

June 17, 2026

**Laura E. Smithers
Curriculum Vitae**

College of Education and Human Development
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Critical and Sociocultural Studies in Education, 2018
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

M.Ed., Educational Psychology, 2006
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL
Additional graduate coursework in Student Personnel in Higher Education

B.A. with Honors, Government and Politics, 2004

B.A., Economics, 2004

Citation, College Park Scholars: American Cultures, 2002
University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Nevada, Reno

Assistant Professor, Higher Education Leadership, Department of Educational Studies, 2023-

Program Coordinator, Educational Leadership, Department of Educational Studies, 2023-

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

Assistant Professor, Higher Education and Community College Leadership, Department of
Educational Foundations and Leadership, 2018-2023

Collaborative Faculty, Educational Psychology and Program Evaluation

Graduate Program Director, Higher Education, Department of Educational Foundations and
Leadership, 2020-2023

AWARDS & HONORS

2024 **Visiting Fellow**, Finnish Institute for Educational Research
University of Jyväskylä, Finland

SCHOLARSHIP

† Practitioner co-author; * Graduate student co-author

Books

Smithers, L. E., *Fischer, H., & *Watrous, F. (2024). *Impact/impasse: Revaluing university classroom life*. State University of New York Press. <https://sunypress.edu/Books/1/Impact-Impasse>

Refereed Journal Articles

Smithers, L. E., Eaton, P. W., & Flint, M. A. (2025). Administrative life in the time before crisis: Affect and the codependency of data and fear. *Critical Studies in Education*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17508487.2025.2472003>

Smithers, L. (2024). Better future outcomes now: How speculative reform rewrites the present in American higher education policy. *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*, 56(6), 51-56. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00091383.2024.2419348>

Eaton, P. W., Smithers, L. E., & Flint, M. A. (2024). Critical inquiry in and against twenty-first century authoritarian times. *Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies*, 24(5), 331-342. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15327086241246025>

Smithers, L. E., & Mazzei, L. A. (2024). Minor pedagogy: Education as continuous variation. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 56(10), 978-987. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131857.2024.2336021>

Smithers, L. E., *Fischer, H., & *Watrous, F. (2023). Impasses of affective inquiry in pandemic times. *International Review of Qualitative Research*, 16(2), 128-145. <https://doi.org/10.1177/19408447221097634>

Smithers, L. E. (2023). The production of alter-competence: Wonder in Graduate Preparation Program coursework. *Journal of Student Affairs Research and Practice*, 60(4), 521-536. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19496591.2022.2111520>

Flint, M. A., Eaton, P. W., & Smithers, L. E. (2023). (Navigating-circling-un/doing)~post-qualitative inquiry: A collective biography. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 29(6), 686-697. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10778004221126699>

Smithers, L. E. (2023). Fuck it: Profaning methodology. *Departures in Critical Qualitative Research*, 12(1), 4-26. <https://doi.org/10.1525/dcqr.2023.12.1.4>

Smithers, L. E. (2023). Predictive analytics and the creation of the permanent present. *Learning, Media and Technology*, 48(1), 109-121. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17439884.2022.2036757>

Smithers, L. E. (2022). The value of the useless: Erin Manning, impact, higher education research, progress. *Reconceptualizing Educational Research Methodology*, 13(3), 102-118. <https://doi.org/10.7577/term.5146>

Smithers, L. E., & Eaton, P. W. (2021). Reordering student affairs: From minority absorption to a radical new. *Critical Studies in Education*, 62(5), 575-591. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17508487.2019.1657159>

Smithers, L. E., *Fischer, H., & *†Stafford, L. K. (2021). Ordinary engagements: The everyday creation of a high-impact practice. *Journal of College Student Development*, 62(4), 405-421. <https://doi.org/10.1353/csd.2021.0044>

