

(Sarah) Hannah Gómez  
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#### EDUCATION

**PhD**, University of Arizona Dec 2024  
Program: Language, Reading, and Culture  
Minor: Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory  
Dissertation Title: *“This Book is Awful, the Author is Literally Clueless, It’ll Probably Sell a Million Copies, Yay, Publishing”*: Racial Reckoning and YA Book Twitter  
Committee Chair: Kathy G. Short, PhD  
Minor Representative: Marcia Klotz, PhD  
Committee Members: Carol Brochin, PhD; Stephanie Pearmain, MFA

**MA**, Simmons College (now University) Aug 2013  
Children’s Literature  
Capstone project: Tween Fiction on Disney Channel

**MS**, Simmons College (now University) Aug 2013  
Library & Information Science

**BA**, *cum laude*, University of Arizona Dec 2010  
Major: Creative Writing  
Minors: Music, Spanish

#### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Evolution of YA literature and its audience
- Evolution of the American Girl company and products
- Fan communities engaging in critical theory
- Marginalized authors’ references to each other in their fiction as counterstory praxis
- The meaning, function, and art of the author’s note
- Default westernized settings in fantasy fiction
- Critical whiteness theory in literature and the publishing industry
- Bibliosocial spaces (Book Twitter, Goodreads, BookTok, etc) and their impact on the publishing industry

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Adjunct Lecturer**, Simmons University June - Aug 2021  
CHL 429: Re-reading Race in the Classics (for MA students)

**Graduate Teaching Associate**, University of Arizona Aug 2016 - May 2021  
TLS 285: Learning About Adolescence Through Literature  
TLS 480: Children’s Literature in the Classroom

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, University of Arizona Fall 2019  
TLS 150b: Sports, Leisure, and Consumerism

**Adjunct Professor**, Emporia State University May 2016 - Aug 2017  
LI857: Advanced Programming for Youth Services (for MLS students)  
LI832: Information Resources & Services for Young Adults (for MLS students)

**Continuing Education Instructor**, Simmons College Apr & Nov 2015  
Diversity 102: Moving Beyond and Forward

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Founding Senior Editor**, Cultural Accuracy & Sensitivity July 2021 - present  
Editorial Services  
Kevin Anderson & Associates

**Contributor**, NoveList Plus July 2018 – present  
EBSCO

**Contributing Editor, Podcast Host** July 2020 – July 2021  
Book Riot

**PJ Library/PJ Our Way Coordinator** Mar 2016 – Apr 2017  
Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona

**Audiobook Proofreader** Oct 2016 – Sept 2020  
Scholastic Audio

**Program Manager** Feb 2015 – Aug 2016  
We Need Diverse Books

**Library Services Specialist** Aug 2013 – June 2015  
Castilleja School

**Librarian** July 2012 – July 2013  
Center on Media and Child Health  
Children’s Hospital Boston

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS (SOLO SPEAKER UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE)

“Blueprints: Magic Systems in Worldbuilding” March 2025  
Moderator of panel featuring Vanessa Le, Scott Reintgen,  
and Emily J. Taylor  
Tucson Festival of Books

“Bad Ass Girls Who Own the Spotlight” March 2025  
Moderator of panel featuring Kendare Blake, Alexandra  
Bracken, and Tricia Levenseller  
Tucson Festival of Books

Social Responsibility in Editing TBD 2025  
Hachette Book Group

“Becoming a Cultural Accuracy Editor” Feb 2025  
Emerson College

*Sleeping with the Ancestors* Paperback Launch Jan 2025  
Panel with Joseph McGill Jr., Herb Frazier, and  
Tamara T. Butler, PhD  
Zoomed into in-person event with Buxton Books, Charleston

Dissertation Defense Public Presentation Dec 2024  
University of Arizona  
(~100 attendees on Zoom)

“Engaging Audiences Authentically for Marketers” Nov 2024  
Hachette Book Group  
(~80 attendees across marketing and publicity departments on Zoom)

