

**María G. Leija, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching  
Early Childhood/Elementary Education  
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***Curriculum Vitae***

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**EDUCATION BACKGROUND**

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Ph.D.	May 2017, Curriculum and Instruction, Bilingual/Bicultural Education, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX  Emphasis area: elementary Latina/o preservice and in-service teachers’ pedagogical literacy practices in Spanish/English bilingual classrooms.  Dissertation title: <i>Interactive Read Alouds: Developing Literacy in Bilingual Second Grade Classrooms</i>
M.A.	2007, Bilingual Education.  Boise State University, Boise, ID
B.A.	2003, Bilingual Education, ESL.  Boise State University, Boise, ID

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**CERTIFICATION**

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Certified Teacher of General Education (K-8), State of Idaho, May 2003.  
  
English as a Second Language Certificate, State of Idaho.  
  
Bilingual Education Certificate, State of Idaho.

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**PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

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2019- Current	<b>Assistant Professor</b> , Early Childhood/Elementary Education, Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching, College of Education and Human Development, The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, TX.
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2017- 2019      **Assistant Professor**, Bilingual and Literacy Studies, College of Education and P-16 Integration, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX.

*Undergraduate Level Courses*

READ 3350 Literature & Disciplinary Learning in the Elementary School

READ 3320 Early Literacy Development

*Graduate Level Courses*

RLIT 6305 Conducting Literacy Research (online synchronous)

RLIT 6311 Crossing Borders with Literature for Young People (online)

RLIT 6329 Literacy Assessment & Decision-making (online synchronous)

RLIT 6345 Transnational & Immigrant Literacies (online synchronous)

2015- 2017      **Instructor & Teachers Educating All Multilingual Students (TEAMS) Grant Coordinator**, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.

*Undergraduate Level Courses*

ED 456 Strategies for Teaching Language Arts and Social Studies

ED 483 Developmental Reading

ED 479/579 Linguistics for ESOL/Bilingual Teachers

ED 472/572 Foundations of ESOL/Bilingual Education

Supervised Teacher Candidates

TEAMS Grant, from the U.S. Department of Education Office of English Language Acquisition, supports inservice teachers in obtaining an ESOL endorsement

2009- 2015      **Assistant Instructor, Teaching Assistant, Facilitator, and Graduate Research Assistant**, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

*Undergraduate Level Courses*

EDC 340E Latino Children's Literature for the Bilingual Learner

EDC 670EB Reading/Language Arts Methods

ALD 330 Language in Education

EDC 340D Methods of Teaching Spanish

ALD 325 Second Language Acquisition

EDC 370E Teaching English as a Second Language Methods

	EDC 331 School Organization/Classroom Management
	Supervised Preservice Teachers
	Graduate Research Assistant, <i>Project ESTRE<sup>2</sup>LLA</i> , a model demonstration project focusing on Response to Intervention (RtI) for English Language Learners (ELLs)
2008 – 2009	<b>Teacher</b> , Bilingual First Grade 50/50 Dual Language Program, Served on the Dual Language Committee Bellevue Elementary, Bellevue, ID
2006 – 2008	<b>Teacher</b> , Bilingual & Regular Kindergarten, Assisted in Planning and Implementation of an 80/20 Dual Language Program, Hosted Student Teachers, Taught ELL Adults Reed Elementary, Kuna, ID
2004 – 2006	<b>Teacher</b> , First Grade Sacajawea Elementary, Caldwell, ID
2003 – 2004	<b>Teacher</b> , Sixth & Seventh Grade, Science, Math, and Language Arts Syringa Middle School, Caldwell, ID

#### AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award, UTSA Graduate School, \$2,000
2025	Teaching Excellence Award Nominee, UTSA
2025	Equity in Education Writing Retreat, \$1,000
2022	<i>Bilingual Research Journal</i> 2021 Early Career Reviewer Award
2021-2023	Professional Dyads and Culturally Relevant Teaching (PDCRT), National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), \$2,675
2021	Ethnic Studies Educators' Academy (ESEA), \$1,000
2018-2020	Cultivating New Voices Among Scholars of Color (CNV) Fellow, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), \$1,200
2018	Graduate Research Assistant, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
2018	Travel Award, Faculty Travel Support Program, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, \$800
2018	Summer Writing Program, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, \$500