- Franklin-Phipps, A., & Smithers, L. E. (2021). Queer Black adolescence, the impasse, and the pedagogy of cinema. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 53(7), 728-739. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131857.2020.1811677>
- Smithers, L. E. (2020). Student success as preemption: Predictive constructions of futures-to-never-come. *Futures*, 124, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2020.102639>
- Smithers, L. E. (2020). Every optimization is a policy failure: The catch (and release) of student success. *About Campus*, 25(5), 11-18. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1086482220961129>
- Smithers, L. E. (2020). Reconceptualizing college impact studies through a fractal assemblage theory. *Philosophy and Theory in Higher Education*, 2(2), 89-114. <https://doi.org/10.3726/PTIHE022020.0005>
- Brooks, S. D., Dean, A. S., Franklin-Phipps, A., Mathis, E., Rath, C. L., Raza, N., Smithers, L. E., & Sundstrom, K. (2020). Becoming-academic in the neoliberal academy: A collective biography. *Gender and Education*, 32(3), 281-300. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540253.2017.1332341>
- Eaton, P. W., & Smithers, L. E. (2020). This is not a checklist: Competencies as neoliberal protocol and poetics as experimentations (in)tension. *Educational Philosophy and Theory*, 52(5), 560-574. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131857.2019.1679624>
- Mazzei, L. A., Graham, M. G., & Smithers, L. E. (2020). Enactments of a minor inquiry. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 26(3-4), 306-316. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077800418809743>
- Mazzei, L. A., & Smithers, L. E. (2020). Qualitative inquiry in the making: A minor pedagogy. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 26(1), 99-108. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077800419869966>
- Smithers, L. E. (2019). Liberal education and the Capitalocene in American higher education. *Philosophy and Theory in Higher Education*, 1(1), 85-103. <https://doi.org/10.3726/ptihe.2019.01.05>
- Critical Genealogies Collaboratory. (2018). Standard forms of power: Biopower and sovereign power in the technology of the U.S. birth certificate, 1903-1935. *Constellations: An International Journal of Critical and Democratic Theory*, 25(4), 641-656. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8675.12372> [The Collaboratory: Colin Koopman, Bonnie Sheehey, Patrick Jones, Laura Smithers, Sarah Hamid, & Claire Pickard.]
- Smithers, L. E., & Eaton, P. W. (2017). Nomadic subjectivity: Movement in contemporary student development theory. *Thresholds in Education*, 40(1), 68-92. <https://academyedstudies.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/smitherseatonfinal.pdf>

Book Chapters

- Smithers, L. E. (in press, June 2026). The minor. In A. Kuntz (Ed.), *Theory and Philosophy in Qualitative Research Methods: Key Concepts*. Routledge.
- Eaton, P. W., Smithers, L., & Flint, M. (accepted). GIRL!! WHAT THE FUCK IS ACTUALLY GOING ON AROUND HERE??? - or - Queering time: Proximal archivings and congealings of the (authoritarian) present. In B. A. Varga & A. Franklin-Phipps (Eds.), *Accumulating proximities*. Routledge.

Flint, M. E., Eaton, P. W., & Smithers, L. E. (2026). Speculation as radical present: Tending hopeful futures in higher education pedagogy and practice. In S. Hrastinski (Ed.), *Education fiction: Reimagining teaching and learning*. Routledge.

Smithers, L. (2026). Desiring machines: The sociotechnical production of datafication in higher education. In F. Fernandez, N. Hutchens, R. Dean Divaker, V. Miller, & B. Hephner LaBanc (Eds.), *The Digitized Campus: Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in Higher Education*. State University of New York Press.

Smithers, L. E. (2019). How should institutions of higher education redefine and measure student success? Student success as liberal education escapes definition and measurement. In P. M. Magolda, M. B. Baxter-Magolda, and R. Carducci (Eds.), *Contested Issues in Troubled Times: Student Affairs Dialogues About Equity, Civility, and Safety* (pp. 127-137). Stylus Publishing.

Book Reviews

Smithers, L. E. (2018). Contemporary philosophical proposals for the university: Toward a philosophy of higher education by Aaron Stoller & Eli Kramer, editors [Book review]. *Critical Questions in Education*, 9(2), 156-161.
<https://academyedstudies.files.wordpress.com/2018/06/smithersfinal.pdf>

Research Presentations

Pöysä-Tarhonen, J., Siekkinen, T., Matikainen, M., & Smithers, L. (2026, August). *Paradoxes and educational (non-)futures of hybrid higher education: Navigating micro–macro tensions of teaching in the neoliberal university*. Paper to be presented at the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers Annual Conference, Catania, IT.

Smithers, L., & Saarinen, T. (2026, August). *Building alternate policy realities: Recreating Finnish higher education productivity policies through time travel*. Paper to be presented at the European Conference on Educational Research, Tampere, FI.

Smithers, L. E. (2026, April). *Time travel methods: Queering time and space in critical qualitative inquiry*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Siekkinen, T., Smithers, L., & Karvonen, E. (2025, December). *Governmentality and internalised pressures of efficiency within the tenure track*. Paper presented at the Society for Research into Higher Education International Research Conference, Nottingham, UK.

Smithers, L. E. (2025, November). *Notes on the infrastructure of productivity in Finnish higher education, 1987-2014*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Denver, CO, USA.

Eaton, P. W., & Smithers, L. E. (2025, November). *Queer interventions for a higher education beyond algorithmic control*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Denver, CO, USA.

Smithers, L. E., Flint, M., & Eaton, P. (2025, April). *Circulations: Building~navigating~collaging~provoking~perturbing the authoritarian archive*. Paper presented

at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, USA.

Smithers, L. E. (2025, April). *Choosing quality: A queer history of voluntary accreditation in the United States since 1984*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, USA.