“Inclusion Without Appropriation” May 2024  
Craftfest at Thrillerfest 2024, New York City

“The Business Case for DEI” Apr 2024  
Panel presentation with Janan Sarwar and Crystal Swain-Bates  
IBPA Publishing University

“It’s Academic!” Mar 2024  
Moderator of panel featuring J.V. Lyon, Alicia Thompson,  
Jo Segura, and Anita Kelly  
Tucson Festival of Books

<p>“Accurate Historical Perspectives”  Panel discussion with Alana White and Lindsay Lynch  Nashville WriterFest</p>	<p>Nov 2023</p>
<p>“Why Do You Need an Authenticity Screener?”  Interviewed by Jeff Ayres and John Raab  Write2Thrill</p>	<p>May 2023</p>
<p>“Fantastical Girls and Spellbinding Stories”  Moderator of panel featuring Angie Thomas, Kiyash  Monsef, and Flora Ahn  <i>Los Angeles Times</i> Festival of Books</p>	<p>Apr 2023</p>
<p>“Partners, Not Censors: Sensitivity Reading and Cultural  Accuracy Editing in the Publishing Process”  London Book Fair</p>	<p>Mar 2023</p>
<p>“Reading Picture Books as a Family”  GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Parent Night  Tucson Unified School District</p>	<p>Sept 2022</p>
<p>“The State of Data-Infused Publishing”  Panel presentation with Jeff James and Kevin Anderson  Target Audience Insights</p>	<p>Apr 2022</p>
<p>“Middle Grade Fiction: Twists and Turns in Worlds  Real and Unreal”  Moderator of panel featuring Jennifer L. Holm, Donna  Barba Higuera, and Greg Van Eekhout  <i>Los Angeles Times</i> Festival of Books</p>	<p>Apr 2022</p>
<p>“Black Love Matters”  Panel discussion with Jessica P. Pryde and Adriana Herrera  Tucson Festival of Books</p>	<p>Mar 2022</p>
<p>“A Conversation with Marie Lu”  Interlocutor with author Marie Lu  Tucson Festival of Books</p>	<p>Mar 2022</p>
<p>“The Art of Retelling”  Moderator of panel featuring Ali Hazelwood, Katee  Robert, and Alana Quintana Albertson  Tucson Festival of Books</p>	<p>Mar 2022</p>

“Writing Outside Your Experience” Nov 2021  
 Panel discussion with Rea Frey and Janina Lawrence  
 Nashville WriterFest

“The Suspense is Killing Me” Aug 2021  
 Moderator of panel featuring Faridah Àbíké-Íyímídé, Tiffany D.  
 Jackson, Barry Lyga, Mariko Tamaki, and Kara Thomas  
 SLJ Teen Live

“Young Adult Fiction: The Black Experience” Apr 2021  
 Moderator of panel featuring Morgan Parker, Yusef Salaam,  
 Ibi Zoboi, and Dean Atta  
*Los Angeles Times* Book Festival (virtual)

“Stand Up, Speak Up in the Face of Adversity” Mar 2021  
 Moderator of panel featuring Angeline Boulley, Sharon G.  
 Flake, and Liza Wiemer  
 Tucson Festival of Books (virtual)

“Family Matters” Aug 2019  
 Moderator of panel featuring Jennifer Mathieu, Maika and  
 Maritza Moulite, Gabby Rivera, Laura Ruby, and Karol Ruth  
 Silverstein  
 SLJ Teen Live

“The Importance of Own Voices Stories” Mar 2019  
 Moderator of panel featuring Ellen Oh, Renee Watson, Ellen  
 Hagan, and Cynthia Leitich Smith  
 Tucson Festival of Books

“Telling the Stories of People Who Take Action” Mar 2019  
 Moderator of panel featuring Sylvia Acevedo, G. Neri,  
 Andrea Watson, and Pamela Turner  
 Tucson Festival of Books

