

VIRGINIA KILLIAN LUND
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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Chicago

PhD, Curriculum and Instruction Specialization: Literacy, Language, and Culture

Dissertation Title: Legends/Making/Space: Teaching and Learning at YOUmedia in Hartford, Connecticut

Dissertation Committee: Drs. Nathan C. Phillips (chair), James Gavelek, Erica Halverson (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Michael Thomas, and Rebecca Woodard

DePaul University

MEd, Teaching and Learning, 2010, with distinction

University of Chicago

BA, English Language and Literature, 2004, with honors

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor, 2020-present, Feinstein College of Education, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

Killian Lund, V., Jones, K., Thrailkill, D., Smith, K. & Edmiston, F. (2025) Crafting Speculative Roleplaying Games for Teacher Education: Questioning Power and Centering Empathy in Schools. *Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy*, 1–25.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15505170.2024.2440868>

Killian Lund, V. (2024). ‘Legends’ teaching and learning with technology in teen space. *Learning, Media and Technology*, 1-14. DOI: [10.1080/17439884.2024.2312136](https://doi.org/10.1080/17439884.2024.2312136)

Killian Lund, V. & Phillips, N.C. (2022) In the water: Conceptualizing and navigating tensions while learning on the move. *Language Arts*, 99(4), 241-252. [special issue on learning on the move] DOI:[10.58680/la202231741](https://doi.org/10.58680/la202231741)

Phillips, N.C. & **Killian Lund, V.** (2021) Leveling up: Connected teacher learning in an after-school digital media production space in an urban high school. *Journal of Youth Development*, 16(1), 29-54. DOI 10.5195/jyd.2021.932

Gruen, R., & **Killian Lund, V.** (2019) Memory quilts and hope chests: Adult learners craft counterstories in their community museum. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*. 63(5), 549-558. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaal.1018>

Phillips, N.C, & **Killian Lund, V.** (2019) Sustaining affective resonance: Co-constructing care in a school-based digital design studio. *The British Journal of Educational Technology*. 50(4), 1532-1543. [Special issue on affective potentials in informal, technology-enhanced learning setting] DOI: [10.1111/bjet.12799](https://doi.org/10.1111/bjet.12799)

Phillips, N. C., Woodard, R., & **Killian Lund, V.** (2017). Cultivating disciplinary futures in a school-based digital atelier. *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, 60(4), 461-465. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaal.608>

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters

Killian Lund, V. & Lund, C. K. (in production) Some Bedtime Reading Wakes Us Up: Challenging and Challenged Texts as Portals to Parent-Child Connection. In Panozzo, M. & Eaton, P. (Eds) *Battle of the Bans: Narratives of Reading and Engaging with Banned Books*. Myers Education Press.

Jones, K., & **Killian Lund, V.** (in production) 'The world needs to adapt to us': Resisting the hidden curriculum of schooling through postdigital speculative table-top roleplaying

Killian Lund, V. & Phillips, N. C. (2022) Designing for justice in a school-based makerspace. In Wilson-Lopez, A., Tucker-Raymond, E., Esquinca, A., and Meija, J.A. (Eds.) *The Literacies of Design: Studies of Equity and Imagination in Engineering and Making*. Purdue University Press. DOI: [10.2307/j.ctv1xx99f3.14](https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1xx99f3.14)

Book Review

Killian Lund, V. (2020) Review of A Symphony of Possibilities: A Handbook for Arts Integration in Secondary English Language Arts. *Journal of Language & Literacy Education*

Creative Works

Jones, K., Thrailkill, D., **Killian Lund, V.**, Smith, K.*, & Edmiston, F.* (2024) We know something you don't know: A game in the Belonging Outside Belonging system. [Game]. <https://virginialund.itch.io/we-know-something-you-dont-know>

* Indicates graduate student co-author

Manuscripts in Preparation

Nash, B., **Killian Lund, V.**, Jones, K., Storm, S., Krone, E., Corbitt, A., & Aleo, T. (accepted) The Reader-Player Interactivity Framework: How Do Readers Navigate Diverse Varieties of Narrative Texts?" *Reading Research Quarterly*.

Killian Lund, V. & Howe, M.* (revisions submitted) Relational and Real: Data and Documentation in Distributed Mentorship. *Journal of Youth Development*.

Killian Lund, V. (accepted for special issue) 'Wario is dummy thicc': Humor as compositional goal for young authors. *Theory Into Practice*.

Killian Lund, V. & Cooper Novack, G. (revising for resubmission) Emotional & Intellectual Communion in Teen Literacy Spaces. *Journal of Literacy Research*.