Flint, M., Smithers, L., & Eaton, P. (2025, January). *Imagining an otherwise with redaction ↔ annotation in qualitative inquiry*. Paper presented at the Eighth European Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Johnson, D. R., Ris, E. W., McCambly, H. N., Mulroy, Q., Wright-Kim, J., Tichavakunda, A. A., Smithers, L. E., Taylor, B., Cantwell, B., Nguyen, M. H., & Palmadessa, A. (2024, November). *Ideas and ideologies in higher education policy*. Featured symposium conducted at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Smithers, L. (2024, November). *Prototyping a field guide to postcapitalist higher education*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Eaton, P. W., Flint, M. A., & Smithers, L. E. (2024, May). *Authoritarian archives*. Paper presented at the Twentieth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.

*Moore, E., *Tod, D., & Smithers, L. E. (2024, April). *Engaging fantasy in qualitative research*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

Eaton, P. W., Smithers, L. E., & Flint, M. A. (2023, November). *Critical inquiry in and against twenty-first century authoritarian times*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Smithers, L. E., *Hou, H., & *Watrous, F. (2023, April). *Teaching without a checklist: Integrative learning in excess of datafication*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA.

Smithers, L. E., & *Sicka, B. (2023, February). *Student success and the age of productivity*. Paper presented at the Southeast Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting, Chattanooga, TN, USA.

Smithers, L. E., Eaton, P. W., & Flint, M. A. (2022, November). *Administrative life in the time before catastrophe: Affect and the codependency of data and fear*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, USA.

Smithers, L. E. (2022, May). Practices of scholarly reading and the values of the neoliberal academy. In P. W. Eaton & A. Franklin-Phipps (chairs), *Scholarly Reading Practices: Perspectives on Resistance*. Panel presented at the Eighteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19.

Smithers, L. E., & Mazzei, L. A. (2022, April). Minor pedagogy: Ontogenetic orientations. In L. A. Mazzei (chair), *Ontologies of Promise: Cultivating Equity*. Symposium presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, USA.

- Smithers, L. E. (2022, February). *COVID-19 and the emergence of a control society in Virginia's Community Colleges*. Paper presented at the Southeast Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting, Decatur, GA, USA.
- Eaton, P. W., Flint, M., & Smithers, L. E. (2021, November). *Navigating the posts in higher education: A collective biography*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, San Juan, PR, USA.
- Smithers, L. E., & *Curran, S. C. (2021, November). *The datafication of students in higher education as control*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, San Juan, PR, USA.
- Smithers, L. E. (2021, May). The value of the useless: Erin Manning, impact, higher education, progress. In M. A. Flint (chair), *Erin Manning's Imperatives for Educational Research and Qualitative Inquiry*. Panel presented at the Seventeenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19.
- Smithers, L. E. & Mazzei, L. A. (2021, April). Minor pedagogy: A pedagogy of the ontological turn. In J. Ulmer, C. R. Kuby, & R. C. Christ (chairs), *What Pedagogies Produce: Teaching Responsible/Response(able) Qualitative Inquiry*. Session presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19.
- Smithers, L. E., (2021, February). *Academic capitalism in motion: An affective ethnography of anxiety and university administrators*. Paper presented at the Southeast Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting, Decatur, GA, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19.
- Smithers, L. E. (2020, November). The production of alter-competence: Wonder in GPP coursework. In R. Montelongo (Chair) & A. E. Stich (Discussant), *W@nderings in Research Methodology and Pedagogy*. Session presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19.
- Smithers, L. (2020, November). *Affect in a learning community classroom: A posthuman ethnographic installation*. Performance, visual, and digital scholarship presentation presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19.
- *†Stafford, L. K., †Grimm, J., *Fischer, H., & Smithers, L. (2020, October). *What's really going on? Observing a high-impact practice in/action*. Session presented at the Assessment Institute, Indianapolis, IN, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19.
- Smithers, L. E. (2020, May). Profane methodologies, or, research protocol at the end of the world. In A. Franklin-Phipps (chair), *Research at the End of the World*. Panel accepted for the Sixteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA. **Canceled due to COVID-19.**
- Smithers, L. E. (2020, May). Minor pedagogy: A pedagogy of the ontological turn. In J. B. Ulmer, C. R. Kuby, & R. C. Christ (chairs), *What Do Pedagogies Produce?: Thinking/Teaching Qualitative Inquiry*. Panel accepted for the Sixteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA. **Canceled due to COVID-19.**
- Smithers, L. E., & *†Stafford, L. K. (2020, April). *Ontopower, preemption, and the impacts of impact in higher education*. Paper accepted for the American Educational Research Association Annual

Meeting, San Francisco, CA, USA. **Canceled due to COVID-19.**

Smithers, L. E. (2020, April). Fuck it: Profane methodologies. In J. R. Wolgemuth (Chair), *Promiscuous Research: Reimagining the Study of Higher Education Through Philosophical Misbehaving*. Symposium accepted for the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, USA. **Canceled due to COVID-19.**

Smithers, L. E., & *Fischer, H. (2020, February). *Ordinary impacts: A praxiology of student engagement within a high-impact practice*. Paper presented at the Southeast Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting, Athens, GA, USA.

