**Luz Casquejo Johnston, Ed.D.**

**EDUCATION**

**Educational Leadership, June 2014**

Joint Doctoral Program

University of California, San Diego

California State University, San Marcos

**Dissertation**: “Examining Montessori Middle School through a Self-Determination Theory Lens:

A Mixed Methods Study of the Lived Experiences of Adolescents”

**Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Food Science, 1993**

University of California, Berkeley

**PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS & CERTIFICATIONS**

**Administrative Services Credential, 2015**

Elementary I, Lower Elementary, Montessori Certificate, 2002

Clear Multiple Subject Teaching Credential, 1999 (current)

**Elementary I, Lower Elementary, Montessori Credential, 2002**

Montessori Greenhouse Teacher Training Program

**Clear Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, 1999**

Project Pipeline, TEACH Internship Program

**TRAININGS**

**Ed Tech Camp (AY 2017-2018)**

Two day training hosted by the EdTech Center at the SMC library. Topics included resources at SMC to flip classroom, screencasting with Loom, interactive classroom pedagogies using smartboards and Moodle gradebook.

**Leading for Social Justice, Kevin Kumashiro Consulting, (June 2017)**

Three day workshops facilitated by Kevin Kumashiro, former dean of the school of education at the University of San Francisco. Topics included the current political climate and educational landscape, tensions between teacher education practices and the problems facing new teachers in the field. Participants were pushed to see their work in the academy as part of movement building for social justice and to frame themselves as social justice advocates

**Introduction to Anti-Bias, Anti-Racist (ABAR) Education, Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training, (June 2017)**

This one day workshop held during the first day of the Montessori for Social Justice Conference introduced participants to ABAR concepts and challenged them to identify their biases and dismantle internalized racism.

**Digital Driver’s License, KSOE Cohort 3, (Fall 2017)**

Five, two-hour workshops hosted by Barry Eckhouse of SEBA. Topics and skills included using Camtasia and Snagit to create screencasts and videos, Voice Recorded Grading Techniques (including recording written comments using a tablet, creating a videocast using Camtasia)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**I. Higher Education Experience**

**Assistant Professor, Montessori Teacher Education Program**

*Saint Mary’s College of California, July 2015- Present*

* Teach elementary mathematics, elementary foundations, field observations and practicum in Montessori Elementary Program
* Support and supervise students in practicum year of the elementary credential program
* Coordinate admissions for Early Childhood and Elementary Montessori Education Programs
* Support recruitment efforts
* Complete Montessori Education Program Assessment Report
* Coordinate MACTE Re-accreditation
* Design and implement Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAIT) with an Emphasis on Montessori Education
* Chair masters thesis projects for MAIT adult learners with Montessori elementary credentials; traditional track masters thesis project for adult learners with Montessori elementary credentials
* Chair masters thesis projects for adult learners enrolled in the Teachers for Tomorrow Program

**II. Professional Experience in the Field of Education**

**Principal, Murrieta and Lake Elsinore Student Centers**

*River Springs Charter School, July 2008- Present*

* Design and implement Classical Homeschool Academy, homeschool and on-site instruction hybrid
* Design and implement Casa Montessori, homeschool and on-site instruction hybrid
* Design and implement DaVinci Academy, STEAM model
* Design and implement Montessori Middle School
* Hire, oversee and evaluate certificated and classified staff
* Recruit new students, plan and implement advertising and marketing for student centers
* Orient and facilitate new parents and students to River Springs
* Facilitate workshop and trainings for all programs at Murrieta Student Center and Lake Elsinore Student Center
* Facilitate parent support workshops and trainings
* Recruit high school students, plan and implement CTE courses in the Health, Dental and Technology Pathways

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**I. Higher Education – Saint Mary’s College of California, Assistant Professor**

**EDUC144—Cognitive Development in a Diverse Society (SP2016, SP2017).** Lecture course that supports *Teachers for Tomorrow* program develop understanding of cognitive development theory and practical applications. *(Instructor)*

**JAN070—Generation World: Italian Language and Culture Abroad for Freshmen (JA2019).** Travel study course that introduces freshmen to Italian language and culture. Freshmen complete the equivalent of Italian I. *(Developer and Chaperone)*