Killian Lund, V., Broemmel, A., Rearden, K., & Broussard, J.,* (in preparation) Critical Reflections on Representations of Scientists in Award-Winning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Books. *Science Education*

INVITED TALKS

"Spatial Methodologies in Qualitative Research Panel," University of South Florida Student Organization for Qualitative Methodologies, April 19, 2024

"Gaming Stories from our Classrooms," Media Education Lab at the University of Rhode Island, August 23, 2023

"Care-full Collaboration in Media Arts Education," Media Education Lab at the University of Rhode Island, April 13, 2022

"Counter-Design for Equity in a Digital Makerspace," College of Education at Northern Illinois University, April 2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Killian Lund, V., Jones, K., Thrailkill, D., Smith, K.J.*, & Edmiston, F.* (2024, December,) Reimagining a Poorly Designed Game: Co-creating a Roleplaying Game for Teachers. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA

Dietrich, H., Smith, K.J.,* Jones, K., Killian Lund, V., & Thrailkill, D. (2024, December,) Exploring Games as Texts, Gaming Literacies, and Games in Classrooms. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA

Killian Lund, V., & Jones, K. (2024, November) How We Use Storytelling Games for Heart, Hope, and Humanity. National Council of Teachers of English Annual Conference, Boston, MA.

Killian Lund, V. (2024, April) Finding Intellectual Communion in Rural Utah: Adolescent Filmmakers Forging Connection Through Humor and Care.

* Indicates graduate student co-author

- American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Killian Lund, V. & Howe, M.* (2024, April) Breaking Open "Brokering": A Literature Review of Connected Learning Research Engaged With Brokering. American Educational Research Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Phillips, N.C. & Killian Lund, V. (2023, December) Acting-With as Research Ethic and Ethos in Transliterations Inquiries. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA
- Killian Lund, V. & Howe, M.* (2023, December) Funny Business: Funny Business: Giving Serious Consideration to Humor in Adolescents' Embodied Compositions. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA
- Kilian Lund, V. & Jones, K. (2022, December) Critical Gaming Literacies Study Group. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, AZ
- Killian Lund, V., Panos, A., Beymer, A. & Phillips, N.C. (2021, December) Geographies and Literacies, Intermingled and Illuminated Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Baker, E., Coiro, J., Killi, C., Cho, B., Reinking, D., Hagerman, M., Stornaiuolo, A., Castek, J., Killian Lund, V., Jang, B., & Sheldon, L. (2021, December). Digital Literacies: Passe or Paramount? Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.
- Killian Lund, V. (2020, December) Youth Sending Messages through Metaphor While in Secure Care. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Online.
- Phillips, N.C. & Killian Lund, V. (2020, December) Inside/Outside, Urban/Rural, Beyond Between: Tender Geographies in a Research-Practice Partnership with a Youth Media Organization. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Online.
- Killian Lund, V. (2020, December) "Technically, He Shouldn't Be Here": Emerging Adults Composing in Teen Space. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Online.
- Killian Lund, V., Phillips, N., Sherlock, A & Barnes, G. (2020, April) We drink the water: Teen filmmakers (re)producing media and place on the move. American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Phillips, N., Killian Lund, V., Woodard, R., (2020, February) Converse and Create at Studio NPL at the Nashville Public Library. NCTEAR, Nashville, TN
- Phillips, N., Killian Lund, V., & Washington, S. (2019, December) Seeking spatial justice in practice: Assertive struggle with/in Consequential Geographies Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.
- Killian Lund, V. (2019, December) Space-Holding Acts of Making and Composing. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Tampa, FL.
- Woodard, R., Killian Lund, V., Gruen, R., & Vaughan, A. (2019, April). Moving Toward a Conceptualization of Writing-as-Making. American Educational Research Association, Toronto, ON.