†Grimm, J. L., Smithers, L., *†Stafford, L. K., *Fischer, H., & *†McQueen, L. (2020, January). *Are you sure you want to pursue that major?: When expanding access increases gatekeeping in learning communities*. Discussion-based session conducted at the American Association of Colleges & Universities Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., USA.

Smithers, L. (2019, November). *Student success as preemption: Predictive constructions of futures-to-never-come*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Portland, OR, USA.

Carducci, R., Johnson, R. B., McElderry, J., & Smithers, L. (2019, November). *Contested issues in troubled times: Student affairs dialogues across difference*. Panel conducted at the Southern Association for College Student Affairs Annual Conference, Raleigh, NC, USA.

Franklin-Phipps, A., & Smithers, L. (2019, May). *The potential of despair: Queer isolation and the pedagogy of cinema*. Paper presented at the Fifteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.

Smithers, L. (2019, May). *Theoretical encounters with-against-through algorithmic control in higher education*. Paper presented at the Fifteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.

Franklin-Phipps, A., & Smithers, L. (2019, May). *The potential of despair: Queer isolation and the pedagogy of cinema*. Paper presented at the The Queer Art of Feeling: Sensation, Emotion and the Body in Queer Cultures, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England, UK.

Smithers, L. E. (2019, April). *Research to create new worlds: Narrating difference through paradox*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Smithers, L. E. (2019, February). *On average: Value, impact, and scalability in the mangle of higher education research*. Paper presented at the Southeast Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting, Decatur, GA, USA.

Eaton, P. W., & Smithers, L. E. (2018, November). *Reordering student affairs: gesturing from minority institutionalization to a radical new*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Tampa, FL, USA.

Smithers, L. E. (2018, November). *Critical methodologies for critical (student success) action: Experimentations with assemblage theory*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Tampa, FL, USA.

- Eaton, P. W., & Smithers, L. E. (2018, November). *Reordering student affairs: Historicizing minority institutionalization in student affairs practice(s)*. Paper presented at the American Educational Studies Association Annual Conference, Greenville, SC, USA.
- Dean, A., & Smithers, L. E. (2018, November). *Exploring media about schooling with pre-service teachers*. Paper presented at the American Educational Studies Association Annual Conference, Greenville, SC, USA.
- Smithers, L. E. (2018, November). *Student success as class unity: Transformations of the future through hauntings of the past*. Paper presented at the American Educational Studies Association Annual Conference, Greenville, SC, USA.
- Christ, R. C., Fontanella-Nothom, O., Smithers, L. E., Kuby, C., Panos, A., & Eaton, P. W. (2018, May). *Becoming multiple: Thinking with enoughness*. Panel conducted at the Fourteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.
- Eaton, P. W. & Smithers, L. E. (2018, May). *Becoming as political practice(s) in college student education*. Paper presented at the Fourteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.
- Smithers, L. E. (2018, May). A collective for the rest of us: Exploring collective assemblages of enunciation at a traditionally observational field site. In L. A. Mazzei (chair), *Enactments of a Minor Inquiry*. Panel conducted at the Fourteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.
- Smithers, L. E. (2017, November). *A performative analysis of the construction of the university student*. Paper presented at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Houston, TX, USA.
- Smithers, L. E. (2017, November). Making students differently: Examining the student in student success for liberal education. In P. Lather (Chair) and E. Dixon-Roman (discussant). *The Foundations of Assessment: (Post)critical Practices and Theory*. Panel conducted at the American Educational Studies Association Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.
- Smithers, L. E. (2017, May). *Seeing students like an institution: A genealogy of undergraduate student success in American higher education*. Paper presented at the Thirteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.
- Smithers, L. E. (2017, May). Student success measurements as public homogenization. In P. W. Eaton, R. E. Gildersleeve, E. Mathis, and L. E. Smithers (chairs), *Whose Public Good? Countering Reductionist Trends in Higher Education Research Using Post-Qualitative Philosophical Inquiry*. Panel conducted at the Thirteenth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.
- Smithers, L. E., Mathis, E., & Newton, M. (2017, April). *A genealogy of student success at the University of Oregon*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, USA.
- Franklin, A., Smithers, L. E., Mathis, E., and the undergraduate members of the Dis/oriented Film Collective (2016, November). *Dis/orientation: Engaging critical conversations about race in*

college. Action meeting conducted at the American Educational Studies Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, USA.