2018	Travel Award, Faculty Travel Support Program, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, \$800
2017	Travel Award, Faculty Travel Support Program, The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, \$600
2017	Faculty Mini-research Grant, Project: <i>Reflections on Teacher Education Practices of First-Year Tenure Track Professors at an HSI</i> , The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, \$1,200
2016	Travel Award, Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Committee, Literacy Research Association (LRA), \$600
2011	Alba A. Ortiz and James R. Yates President's Associates Endowment, \$1,000
2010	Travel Stipend, Division G Graduate Student Committee, American Educational Research Association (AERA), \$200

## RESEARCH/SCHOLARLY SUMMARY

### PUBLISHED REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

\*denotes graduate student collaboration

Lara, G., Yazan, B., Solís, J., Lindahl, K., McConnell, J., & **Leija, M. G.** (accepted). “You have a master’s degree, but you speak so ghetto”: Secondary content area teachers navigating raciolinguistic ideologies. *Urban Education*. (Impact factor: 1.9)

Johnson, W. F., Vlach, S. K., & **Leija, M. G.** (2024). Enacting reading comprehension: Using diverse literature to engage children’s critical, sociopolitical knowledge. *Reading Research Quarterly* 60(1), 1-22. (Impact factor: 3.9)

**Leija, M. G.**, Guerra, M. J., & Lewis, B. A. (2023). Día de los Muertos: Recognizing heterogeneity in Latinx cultural knowledge. *NABE Journal of Research and Practice*, 1-16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/26390043.2023.2235343>

**Leija, M. G.** & Ramírez, R. (2023). Culturally sustaining interdisciplinary biography project: Pedagogical practices of a third-grade teacher. *Journal of Bilingual Education Research and Instruction, Special Issue*, 3-19.

**Leija, M. G.**, Martinez, M., & DeJulio, S. (2023). Beyond leveled readers: Finding engaging books to support beginning readers. *Texas Journal for Literacy Educators*, 10(1). (Cited: 1)

- DeJulio, S., Martinez, M., & **Leija, M. G.** (2022). Exploring books for beginning readers: Comparing leveled readers and Geisel award books. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-022-01422-2> (Cited: 1)
- Leija, M. G.** (2020). Día de los muertos: Opportunities to foster writing and reflect students' cultural practices. *The Reading Teacher*, (73)4, 543-548. (Cited: 8)
- Fránquiz, M. E., **Leija, M. G.**, & Salinas, C. S. (2019). Challenging damaging ideologies: Are dual language education practices addressing learners' linguistic rights?. *Theory into Practice* 58(2), 134-144. (Impact factor: 2.329; Cited: 37)
- Fregoso Bailon, R. O., Lara, G. P., & **Leija, M. G.** (2019). The idea of Latin American unity from the perspective of peripheral middle school. *Revista Tempos e Espacos em Educacao*, (12)31, 145-164. (Cited: 5)
- Fránquiz, M. E., **Leija, M. G.**, & Garza, I. (2015). "Figuring" bidirectional home and school connections along the biliteracy continuum. *Bilingual Research Journal*, 38(2), 152-171. (Impact factor: 1.680; Cited: 33)
- Lara, G. P., & **Leija, M. G.** (2014). Discussing gender roles and equality by reading Max: The stubborn little wolf. *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, 27 (2), 22-25. (Cited: 13)

#### PUBLISHED BOOK CHAPTERS

- Fránquiz, M. E., & **Leija, M. G.** (2023). Funds of knowledge and funds of identity: Lenses for building language and literacy. In R. J. Tierney, F. Rizvi, & K. Erkican (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of Education (Fourth Edition)* (pp. 159-167). Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-818630-5.07010-X>
- Leija, M. G.** & Fránquiz, M. E. (2021). Building bridges between school and home: Teacher, parents and students examining Latinx immigrant experiences. In G. Onchwari & S. Keengwe (Eds.), *Bridging family-teacher relationships for ELL and immigrant students* (pp. 100-121). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/978-1-7998-4712-0> (Cited: 2)
- Leija, M. G.**, Lara, G. P., Aponte-Safe, G., & Kambara, H. (2020). Reflections on teacher education practices of first-year tenure-track professors at an HSI. In J. M. Schall, P. A. McHatton & E. L. Sáenz (Eds.), *Teacher education at Hispanic-serving institutions: Exploring identity, practice, and culture*. (pp. 21-36). Routledge. (Cited: 5)
- Fránquiz, M. E., **Leija, M. G.**, & Salinas, C. (2020). Challenging damaging ideologies. In J. F. Christian & C. R. Pablo (Eds.), *Dual language education in the US: Rethinking*