* Indicates graduate student co-author

- Killian Lund, V. (2019, April). Technically, He Shouldn't Be Here: A Teen Makerspace Makes Space for Legends. American Educational Research Association, Toronto, ON.
- Phillips, N. & Killian Lund, V. (2019, April). Co-Constructing Care in a School-Based Makerspace. American Educational Research Association, Toronto, ON.
- Gruen, R. & Killian Lund, V. (2018, December). Reclaiming our History: A Look at one Adult Literacy Class Curating Community Stories as a Form of Activism. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Indian Wells, CA.
- Phillips, N. C. , Killian Lund, V. & Bild, D. (2018, December). A Simultaneity of Stories-So-Far in Tracing (Youth) Transliterations: An Exploration of Research/Practice On-the-Move. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Indian Wells, CA.
- Woodard, R., Phillips, N.C., & Killian Lund, V. (2018, December). It's OK Not to Be An Expert: Pre-service Elementary Educators Designing Digital Disciplinary Pathways. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Indian Wells, CA.
- Killian Lund, V. & Phillips, N.C. (2018, August). Imagined Futures: Exploring Possibilities with/of a GeoConvos Activity. Connected Learning Summit, Cambridge, MA.
- Killian Lund., V. (2018, August). Sending Messages of Experience and Imagination: Metaphor in a Podcast Produced by Youth Who Are Incarcerated. Connected Learning Summit, Cambridge, MA.
- Phillips, N.C. , Killian Lund, V. (2018, August). Learning on the Move: Lessons from a Research-Practice Partnership Focused on Evaluating, Assessing, and Reflecting on Connected Learning. Connected Learning Summit, Cambridge, MA.
- Killian Lund, V. & Phillips, N.C. (2018, April). Leveling Up: Connected Teacher Learning in an After-School Digital Media Production Space in an Urban High School. Conference of the American Educational Research Association, New York, NY.
- Phillips, N.C., Woodard, R., Killian Lund, V., & Machado, E. (2017, November). Making Voices Heard: Empowering Literacy Learners through Making. National Council of Teachers of English, St. Louis, MO.
- Phillips, N.C., Killian Lund, V., Bild, D., Bruton, I., Carmichael, J., Martell, E., & Schmidt, A. (October 2017). GeoConvos: Exploring Tools and Methods for Evaluating and Reflecting on Connected Learning Pathways. Digital Media & Learning Conference, Irvine, CA.
- Phillips, N.C., & Killian Lund, V. (2016, December). "These Are My Students": Embodied Counter-Design at the Boundaries of School. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.
- Phillips, N.C., Woodard, R., & Killian Lund, V. (2016, December). Cultivating Disciplinary Futures in a School-Based Digital Atelier. Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, Nashville, TN.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate

* Indicates graduate student co-author

EDC 423: Teaching Reading Comprehension and Response in Elementary School, Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, University of Rhode Island

EDC 466: Intervention in Reading and Writing Difficulties, Fall 2020, 2021 University of Rhode Island

EDC 424: Teaching Literacy in the Primary Grades, Spring 2021, 2022, 2023 University of Rhode Island

EDC 455: Language Arts Methods, Fall 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 University of Rhode Island

URI 101: Planning for Academic Success, Fall 2022 University of Rhode Island

TSLC 310: Language and Literacy for Diverse Students, Fall 2019 Loyola University of Chicago

TSLC 320: Using Classroom Data for Literacy Instruction, Fall 2019 Loyola University of Chicago

TSLC 330: Discipline-Specific Literacy, Fall 2019 Loyola University of Chicago

CI 403: Literacy in the Disciplines, Fall 2018, Fall 2017 University of Illinois at Chicago

Graduate

EDP 612: Introduction to Qualitative Research Methods, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, University of Rhode Island

EDP 684: Analysis of Data, Summer 2024, University of Rhode Island

CI 482: Assessment & Instruction: A Multilingual Multicultural Perspective. Summer 2019 (face to face) & 2020 (asynchronous online course) University of Illinois at Chicago

CI 452: Children's and Young Adult Literature and Media (hybrid course), Spring 2019, University of Illinois at Chicago

UTEP 35542: Elementary Writing Methods, Spring 2018, University of Chicago

CI 534: Literacies In and Out of School, Spring 2017, Summer 2016, University of Illinois at Chicago

* Indicates graduate student co-author

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

FabX Research-Practice Partnership, Rhode Island, 2022-present

- Led collaborative inquiry project to investigate teaching and learning in out-of-school experiential programming across the state
- Supervised and mentored doctoral graduate student in data collection and analysis

Consulting Researcher, Spy Hop, 2017-2021

- Co-designed documentation plan for mentors teaching media arts programming in Salt Lake City, UT as well as traveling programs in three rural Utah communities
- Conducted research of a weeklong media intensive for teens in Blanding, Utah, a rural town in Utah's southeast
- Wrote evaluations and final reports of programming for Spy Hop staff and granting institutions that resulted in significant design changes for programming, including the development of a Rural Youth Media Network
- Co-led participatory action research workshops to support mentors in ongoing evaluation and assessment efforts

Maker-in-Residence, The Make Good Lab, 2019-2020

- Managed a makerspace situated in the College of Education
- Supported faculty, community members, and preservice teachers in using the space and its resources for projects, retreats, and workshops
- Collected data on visitors, space and tool usage, and learning

Research Assistant, GeoConvos, 2017-2018

- Collected and analyzed data on implementation of activities at partner organization sites
- Co-authored facilitator guide for activities and methods to assess learning on-the-move (www.geoconvos.org)
- Co-led professional development for educators

Research Assistant, Exploratory Study of Convergence Academies, 2015-2017

- Collected and analyzed ethnographic data at a school-based digital design studio
- Co-wrote reports on collected data

Research Assistant, Youth Writing for Civic Engagement, 2017

- Co-designed and conducted focus groups for youth
- Analyzed and reported on focus group data

SERVICE

Professional

English Teaching: Practice & Critique

* Indicates graduate student co-author

Guest Editor, Special Issue on Critical Gaming Literacies 2025-2026

National Science Foundation, Advancing Informal STEM Learning Program
Proposal Review Panel Member, 2024

