

# SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS



## MARIA DIAS

Maria is an international student from Brazil. She made a career teaching English as a second language in high school and language centers in Brazil and came to ETSU to complete her master's in Curriculum and Instruction. During that time, while observing students, she came to understand that many children were not successful in school because they lacked quality education in early childhood. This led her to the Early Childhood Ph.D. program. By completing a Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education at ETSU, Maria hopes to follow a career in academia as a higher education educator and continue research in her areas of interest: translanguaging, bilingualism, biliteracy, and critical literacy.

A highlight of her experience as a Ph.D. student was working with Dr. Atilas on a study of early childhood educators and how they dealt with the challenges and struggles of COVID. This study led to three journal articles, of which Maria was first author of one! It also led to her presenting at NACTE and being interviewed for the ETSU Graduate Studies magazine about her research.

Another high point as an Early Childhood Ph.D. fellow is the relationships she has formed with other professors in Clemmer College. This opportunity to network led to a suggestion from Dr. Sharp to join the Gilbreath Literacy Association, which is a branch of the Literacy Association of Tennessee. Maria was awarded a scholarship to attend their conference last year and is presenting this year at their December conference.

Maria's advice is to make connections and talk to professors so they know what your interests are and can share opportunities with you. Maria hopes to graduate in summer/fall 2023.

### Early Childhood Ph.D. Program Co-Coordinators

Dr. Broderick, broderic@etsu.edu  
Dr. Evanshen, evanshep@etsu.edu

[etsu.edu/coe/eced](https://etsu.edu/coe/eced)

Apply to the program: [etsu.edu/gradstud/](https://etsu.edu/gradstud/)

ETSU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action University: [etsu.edu/universitycounsel/compliance](https://etsu.edu/universitycounsel/compliance).  
ETSU-230657-A-23

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## Student Resources

- **BOOT CAMP:** Thesis and dissertation writing and editing support, workshops, time to write. Four weekend sessions per semester at Sherrod Library. Emily Frances Redd; REDD@mail.etsu.edu
- **GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS:** Assistance with setting and maintaining personal and academic goals when experiencing stress. Ivy Buerkle; Sherrod Library, Room 462; (423) 439-7062; gradsuccess@etsu.edu; etsu.edu/gradschool/successservice.php
- **SHERROD LIBRARY**
  - *Graduate Student Support:* [libraries.etsu.edu/home#\\_ga=2.103795331.2064551261.1632148679-1036422071.1611438336](https://libraries.etsu.edu/home#_ga=2.103795331.2064551261.1632148679-1036422071.1611438336)
  - Dr. Wendy Doucette, Graduate Services Librarian, doucettew@etsu.edu
  - *Workshops:* [sherrod.etsu.edu/sites/default/files/2015\\_grad\\_workshop\\_dates.pdf](https://sherrod.etsu.edu/sites/default/files/2015_grad_workshop_dates.pdf)

Dissertation Scholarships for final semester:  
[etsu.edu/gradschool/funding/scholarships.php](https://etsu.edu/gradschool/funding/scholarships.php)

## Admission Process

Applicants for the Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education Program are evaluated once each year for admission in the fall semester. Application information deadline is March 15th. This deadline is flexible until enrollment is filled. The program has a number of fellowships to support full-time doctoral students that are awarded on a competitive basis. Admission to the program has the same requirements as existing graduate school requirements plus additional specific requirements:

- Application form
- Application fee (\$35 USA or \$45 International)
- One official transcript from each institution attended (undergraduate and graduate)
- Personal resume
- Personal essay including a written statement of career and ethical goals, professional experience, and area of interest for a dissertation
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores taken within the past five years. Preferred scores are 50th percentile or higher
- Four letters of recommendation
- Master's degree in Early Childhood or a related field from a regionally accredited university
- An interview with the admissions committee

Certification of English proficiency for international students. A minimum official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 (paper), 213 (computer based), or 79 (internet based), taken within the past two years; a score of 6.5 on the International English Testing System (IELTS); or have received a degree from an accredited U.S. institution.



