

# Kali Thompson, PhD

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## EDUCATION

### **University of Georgia | Athens, GA, USA**

Defended: March 30th, 2023

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Theory and Practice  
Interdisciplinary Certificate in Women's Studies  
Interdisciplinary Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Dissertation Title:

*Teacher Ambassador Programs as Pyramid Schemes: A neoliberal capitalist tale of the exploitation of women educators' labor within educational technology companies*

Professor Stephanie Jones, Chair  
Dr. Elizabeth Wurzburg, Committee Member  
Professor Melissa Freeman, Committee Member

### **Brenau University | Gainesville, GA, USA**

2017

Master of Education in Early Childhood Education

### **Brenau University | Gainesville, GA, USA**

2015

Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education

## CERTIFICATIONS

Georgia Professional Educator Certificate - Elementary Education  
U.K. Qualified Teacher Status (QTS)

## UNIVERSITY WORK EXPERIENCE

### **University of Lincoln | United Kingdom**

Lecturer in Education, September 2023 – Present

Courses Taught:

- Critical Engagement with Educational Literature, Masters Programme
- Education and Social Justice, Masters Programme
- Mentoring and Coaching, Masters Programme
- Introduction to Teaching, Undergraduate Programme
- Studies of Childhood, Undergraduate Programme

### **University of Georgia | United States**

Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2019 – May 2023

Courses Taught:

- Integrated Curricular Practices in Elementary Education
- Principles and Practices in Elementary Education
- Integrated Creative Arts in Elementary Education

Research Assistant, August 2020 – August 2021  
*Student Teaching and The Process of “Becoming”* with Dr. Elizabeth Wurzburg

UGA at Oxford Summer Program Assistant – Summer 2022

## **HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS**

Illinois Qualitative Dissertation Award in the Experimental/Transformative Category 2024  
University of Georgia Future Faculty Fellow 2022  
University of Georgia Kickstart Fund Finalist Fall of 2020  
National Writing Project and Red Clay Writing Project Fellow 2018-2019

## **RESEARCH AREAS OF EMPHASIS**

Critical studies of elementary education; commodification of education; education as a feminized profession; labour and education; teacherpreneurs; the “good enough” teacher; post qualitative inquiry

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Hillman, V., Esquivel, M., **Thompson, K.** (2024). Who is the teacher?: On the utilization of a democratic design process to amplify the teacher voice in debates about ‘what works’ in education [Manuscript submitted for publication].

Jones, S., Gillespie, C., **Thompson, K.**, Spaulding, E., & King, K. (2024). 21st century teacher education as a feminist project: Taking cues from the visionary feminist projects of bell hooks and Jane Addams [Manuscript submitted for publication].

Thompson, K. (2023) The cruel optimism of educational technology teacher ambassador spaces. *Power and Education*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/17577438231164717>

Gillespie, C. & **Thompson, K.** (2021) Women teachers and the fight to be “good-enough”: A call for a *pedagogy of authenticity*. *The Educational Forum*, 85(3), 256-258. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131725.2021.1908468>

**Thompson, K.** & Jones, S. (2021) The everyday traumas of neoliberalism in women teachers’ bodies: Lived experiences of the teacher who is never good enough. *Power and Education*, 13(2), 88-99. <https://doi.org/10.1177/17577438211011631>

## **RESEARCH CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Thompson, K. (2024, May). *Post Qualitative Inquiry and Me* [Paper presentation]. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, United States.

Thompson, K. (2023, April). *More than just a Tweet: The labor of being an EdTech teacher ambassador* [Paper presentation]. American Education Research Association (AERA) conference. Chicago, IL.

- Frank, N., Spaulding, E., & **Thompson, K.** (2023, April). *The denim jacket story: A collaborative mapping of PhDness and pedagogical dissonance in teacher education* [Paper presentation]. American Education Research Association (AERA) conference. Chicago, IL.
- Wurzburg, B. & **Thompson, K.** (2023, April). *A Crisis of Ethical Proportions: (Re)Turning to Love in Teaching and Teacher Education* [Paper presentation]. American Education Research Association (AERA) conference. Chicago, IL.
- Thompson, K. (2023, February). *Edtech teacher ambassador programs and the search for the optimal neoliberal subject* [Paper presentation]. Southeast Philosophy of Education Society (SEPES) conference. Chattanooga, TN.
- Thompson, K. (2022, May). *The teacher ambassador: Tweeting our way to the 'good enough' teacher* [Paper presentation]. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, United States.
- Gillespie, C. & **Thompson, K.** (2022, May). *Get your neoliberalism on: The cruel optimism of Get Your Teach On* [Paper presentation]. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, United States.
- Thompson, K. (2022, April). *Brain activators: An interactive way to engage students in assigned reading* [Poster presentation]. 2022 Spring Teaching Symposium, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- Kang, H., Gillespie, C., Han, S. Min, S., & **Thompson, K.** (2022, February). *Teaching entangled: A collaborative autoethnography exploring the lived experiences of graduate teaching assistants* [Paper presentation]. 2022 Association of Teacher Education Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, United States.
- Thompson, K.** & Frank, N. (2021, May). *This Is Us: Collaborative Meaning-Making of Teaching and Learning in Non-Traditional School Spaces* [Paper presentation]. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, United States.
- Wurzburg, B., Gillespie, C., **Thompson, K.**, & Wheeler, A. (2021, May). *Collaboratively (Re)Imagining the "Good Enough Teacher" in the After that is to Come* [Paper presentation]. International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, United States.
- Jones, S., Gillespie, C., King, K., Spaulding, E., & **Thompson, K.** (March, 2021). *A call for feminist pedagogy in teacher education*. Presented at the Mary Frances Early College of Education and University of Georgia, United States.
- Gillespie, C. & **Thompson, K.** (2020, October). *Wholehearted teaching: Women teachers, neoliberalism, and the struggle to be good enough* [Paper presentation]. Georgia Educational Research Association Virtual Conference, United States.
- Thompson, K. (2020, February). *Standardized testing's attack on the woman teacher body: Lived experience of the "not good enough" teacher* [Paper presentation]. Women's Studies Symposium, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, United States.

