

SARAH HESSON

Rhode Island College
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EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy, Urban Education, May 2016

The Graduate Center, CUNY (City University of New York), New York, NY

Dissertation: *Bilingual Latino Middle Schoolers on Language and Racialization in the US*

Master of Science in Teaching, Bilingual Childhood Education, May 2007

Fordham University, New York, NY

Bachelor of Arts, Comparative Literature; Minor: Spanish, May 2004

Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of TESOL and Bilingual Education

Co-Director, TESOL and Bilingual Education Programs

September 2020-present

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

Assistant Professor of TESOL and Bilingual Education

Director, TESOL and Bilingual Education Programs (As of September 2016)

September 2015-May 2020

Rhode Island College, Providence, RI

Adjunct Professor, September 2012-May 2015

Bilingual Education and TESOL Programs

Hunter College, New York, NY

Field supervisor, September 2012-May 2015

Bilingual Education Program

Hunter College, New York, NY

Adjunct Professor, Summer 2012

Bilingual Education and TESOL Programs

City College, New York, NY

Bilingual Teacher, September 2007-June 2011

Amistad Dual Language School, New York, NY

Taught Elementary (all subjects) and Middle School (Humanities and Social Studies) in English and Spanish.

Bilingual Teacher, September 2005-June 2007

Academy of Public Relations, Bronx, NY

Taught Middle School Humanities, Math, and Social Studies in English and Spanish.

SARAH HESSON

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CONSULTING

- 2023-present Professional Development Provider for Providence Public School District. Focus: ESOL and bilingual education pedagogy for K-12 educators. In-person and online. Providence, RI.
- 2024 Professional Development Provider for North Providence Public School District. Focus: ESOL pedagogy for 6-8 grade educators. In-person. North Providence, RI.
- 2022-2023 Professional Development Provider for Bristol, Barrington, Warren, & Tiverton Public School Districts. Focus: Translanguaging pedagogy for K-12 educators working with Multilingual Learners. In-person and online. Bristol, RI and Barrington, RI.
- 2022-2023 Professional Development Provider and Consultant for Raíces Dual Language Academy. Focus: Critical dual language bilingual education methods. Development of unit of study, “Me and My Bilingual Community.” Development of Language-Centered Social Justice Standards. Central Falls, RI.
- 2017-2018 Professional Development Provider for Johnston Public School District. Focus: “Teaching and learning with emergent bilinguals” and “Supporting emergent bilinguals across levels”. Johnston, RI.
- 2017 Professional Development Provider for Westerly Public School Administrators. Focus: “Creating a culturally responsive school environment for diverse youth”. Westerly, RI.
- 2016 Consultant and Professional Development Provider for Yonkers Public School District. Focus: Developed Spanish language curriculum and materials for Yonkers Summer Language Academy. Led professional development sessions for participating teachers. Yonkers, NY.
- 2012-2015 Professional Development Provider, Consultant, and Research Assistant, City University of New York- New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals (CUNY-NYSIEB). Focus: Translanguaging pedagogy for k-12 educators working with Multilingual Learners. Created a statewide bilingual database. Organized and hosted webinars for New York State educators. New York, NY. <http://cuny-nysieb.org/>
- 2013 Consultant for Bilingual Common Core Initiative. Focus: Created linguistic demands and identified model texts in both English and Spanish for ESOL and Bilingual Common Core standards for Grades 1-5. Queens College, City University of New York. <https://www.engageny.org/resource/new-york-state-bilingual-common-core-initiative>

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Hesson, S. & Hamman-Ortiz, L. (preparing). “Translanguaging significa libertad”: Cultivating language teacher agency in dual language bilingual education. *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*.

Ascenzi-Moreno, L., **Hesson, S.**, & Menken, K. (2015). “School leadership along the trajectory from monolingual to multilingual,” in *Language and Education*, DOI: 10.1080/09500782.2015.1093499.

Hesson, S. (2013). “Rethinking assessment policies for emergent bilinguals in New York State,” in *Theory, Research, and Action in Urban Education*, Volume 2, Issue 1, available online at <http://traue.commons.gc.cuny.edu/issue-2-fall-2013/hesson>.

