Kathleen (Kit) Forrester

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PROFESSIONAL STATEMENT

I am a teacher, writer, and researcher working at the intersections of education, children's literature, queer ecologies and ecojustice, and environmental humanities. My recently completed PhD research engaged children's picturebooks in queer worlding practices toward recognising more expansive and just stories about kinship. As an educator, I have worked in various roles across K-12 settings, and most recently have designed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses as a sessional instructor in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University. My teaching pedagogy is creative, decolonial, queer, kind, and student-centred. I employ critical and cultural theories, arts-based inquiry, Western and Indigenous epistemologies, multimodal literacies as well as intersectional queer and feminist theories, to think about children's texts and childhood. I am engaged in ongoing professional development with the Queer Ecojustice Teaching and Learning Community which inspires my developing work in community and school-based workshop facilitation on topics related to queer ecojustice, children's literature, and education.

EDUCATION

2018-2024	**Doctor of Philosophy in Education: Curriculum and Pedagogy,** PhD Dissertation title: *Changing the Story: Queer Worlding Kinship in Picturebooks* Supervisor: Dr. Elizabeth Marshall Simon Fraser University
2013-2016	**Master of Arts in Children's Literature,** MA Thesis title: *Jaida (Middle Grade Novel); and Critical Exegesis* Supervisors: Alison Acheson and Dr. Theresa Rogers University of British Columbia
2011-2012	**Graduate Certificate in Writing and Literature,** GCert Deakin University, Australia
2000-2003	**Bachelor of Creative Industries,** BCI Specialization in Theatre Studies Queensland University of Technology, Australia
2001	**Associate Diploma**, ATCL Speech and Drama Teaching Certification Trinity College London, Australia

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Forrester, Kathleen. "Beyond the Animacy Divide with *We Are Water Protectors*: A Guiding Story for Kin-Making in Fraught Times," in *Children's Literature, Culture, and Pedagogies: Multidisciplinary Entanglements,* edited by Terry Doughty et al. Bloomsbury Academic, 2025.

Forrester, Kathleen. "Making Home: The Queer Ecological Possibilities of Children's Picturebooks," in *Children's Literature in Place*, edited by Željka Flegar and Jennifer Miškec. Routledge, 2024.

Forrester, Kathleen. "Nature Unnested: Kin and Kind in Switched Egg Children's Stories," in *Silence and Silencing in Children's Literature*, edited by Mia Österlund et.al. Makadam Publishing, 2021.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Forrester, Kathleen. "Nature Unnested: Kin and Kind in Switched Egg Children's Stories," *Barnboken: Journal of Children's Literature Research*, vol. 43, 2020, pp. 1-20.

Forrester, Kathleen. "Kinship and the Queer Perversions of *Six-Dinner Sid* and *Else-Marie and Her Seven Little Daddies*: Imagine (Un)Doing Family." *Jeunesse: Young People, Texts, Cultures*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2017, pp. 119-141.

Forrester, Kathleen and Judith Salman. "Felt Knowledge in Michael Kusugak's Picture Books." *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature*, vol. 54, no. 1. 2016, pp. 10-17.

Creative Writing

Forrester, Kathleen. *Jaida Wood,* a middle grade novel manuscript. Longlisted for *The Times/Chicken House Children's Fiction Competition*, 2017

Forrester, Kathleen. *The Flood*, a short story. Winner of the *Katherine Paterson Prize for Middle Grade Writing*, 2012, and published in *Hunger Mountain: VCFA Journal for the Arts,* The Prizewinner Issue, 2014.

ACADEMIC TEACHING

Sessional Instructor/Professor

EDUC 823	Curriculum and Instruction in an Individual Teaching Specialty (Creative Writing for Young People) *M.Ed CGP course I designed and taught to a cohort of K-12 teachers (in person)*	SFU	Summer 2025
EDUC 465 (online)	Children's Literature *Upper-level undergraduate course I adapted and taught*	SFU	Summer 2025
EDUC 816	Developing Educational Programs and Practices for Diverse Educational Settings (Ecologies of Children's Literature) *M.Ed CGP course I designed and taught to a cohort of K-12 teachers (in person)*	SFU	Fall 2024
EDUC 465 (online)	Children's Literature *Upper-level undergraduate course I adapted and taught online due to pandemic*	SFU	Spring 2021
EDUC 465	Children's Literature *Upper-level undergraduate course I adapted and taught in person*	SFU	Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant

EDUC 465	Children's Literature *Online tech and content support to Dr. Elizabeth Marshall*	SFU	Summer 2021
CRWR 203	Intro to Writing for Children *Writing workshops and lectures*	UBC	Winter 2015

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT: NON-TEACHING

Site Assistant: *MEd Curriculum & Instruction: Children's and YA Literature*, SFU, 2023 - 2025

Research Assistant with Dr. Elizabeth Marshall, SFU, 2019-2020

Research Assistant with Prof. Judith Saltman, iSchool, UBC 2013-2014

EDUCATION-RELATED EMPLOYMENT

Educational Assistant. *Vancouver School Board.* 2008 - 2018

School Facilitator and Consultant: *Sip Smart BC! BC Pediatric Society/ Heart and Stroke Foundation,* Vancouver. 2008-2009

Speech and Drama Teaching: *The Southport School* and *Lindisfarne School.* Gold Coast, Australia. 2004-2007

SOCIAL SERVICES EMPLOYMENT

Mental Health Support Worker. *Portland Hotel Community Services Society.* 2008 - 2015

GUEST LECTURING and SUBSTITUTE TEACHING (selected)

"Queer and Eco-epistemologies" EDUC 922 *Advanced Seminar in Epistemology*, SFU, Mar 2026

"Critical Race Theory," WGST 100 *Introduction to Women's Studies.* Capilano University, Sept 2025.