*pedagogy, curricula, and teacher education to support dual language learning for all* (pp. 72-84). Taylor and Francis. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780367853242> (Cited: 1)

### UNDER REVIEW

- Leija, M. G.**, Lara, G. P., Ek, L. D., \*Vargas, K., & \*Zepeda, M. (under review). Is migra a word in English: Language brokering and Latinx literacy. *Journal of Literacy Research*.
- Lara, G., \*Vargas, K., **Leija, M. G.**, Alanis, I. & Ek, L.D. (under review). Interactive read alouds: A Space for the emergence of Spanish heterogeneity. *NABE Journal of Research and Practice*
- Leija, M. G.**, \*Cardona, L., & Garcia Rodriguez, R. (under review) *Día de los Muertos: Developing diverse students' bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism*, Chapter, (Editors: Liz Murray and Virginie Jackson) *Perspectives and provocations (Fourth Edition)*
- \*Cardona, L. & **Leija, M. G.**, (under review) *Interactive Read-alouds as an equitable practice for building bilingual children's vocabulary and language*, Chapter, (Editors: Isauro M. Escamilla, Iliana Alanís, and Daniel Meier)

### IN PREPARATION

- Leija, M. G.**, Lara, G. P., Lindahl, K., Solís, J., Yazan, B., & \*de Oliveira Silva, A., Engaging school districts, students, parents, and educators through family literacy events.
- Leija, M. G.**, \*Cardona, L., & Lara, G. P., Culturally sustaining writing workshop: Developing agentic writers. *Language Arts Journal*

### RESEARCH REPORTS, REPRINTS AND OTHER PUBLISHED MATERIALS

- Bulatowicz, D. M., Johnson, H., Latham, I., **Leija, M. G.**, & Powless, J. (2023). 2023 Charlotte Huck award for outstanding fiction for children. *Language Arts*, 101(2), 147-152.  
<https://login.libweb.lib.utsa.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/2023-charlotte-huck-award-outstanding-fiction/docview/2902062903/se-2?accountid=7122>

## SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Leija, M.G.** (January 2025). *Sustaining Students' Herencias, Culturas, e Idiomas Through Culturally Relevant Author Studies*. Invited presentation at the Idaho Association of Bilingual Education Annual Meeting, College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID.
- Leija, M. G.** (April 2024). *Meeting the Academic Needs of Emerging Bilingual Students*. Invited presentation in Professional Capstone, graduate course at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (Virtual talk).
- Leija, M. G.** (October 2023). *Día de los Muertos: Making Connections Between the Home, School, and Community*. Invited presentation in Latino Children's Literature for the Bilingual Learner, undergraduate course at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
- Leija, M. G.** (April 2023). *Linguistic Diversity: Emerging Bilinguals' Linguistic Rights*. Invited presentation in Professional Capstone, graduate course at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (Virtual talk).
- Leija, M. G.** (February 2023). *Examining Students' Responses to Children's Literature and Intergenerational Immigrant Experiences*. Invited presentation in Immigration Theory in Education, graduate course at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
- Leija, M. G.** (January 2023). *Bidirectional Spaces Between the Home and School*. Invited presentation in Elementary Literacy Instruction, undergraduate course at University of South Carolina, SC (Virtual talk).
- Leija, M. G.** (February 2022). *Creating Intentional Bidirectional Home and School Connections*. Invited presentation in Professional Capstone, graduate course at University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA (Virtual talk).
- Leija, M. G.** (March 2021). *Exploring Intergenerational Immigration Experiences Through Literature*. Invited presentation in Immigration Theory in Education, graduate course at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (Virtual talk).
- Leija, M. G.** (September 2020). *Examining the Development of Bilingualism & Biliteracy: Bilingual Educators and Parents Working Together*. Invited presentation in Biliteracy Development of Young Children, graduate course at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL (Virtual talk).