SARAH HESSON

BOOK CHAPTERS

Hamman-Ortiz, L. & Hesson, S. (2026). "I became more flexible": Combating English hegemony in dual language bilingual education through translanguaging pedagogy. In H. Uysal & A. Gao (Eds.), *Language Teacher Agency: Trans-Perspective Approaches and Actionable Strategies*. Springer.

Hesson, S. (2022). "Reimagining language policy through the lived realities of bilingual youth," in *Re-making multilingualism: A translanguaging approach*, Bristol, UK: Multilingual Matters.

Woodley, H., Cioè-Peña, M., Hesson, S., & Solorza, C. (2021). "Different places, different issues: Teacher education reimagined through the CUNY-NYSIEB experience," in *Translanguaging and Transformative Teaching for Emergent Bilingual Students: Lessons from the CUNY-NYSIEB Project*, New York: Routledge.

Hesson, S. & Toncelli, R. (2019). "Making the path by walking together: A collaborative approach to advocacy," in *Advocacy in English Language Teaching and Learning*, New York: Routledge.

García, O. & Hesson, S. (2015). "Translanguaging frameworks for teachers: Macro and micro perspectives," in *Multilingualism and Language in Education: Current Sociolinguistic and Pedagogical Perspectives from Commonwealth Countries*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

Hesson, S. (2013). "Ester J. de Jong: Foundations for multilingualism in education: From principles to practice," in *Language Policy*, Volume 12, Issue 4, pp. 367-369.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Hesson, S. & Toncelli, R. (2017, January 26). New rules hurt bilingual students [Editorial]. *Providence Journal*, available online at <http://www.providencejournal.com/opinion/20170126/sarah-hesson-and-rachel-toncelli-new-rules-hurt-bilingual-students>.

Hesson, S., Seltzer, K., & Woodley, H. (2014). *Translanguaging in curriculum and instruction: A CUNY-NYSIEB guide for educators*, published for internal use through CUNY-NYSIEB, CUNY Graduate Center, available online at <http://www.nysieb.ws.gc.cuny.edu/files/2014/12/Translanguaging-Guide-Curr-Inst-Final-December-2014.pdf>.

García, O., Herrera, L., Hesson, S., & Kleyn, T. (2013). *A CUNY-NYSIEB Framework for the Education of Emergent Bilinguals with Low Home Literacy: 4-12 Grades*, published for internal use through CUNY-NYSIEB, CUNY Graduate Center, available online at <http://www.nysieb.ws.gc.cuny.edu/files/2013/05/CUNY-NYSIEB-Framework-for-EB-with-Low-Home-Literacy-Spring-2013-Final-Version-05-08-13.pdf>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025 Hesson, S. & Haman-Ortiz, L. "Purposeful Translanguaging to Support Content Learning in Dual Language Education." La Cosecha Dual Language Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