"Feminist Theories of Gender, Sex, and Sexuality" WGST 111 *Introduction to Gender Studies.* Capilano University, Sept 2025.

"Queer Use: Methods for Children's Lit Scholarship," EDUC 904 *Fieldwork III: Action Research*, SFU March 2025

"Queer Ecologies of Children's Literature," LLED 540 *Introduction to Research in the Teaching of Literature*, UBC, Feb 2023

"Ecocriticism and Children's Literature" *EDUC 465 Children's Literature,* SFU, June & Nov 2019

PUBLIC and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"Exploring Queerness in Children's Literature." *Transforming Education Speaker Series*, SOGI-Centre, UBC. Drs. Kit Forrester and Julia Sinclair-Palm co-host a discussion with YA author Tanya Boteju. Sept 2026.

"Diversity is Resilience: Practical Ideas for Teaching Queer Ecologies and Ecojustice with Children's Literature", a 90-minute facilitated workshop for teachers, BCTF Social Justice Conference, Harrison, May 2026.

"What makes a picturebook?" *Nootka Elementary School,* a 90-minute hands-on workshop for Grade 4 and 5 students. March 2026

IDEAS: Graduate Research Podcast Series. Innovative Dialogues on Educational Approaches and Scholarship, Episode 62 "Rethinking Kinship through Picturebooks in Children's Literature: Dr. Kathleen Forrester Shares her Research about Changing the Story." Nov 2025

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Diversity Assures Resilience: Cultivating Queer Arts of Noticing - and Listening - with Picturebooks", 40th IBBY World Congress, Ottawa, August 2026 **(upcoming)**

"Disorderly Desires, the Child, and the Queer Wilds of the Picturebook," Youngsters 3: The Association for Research in the Cultures of Young People (ARCYP). University of Calgary, June 2024.

"Failed Projects and Purity Politics: Cripping/Queering Nature with *The Barnabus Project,*" The 26th Biennial Congress of the International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSCL), University of California, Santa Barbara, August 2023.

"Oil as Kin? Relational Ecologies Beyond the Animacy Divide with *We Are Water Protectors,*" Children's Literature Association Conference (ChLA), Bellevue, June 2023.

"A Queer Epistemology of *Becoming With* in Children's Picturebooks," Assembling Common Worlds: An Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment and Young People's Literature and Culture, Vancouver Island University, June 2022.

"Pleasure and Amelioration: A Lesson from the Queer Wilds of the Picturebook," The 25th Biennial Congress of the International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSCL), Chile, October 2021. – online

"Unlikely Spawn: A Posthuman Queering of Family in Animal Picturebooks," The 24th Biennial Congress of the International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSCL), Stockholm University, Sweden, August 2019.

"Odd Eggs: Queering Reproductive/Kin Entanglements in Picturebooks," Youngsters 2: The Association for Research in the Cultures of Young People (ARCYP), Toronto Metropolitan University, May 2019.

"Felt Knowledges in Michael Kusugak's Picturebooks," Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research (ACLAR) Biennial Conference, Deakin University, June 2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Board	*Jeunesse: Young People, Texts, Cultures,* U of Toronto Press	2025-ongoing
Peer Reviewer	*IRCL Journal: International Research in Children's Literature*	2026
	Manuscript Reviewer, Routledge (Monograph)Manuscript Reviewer	2025
	Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature	2025
	Proposal Reviewer, *Youngsters 3: ARCYP Conference*, U of Calgary	2024
	Manuscript Reviewer, *SFU Education Review* (2 articles)	2021-2025
Committees	Organizing Committee, *Red Cedar Young Readers' Choice Awards*	2014–2015
	Programming Chair, *Biennial Grad Children's Lit Research Conference*, UBC	2014

AWARDS and FELLOWSHIPS (selected)

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship	*SFU*	2020 - 2024
Travel & Research Award (TARA)	*SFU*	2023 / 2024
Dr. M. Sheila O'Connell Graduate Scholarship in Children's Literature	*SFU*	2019 / 2024
Graduate Dean's Entrance Scholarship (GDES)	*SFU*	2018 - 2023
EGSA Professional Development Grant	*SFU*	2023
Graduate Fellowship	*SFU*	2019 / 2020 / 2021

Graduate Student Conference Travel Funds	*SFU*	2019
Master of Arts in Children's Literature Top Graduate Award	*UBC*	2016
Judith Saltman Prize *(Inaugural)*	*UBC*	2016
Ronald Jobe Children's Literature Scholarship	*UBC*	2015
SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship	*UBC*	2014
Best Poster Prize: iSchool Research Day	*UBC*	2014
Graduate Support Initiative Entrance Award	*UBC*	2013
Katherine Paterson Prize for Middle Grade Writing	*Hunger Mountain Lit Mag*	2012

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Queer Ecojustice Project - Teaching & Learning Community, Jan - Ongoing

This is a series of online facilitated workshops run by Vanessa Raditz and Deseree Fontenot from Movement Generation. These workshops are for educators who are interested in learning together and sharing resources about queer ecojustice, activism, and queer ecologies. The focus is bringing these conversations and movements to our own educational practices and communities.

Instructional Skills Workshop, *Teaching and Learning Centre,* Simon Fraser University, August 2018

This is an intensive and internationally recognized three-day program for university instructors of all levels to strengthen their teaching skills.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Research in the Cultures of Young People (ARCYP)
International Research Society for Children's Literature (IRSCL)
Children's Literature Association (ChLA)
The Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research (ACLAR)