- Leija, M. G.** (April 2020). *Immigration Projects: Bilingual Latinx Students Exploring Intergenerational Experiences Through Literature*. Invited presentation in Immigration Theory in Education, graduate course at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX (Virtual talk).
- Leija, M. G.** (September 2018). *"Figuring" Bidirectional Home and School Connections*. Invited presentation in Literacy and Biliteracy Development, graduate course at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX.
- Leija, M. G.** (April 2018). *Critical Literacy*. Invited presentation in Teaching in Diverse Classrooms, undergraduate course at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, TX.
- Leija, M. G.** (November 2016). *Developing an Immigration Unit*. Invited presentation in Developmental Reading, undergraduate course at Pacific University Oregon, Woodburn, OR.
- Leija, M. G.** (April 2015). *Second Language Acquisition*. Invited presentation in Sociocultural Influences on Learning, undergraduate course at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
- Leija, M. G. & Lara, G.** (November 2014). *Best Practices in Meaningful Elementary Social Studies*. Panel at the annual meeting of the National Council for the Social Studies, Boston, MA.
- Leija, M. G.** (September 2014). *Parental Involvement Through Read Alouds*. Invited presentation in Teaching English as a Second Language Methods, undergraduate course at The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.

#### **PEER-REVIEWED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

- Leija, M. G., Lara, G. P., Lindahl, K., Solís, J., Yazan, B., & \*de Oliveira Silva, A.,** *Caring and Reciprocity: Family Literacy Engagement through University-School Partnerships*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2025, accepted), Denver, CO.
- Leija, M. G., \*Cardona, L., & Lara, G. P.,** *Culturally Sustaining Writing Workshop: Developing Agentic Writers*, Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2025, accepted), Denver, CO.



- Johnson, W. F., Vlach, S. K., & **Leija, M. G.** *Culturally Sustaining Early Literacy Pedagogies and Our Futures*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2025, accepted), Denver, CO.
- Lara, G., Yazan, B., Solís, J., Lindahl, K., McConnell, J., & **Leija, M. G.** “*You have a master’s degree, but you speak so ghetto*”: *Secondary content area teachers navigating raciolinguistic ideologies*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2025, accepted), Denver, CO.
- \*Cardona-Berrio, L. & **Leija, M. G.** *Interactive Read Alouds as Culturally Sustaining Pathways: Culturally Sustaining Children’s Literature and its Intersections with Race and Culture*, Paper presented at the Children’s Literature Assembly Online Research Conference (February 2025), Athens, GA (Virtual conference).
- Leija, M. G.**, Lara, G. P., Lindahl, K., Solís, J., Yazan, B., & \*de Oliveira Silva, A., *University-School Partnerships: Increasing Family Literacy Engagement*. Paper presented at the Southwest Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (February 2025), San Antonio, TX.
- Lara, G., Yazan, B., Solís, J., Lindahl, K., McConnell, J., & **Leija, M. G.** “*What did you say?/Can you repeat yourself? You look Chinese:*” *Secondary Content Teachers Navigating Raciolinguistic Ideologies*. Paper presented at the Southwest Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (February 2025), San Antonio, TX.
- Leija, M. G.**, Lara, G. P., \*Cardona, L., & Garcia Rodriguez R. *Writing Workshop: Agentic Writers Authoring Their Funds of Identity*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2024), Boston, MA.
- Lara, G. P., **Leija, M. G.**, & \*Cardona, L. *Math and Language Arts Culturally Relevant Books: Integrating Math, Language, and Culture*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English-National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Joint Conference Annual Meeting (June 2024), New Orleans, LA.
- Leija, M. G.**, Lara, G. P., & \*Cardona, L. *Examining Literacy and Math Connections in Culturally Relevant Picture Books*. Paper presented at the Early Childhood Institute (April 2024), UTSA
- Johnson, W. F., Vlach, S. K., & **Leija, M. G.** *Sociopolitical Comprehension Instruction: Using Multicultural Children's Literature to Engage Experiential Knowledge as Intellectual*