## **INVITED INTERVIEWS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Thompson, K. (June 2024). *Storying as Methods*. UGA QUAL Lab Summer Speaker Series: Narrative Approaches to Qualitative Inquiry. Online.

- Koch, K. (Host), Haynes, A. (Contributor), & **Thompson, K.** (Contributor). April 2021. [Feminism](#) [Audio podcast episode]. *Real Talk with ETAP Dangs*.
- Koch, K. (Host) & **Thompson, K.** (Contributor). February 2021. [Educational Technology](#) [Audio podcast episode]. *Real Talk with ETAP Dangs*.
- Fecich, S (Host) & **Thompson, K.** (Contributor). January 2020. [Take your EdTPA from “meh” to “marvelous”](#) [Audio podcast episode]. *EduMagic: Future Teacher Podcast*, episode 39.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- Treasurer for *Gender and Education Association*, 2023 – Present  
 Reviewer for *Journal of Research on Technology in Education*, 2022 – Present  
 President of Educational Theory and Practice Graduate Student Organization, 2021 – 2022  
 American Educational Research Association, Division K Graduate Student Board, 2020 –2022

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP**

- Thompson, K. (2024, February). *A guide to crafting academic poster presentations*. Postgraduate Research Workshop. School of Education, University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK.
- Thompson, K. (2023, October). *(Re)defining academic literature*. Postgraduate Research Workshop. School of Education, University of Lincoln, Lincoln, UK.
- Thompson, K. (2023, April). *Guide to Google Sites*. Department Workshop. Educational Theory and Practice, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2022, September). *Exploring the use of tech tools as a way of meaning-making*. Graduate student workshop. Red Clay National Writing Project, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2022, March). *Technology integration, writing, and creating something new*. Graduate student workshop. ETAP GSO unConference: Accessing the PhD, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2019, July). *Nearpod 101*. Small group workshop. Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2019, February). *Nearpod for ELA*. Presented at Nearpod Transform, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2018, October). *Differentiating with Nearpod*. Presented at GaETC, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2018, March). *Technology as a differentiation tool*. Presented at EdCamp GA, Athens, GA, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2018, April). *Nearpod 101*. Training for teachers, Jackson, TN, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2017, November). *Nearpod 101*. Training for teachers, Darien, GA, USA.
- Thompson, K. (2017, March). *SMARTamp 101*. Training for teachers, Saint Marys Elementary, Saint Marys, GA, USA.

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Educational Research Association (AERA), Division K  
Gender and Education, Treasurer  
Red Clay Writing Project  
National Writing Project

## **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Nearpod inc. | Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA**

Teacher Ambassador/PioNear, December 2016 – March 2022

- Lead professional development for teachers on the implementation of Nearpod
- Participate in Facebook Live workshops on Nearpod tips and tricks
- Create an assortment of lessons and activities for Nearpod's lesson library – 30 lessons created in the Spring of 2020 for Florida and Texas state testing review

### **COVID Academy LLC | Athens, GA, USA**

Lead Teacher, August 2020 – December 2020

- Taught a multi-age class of eight students
- Designed curriculum to scaffold for First through Fourth grade
- Collaborated with the other lead teacher
- Fostered student curiosity and learning through student centred unit plans

### **Nearpod inc. | Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA**

Fellow and Intern, June 2019 – December 2019

- Worked on the Digital Content and Higher Education team
- Created digital resources for teachers to help them navigate and implement Nearpod in the classroom
- Collaborated with others on creating weekly current events lessons.
- Produced SEL lessons for the lesson library
- Interviewed educators who were implementing Nearpod in higher education classrooms

### **Westside Atlanta Charter School | Atlanta, GA, USA**

Second Grade Teacher, August 2017 – May 2019

- Created and adapted lesson plans according to students' needs, including both individual and small group
- Fostered student curiosity and interest in learning through hands-on activities and field trips
- Met with parents, guardians, administrators, and counsellors to address student needs
- Implemented Eureka Math and Foundations phonics curriculum

### **Saint Mary's Elementary School | Saint Marys, GA, USA**

Second Grade Teacher, August 2016 – May 2017

Fourth Grade Teacher: Science and Social Studies, January 2016 – May 2016

- Created and adapted lesson plans according to students' needs, including both individual and small group
- Implemented creative lessons that integrated technology
- Used technology to differentiate in the classroom