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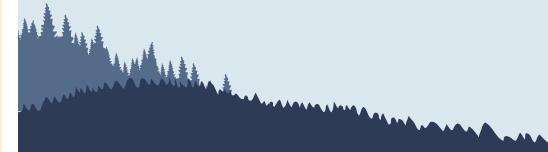
Department of Early  
Childhood Education

# Ph.D. PROGRAM

## Spring/Summer 2022 NEWSLETTER

## VISION

INSPIRE. ADVOCATE. IMPACT.



## NAEYC

Professional Preparation  
Standards

### STANDARD 1.

Child Development and Learning in Context

### STANDARD 2.

Family-Teacher Partnerships and Community Connections

### STANDARD 3.

Child Observation, Documentation, and Assessment

### STANDARD 4.

Developmentally, Culturally, and Linguistically Appropriate Teaching Practices

### STANDARD 5.

Knowledge, Application, and Integration of Academic Content in the Early Childhood Curriculum

### STANDARD 6.

Becoming a Professional

### STANDARD 7.

Professionalism as an Early Childhood Educator



Congratulations to our Spring 2022 Ph.D. graduates, Kara Boynewicz and Tahani Ahmed. We are so proud of you both!

## 2020 AND 2021 Ph.D. HYBRID COHORT GROUPS MET ON CAMPUS IN MARCH & JULY 2022



Students attending came from Pennsylvania, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. There was a social gathering (top left) in March and a focus on the role of materials and creativity in the July weekend gathering.

# STUDENT PRESENTATIONS AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Rose, J. R., **Dias, M. J. A.**, & Atilas, J. T. (2022). Teaching young emergent bilinguals got a bit more challenging. *Childhood Education: Innovations*, 98(2), 69-75. doi.org/10.1080/00094056.2022.2053447

**Dias, M. J. A.**, Atilas, J. T., & Moore, J. D. (2022). Preparing early childhood educators to work with emergent bilinguals [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Early Childhood Education, East Tennessee State University. (Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education, Revised and re-submitted August).

Broderick, J. T., Sareh, N., **Mensah-Bonsu, P.** (2022). Teaching preschool teachers to converse productively with children. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. rdcu.be/cEd7T

**Olubowale, O.**, Ejiogu, C., & Facun-Granadozo, R. (2022, June). Rising above stereotypes: *Using literature to depict Africa accurately*. A presentation to the Gilbreath Reading Council summer conference. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN. 7

Facun-Granadozo, R., **Olubowale, O.** & Ejiogu, C. (2022). Using text to represent Africa's cultures and promote healthy personal and social identities among children. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 50(2), 12-18

**Bilbrey, J.B.**, **Castanon, K.L.**, **Copeland, R.B.**, Evanshen, P.A., & Trivette, C.M. (submitted for publication). EC teachers' perspectives of trauma-informed knowledge, confidence, and training. *Early Childhood Education Journal*

Sharp, L. K. & **Dias, M.** (July, 2022) Supporting social/emotional development through literacy. Gilbreath Literacy Council Conference.



Dr. Broderick was a featured speaker at the Sabot Institute for Teaching & Learning Symposium in April 2022. She spoke on "The Transformative Magic of Documenting and Interpreting What Children Notice."

She was also a keynote speaker for the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators in June, where she spoke on, "Being open to Creativity in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Teacher Education."



## FATIMAH RUBAYYI

Being around a lot of children in her family in Saudi Arabia and working with children in the past inspired Fatimah to choose Early Childhood Education as a major. She was considering art as a major but was lucky that the year she began her undergraduate studies, Jazan University, the university in her city initiated an early childhood major. Due to her high GPA, Fatimah was asked to teach at the university. The teaching position required her to further her education. So, she came to the United States to study the English language in Seattle before completing a master's degree in Early Childhood at the University of Dayton, in Ohio. Going on to pursue Ph.D. in Early Childhood at ETSU is the final goal before returning to teach at Jazan University.