- Meaning-Making*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2024), Philadelphia, PA.
- Leija, M. G., \*Cardona, L., & Garcia Rodriguez R.** *Día de los Muertos: Developing Children's Biliteracy and Making Cultural Connections*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2023), Columbus, OH.
- Leija, M. G., Lara, G. P., Ek, L. D., Lewis, B. A., Fránquiz, M. E. & Guerra, M. J.** *Illuminating bilingual teachers' pedagogies: Cultivating the languages, literacies, and identities of Latina/o/x students*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2023), Chicago, IL.
- Lara, G. P., **Leija, M. G.**, Fránquiz, M. E. & \*Ochoa Ynostroza, A. *Male, Latino bilingual teacher candidates lived experiences & bilingualism*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Bilingual Education (February 2023), Portland, OR.
- Leija, M. G. & Ek, L. D.** *"Is Migra a Word in English?": Developing Biliteracy through Classroom Language Brokering Practices*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2022), Anaheim, CA.
- Leija, M. G. & Garcia Rodriguez R.** *This Little Light of Mine: Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Practices in Elementary and Early Childhood Education*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2022), Anaheim, CA.
- Leija, M. G. & \*Tovar, I.** *Authoring Teachers' Funds of Identity: Sustaining Dreams*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2022), Anaheim, CA.
- Leija, M. G. & Garcia Rodriguez R.** *Developing Immigration Literacy Units that Center Students' Families' Immigration Knowledge*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of English Homecoming (July 2022), Louisville, KY.
- \*Vargas, K. M., Ek, L. D., Lara, G. P., **Leija, M. G.**, & \*Zepeda, M. *More Than Words: How Read-Alouds Mediate Latina/o/x Emergent Bilingual Students' Content Knowledge and Vocabulary Development*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2022), San Diego, CA.

- Lara, G. P., **Leija, M. G.**, Ek, L. D., \*Vargas, K. M., & Guerra, M. J. *Biliteracy Development in Elementary Bilingual Education Classrooms*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Bilingual Education (February 2022), New York, NY.
- DeJulio, S., **Leija, M. G.**, & Martinez, M. *Exploring Elements of Engagement in Texts for Beginning Readers*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2021), Atlanta, GA.
- Leija, M. G.** *Authoring in Monolingual Anti-Racist Education Spaces*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2021), Louisville, KY (Virtual conference).
- Ek, L. D., \*Vargas, K., **Leija, M. G.**, & Lara, G. P. *Biliteracy Development through School and University Partnerships*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Bilingual Education (April 2021), Houston, TX (Virtual conference).
- Leija, M. G.** *The Impact of Experience and Immigration*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2020), Houston, TX (Virtual conference).
- Leija, M. G.** *Authoring Latinx Preservice Teachers' Hidden Funds of Knowledge*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2020), Houston, TX (Virtual conference).
- Leija, M. G.** *Confluencia de experiencia e inmigración/Confluence of Experience and Immigration*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2020), Denver, CO. <https://ncte.org/press/ncte-annual-convention-goes-virtual/> (Virtual conference).
- Leija, M. G.** *Exploring Día de los Muertos through Children's Literature*. Paper presented at the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Meeting (October 2020), San Antonio, TX (Virtual conference).
- Leija, M. G.** *Latinx Preservice Teachers Authoring Bilingual Texts*. Paper presented at the American Educational Studies Association Annual Meeting (October 2020), San Antonio, TX (Conference canceled).
- Leija, M. G.** *Culturally Relevant Interactive Read Alouds: Examining Pedagogical Practices in Latinx Spaces*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association

Annual Meeting (April 2020), San Francisco, CA. <https://www.aera20.net/> (Conference canceled).

\*Rendon, B. & **Leija, M. G.** *Discussing Immigration Issues Through Children's Literature.*

Presentation at the annual meeting of the San Antonio Area Association for Bilingual Education (February 2020), San Antonio, TX.