Smithers, L. E. (2016, November). Mapping the relationships between royal science and systemic racism. In L. A. Mazzei (Discussant), *Against Rationalism: Minor Sciences and Possibilities For the New*. Symposium conducted at the American Educational Studies Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, USA.

Mathis, E., Smithers, L. E., & Newton, M. (2016, May). *Student success as becoming: An alternative to neoliberal assessments of success in higher education*. Paper presented at the Twelfth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.

Smithers, L. E., Mathis, E., Rath, C. L., Brooks, S., Dean A., Franklin-Phipps, A. K., Raza, N., & Sundstrom, K. (2016, May). S. Gannon (Discussant), *Becoming-academic in the neoliberal academy: A collective biography*. Panel conducted at the Twelfth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.

Smithers, L. E. (2016, May). *Academic capitalism in undergraduate education: Neoliberalism as an axiomatic*. Paper presented at the Twelfth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, IL, USA.

Smithers, L. E., Mathis, E., Rath, C. L., Brooks, S., Dean A., Franklin-Phipps, A. K., Raza, N., & Sundstrom, K. (2016, April). *Becoming 'post' academics inside the neoliberal academy: Collective biography as a method of resistance*. Paper presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., USA.

Smithers, L. E. (2015, November). The freshman multiple: Complicating ontologies within the student transition. In R. E. Gildersleeve (Chair) & A. M. Kuntz (Discussant), *Exploring Posthumanism in Higher Education: Methods, Contexts, and Implications*. Symposium conducted at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Denver, CO, USA.

Professional Presentations

Smithers, L. E., & Edwards, C. (2013, February). *Exploring mandatory study groups and their potential benefits on first generation college students*. Symposium conducted at the 2013 Student Success and Retention Conference, Portland, OR, USA.

INVITED TALKS

Eaton, P. W., Smithers, L., & Flint, M., with Varga, B., Franklin-Phipps, A., and authors of other chapters (2026, April). *What can a proximity do?* Invited speakers for the Critical, Posthuman, and Postfoundational Studies in Education SIG Business Meeting, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Smithers, L. (2025, August). *Emergent resistance movements to restrictions on academic freedom in America*. Invited speaker for the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers in Finland summer webinar.

Eaton, P. W., & Smithers, L. (2025, June). Invited speakers for the UGA QUAL Lab Summer Speaker Series: Speculative Feminist Methodologies, University of Georgia, USA.

Selznick, B., Smithers, L., Brown, M., Gandara, D., Glass, C., Malaney-Brown, V., Morgan, D., Salazar, K., & Titareva, T. (2024, November). *ASHE Presidential Commission on Artificial Intelligence: A community conversation*. Invited session at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Smithers, L. (2024, February). *Productivity in Finnish and American higher education: A comparative postqualitative inquiry*. Invited speaker for the Higher Education Research Team (HIEST) Seminar Series, Finnish Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

Friedensen, R., byrd, d., Davidson, C., Cardonna, C., Freeman Jr., S., Smithers, L. E., Taylor, L. D., Posselt, J., Porter, C. J., Okello, W. K., Laderman, S. A., Pasque, P. A., Scott, C. A., Phelps-Ward, R. (2023, November). *The state of higher education scholarship*. Invited session at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, USA.

Smithers, L. (2023, March). *The collapse of present and future in American higher education policy*. Invited speaker for the International Conference for Comparative Education, Tampere University, Finland.

Smithers, L. E. (2019, April) *Predictive analytics and the creation of the permanent present*. Invited speaker for the Florida International University Educational Inquiry Colloquium Series, Miami, FL, USA.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Nevada, Reno, College of Education and Human Development

Instructor, Graduate Courses

EDRS 754: Ethnographic Research in Education (Fall 2025)

EL 705: Seminar in Administrative Problems (Spring 2025)

EL 707: Seminar in Administration of Higher Education (Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

EL 756: Diversity in Higher Education (Fall 2023)

EL 759: Student Success and Retention Strategies (Spring 2025)

EL 762: Planning and Strategic Management (Fall 2024)

EL 793: Independent Study: Digital Literacy in Higher Education (Fall 2024)

EL 793: Independent Study: Photovoice and Modes of Thinking in Qualitative Research (Spring 2025)

EL 793: Independent Study: P

EL 798: Internship (Spring 2024, Spring 2026)

Co-Instructor, Graduate Courses

EL 713: History of Education in the U.S. (Spring 2026)

EL 741: Politics, Policy, and Ethics (Spring 2026)

Old Dominion University, Darden College of Education and Professional Studies

Instructor, Graduate Courses

CCL 899: Dissertation (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Summer 2023)

HIED 708: Foundations of Higher Education (Fall 2018, Fall 2019 + 808, Fall 2020 + 808, Fall 2021 + 808, Fall 2022 + 808)