**JCL 125—Text-Based Discussion in Middle School, Critical Literacy (SP2018).** Experiential learning course that support *Teachers for Tomorrow* students implement strategies from Collegiate Seminar in a local Moraga School. Limited lecture on critical pedagogy and practice in preparation for this experience. *(Instructor)*

**JCL 126—Montessori for All, Best Practices for Classroom Innovation (SP2018).** Experiential learning course that introduces *Teachers for Tomorrow* (TFT) students to Montessori pedagogy and practice that can be implemented in traditional classrooms. *(Developer, Instructor)*

**MAIT 401—Introduction to Inquiry (SU2017).** Experiential learning course that introduces Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAIT) candidates to the MAIT program and supports them in creating their e-portfolio and website. *(Instructor)*

**MATS 530—Introduction to Research Methods (FA2017, FA2018).** Experiential learning course that introduces TFT and Single Subject Teacher Education (SSTE, 4+1) candidates to action research and supports them in completion of chapter 1 of their master’s thesis. *(Instructor, Revised syllabus and activities)*

**MATS 531—Action Research Classroom Project (SP2019).** Experiential learning course that introduces TFT and Single Subject Teacher Education (SSTE, 4+1) candidates to action research and supports them in completion of chapter 2 and 3 of their master’s thesis. *(Instructor, Revised syllabus and activities)*

**MATS 532—Action Research Classroom Project (SU2017, SU2018).** Experiential learning course that introduces TFT and Single Subject Teacher Education (SSTE, 4+1) candidates to action research and supports them in completion of chapter 2 and 3 of their master’s thesis. *(Instructor, Revised syllabus and activities)*

**MEC 311/312—Early Childhood Observation and Seminar (F/SP15-16, F/SP16-17, F/SP17-18).** Experiential course with seminar that supports Montessori Early Childhood credential candidates develop their observation skills. *(Instructor)*

**MEL 231—Positive Discipline and Classroom Management (JA2016).** Experiential class with seminar that supports candidates in developing and practicing classroom management skills and trains them using the Positive Discipline model. *(Instructor, Revised syllabus and activities)*

**MEL 263—Elementary Mathematics I (SP2016).** Experiential class that supports Montessori Elementary I-II candidates gain skill in presenting Montessori elementary math materials. *(Instructor)*

**MEL 265—Elementary Foundations (JA2016)** Experiential class that supports Montessori Elementary I-II candidates gain skill in presenting Montessori elementary history materials. *(Instructor)*

**MEL 266—Elementary Sciences (SU2016)** Experiential class that supports Montessori Elementary I-II candidates gain skill in presenting Montessori elementary biological, earth, physical and social science materials. *(Instructor)*

**MEL 269—Elementary Mathematics II (FA2015, FA2016).** Experiential class that supports Montessori Elementary I-II candidates gain skill in presenting Montessori elementary advanced math materials including algebra, integers and geometry. *(Instructor)*

**MEL 411/412—Elementary Observation and Seminar (F/SP15-16, F/SP16-17, F/SP17-18).** Experiential course with seminar that supports Montessori Elementary I-II credential candidates develop their observation skills. *(Instructor)*

**MEL 420/430—Elementary Practicum I/II (F/SP15-16, F/SP16-17, F/SP17-18, F/SP18-19).** Experiential course with seminar that support candidates in their practicum site placement *(Instructor, Revised syllabus)*

**MSTE254—Reading and Language Development II (SP2017).** Lecture course that supports teachers in building capacity in the teaching of reading, reading comprehension and other areas of language arts. Teacher Candidates prepare for California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) Content Area Task (CAT). *(Instructor)*

**II. TK-12 (Transitional Kindergarten through Twelve)**

**Educational Specialist, Homeschool**

*River Springs Charter School, August 2006-June 2008*

* Facilitate homeschool learning environments for K-12th grade students on Homeschool Education Specialist roster
* Attend IEP’s for students and provide input on general education progress
* Provide training and support to homeschool parents in implementing River Springs “Key Skills” (based on California State Standards)
* Provide training and support to parents in the teaching of core subjects
* Provide training and support to parents in evaluating student work for grade level proficiency
* Provide training and support to parents in creating plan to assist students in areas of need in order to reach grade level proficiency
* Plan and implement RTI (Response to Intervention) process for students who require academic assistance
* Report and manage student files for state and county audits
* Report and manage student attendance
* Counsel and manage high school student courses and graduation requirements
* Serve on Homeschool High School Steering Committee