**Leija, M. G.** *"Es valiente, agracedida y decidida": Using Mentor Texts to Teach the Biography Genre.* Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2019), Tampa, FL.

**Leija, M. G.** *Developing Bilingual Latinx Students' Oral Language Through Interactive Read Alouds.* Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2019), Tampa, FL.

**Leija, M. G.** *Second Grade Latinx Children's Immigrant Intertextual Connections During Interactive Read-Alouds.* Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2019), Baltimore, MD.

**Leija, M. G.** *Día de los Muertos: Drawing on Lived Experiences and Developing Students' Writing.* Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2019), Baltimore, MD.

**Leija, M. G.,** Fránquiz, M. E., & Garza, X. *Culturally Relevant Author Study: Exploring Xavier Garza's Picture Books.* Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Association for Bilingual Education (October 2019), Corpus Christi, TX.

**Leija, M. G.,** Lara, G. P., Kambara, H. & Aponte-Martinez, G. J. *Reflections of Teacher Education Practices of First-Year Tenure-Track Professors at a Hispanic-Serving Institution.* Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2019), Toronto, Canada.

**Leija, M. G.** *Code Switching in the Bilingual Classroom: Negotiating Conflicting Ideologies.* Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (November 2018), Indian Wells, CA.

Lara, G. P. & **Leija, M. G.** *Considering the Possibilities: Examinations of Preservice Teachers' Discourse of Gender Equality and Queer Inclusion Children's Literature.* Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (November 2018), Indian Wells, CA.

- Leija, M. G. & Lara, G. P.** *Beyond Borders: Expanding Intergenerational Learning Through Storytelling and Authoring in the Bilingual Classroom*. Paper presented at the National Council of Teachers of English Annual Meeting (November 2018), Houston, TX.
- Leija, M. G.** *Read-Alouds on Immigration: Second Graders Learning About Multiple Meanings of Words*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2018), New York, NY.
- Lara, G. P. & Leija, M. G.** *Identity Texts: Literature that Affirms Intersecting Languages and Literacies*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Bilingual Education (March 2018), Albuquerque, NM.
- Leija, M. G. & Lara, G. P.** *Recognizing Heterogeneity in Latino Cultural Knowledge*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2017), Tampa, FL.
- Lara, G. P. & Leija, M. G.** *Culturally Relevant Children's Literature as Mentor Texts*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2017), Tampa, FL.
- Leija, M. G.** *Using Interactive Read Alouds to Discuss Immigration Issues*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Association for Bilingual Education (October 2017), McAllen, TX.
- Lara, G. P. & Leija, M. G.** *Trusting their Intuition and Experience: Latino Teachers' Agency in the Bilingual Classroom*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2017), San Antonio, TX.
- Leija, M. G. & Martinez, M.** *Discussing Immigration Issues through Interactive Read Alouds*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Bilingual Education (February 2017), Dallas, TX.
- Leija, M. G., Fránquiz, M. E., & Lara, G. P.** *"Wetback" was the word they used most and they also used more offensive words": Transformative Practices Through Interactive Read Alouds*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2016), Nashville, TN.
- Fránquiz, M. E. & Leija, M. G.** *"Figuring" Bidirectional Home and School Connections Along the Biliteracy Continuum*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2016), Washington, D.C.

- Leija, M. G.** *Fostering Bidirectionality: Bilingual Education and Mexican Parents*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2015), Carlsbad, CA.
- Leija, M. G. & Lara, G. P.** *Latina/o Parents' Perspectives on Inclusive Literacy Practices in a Third-Grade Bilingual Classroom*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2015), Chicago, IL.
- Lara, G. P. & Leija, M. G.** *"Es como kind of tonta": Critical Encounters in Children's Literature About Gender Equity*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2015), Chicago, IL.
- Espinoza, K., Nuñez, I., Leija, M. G., Chavez, D., Ibarra, K., Saldaña, M., Sifuentes, A., & Gutierrez, B.** *Community and School Environmental Print: Un Mensaje a Nuestros Estudiantes*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Association for Bilingual Education (October 2014), McAllen, TX.
- Leija, M. G.** *Critical Thinking and Para-Phrasing as Strategies for Bridging Literacy, Language, Cultural Knowledge and Parental Involvement*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting (April 2013), Philadelphia, PA.
- Leija, M. G. & Martinez, M.** *Integrating Parents in the Study of Mentor Texts*. Paper presented at the Literacy Research Association Annual Meeting (December 2013), Dallas, TX.
- Peralta, C., Leija, M. G., & Shearer, C.** *Creating Change: A Dual Language Program Flourishing in a Rural Area*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Association of Bilingual Education (February 2008), Tampa Bay, FL.
- Leija, M. G.** *Kuna, Idaho School District: Dual Language Implementation Process*. Presentation at the annual meeting of the Idaho Association of Bilingual Education (October 2007), Twin Falls, ID.