AERA Media, Culture, and Learning Special Interest Group
Program Chair, 2022-2024

Literacy Research Association
Early Career Award Committee Member, 2021-2024

Language Arts
Editorial Review Board, 2021-2025

Literacy Research and Instruction
Journal Reviewer, 2024-2025

Bank Street Occasional Papers
Journal Reviewer, 2024

Journal of Youth Development
Journal Reviewer, 2021-2025

Research on the Teaching of English
Journal Reviewer, 2020-2021

Rural Society
Journal Reviewer, 2020

International Journal of Information Learning and Technology Journal Reviewer,
2018

Journal of Learning Sciences Journal Reviewer, 2017

Literacy Research Association
Doctoral Student Innovative Community Group, Newsletter Editor, 2016-2018

University
URI College of Education PhD Committee
URI College of Education Curriculum Committee, 2023-2024
UIC College of Education Makerspace Research and Planning Committee, 2017
Literacy, Language and Culture Peer Mentorship Coordinator, 2017-2018
Peer Mentor, 2016-2017

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Community Involvement

RIDE Convening on HQCM Implementation, 2025

High Quality Instructional Materials Working Group, RIDE, 2021

Board Member, Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health, 2019-2022

Designed transitional fundraising campaign that raised over \$10,000 for organization (annual operating budget: \$671,000); Consulted on grant applications, curriculum development, and reporting

GeoConvos Professional Development for Teen Librarians at Chicago Public Library

Member, HIVE Chicago Learning Network

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Homer Glen Community School District, 2010-2015

Seventh Grade English Language Arts Teacher (Co-taught special education ELA classes; served as GenEd and Literacy representative to RtI team, 2012-2015)

High Jump Chicago, 2008-2012

Writing Workshop/Reading Workshop teacher, Seventh and Eighth Grades

Ag47, 2009-2013

Co-founder/ Executive Director of nonprofit arts mentorship program for femme-identified adolescents

DramaGirls at Redmoon Theater, 2007-2009

Program director for arts mentorship program for 4th-8th grade girls

Cambridge School of Chicago, 2005-2008

1st grade teacher (2005-2007); 3rd & 4th grade teacher (2007-2008)

GRANT FUNDING

Not Funded

Killian Lund, V. (2025) Fostering Positive Adolescent Support Systems on Aquidneck Island. Van Beuren Charitable Foundation, \$396,370.16

Killian Lund, V., Correia, A. , Hamman-Ortiz, L., Brown, T. (2024). Project BOLD: Building on linguistic diversity. Papitto Opportunity Connection, \$999,323.

Killian Lund, V., Howe, M.,* Heath, S. (2023) *Building capacity to steward an equitable ecosystem of place-based learning for youth in Newport County, RI*, Spencer Foundation Research-Practice Partnership Grant, \$399,542

Funded: External

* Indicates graduate student co-author

Killian Lund, V. (PI), Correia, A. (Co-PI), Hamman-Ortiz, L. (Co-PI) & Brown, T. (Co-PI). (2024-2025) Project BOLD: Building on Linguistic Diversity. Discretionary Grant. Papitto Opportunity Connection, \$100,000.

Killian Lund, V. (Co-PI) and Jones, K. (Co-PI), (2023) *Critical Gaming Literacies Study Group*, Literacy Research Association “More than a Conference” Grant, \$2000

Funded: Internal

PI, *Integrating a Reflective Portfolio Assessment Tool in Elementary Education Teacher Preparation*. URI Office of Assessment Assessment Innovation Grant (April 2023, Funded) \$1000 for summer recontracting

Funded: Community Grants

Killian Lund, V., Johnson, H., & Millburn, D. “*Wyman in the Wild*” *Outdoor Learning Space*, Rhode Island Department of Education Learning Inside Out Grant (May 2023, Funded) \$100,000 to fund building of outdoor learning space at a Warwick public school

Killian Lund, V. (2010) Start-up grant for Ag47 Arts Mentorship Program, Living Room Realty Microgrant, Chicago, IL \$1500

AWARDS

Dean’s Merit Award

UIC College of Education, 2020

AERA Media Culture and Learning SIG

Best Empirical Paper, 2020

UIC Department of Curriculum and Instruction Conference Travel Award (\$500), 2017, 2018, 2019

HIVE Fund for Connected Learning

Conference Travel Award (\$1000), 2017

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

American Education Research Association, 2015-2025

Literacy Research Association, 2013-2025

National Council of Teachers of English, 2009-2025

National Art Education Association, 2008-2012

CERTIFICATES

Illinois Professional Educator License with endorsements:

- Elementary Education, Self Contained, K-9
- Language Arts, Middle Grades

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- Social Science, Middle Grades