2025 Hesson, S. "Mindfulness in teaching and learning." Community Development Day, RIC.

SARAH HESSON

- 2024 Hamman-Ortiz, L., **Hesson, S.**, De la Rosa, F., Hall, H., Pueyo, M. R., & Trujillo, H. "Translanguaging Pedagogy in Dual Language Bilingual Education: Considerations, Strategies, and Possibilities." Multistate Association for Bilingual Education (MABE). March 9.
- 2024 **Hesson, S.** "Supporting MLL students at RIC." Community Development Day, RIC.
- 2022 **Hesson, S.**, Toncelli, R. and Rosa, L. "Centering BIPOC Scholarship and Teacher Candidates in a TESOL and Bilingual Education Teacher Preparation Program." Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Boston, MA.
- 2021 **Hesson, S.** "Language Policy Considerations From Bilingual Adolescent Latinx Youth." Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, virtual platform.
- 2020 **Hesson, S.** "Language Policy Considerations From Bilingual Adolescent Latinx Youth." Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA. [Cancelled due to COVID-19.]
- 2018 **Hesson, S.** "Making sense of the intersections of languaging and racialization with bilingual Latinx middle schoolers." Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.
- 2018 **Hesson, S.** "From 'Language as Resource' to 'Language as Lived Reality': A Theoretical Shift Towards Bilingual Communities." Annual Meeting of the National Association for Bilingual Education, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2016 **Hesson, S.** "From "language as resource" towards "language as lived reality": Centering the experiences of bilingual Latino middle schoolers." Annual Meeting of the American Educational Studies Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 Ascenzi-Moreno, L., **Hesson, S.**, & Menken, K. (2015, April). "School leadership along the trajectory from monolingual to multilingual." Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 **Hesson, S.** "Making lemonade from lemons: Social justice test prep." Annual Meeting of the New York Collective of Radical Educators, New York, NY.
- 2015 **Hesson, S.** "Documenting language ideologies of administrators and educators of emergent bilinguals using a new framework." Annual Meeting of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education, White Plains, NY.
- 2014 **Hesson, S.** "Tell me what you really think: Documenting language ideologies in administrators and educators of emergent bilinguals." Annual Meeting of the American Educational Studies Association, Toronto, Canada.
- 2014 Ascenzi-Moreno, L. & **Hesson, S.** "Transforming Leadership Through Language Policy: Translanguaging Pedagogies and Shifts in Discourse." Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2013 Ebe, A., **Hesson, S.**, & Kleyn, T. "Supporting Multilingual Ecologies in Schools: The CUNY-New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals." Annual Meeting of the National Association for Bilingual Education, Orlando, FL.

SARAH HESSON

INVITED KEYNOTES, TALKS, PANELS & WEBINARS

- 2025 Hamman-Ortiz, L. & **Hesson, S.** “Translanguaging significa libertad”: Cultivating language teacher agency in dual language bilingual settings. Invited webinar for the 2024-2025 Research Network organized by the Multistate Association for Bilingual Education (MABE). April 7.
- 2021 **Hesson, S.** Invited to join panel discussion, “*A Praxis of Translanguaging: Centering Children’s Language Practices in/and/with Community,*” at Praxis of UE2021 series at the Urban Education Program at Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY.
- 2019 **Hesson, S.** & Toncelli, R. “*Envisioning Dual Language Bilingual Education in New England*”. Keynote speaker at Pre-Conference Symposium at the Annual Meeting of the Multistate Association for Bilingual Education, Providence, RI.
- 2018 **Hesson, S.** Invited by Congressman Jim Langevin to join panel discussion “*Improving educational outcomes for Rhode Island’s English Learners,*” at Rhode Island College, Providence, RI.
- 2018 **Hesson, S.** & Faria-Tancinco, L. “*Translanguaging in the College Classroom: Engaging Students Using Their Entire Linguistic Repertoire,*” presented at RIC Faculty Development Workshop at Rhode Island College, Providence, RI.
- 2017 **Hesson, S.** “*Bilingual Latino middle schoolers on languaging and racialization in the US,*” presented at Urban Education Lecture Series at Graduate Center, CUNY, New York, NY.
- 2017 **Hesson, S.** Invited to join panel discussion, “*Improving Outcomes for English Language Learners,*” at All In: Providence Education Summit, at Providence Career & Technical Academic, Providence, RI.
- 2015 **Hesson, S.** “*Lessons from the New York State Initiative for Emergent Bilinguals, K-12,*” presented at the Mercy College Symposium on Dynamic Bilingualism, Dobbs Ferry, NY.
- 2014 **Hesson, S.** & Torre, K. “*Implementation and assessment in higher education,*” presented at the Purposeful Pedagogy Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY.

GRANTS

- 2025 **Hesson, S.** Mindfulness meditation for academic success. Faculty Scholarship Major Grant. Rhode Island College, the Rhode Island College Foundation, and Rhode Island College Alumni Affairs. (\$1,500)
- 2023-2024 Cardamone, K., Hamman-Ortiz, L., **Hesson, S.**, Ortiz, D., & Walker, J. Enhancing High-Quality Instruction for MLLs in Dual Language Programs through Translanguaging Pedagogy. Multilingual Learner (MLL) Success Grant. Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). (\$37,899)
- 2022 **Hesson, S.** Exploring the intersections of language, race, and ethnicity through research and curriculum development. Faculty Scholarship Mini Grant. Rhode Island College, the Rhode Island College Foundation, and Rhode Island College Alumni Affairs. (\$750)