HIED 757: Learning Environment Design and Assessment (Spring 2019 + 857, Spring 2020 + 857, Spring 2021 + 857, Spring 2022 + 857, Spring 2023 + 857)
HIED 797: Independent Study: Queer Theory to HIED (Fall 2020)
HIED 825: Higher Education Politics and Policy (Fall 2022)
HIED 897: Independent Study: Comparative HIED: Nigeria and US (Fall 2021)
HIED 897: Independent Study: Black Men and Anti/Deficit Education (Fall 2022)
HIED 899: Dissertation (Spring 2021)
FOUN 812: Research Design and Analysis (Summer 2019, Summer 2020, Summer 2021, Summer 2022, Summer 2023)
FOUN 814: Qualitative Research Design in Education (Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
TLCI/FOUN 814: Qualitative Research Design in Education (Fall 2020)
TLCI 814: Qualitative Research Design in Education (Fall 2021)

University of Oregon, College of Education

Instructor, Graduate Courses

EDST 628: Creating Supportive Classroom Communities (Winter 2018)
EDST 612: Foundations of Teaching and Learning (Summer 2016, Summer 2017, Summer 2018)

Instructor, Undergraduate Courses

EDST 333: Learning, Teaching, and Assessment II (Spring 2018)
EDST 339: Observation: Learning, Teaching, and Assessment II (Spring 2018)
EDST 225: School and Representation in Film (Fall 2016, Winter 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2017)

Oregon State University, Academic Learning Services

Instructor, Undergraduate Courses

ALS 199: BEST Orientation (Summer 2015, 2 sessions)
ALS 199: BEST Transitions to the University (Fall 2012)

University of Florida, College of Education

Instructor, Undergraduate Courses

RED 1343: Reading and Writing in the Content Area (Spring 2006)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Research Assistant, 2018

BRAID Research (UCLA) affiliated project: AP CS Principles. Study of the impact of AP CS-A and AP CS-P on college major selection by race and gender using College Board and CIRP Freshman Survey data. Co-PIs: Joanna Goode (UO) and Linda Sax (UCLA). Funded by the Melinda Gates Foundation.

GRANT ACTIVITY

External

Fulbright-Tampere University Scholar Award (All Disciplines)

Fulbright U.S. Scholar, submitted 9/22/2025. Not awarded.
UNR project budget: \$0. Monthly grant: 4,500 €. Proposed award period: 9/2026-6/2027
Project title: Revaluating Higher Education in a Datafied World
Tampere University host: Dr. Nelli Piattoeva

Kone Foundation Research Grant

Researcher, submitted 9/15/2024. Awarded.
Project budget: 280 900 €
Award period: 1/2025-12/2027.
Project title: Paradoxes in Academic Work and Career Building in Hybrid Universities
Investigators: Dr., Docent Taru Siekkinen, Project Coordinator and Researcher, Drs. Luiz Alonso de Andrade, Sara Diogo, Johanna Ennser-Kananen, M.Sc. Elina Karvonen, Dr. Minni Matikainen, Dr., Docent Johanna Pöysä-Tarhonen, and Dr. Laura Smithers, Researchers; Drs. Taina Saarinen and Elias Pekkola, External Advisors

National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Research Centers on Artificial Intelligence

Co-PI, submitted 2/14/2024. Not awarded.
UNR project budget: \$499,394. My share: \$14,127 + center activities. Proposed award period: 1/2025-12/2027.
Project title: Center for AI Futures
Investigators (all University of Nevada, Reno): Dr. Carlos Mariscal, PI and Center Director; Drs. Mary Ingram-Waters and Laura Smithers, co-PIs and Co-Directors; Drs. Emily Hand, Brad Johnson, David Feil-Seifer, Ian Clayton, and Colleen Murray, Co-PIs

Spencer Foundation Research Grants on Education: Small

PI, submitted 12/6/2023. Not awarded.
UNR project budget: \$49,990. My share: \$45,271. Proposed award period: 9/2024-8/2026.
Project title: The Dawn of Productivity in American Higher Education
Investigators: Drs. Laura Smithers, PI, University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Ethan Ris, Co-PI, UNR

University of Jyväskylä Visiting Fellow Programme

Visiting Fellow, submitted 11/15/2023. Awarded.
UNR project budget: 0 €. My share: 4 500 €. Award period: 1/2024-12/2024.
Project title: Productivity in Finnish and American Higher Education: A Comparative Postqualitative Inquiry
University of Jyväskylä host: Dr. Taina Saarinen

Spencer Foundation Research Grants on Education: Small

PI, submitted 4/12/2022. Not awarded.
ODU project budget: \$50,000. My share: \$50,000. Proposed award period: 1/2023-12/2024.
Project title: Student Success in the Early American College

Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA), Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Grant

PI, submitted 7/24/2020. Awarded.
ODU project budget: \$500. My share: \$500. Award period 8/2020-7/2021.
Project title: Investigating the Impacts of Impact Learning Communities

National Science Foundation, International Research Experiences for Students (IRES)

Track III: Collaborative Research

Co-PI, submitted 9/25/2018. Not awarded.