“Mental Health in YA” Aug 2018  
 Moderator of panel featuring Lindsay Champion, Dana L.  
 Davis, Adib Khorram, An Na, and Maggie Thrash  
 SLJ Teen Live

“Brilliance, Magic, and Black Girls” June 2018  
 Panel discussion with Denene Millner and Zetta Elliott

American Library Association Annual Conference	
“Using Diverse Books” Workshop presentation with Jessica Dennes Literacy Connects	Apr 2018
Multicultural Education Professional Development Tucson Unified School District	Mar 2018
Multiple Panels Moderated multiple author panels and discussions Tucson Festival of Books	Mar 2018
“Reading Picture Books with Children Through a Race-Conscious Lens” Co-presented with Megan Dowd Lambert Embrace Race	Dec 2017
Multiple Panels Moderated multiple author panels and discussions Tucson Festival of Books	Mar 2017
Multiple Panels Moderated multiple author panels and discussions Tucson Festival of Books	Mar 2016
“Girls Like Fart Jokes and Boys Have Feelings” Panel discussion with Jordan Brown and Stephanie Kuehn American Library Association Annual Conference	June 2015
“Use of Diverse Books in Libraries” Bay Area Independent School Librarians	May 2015
“Stigmatizing Treatment of Mental Illness in Fiction” Online panel discussion with Kelly Jensen, Alex Townsend, and Kayla Whaley Disability in Kidlit	May 2015
“Getting Beyond Diversity” Panel presentation with Jewell Parker Rhodes and Edith Campbell KidLitCon	Oct 2014

<p>“We’re Not Going to Take It And Neither Should You: Why Book Bloggers DO Have the Power to Make Diverse Books Happen”  Panel presentation with Kelly Jensen, Faythe Arredondo,  and Summer Khaleq  KidLitCon</p>	<p>Oct 2014</p>
<p>“The Badging of Biracial Identity”  Paper presentation  Young Adult Library Services Association Symposium</p>	<p>Nov 2012</p>
<p>ESSAYS, ARTICLES, AND PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS</p>	
<p>“Romance Has Broken My Dichotomous Key”  <i>Black Love Matters</i>, edited by Jessica P. Pryde  Berkley Books, an imprint of Penguin Random House</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p>“From Sensitivity to Authenticity to Accuracy: The Evolving Role of the Cultural Accuracy Reader”  <i>Book Publishing Almanac 2022: A Master Class in the Art of Bringing Books to Readers</i>  Skyhorse Publishing</p>	<p>2022</p>
<p>“How to Navigate the World of Literature for Grownups”  Book Riot</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>“13 Biographies and Memoirs for Older Readers That Amplify Unheard Voices”  <i>School Library Journal</i></p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>“Does It Matter That Roald Dahl’s Family is ‘Sorry?’”  Book Riot</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>“TBR Lists Are Aspirational, Not Doable—And That’s What’s So Great About Them”  Book Riot</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>“Blogging 2.0”  <i>Neon Words</i>, by Marge Pellegrino and Kay Sather  Magination Press, an imprint of the American Psychological Association</p>	<p>2019</p>
<p>“8 Books About Multiethnic Experiences”  <i>School Library Journal</i></p>	<p>2019</p>

<p>“What’s, Well, Crazy”  <i>(Don’t) Call Me Crazy</i>, edited by Kelly Jensen  Algonquin Young Readers</p>	2018
<p>“Robin Benway Opens Up About Her National Book  Award–Winning YA Novel”  (interview)  <i>School Library Journal</i></p>	2018
<p>“11 Mind-boggling Thrillers”  <i>School Library Journal</i></p>	2018
<p>“The Weight of Being a Mirror”  <i>Topographies of Whiteness</i>, edited by Gina Schlesselman-Tarango (peer-reviewed)  Library Juice Press</p>	2017
<p>“There <i>Is</i> A Difference Between YA and MG, and It  Does Matter”  The Learned Fangirl</p>	2017
<p>The Truth About Sensitivity Readers And ‘Free Speech’  The Establishment</p>	2017
<p>“Why the Brilliant Women of <i>Bones</i> Deserve to be  Celebrated”  <i>Paste</i></p>	2017
<p>“Decolonizing Nostalgia: When Historical Fiction Betrays  Readers of Color”  <i>The Horn Book Magazine</i></p>	2016
<p>“The Racism of Awards ‘Merit’”  The Establishment</p>	2016
<p>“Tone Policing and Internalized Oppression in Fandom:  A Case Study in YA”  The Learned Fangirl</p>	2016
<p>“Racism and Religious Hypocrisy On My Birthright Trip  to Israel”  The Establishment</p>	2016