Fatimah says that being a doctoral student is a new and more rigorous process, which has made her stronger in her reading and writing ability. As an international student with English as a second language, the work in the program was difficult in the first months but she improved a lot. She liked being able to go to Little Bucs and the Child Study Center to see how the teachers apply the Reggio Emilia inspirations. She has learned a lot from each professor and enjoys working with her dissertation committee chair. She appreciated learning about leadership, which is something she would like to study further in the future.

At ETSU, she's experienced many good and difficult times, like the birth of her youngest child and having a surgery. She felt lucky to have people to support her so she could keep up with her studies.

When she came to the United States, her children were 2½ and 4 years and was pleased to be supported by their teachers when her English wasn't yet strong. They connected her with other families who were Arabic. This led her to think a lot about this relationship between teachers and parents, to make this the focus of her dissertation, and bring these ideas back to her country in spring 2023.

Fatimah's advice for new Ph.D. students is: 1) learning to manage your time is a key for success, 2) prepare for the classes, 3) enjoy the journey and try to learn from this setting as you have all the resources and teachers to support you.

# FACULTY PRESENTATIONS AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

## DR. ATILES

**Atiles, J. T.**, Lin, H., Buffington, J. & Larzelere, R. (2022). A measure of educators' teaching styles. *Educational Research Quarterly*, 45(3), 46-82.

Rose, J. R., Dias, M. J. A., & **Atiles, J. T.** (2022). Teaching young emergent bilinguals got a bit more challenging. *Childhood Education: Innovations*, 98(2), 69-75. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00094056.2022.2053447>

Dias, M. J. A., **Atiles, J. T.**, & Moore, J. D. (2022). Preparing early childhood educators to work with emergent bilinguals [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Department of Early Childhood Education, East Tennessee State University. (Journal of Early Childhood Teacher Education, Revised and re-submitted August).

Nash, K. T., Warner, C. K., Strelakova-Hughes, E., Thomas, R., Panther, L., Bell, C., & **Atiles, J. T.** (2022). You have to do something new: Learning teaching as interpretative process. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. Division of Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies, University of Missouri- Kansas City. (Teacher Education Quarterly, July).

Nash, K. T., Hollins, E. R., Warner, C., Bell, C., Michael, J., Peng, J., Carter, C., Strelakova-Hughes, E., Panther, L., Vaughn, M., Baden, F., Thomas, R., Meier, E. & **Atiles, J. T.** (2022, April). Learning teaching as an interpretive process. American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, California.

## DR. BRODERICK

Yu, G., **Broderick, J. T.** & Hong, S. B. (in-progress). Art as Inquiry: Early Childhood Teachers and Art Educators Co-Constructing Ideas about Collaboration through Drawing.

Venier, A., **Broderick, J. T.** & Hong, S. B. (2022). What makes you powerful? *Innovations*, 29(2), 12-24.

**Broderick, J. T.**, Sareh, N., Mensah-Bonsu, P. (2022). Teaching preschool teachers to converse productively with children. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. [rdcu.be/cEd7T](https://doi.org/10.1080/10888438.2022.2053447)

## DR. EVANSHEN

Nyabando, T., **Evanshen, P.** (2022) Second grade students' perspectives of their classrooms' physical learning environment: A multiple case study. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 50, 709-720.

Bilbrey, J., Castanon, K. Copeland, R., **Evanshen, P.**, Trivette, C. (in-press). Primary early childhood educators' perspectives of trauma-informed knowledge, confidence, and training. *Australian Educational Researcher*.

## DR. RUTH FACUN-GRANADOZO

**Facun-Granadozo, R.**, & Yang, S. (2022, March). *Multicultural books as starting points in combatting stereotypes in pre-K through 5th-grade classrooms*. A paper presented at the virtual conference of the National Association for Multicultural Education.

Yang, S., & **Facun-Granadozo, R.** (2022, March). *Exploring deeper of the cultural iceberg: Multicultural picture books as powerful tools to engage preservice teachers*. A paper presented at the virtual conference of the National Association for Multicultural Education.

**Facun-Granadozo, R.** & Nyabando, T. (2022, April). *Using high-quality texts as springboards for engaging diverse learners in purposeful literacy experiences*. A paper presented at the annual conference of the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children. Albuquerque, NM.