ODU project budget: \$680,028. My share: \$26,987. Award period 9/1/2019-8/31/2023.

Project title: Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Civil Infrastructure Research Opportunity for Graduate Students (NSF 18-505)

Investigators: Dr. Younghan Jung, PI, Old Dominion University (ODU); Dr. Laura Smithers, Co-PI, ODU; Dr. Yong-Woo Kim, PI, University of Washington; Dr. Jun-Seok Oh, PI, Korean-American Scientist and Engineers Association; Dr. Pyeong-Jun Yoo, Consultant, Korea Institute of Civil Engineering and Building Technology (KICT); Dr. Seung Heon Han, Consultant, KICT; Dr. Ki-Sik Park, Consultant, PEC Ltd.; Mr. Joo Lee, Consultant, Munters Ltd.; Dr. Jennifer T. Ellis, Evaluator, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

Internal

University of Nevada, Reno, FY27 Publishing Subvention Grant

Awarded 5/27/26, \$1,000.

University of Nevada, Reno, FY24 Faculty Travel Grant (International)

Awarded 3/1/2024, \$1,500.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT AFFAIRS EXPERIENCE

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Pre-Educational Foundations Academic Advisor, Department of Education Studies, 2015-2016
Learning Specialist, Services for Student Athletes, 2006-2007

Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

Learning Services Counselor, Academics for Student Athletes, 2007-2015

University Athletic Association, Inc., University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Graduate Intern, Office of Student Life, 2005-2006

University of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD

Academic Counselor, Academic Support and Career Development Unit, Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, 2004-2005

SERVICE

Disciplinary Service

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 2026-2029 | Member , Bobby Wright Dissertation of the Year Committee, Association for the Study of Higher Education |
| 2025 | Discussant , Cortez the Killer: Ethical and Positional Issues in Oral and Historical Research, Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Denver, CO |
| 2025 | Discussant , Posthumanism, Feminism, Critical Theory, American Educational Research |

- Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO
- 2025 **Mentor**, Qualitative Inquiry for Critical Moments. Qualitative Research SIG Mentoring Session, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2025- **Section Co-Editor**, Higher Education, *Journal of Curriculum Theorizing*
- 2024- **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, Innovative Higher Education
- 2024-2025 **Co-Chair**, Presidential Commission on Artificial Intelligence, Association for the Study of Higher Education
- 2024 **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, Palgrave Macmillan [book proposal]
- 2024 **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, Walking Away: Refusing and Resisting Reactionary Curriculum Movements [book; chapter reviewer]
- 2024 **Discussant**, Anti-colonial Struggles Within/Against/Beyond the Campus, Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- 2024 **Discussant**, Professional Practice in Student Affairs, NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Annual Conference, Seattle, WA
- 2023-2024 **Member**, Strategic Workgroup on the State of Higher Education Scholarship, Association for the Study of Higher Education
- 2023-2024 **Member**, Scholarly Papers & Faculty Programming Committee, NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Annual Conference, Seattle, WA
- 2022 **Discussant**, Racialization of Curriculum, Pedagogy, and Assessment, Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV
- 2020-2022 **Secretary/Treasurer**, Foucault and Contemporary Theories in Education SIG, American Educational Research Association
- 2020-2021 **Advisory Board Member**, Virtual Congress of Qualitative Inquiry
- 2020 **Discussant**, Rethinking Space and Place, Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, USA. Virtual format due to COVID-19
- 2020 **Panel Chair and Moderator**, What is Foucault’s Role in Educational Research and Thinking in 2020? Foucault and Contemporary Theory in Education SIG Business Meeting, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. **Canceled due to COVID-19**
- 2020 **Mentor**, QRSIG Office Hours. Qualitative Research SIG, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. **Canceled due to COVID-19**
- 2020 **Mentor**, Methodological Stuckness in Critical Inquiry. Qualitative Research SIG Mentoring Session, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. **Canceled due to COVID-19**

- 2019- **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, *Educational Philosophy and Theory*
- 2019-2020 **Communications Officer**, Foucault and Contemporary Theories in Education SIG, American Educational Research Association
- 2019- **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, *Critical Studies in Education*
- 2019 **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, *International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education*
- 2019 **Mentor**, Division D Graduate Student Mentoring Session, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2016-2018 **Graduate Student Outreach Co-Coordinator**, Foucault and Contemporary Theories in Education SIG, American Educational Research Association
- 2017 **Ad Hoc Reviewer**, *Education Policy Analysis Archives*
- 2016- **Proposal Reviewer**, American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting
- 2016 **Proposal Reviewer**, American Educational Studies Association Annual Conference
- 2015- **Proposal Reviewer**, Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference
- 2014-2019 **Reviewer**, *Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education and Student Affairs*

