

Updated: August 2026

James Avery Hunt Smith

He/They

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Education

University of Michigan	PhD in English and Education	<i>expected May 2030</i>
Simmons University	MAs in Children's Literature and Teaching	<i>May 2024</i>
- Thesis: <i>Trauma, Innocence, and Sideways Growth in Picturebooks about Boys in Dresses</i>		
Universidad de Alcalá	MA in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language	<i>June 2022</i>
- Thesis: <i>Español en (con)texto: El género en la Literatura Infantil y Juvenil</i>		
Carleton College	BA in English and Linguistics	<i>June 2019</i>
- English Thesis: <i>Disruptive reading in the K-3 classroom</i>		
- Linguistics Thesis: <i>Radical multilingualism in Junot Díaz's The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</i>		

Publications

Stories Matter the Most!	<i>forthcoming</i>
• Chapter w/ Ebony Elizabeth Thomas in the <i>Handbook of Research on Diversity in Literature</i> (Routledge)	
Picturing Change	<i>forthcoming</i>
• Chapter in <i>Literacy for Earthlings: Children's Literature, Climate Crises and the Classroom</i> (Brill)	
(Trans)mediating Nimona	<i>forthcoming</i>
• Paper in <i>The Journal of Popular Culture</i> special issue on Monsters and the Monstrous	
Beyond Visibility	<i>forthcoming</i>
• Paper in <i>The Lion & the Unicorn</i> 49(2) special issue on Queer Texts for Youth	
But the Boys are Still Bullies	<i>Oct 2022</i>
• Paper in <i>Boyhood Studies</i> 15(1-2)	

Presentations

"The World is Ending! Roll to Find Out Why!"	<i>Oct 2026</i>
• Paper to be presented at the 2026 American Studies Association	
Feeling Narrative	<i>Sep 2026</i>
• Paper to be presented at the 2026 Texas Digital Humanities Symposium	
Queering the Gap	<i>Jan 2026</i>
• Paper presented at the 2026 Modern Language Association Conference	
A Natural Queer	<i>Apr 2025</i>
• Paper presented at the 2025 Popular Culture & American Culture Association Conference	
Jacob's New Series	<i>Sept 2024</i>
• Paper presented at the 2024 North East Popular Culture Association Conference	
Adapting the Childish Queer in Nimona	<i>Apr 2024</i>
• Paper presented at the 2024 Ink & Imagination Graduate Student Conference	
(Trans)mediating Nimona	<i>Mar 2024</i>
• Paper presented at the 2024 Popular Culture & American Culture Association Conference	
Embodying Dysphoria	<i>Nov 2023</i>
• Paper presented at American Studies Association Annual Conference	

How Spain Makes Boys	<i>Apr 2023</i>
- 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	<i>Nov 2022</i>
- 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	<i>July 2022</i>
Poster presented at Seventeenth International Conference on the Arts in Society	
When Life is a Game: Metafictional-Sprawl and Kate Milford's <i>Greenglass House</i>	<i>Jan 2021</i>
Paper presented at Master's in English Regional Conference	
Gender and Sexuality in Spanish Children's Literature	<i>Oct 2018</i>
- Poster presented at Carleton Undergraduate Research Symposium - Funding: Larson International Fellowship	

Grants and Awards

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

Employment

Contract Editor , Reach the World, Online	<i>Sept 2024 - current</i>
Manage 10 teams of teachers, travelers, and volunteer editors to ensure weekly objectives are met and articles adhere to the expected style guide.	
Graduate Student Instructor , University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI	<i>Sept 2025 - May 2026</i>
Deliver instruction in writing – including brainstorming, planning, development, and editing – in the English Department Writing Program.	
Teacher , Florida Ruffin Ridley School, Brookline, MA	<i>Sept 2022 - June 2025</i>
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.	
Adjunct Professor , Simmons University, Boston, MA	<i>Sept 2024 - May 2025</i>

- 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.

Service

Reviewer, Children's Literature Comprehensive Database, 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 - current

- 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.

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, picturebooks, children's literature, service-learning, social justice education, queer studies