Nyabando, T. & **Facun-Granadozo, R.** (2022, April). *Curating literacy backpacks to optimize children's and families' literacy experiences*. A paper presented at the annual conference of the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children. Albuquerque, NM.

Olubowale, O., Ejiogu, C., & **Facun-Granadozo, R.** (2022, June). *Rising above stereotypes: Using literature to depict Africa accurately*. A presentation to the Gilbreath Reading Council summer conference. East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

**Facun-Granadozo, R.** (2022, June). *Developmental milestones and developmentally appropriate practice in Vacation Church School*. A presentation delivered to the Philippine National Facilitators and Trainers for Vacation Church School. Virtual presentation.

**Facun-Granadozo, R.**, Olubowale, O. & Ejiogu, C. (2022). Using text to represent Africa's cultures and promote healthy personal and social identities among children. *Dimensions of Early Childhood*, 50(2), 12-18. Presidential Grant-In-Aid Award to attend the Qualitative Research Summer Intensive training by Research Talk, ETSU, Johnson City, TN, June 2022.

Clemmer College Internal Research Advisory Committee Funding Award to attend the Qualitative Research Summer Intensive training by Research Talk, ETSU, Johnson City, TN, June 2022.

Open and Affordable Course Material Award, East Tennessee State University through the Charles C. Sherrod Library, ETSU, Johnson City, TN, December 2022.

## DR. MALKUS

Voit, T., Rankin, B., & **Malkus, A. J.** (April, 2022). Leadership and advocacy: Re-envisioning early childhood education in New Mexico. Workshop presented at the annual conference of the New Mexico Association of the Education of Young Children, Albuquerque.

## DR. SHARP

**Sharp, L. K.** (2022) *Voluntary Pre-K Tennessee State Grant*. Tennessee Department of Education. (\$490,000, This was done in partnership with Greeneville City Schools as part of her consulting tasks.)

**Sharp, L. K.** & Dias, M. (July, 2022) Supporting social/emotional development through literacy. Gilbreath Literacy Council Conference. Johnson City, TN.

## DR. TRIVETTE

Keilty, B., **Trivette, C.M.**, & Kenealy, J. (Accepted for publication). Emphasizing family strengths in strengths-based interventions: Family insights for designing early intervention supports. *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities*.

Bilbrey, J., Castanon, K. Copeland, R., Evanshen, P., **Trivette, C.** (in-press). Primary early childhood educators' perspectives of trauma-informed knowledge, confidence, and training. *Australian Educational Researcher*.



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**Above:** Rebekah Taylor, fall 2018 Ph.D. graduate, was the closing keynote speaker at the Gilbreath Literacy Council's Summer Conference where she also received the Ed Dwyer Love of Literacy award. Her presentation was titled, *Literacy Remains a World of Possibilities*.

The following are other Gilbreath Literacy Council presentations by Early Childhood Ph.D. **students** and faculty:

**Olubowale, O.,** Facun-Granadozo, R., Ejiogu, C. F. (2022). *Rising Above Stereotypes: Using Literature to Depict Africa Accurately*. Gilbreath Literacy Council, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

**Dias, M. & Sharp, K.** (2022). *Literacy Tools to Support Social and Emotional Development*, Gilbreath Literacy Council, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Wood, L., Sharp, K., & **Shelton, A.** (2022). *Roundtable Discussion: Teaching in Today's Classrooms*. Gilbreath Literacy Council, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.



## WESAM ALSHAHRANI

*Wesam asked us to share an image from her home city of Abha.*

Wesam is an Early Childhood lecturer at King Khaled University, in Abha, Saudi Arabia. When she became interested in completing a Ph.D. degree in the United States, she found our program at ETSU. PhD lecturers at her university are required to complete a Ph.D. and Wesam will be the first girl in her family to have a Ph.D., which is special to her parents, and especially her father.

Wesam entered the program at the start of the COVID pandemic and all courses went online in her second semester. This was a big shift not only for her adjustment to the Ph.D. program but also for her children who were just getting used to life in the U.S. She will always reflect on the changes in this time which include many memories of working with really good people—professors and classmates in the program who helped to improve her academic and personal life.