## GRANTING ACTIVITIES

- 2024 Principal Investigator, *A Longitudinal Examination of Retention Through Pláticas with Pre/Inservice Teachers of Color*, Spencer Foundation Grant Request, \$50,000 (unfunded).

- 2024 Principal Investigator, *Examining Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in Language and Literacy Development*, UTSA F&A ILT Faculty Grant Development Award, \$5,000 (funded).
- 2024 Co-Principal Investigator, *Certification and Renewal in Bi/Multilingual Education (CARIBE)*, U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, PI: Lara, G. P., Co-PIs: **Leija, M. G.**, Lindahl, K., Yazan, B., & Solís, J. \$700,000 (unfunded).
- 2023 Affiliated UTSA Faculty, *Project SELFIES: Secondary English Learners and Families*, U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, National Professional Development Grant Program (NPD), PI: Lindahl, K., Co-PIs: Yazan, B., & Solís, J., \$2,400,000 (funded).
- 2021 Co-Principal Investigator, *Bilingual Education and Reading Specialization (BEaRS)*, U.S. Department of Education, Office of English Language Acquisition, PI: Lara, G. P., Co-PIs: Ek, L., Smith, H., Solís, J., Henderson, K., & **Leija, M. G.**, \$2,302,968 (unfunded).

## TEACHING ACTIVITIES

### COURSES TAUGHT

#### Undergraduate Level Courses

ECE 3603 Language and Literacy Acquisition

ECE 3143 Child Growth and Development (online asynchronous)

#### Graduate Level Courses

ECE 5133 Language and Discourse Development in Young Children

ECE 6213 Current Issues in Early Childhood and Elementary Education

ECE 6473 Seminar in Early Childhood and Elementary Education Research

ECE 6503 Theoretical Foundations of Early Childhood and Elementary Education

#### Ph.D. Level Course

ECE 6653/CI 6103 Action Research in Childhood Settings

ILT 7733 Evaluation of Educational Research

## ADVISING

2020-present	Lead Faculty for ECE 3603 Language and Literacy Acquisition
2020-present	MAECE Faculty Advisor (10 students)
Fall 2022-present	Advised GRA (Laura Cardona, working collaboratively on a manuscript)
Spring 2022	Advised GRA (Bruna Damiana Heinsfeld)
Fall 2021	Advised GRA (Luis Montero Moguel)
Spring 2021	Advised GRA (Melinda Zepeda, working collaboratively on a manuscript)
Spring 2020	Advised GRA (Sydney Naini)
Fall 2019	Advised GRA (James Hernandez)
2019-2020	Undergraduate Student Mentoring, Deborah Martinez, IES-UTSA Educational Pathways Faculty Member

## ADVISING IN PROGRESS

### **Dissertation Co-Supervisor or Committee Member (Ph.D. in progress – 9 students)**

University of Texas at San Antonio	Laura Cardona (co-supervisor)
University of Texas at San Antonio	Naomi Rubal (committee member)
University of Texas at San Antonio	Rashanna Tice (committee member)
University of Texas at San Antonio	José Gabriel Bruzón (committee member)
University of Texas at San Antonio	Maria Wilhelm (committee member)
University of Texas at San Antonio	Samantha Leihsing (committee member)
University of Texas at San Antonio	Alexandria Medellin (committee member) 2-23-25
University of Texas at Austin	Mónica Pineda (committee member)
University of Texas at Austin	Dora N. Diaz (committee member)