**Educational Specialist, Casa Montessori Academy and Homeschool**

*River Springs Charter School, August 2005-July 2006*

* Implement Casa Montessori, homeschool and on-site instruction hybrid
* Facilitate homeschool learning environments for K-12th grade students on Homeschool Education Specialist roster

**Teacher, Lower Elementary (1st through 3rd grade)**

*Eagle Peak Montessori School, July 2001-June 2005*

* Implement Montessori lower elementary curriculum
* Serve on governing Board as Teacher Liaison
* Align Montessori curriculum to 1997 California state standards
* Design Montessori report card aligned to 1997 California state standards

**Teacher, kindergarten**

*Harder Elementary School, Hayward, CA July 1997-June 1999*

* Serve as grade level facilitator
* Implement 1997 California state standards

**PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

**I. Conference Presentations**

*8th International Conference on Education and Social Justice, October 2018, Honolulu, HI*

*“Leading for Social Justice”, (panel)*

*Montessori for Social Justice, June 2018, Minneapolis, MN*

*“In Conversation: Montessori, Freire and hooks”, (presenter)*

*American Montessori Society, March 2018, Denver, CO*

*“More Science behind the Genius: Montessori and Motivation”, (presenter)*

*American Montessori Society, March 2018, Denver, CO*

*“Cosmic Education in Public Montessori Schools”, (panel)*

*Hawaii International Conference on Education, January 2018, Honolulu, HI*

*“Interrogating the Self: Best Practices in Teacher Education Programs” (roundtable)*

*Lasallian Symposium Learning Lab, January 2016, Moraga, CA*

*“Motivating Middle School Students: A Practical Approach”, (presenter)*

**II. Publications**

*Journal of Montessori Research, May 2016 (V1:2)*

*“Examining Montessori Middle School through a Self-Determination Theory Lens: A Mixed Methods Study of the Lived Experiences of Adolescents”*

*Journal of Montessori Research, (declined with interest in revised manuscript)*

*“Motivation and the Erdkinder” (Literature Review)*

*Women in Educational Leadership: A Practitioner’s Handbook (provisionally accepted)*

*“Model Minority: The Promise and the Reality, a Pilipinx Narrative”*

**III. Dissertation**

*“Examining Montessori Middle School through a Self-Determination Theory Lens: A Mixed Methods Study of the Lived Experiences of Adolescents”*

**IV. Poster Session, American Montessori Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 2015**

*“What Do They Say: Montessori Middle School Students Speak about Self-Determination”*

**V. Federal Grant, Arts Education Model Design and Dissemination, Department of Education, 2014**

*“ArTS (Arte, Tecnologia, Scienza): Dissemination of the DaVinci Arts Integration Model”*

**SERVICE**

1. **Service to the Teacher Education Department**

**Master of Arts in Early Childhood Supervision and Leadership, Program Director.** *(July 2018-present)*

* Advise adult learners
* Oversee and manage instructor assignment to courses

**Master of Arts in Education, Program Director.** *(July 2018-present)*

* Oversee MATS course sequence
* Teach research strand – MATS530, MATS531, MATS532
* Manage formation of masters thesis committees and facilitate any challenges within the work of each committee
* Support Credential Specialist in the Degree Verification process

**Montessori Teacher Education Program , Program Director.** *(July 2018-present)*

* Advise Montessori Early Childhood Credential candidates
* Advise Elementary I-II Credential candidates
* Manage and facilitate placement at practicum site
* Oversee college supervisors
* File all paperwork and reports required by the American Montessori Society (AMS)
* File all paperwork and reports required by the Montessori Accreditation Council on Teacher Education (MACTE)
* Oversee and manage instructor assignment to courses in both credential programs