As an international student, Wesam worried about the comprehensive exam, something she thought of since the first day of the program. She was very surprised and happy when she received a “high pass” score. Wesam shares this because she wants others to know that there is hope for international students to be successful in this program.

Wesam is interested in leadership in Early Childhood. Her dissertation focus is on elementary school principals because they are now more and more responsible for preschool children. For example, in Tennessee there is the Voluntary PreK Program that is funded by the state. Many principals don't have the knowledge of early childhood, so Wesam is interested in learning more about their perspectives on how they develop Early Childhood leadership practices related to having these younger children in their building. In the future she wants to study what principals understand about Early Childhood in her country. Wesam plans to graduate in Spring 2024.

# FACULTY & STUDENT Scholarly Highlights



Dr. Broderick worked with research assistants Narges Sareh and Patience Mensah-Bonsu Aggrey on a single case design study that was funded by the East Tennessee State University RDC major grant and published in January 2022. Narges is a former ECED Ph.D. Fellow who is now an assistant professor at Northwest Missouri State University. Patience is an ECED Ph.D. Fellow currently working on her dissertation.

Broderick, J.T., Sareh, N., Mensah-Bonsu, P. (2022). Teaching preschool teachers to converse productively with children. *Early Childhood Education Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-021-01284-0>



*Dr. Julia T. Atilas published the following articles.*

Atilas, J. T., Lin, H., Buffington, J. & Larzelere, R. (2022). A measure of educators' teaching styles. *Educational Research Quarterly*, 45(3), 46-82.

Rose, J. R., Dias, M. J. A., & Atilas, J. T. (2022). Teaching young emergent bilinguals got a bit more challenging. *Childhood Education: Innovations*, 98(2), 69-75. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00094056.2022.2053447>

## Conferences of Interest to Students and Faculty

**Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI):** Dr. Sharp is a member of ACEI and serves in a leadership position. ACEI website: [ceinternational1892.org](http://ceinternational1892.org) The TN ACEI site: [tacei.org/](http://tacei.org/)

**Association for Constructivist Teaching (ACT):** October conference each year. Proposals are due late spring, early summer. Dr. Broderick is a past board member of ACT and newsletter editor. ACT's online journal, *The Constructivist*, is now a proceedings journal that also accepts outside submissions. Kelly A. Russell is the editor for the journal. [krussell@bsc.edu](mailto:krussell@bsc.edu) ACT website: [acteducators.com](http://acteducators.com)

**Association for Teacher Educators (ATE):** There is an annual meeting in the spring, March 25-29, 2023 Jacksonville, FL and an annual conference in the summer July 28-August 1, 2023 Washington, D.C. [ate1.org/annual-events](http://ate1.org/annual-events)

**Division for Early Childhood: DEC:** Conference will be held on September 27-30, 2022. DEC website: [deconference.org/](http://deconference.org/)

**National Association for Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE):** This conference is always held in conjunction with NAEYC. Fall 2022 conference will be in conjunction with NAEYC November 16, 2022. Contact Dr. Evanshen for more information on NAECTE. NAECTE website: [naecte.org/](http://naecte.org/)

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):** Annual conference will be held November 16-19, 2022 in Washington, DC [naeyc.org/events/future-dates](http://naeyc.org/events/future-dates)

**Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD)** [srcd.org/events](http://srcd.org/events)

**Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA):** Annual conference will be held March 2-4, 2023 in Chattanooga, TN, SECA website: [seca.info/conference](http://seca.info/conference)

**Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education (TACEE):** Annual conference takes place October 22, 2022 in Clarksville, TN. TACEE website: [tacee.org](http://tacee.org)

**Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC):** This conference is held in the fall. TAEYC website: [taeyc.00family.com/join.html](http://taeyc.00family.com/join.html)

**ETSU Early Childhood Conference:** This conference is held in the summer. All ECED faculty are contacts for this conference. [etsu.edu/coe/child/programs/conference/default.php](http://etsu.edu/coe/child/programs/conference/default.php)