### **DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER (PH.D. Conferred – 2 students)**

University of Texas at San Antonio	Andrea Leonor Garcia, 2024
University of Texas at Austin	Brenda Ayala Lewis, 2022

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## SERVICE ACTIVITIES

### **DEPARTMENT OF INTEREDISCIPLINARY LEARNING AND TEACHING SERVICE**

#### **Secretary**

2019-2021	Department Secretary
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**Member**

2021-present	DAPCC (Department Academic Policy and Curriculum Committee)
2020-2021	Faculty Search Committee Member, Special Education Position
2019-present	EC-6 and 4-8 Committee Member

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICE****Member**

Spring 2024	Summer Bridging Institute Committee
Spring 2023	Charles Butt Scholarship Review Committee
2021-2023	COEHD Scholarship Selection Committee
2019-2023	Science of Teaching Reading (STR) Review Committee
2019-2020	Literacy Charette/Platica/Talk Committee

**UNIVERSITY SERVICE****Member**

Fall 2024-present	UTSA Committee on Committees
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**NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE****Editorial Review Board Member**

2021-present	Editorial Board Member, <i>Language Arts Journal</i>
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**Journal Reviewer**

2024-present	Reviewer for <i>Reading Research Quarterly</i>
2021-present	Reviewer for <i>Language Arts Journal</i>
2021-present	Reviewer for <i>The Reading Teacher</i>
2013-present	Reviewer for <i>Bilingual Research Journal</i>

**Conference Proposal Reviewer**

2021-present	Conference Proposal Reviewer, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Research Strand
2020-2022	Conference Proposal Reviewer, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Rainbow Strand

2024-present	Conference Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division B - Curriculum Studies/Division B - Section 2: Exploring Past, Present, and Future Curricular Questions
2020-present	Conference Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Critical Perspectives on Early Childhood Education
2019-present	Conference Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Research in Reading and Literacy SIG
2017-present	Conference Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Bilingual Education Research SIG
2017-2019	Conference Proposal Reviewer, American Educational Research Association (AERA), Hispanic Research Issues SIG & Division G- Section 1: Education and Place, Space, Time
2016-2022	Conference Proposal Reviewer, Literacy Research Association (LRA), Area 7: Social, Cultural, and Political Issues of Literacy Practices in and out of School
2018-2019	Conference Proposal Reviewer, Texas Association for Literacy Education (TALE)

## **Member**

2024-present	National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children Committee Chair
2021-2024	National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Charlotte Huck Award for Outstanding Fiction for Children Committee Member
2021-2023	National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Program Committee
2020-2021	English Language Arts Teacher Educators (ELATE) Nominating Committee, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
2020	Children's Literature Assembly (CLA) Research Award Committee, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
2020-2021	Early Childhood Education Assembly (ECEA) Program Committee, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)
2019-2022	Member Regional Committee, Tomás Rivera Children's Book Award

2017-2019	Co-director, Holmes Cadets Program
2011-2016	Webmaster, Hispanic Research Issues SIG, American Educational Research Association AERA

### **Professional Memberships**

(AERA)	American Educational Research Association, Division K – Teacher Education, Division G – Social Context of Education, SIGs: Bilingual Education Research, Research in Reading and Literacy
(NCTE)	National Council of Teachers of English
(LRA)	Literacy Research Association
(ECEA)	Early Childhood Education Assembly
(CLA)	Children’s Literature Assembly
(ELATE)	English Language Arts Teacher Educators
(NABE)	National Association of Bilingual Education
(TABE)	Texas Association for Bilingual Education

## **PUBLIC SERVICE**

### **Local Service**

2020-2022	Guest Speaker for Career Day at Monroe May Elementary
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### **Media Contribution**

2024	Interviewed/quoted in article by Christina Torres Cawdery, “Loving Ourselves and Each Other: NCTE’s PDCRT Program Supports All Students,” <i>Council Chronicle</i> . Media topic: Professional Dyads and Culturally Relevant Teaching (ODCRT) Program. September 2024.
2022	Interviewed/quoted in article by Gail Cornwall, “Eight Best Practices for Teaching in Dual Language and Other Bilingual Programs,” <i>School Library Journal</i> . Media topic: dual-language and bilingual education programs. March 24, 2022.