College and University Service

- 2025-2028 **Member, Graduate Committee**, College of Education and Human Development, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2024-2027 **Member, Early Career Academic Faculty Committee**, Faculty Senate, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2024-2025 **Member, Curriculum & Assessment Committee**, College of Education and Human Development, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2022-2023 **Member, Academic Integrity Committee**, Darden College of Education and Professional Studies, Old Dominion University
- 2021-2023 **Department Representative, Business Relationship Management Initiative**, Darden College of Education and Professional Studies and Information Technology Services, Old Dominion University
- 2021-2022 **Member, University Distance Learning Advisory Council**, Old Dominion University
- 2021-2022 **Chair, Faculty Governance Organization**, Darden College of Education and Professional Studies, Old Dominion University
- 2020-2023 **Member, Graduate Studies Council**, Darden College of Education and Professional Studies, Old Dominion University

- 2020-2022 **Member, Graduate Curriculum Committee**, Darden College of Education and Professional Studies, Old Dominion University
- 2019 **Higher Education Program Liaison**, Careers in Student Affairs Month, Student Engagement and Enrollment Services, Old Dominion University
- 2016-2018 **Member, Policy Advisory Council**, Board of Trustees and Office of the President, University of Oregon
- 2017 **Member, Ad Hoc Budget Advisory Committee**, Office of the President and Office of the Provost and Academic Affairs, University of Oregon
- 2016-2017 **Ex Officio Member, Student Success Data Advisory Collective**, Office of the Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, University of Oregon
- 2016-2017 **Member, Dean's Student Advisory Board**, College of Education, University of Oregon
- 2016 **Ex Officio Member, Undergraduate Retention and Completion Committee**, Office of the Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies, University of Oregon
- 2015-2016 **Graduate Student Advisory Board**, Graduate School, University of Oregon
- 2014-2015 **ALS 199/BEST Orientation Category II (regularization) Proposal Group**, Oregon State University
- 2009-2015 **Council on Academic Counseling**, Academic Affairs, Oregon State University
Co-chair 2009-2011
Webmaster 2011-2015
- 2009-2011 **Peer Education Development Group**, Division of Academic Support & Developmental Education, Academic Affairs, Oregon State University
- 2008-2009 **Search Committee Member**, September Scholars Bridge Program and Peer Education Coordinator, Academic Success Center, Oregon State University
- 2008-2009 **Member, Diversity Action Plan Advisory Committee**, Academic Affairs, Oregon State University

Departmental Service

- 2026- **Chair**, Academic Affairs Committee, Department of Educational Studies, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2024-2025 **Search Committee Member**, Assistant/Associate Professor of Educational Leadership, Department of Educational Studies, University of Nevada, Reno
- 2022-2023 **Search Committee Member**, Assistant Professor of Community College Leadership, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2022-2023 **Future Faculty Fellows (F3) Faculty Co-Advisor**, Department of Educational

Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University

- 2022-2023 **Faculty Assistant**, HIED 744/844: Global Higher Education Systems: A Comparative Approach Spring Break Study Abroad to Finland, Community College Leadership and Higher Education Programs, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2022 **Faculty Co-Lead**, DC Policy Trip, Community College Leadership and Higher Education Programs, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2021-2023 **Co-Director**, Summer Institute, Community College Leadership and Higher Education Doctoral Programs, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2021-2022 **Search Committee Co-Chair**, Assistant/Associate Professor of Higher Education, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2020-2023 **Faculty Advisor, Higher Education Student Association**, Higher Education Program, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2020-2023 **Member, Ad Hoc Diversity and Social Justice Committee**, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2019-2020 **Liaison to University Libraries**, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2019-2020 **Future Faculty Fellows (F3) Faculty Advisor**, Department of Educational Foundations and Leadership, Old Dominion University
- 2016-2018 **UOTeach M.Ed. Admissions Review Team**, Department of Education Studies, University of Oregon
- 2015-2016 **Search Committee Member**, Educational Psychology Open Rank Professor, Department of Education Studies, University of Oregon
- 2014 **Search Committee Member**, Academic Counselor, Academics for Student Athletes, Oregon State University
- 2010 **Search Committee Member**, Academic Counselor, Academics for Student Athletes, Oregon State University

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2019- American Association of University Professors
- 2016- American Educational Studies Association
- 2015- ACPA – College Student Educators International

- 2015- Association for the Study of Higher Education
- 2014- American Educational Research Association
- 2013 National Association of Academic Advisors in Athletics