2024*
• Paper presented at the 2024 North East Popular Culture Association Conference
- Adapting the Childish Queer in Nimona** *Apr 2024*
• Paper presented at the 2024 Ink & Imagination Graduate Student Conference
- (Trans)mediating Nimona** *Mar 2024*
• Paper presented at the 2024 Popular Culture & American Culture Association Conference
- Embodying Dysphoria** *Nov 2023*
• Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Conference
- How Spain Makes Boys** *Apr 2023*
• Paper presented at 6th Pippi to Ripley Gender and Sexuality in Popular Studies Conference
• Funding: Katie McGrath and J.J. Abrams Family Foundation
- On (Not) Understanding Dress(es) in Contemporary Queer-Themed Picturebooks** *Nov 2022*

- Poster presented at the Dress & Body Association Annual Conference
 - Funding: Katie McGrath and J.J. Abrams Family Foundation
- What We Tell the Kids: Discourses of Womanhood in Spanish Children’s Literature** *July 2022*
- Poster presented at Seventeenth International Conference on the Arts in Society
- When Life is a Game: Metafictive-Sprawl and Kate Milford’s *Greenglass House*** *Jan 2021*
- Paper presented at Master’s in English Regional Conference
- Gender and Sexuality in Spanish Children’s Literature** *Oct 2018*
- Poster presented at Carleton Undergraduate Research Symposium
 - Funding: Larson International Fellowship
- Possession in Minangkabau** *Mar 2017*
- Poster presented at Berkeley Linguistics Society 43rd Annual Conference

Grants and Awards

- Learning and Leadership Grant**, National Education Association, \$3,688.00 *May 2024*
- Support for a teacher action research project exploring internationally published, ecologically themed picturebooks
- Lydia Averhill Hurd Smith Award**, Simmons University *May 2024*
- Recognition of excellence in student teaching
- Travel Grant**, Popular Culture Association, \$800.00 *Mar 2024*
- Support to attend the 2024 Popular Culture Association conference
- McGrath Global Research Grant**, Simmons University, \$3,079.00 *Jan 2023*
- Support for a project developing a catalog of contemporary, queer-themed Spanish picturebooks
- Emerging Scholar Award**, Common Ground Research Network, \$545 *Jul 2022*
- Support to attend the 2022 Arts & Society International Conference
- Kelley International Fellowship**, Carleton College, \$4,000 *June 2018*
- Support to research representations of gender and sexuality in Spanish children’s literature
- Honors in Independent Study**, Carleton College *June 2016*
- Recognition of project on nominal phrases in Minangkabau

Employment

- Teacher**, Florida Ruffin Ridley School, Brookline, MA *Sept 2022 - June 2025*
- Develop and deliver objective-based lessons in fourth grade math, English language arts, science, and social studies, as well as connect these disciplines through larger project-based, social-emotional, and service-based learning opportunities.
- Editor**, Reach the World, Online *Sept 2024 - May 2025*
- Manage small teams of teachers, travelers, and volunteer editors to ensure weekly objectives are met and articles adhere to the expected style guide.
- Adjunct Professor**, Simmons University, Boston, MA *Sept 2024 - May 2025*
- Deliver instruction in writing – including brainstorming, planning, development, and editing – to first-year students at Simmons University.
- English Teaching Assistant**, CEIP Mozart, Spain *Sept 2021 - June 2022*
- Assist teachers of English in Alcalá de Henares public schools through conversation with students, presentation of cultural activities, and facilitation of intercultural exchange.

PreK Literacy Tutor, The Literacy Lab, Springfield, MA (Americorps) *August 2020 - July 2021*

- Implement 1:1, small group, and full group literacy intervention strategies to support early literacy development.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, CEIP Puerto del Rosario, Spain *Sept 2019 - June 2020*

- Assist teachers of English in Canarias public schools through conversation with students, presentation of cultural activities, and facilitation of intercultural exchange.
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Service

Reviewer, Children's Literature CLDC, Remote *Apr 2020 - current*

- Create concise reviews of Spanish, English, and bilingual picture books and Young Adult texts for an educational database.

Questbridge College Mentor, Questbridge, Remote *Dec 2023 - June 2025*

- Mentor undergraduate Questbridge scholars regarding topics ranging from social transitions out of college to job hunting and networking.

Reach the World Travel Blogger, Spain *Sept 2019 - Dec 2019 & Sept 2021 - Jan 2022*

- Cooperated with an American classroom to share my experience living abroad through blogs, photos, and video conferences.
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Skills & Interests

- *Technology*: MS suite, Google suite, Wordpress
- *Languages*: Spanish (advanced)
- *Certifications*: TEFL, Global Education 101, National Geographic Educator, MA Elementary Teaching License (1-6)
- *Interests*: K-12 education, picture books, children's literature, service-learning, social justice education, queer studies