“You Don’t Show the Sweet Without the Bitter” (Invited op/ed) <i>School Library Journal</i>	2016
“Multicultural Collection Development” <i>Diversity in School Libraries</i> , edited by Robin Kurz (peer-reviewed) [book canceled after chapter acceptance] Rowman & Littlefield	2015
“Sources: Global Voices: Picture Books from Around the World” [book review] <i>Reference and User Services Quarterly</i> (peer review journal)	2014
“This, That, Both, Neither: The Badging of Biracial Identity In Young Adult Realism” (award-winning) (peer-reviewed) <i>The Journal of Research on Libraries and Young Adults</i>	2013
“Reality Check: Seeking Social Justice in a Library Career” <i>Voice of Youth Advocates Magazine</i>	2013
REGULAR REVIEWS OR BYLINES	
WebMD Patient Blogs	forthcoming 2025
Kirkus Reviews	2018 – present
NoveList Plus, an EBSCO Database	2018 – present
Health Digest	2021
Book Riot	2020 – 2021
Shelf Awareness	2017 - 2021
BNTeen Blog	2016 - 2018
The Horn Book Magazine and Horn Book Guide	2015 – 2017
YALSA’s The Hub	2013 – 2015
YALSAblog	2011 – 2013
The Book Report Network	2004 - 2012

TRADE BOOKS

*Maribel Versus the Volcano*, Girls Survive series 2020  
Capstone/Stone Arch Publishing

*Rookie Runner*, Jake Maddox JV Boys series 2018  
Capstone/Stone Arch Publishing

*Catching Confidence*, Jake Maddox JV Girls series 2018  
Capstone/Stone Arch Publishing

PODCASTS

Hey YA! from Book Riot 2020 – 2021  
Episodes 79-95.5

Read Harder from Book Riot 2021  
Episodes Jan-June 2021

Healing the City 2020  
“Dignity Exposed” Episodes

The Horn Book Podcast 2016  
Episode 7

COMMITTEE AND BOARD SERVICE (REMUNERATED INDICATED WITH \*)