SARAH HESSON

RESEARCH PROJECTS

- 2024-present Hope Scholarship for Multilingual Learners (Role: Co-PI with Alia Hadid). Rhode Island College.
- 2023-2025 Emergent Bilingual Enrichment Program (Role: Co-PI with Alia Hadid). Rhode Island College.
- 2023-2024 Enhancing High-Quality Instruction for MLLs in Dual Language Programs through Translanguaging Pedagogy (Role: Co-PI, with Laura Hamman-Ortiz, PI). University of Rhode Island and Rhode Island College.
- 2022 Curriculum Mapping of BIPOC scholarship and pedagogies in a TESOL and Bilingual Education Teacher Preparation Program. (Role: Co-PI, with Rachel Toncelli and Leila Rosa). Rhode Island College.
- 2011-2015 City University of New York- New York State Initiative on Emergent Bilinguals (CUNY-NYSIEB) (Role: Research Assistant). City University of New York Graduate Center.

PROFESSIONAL & SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- 2025-present Member of Departmental Advisory Committee (DAC), Educational Studies
- 2025-present Board member of the De La Comunidad Charter School; Chair of curriculum sub-committee
- 2023-present President (as of 2024) and member of Friends of Adams Library, RIC
- 2023-present Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Advisory Board, RIC
- 2024-present Faculty mentor for new faculty, RIC
- 2024-2025 Member of Dean Search Committee, FSEHD
- 2017-2024 Member of FSEHD Scholarship Committee, RIC
- 2023-2024 Chair of Faculty Search Committee, tenure-track position in TESOL, Educational Studies
- 2016-2023 Member of conference committee for Rhode Island Teachers of English Language Learners
- 2021-2022 Chair of Faculty Search Committee, tenure-track position in TESOL, Educational Studies
- 2015-2022 Member of Multilingual Learner Advisory Council (on Executive Board 2018-2021)
- 2017-2021 Member of the Board of Directors of Providence Student Union
- 2017 Member of Fulbright scholarship committee, RIC
- 2017 Member of Faculty Search Committee, tenure-track position in TESL, Educational Studies
- 2016 Member of Faculty Search Committee, 3-year term position in TESL, Educational Studies
- 2015-2016 Member of Planning Council, RIC Innovation Lab, RIC
- 2014-2015 Student representative, Urban Education Admissions Committee, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2014-2015 Founding member, Urban Education Student Association, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2014-2015 Steering committee, Urban Education Student Association, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2012-2014 Student representative, Urban Education Curriculum and Examinations Committee, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2012 Organized screening of film *A Better Life*, with invited guest speakers from the Workers Justice Project, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2012 Organized screening of documentary film, *The Inconvenient Truth Behind Waiting for Superman*, CUNY Graduate Center

SARAH HESSON

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 **Outstanding Dissertation Award.** Third Place. National Association for Bilingual Education.
- 2017 **Outstanding Dissertation Award.** Second Place. American Educational Research Association, Bilingual Education Research Special Interest Group.
- 2011-2016 **Enhanced Chancellor's Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center; New York, NY**
This award offered funding for a 5-year period and included opportunities to research with senior scholars and teach graduate level education courses. Included Graduate Teaching Fellowship and Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship.
- 2015 **Scholarship to PAR Institute "Reading Just the Word: It Ain't Enough!"**
Provided funding to attend a Social Justice Curriculum Institute focused on Participatory Action Research.
- 2014 **Provost's Summer Research Award, CUNY Graduate Center; New York, NY**
This award offered financial support for the development of the dissertation research proposal.
- 2009 **Fund for Teachers Fellow, Fund for Teachers; New York, NY**
Wrote and received grant to study tradition and modernity in Japan and Vietnam. Taught at an orphanage in Vietnam through the Global Village Foundation.
- 2005-2007 **NYC Teaching Fellow, NYC Teaching Fellows; New York, NY**
Accepted as a NYC Teaching Fellow following a rigorous application and interview process. Received a subsidized Master's degree from Fordham University.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Multistate Association for Bilingual Education
American Association for Applied Linguistics
American Educational Research Association
Rhode Island Teachers of English Language Learners