**Montessori Teacher Education Program, Elementary Program Coordinator.** *(August 2015-present)*

* Advise Montessori Elementary I-II Credential candidates
* Manage and facilitate placement at practicum site
* Oversee college supervisors
* File all paperwork and reports required by the American Montessori Society (AMS)
* File all paperwork and reports required by the Montessori Accreditation Council on Teacher Education (MACTE)
* Oversee and manage instructor assignment to courses in Montessori Elementary I-II Credential program
* Write and file the Montessori Early Childhood Credential Program AMS Affiliation and MACTE Accreditation Self-Study Documents
* Write and file the Montessori Early Childhood Credential Program AMS Affiliation and MACTE Accreditation Self-Study Documents
* Manage On-Site Visiting Team for AMS Affiliation and MACTE Accreditation

**Teacher Education Research Group, member** *(August 2015-December 2017)*

1. **Service to the Kalmonovitz School of Education**

**Academic Policies Committee.** *(July 2018-present)*representative for Early Childhood Supervision and Leadership and Montessori Teacher Education

**Research Committee.** *(newly appointed)* –attend monthly meetings to discuss research and support of master’s thesis candidates

**Center for Environmental Literacy, Director.** *(July 2018-present)*

* Oversee and support work of Coordinator of the River of Words
* Work with Advancement Office to build relationships with major donors to support programs, efforts and operation the CEL
* Work with Advancement Office to identify, write and obtain funding from foundations to support programs, efforts and operation of the CEL
* Work with Office or Research to identify, write and obtain funding through state and federal grants to support research and development of programs
* Develop and implement programs to disseminate Watershed Explorer curriculum

**Center for Environmental Literacy, Co-Director.** *(July 2017-June 2018)*

* Work with Office or Research to identify, write and obtain funding through state and federal grants to support research and development of programs
* Develop and implement programs to disseminate Watershed Explorer curriculum

1. **Service to Saint Mary’s College**

**Collegiate Seminar (in formation) *(current)***

* Attended “Reading in Seminar” presented by Mary-Kay Moskal

**KSOE Dean Search Committee (member) (*current)***

* Provide input and review leadership profile
* Participate in feedback/talk-back sessions with faculty and staff
* Review candidate files
* Participate in all rounds of interview process
* Provide feedback to the Provost in collaboration with search committee

**Faculty Development Fund, member (appointed).** *(September 2015-present)*

* Review undergraduate student, graduate student and professor applications to the Faculty Development Fund
* Review nominations for Annual Faculty Awards
* Review applications to the Provost’s Research Grant

1. **Service to the Field of Montessori Education**

**Montessori Research Group, Inaugural Member.** *(September 2018-present) –* attend annual meeting

of the Montessori Research Group at the University of Kansas.

**Montessori in the Public Policy Initiative, Member.** *(September 2018-present)* –attend annual

meeting of the MPPI and develop initiatives to expand reach and access of Montessori in the public

sector. Develop public policy advocacy group in California

**Montessori for Social Justice, Founding Board Member.** *(June 2017-present)* –attend monthly

meetings, participate in developing mission and vision, serve as representative at the annual MPPI

meeting

**Montessori for Social Justice, Ant-Bias/Anti-Racism Committee, Member.** *(June 2017-present)* –

attend bi-monthly meetings, participate in developing Anti-Bias/Anti-Racism rubrics for Montessori

guides, Montessori classrooms and Montessori schools

**Montessori for Social Justice, Conference Planning Committee, Chair.** *(newly appointed)* –

chair monthly meetings, coordinate with conference planner, facilitate selection of conference

sessions, keynote speaker, consult with MSJ treasurer on budget, facilitate review of scholarships for Montessorians of Color

**AWARDS**

**California State Parks Foundation Grant** *(August 2018 - $10K) –*collaborated on grant to obtain funding for state park field trips in the greater SF Bay Area, led teacher training on the Watershed Explorer curriculum

**Saint Mary’s College Provost’s Research Grant** *(February 2018 - $3500)* –wrote and won grant to engage local teachers in the process of examining and re-designing the Watershed Explorer curriculum for the Center of Environmental Literacy

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

*American Education Research Association*

*American Montessori Society*

*Montessori for Social Justice*

*Positive Discipline Association*