**Treasurer, Board of Directors** July 2023 – present  
Legacy Unbound

**Jewish Book Selection Advisor\*** (confidential project) June 2022 – Mar 2023  
First Book

**Member, Board of Directors** May 2019 – May 2021  
Tucson Jewish History Museum & Holocaust Center

**Culturally Responsive Content Advisor\*** Jan 2020 – Jan 2022  
Learning A-Z

**Book Award Juror\*** Jan 2019 – Dec 2021  
*LA Times* Book Prize for Young People’s Literature

**Selection List Committee Member** Jan 2018- Jan 2019  
YALSA Amazing Audiobooks

<b>Committee Member</b> YALSA Financial Advancement Committee	Jan 2018 – Jan 2019
<b>Book Award Juror</b> Margaret A. Edwards Award, YALSA	Jan 2016 – Jan 2017
<b>Creative Arts Teen Summit Coordinator</b> <b>Children’s &amp; Teens Planning Committee Member</b> Tucson Festival of Books	Aug 2015 – Apr 2019
<b>Committee Member</b> YALSA Awards Nominating Committee	Jan 2015 – Dec 2015
<b>Chair</b> YALSA Local Arrangements Planning Committee	June 2014 – June 2015
<b>Position Paper Committee Member</b> Bay Area Independent School Librarians	Jan 2015 – June 2015
<b>Member</b> YALSAblog Advisory Board, YALSA	Jan 2014 – Jan 2015
<b>Book Award Juror</b> William Morris Award, YALSA	Jan 2013 – Jan 2014
<b>Member</b> YALSA Youth Engagement Committee	Jan 2012 – Jan 2014
<b>Member</b> YALSA/RUSA Young Adult Reference Services Committee	Jan 2012 – Jan 2014
COLLABORATIONS	
<b>Size Acceptance in YA Tumblr</b> Collaborative blog and resource center Co-founders: Kelly Jensen, Angie Manfredi, Faythe Arredondo	2015
<b>Diversity in ALA’s Best Fiction for Young Adults</b> Data analysis and research Principal investigator: Malinda Lo Other researchers: Elizabeth Burns, Kelly Jensen, Lalitha Nataraj, and Cindy Pon	2013

#### SELECTED PRESS APPEARANCES/INTERVIEWS

“Literary versus Nonliterary People: Rhetorical Strategies of Derogation in the Sensitivity Reading Debate” <i>Information &amp; Culture</i> (peer-reviewed)	2024
“Why Cultural Sensitivity Matters in Business” Authority Magazine	2024
“Double Up on DEI: The Real Impact on Customer Experience” CMSWire	2024
“Women of color still underrepresented in publishing” How To Be Books	2024
“Getting It Right: Sensitivity Readers Help Ensure Authentic Characters” <i>School Library Journal</i>	2023
“The Debate Over Scholastic’s Divisive New Book Fair Collection” <i>Parents</i>	2023
“As Classic Novels Get Revised for Today’s Readers, a Debate About Where to Draw the Line” <i>The New York Times</i>	2023
“Censorship or progress? Sensitivity readers” <i>Le Monde M</i>	2023
“We Are Latinx” <i>USA Today</i>	2022
CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (NON-PRESENTING)	
<b>Ethics in Publishing Conference</b> George Washington University	Oct 2024
<b>Social Innovation Summit</b> Landmark Ventures	June 2024
<b>Cultures and Spaces of Debt and Finance Conference</b> University of Arizona	May 2019

<b>Kidlit Undoing Racism</b> Hosted at Penguin Random House	Aug 2018
<b>“Outlawed: The Naked Truth about Censored Literature for Young People”</b> Fresno State University	Apr 2015
NON-DEGREE EDUCATION AND ENRICHMENT	
<b>Business Fundamentals Certificate</b> University of British Columbia/edX	In progress
<b>500-Hour Comprehensive Pilates Instruction</b> Club Pilates Education	2018-2020
<b>Film in Focus: Screenwriting</b> College of San Mateo	Spring 2015
<b>Rutgers English Diversity Institute</b> Rutgers University	Summer 2010
<b>Prague Summer Program</b> Advanced Novel Writing European Perspectives of American Literature University of Western Michigan	Summer 2010
FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS	
Erasmus Scholar, University of Arizona	2017 – 2018
Mary F. and Maude Miller Scholarship	2016 – 2017
YALSA Writing Award for Best Peer-Reviewed Paper	2014
Massachusetts Black Librarians Network Scholarship	2012
ALA/YALSA Spectrum Scholar	2011 – 2012
Fellowship for the Advancement of Campus Engagement, University of Arizona Hillel	2009 – 2010
NON-COMMITTEE COMMUNITY SERVICE	
<b>Blood Donor</b> American Red Cross	2006 – present

**Assistant Coach**, Girls on the Run  
Wright Elementary School

2017 – 2018

**Writing Tutor**  
826 Boston

2011 – 2012

**Mentor for Youth Participants**  
Owl & Panther Expressive Arts Program

2010 – 2011

LANGUAGES

**Spanish** – heritage speaker, C1

**Italian** – B1

**Portuguese** – heritage speaker, A2

**French** – A2

**German** – A1