

Jacob McWilliams, PhD

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pronouns: he, him, his

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I am a highly skilled diversity, equity, and inclusion professional who brings training in culturally relevant pedagogy and instructional design as well as in research methods, data collection, and assessment and evaluation strategies. Over the course of my career, I have developed and implemented hundreds of trainings, workshops, and courses in face-to-face, hybrid, and virtual learning contexts; and I have honed my oral, written, and relational communication skills in the process. I have served as the Director of the Women & Gender Center at the University of Colorado Denver since January 2017, and in this role I have advanced education, support, and advocacy efforts focusing on gender identity, gender expression, and sexuality. I bring experience with hiring, training, and supervising staff; planning and implementing conferences, workshops, and trainings; developing budget proposals and managing financial records; and developing grant proposals and reports.

EDUCATION

- PhD** Education, Indiana University (2015)
Minor: Gender, Sexuality, and Policy Studies
Dissertation: Trans*literacies: Designing for Gender Fluency and Transmedia Literacy in the Elementary Classroom
Dissertation Chair: Joshua A. Danish
- MFA** Creative Writing, Colorado State University (2005)
- BA** English, Grand Valley State University, Allendale, MI (1999)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director, Women & Gender Center Jan. 2017-present
University of Colorado Denver

- Established the Women & Gender Center as a resource for gender-based education, advocacy, and support for the CU Denver community.
- Designed and implemented more than 100 trainings and workshops on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Hired, trained, and supervised a team of student staff and supervised interns and volunteer groups.
- Created a scholarship fund for CU Denver students and implemented multiple fundraising campaigns.
- Managed the Center's budget and ensured fiscal transparency and accountability.
- Built and strengthened relationships with campus community members and established outreach programs with local nonprofit and corporate partners.

Director, Gender & Sexuality Center Aug. 2018-Dec. 2019
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

- Established the first Gender & Sexuality office on the Anschutz Medical campus.
- Developed outreach, community-building, and education and advocacy programs for faculty, staff, and students.
- Worked with student staff and student leaders on projects and initiatives focusing on gender and sexual diversity in the biomedical and health sciences.

Postdoctoral Research Associate, School of Education 2014-2016
University of Colorado Boulder

- Led design and implementation of research in undergraduate STEM education.
- Collected, analyzed, and presented research data.
- Participated in curricular and program design within CU Boulder's School of Education.
- Designed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in CU Boulder's School of Education and INVST Community Leadership Program.

Lecturer, School of Education **2015-2017**
University of Missouri-St. Louis

- Designed and taught UMSL's online capstone research methods course for graduate Education students.

Graduate Research Associate & Teaching Assistant, School of Education **2009-2014**
Indiana University

- Participated in all aspects of research design, data collection, and analysis in high school English / Language Arts classrooms.
- Guided research on theories and practice of teaching new media literacies skills.
- Participated in research design, data collection, and data analysis focusing on effective teaching and learning in higher education.
- Designed and taught undergraduate and graduate courses within the university's undergraduate Teacher Education, Educational Psychology, and core curriculum programs.

Curriculum Designer & Education Outreach Coordinator, Project New Media Literacies **2007-2009**
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Led design and development of a teacher's guide for supporting new media practices in the ELA classroom.
- Supervised undergraduate and graduate student research assistants and employees.
- Conducted outreach and collaboration with teachers across multiple school districts.
- Coordinated research projects and data collection across implementing classrooms.
- Provided administrative support for cross-university collaborative research and curricular projects.

Senior Lecturer, English Department **2005-2007**
Suffolk University / Bridgewater State University / Newbury College

- Designed and taught undergraduate courses in composition, humanities, business communication, and general education.

Teaching Assistant, English Department **2003-2005**
Colorado State University

- Taught undergraduate courses in CSU's Rhetoric & Composition and Creative Writing programs.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

Introductory workshops & trainings, delivered regularly from 2014-present

- Diversity 101: An Introduction to Issues of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Advanced topics in Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
- Introduction to Transgender and Nonbinary Identities and Issues
- Sexism, heterosexism, and transphobia: An overview of intersecting forms of oppression
- White Allyship: A facilitated conversation about supporting BIPOC community members
- Trans-Inclusive Pedagogy / Queer-Inclusive Pedagogy: A workshop for teachers
- Pedagogy, Assessment, & Syllabus Design
- Trauma-informed approaches to student support in and outside of the classroom

Specialized workshops & presentations

Course Design for Social Justice: From creating your syllabus to the first day of class. *Invited presentation for the Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, University of Colorado Denver*. Denver, CO (November 2020).

What COVID-19 Can Teach Us About Transphobia and Trans Inclusion. *Invited presentation to the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work*. Denver, CO (April 2020).

Empathy in an angry time. *Presentation to Latinx Undergraduate Leadership Academy*. Denver, CO (November 2019).

Multiple Pathways to Dialogue: A cross-disciplinary dialogues project. *CSU Diversity Symposium*. Colorado State University: Fort Collins, CO (November 12, 2019).

Fighting sexism, heterosexism, and heterosexism in 4 easy steps: A workshop for higher education professionals. *University of Colorado Denver I Anschutz Medical Campus*: Denver and Aurora, CO (Fall 2018-Spring 2019).

Invited panelist, *Multicultural, Intersectional, Inclusivity Exchange—a conversation on transgender identities and experiences*. Colorado State University: Fort Collins, CO (April 18, 2019).

Pedagogy workshop: Introducing Trans* Pedagogies: Living, Loving, and Teaching in Gender's High Tension Zone. *Trans*Forming Gender Conference*, University of Colorado Boulder: Boulder, CO (March 2015).

McWilliams, J., and Williams, B. (February 2015). Learning and Pedagogy: Strategies for Radical Honesty in the Classroom. *The Scholar and Feminist Conference*, Barnard College: New York, NY.

Invited panelist, Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning event, *Associate Instructor Workshop on Classroom Climate*, Indiana University (August 2013).

How to make like an ally: Creating safe spaces in the college classroom. Invited talk for Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) roundtable: Avoiding student exclusion, fostering classroom inclusion, Indiana University (March 2013).

EVENT PLANNING

A selected list of recent large-scale events I have planned is included below.

2020 Take a Peak Virtual Convention

June 30-July 6, 2020

Virtual Convention Coordinator

- Planned & implemented a virtual convention for approximately 400 LGBT+ and allied square dancers around the world
- Developed a multimedia marketing plan to raise awareness and increase participation in the Convention and follow-up events
- Planned and implemented fundraisers to recoup lost revenue from canceling the in-person Convention

Women's Leadership Conference

Annually in March 2017, 2018, 2019

Conference Co-Chair

- With a team of volunteers, coordinated all aspects of this annual professional development & networking event for the Auraria campus community
- Managed post-event feedback and data collection to support planning for future conferences & events

That's What She Said

Semi-annual: Oct. 2017, March & Oct. 2018

Event co-organizer

- Worked with a team of volunteers and paid staff to plan and implement live storytelling events to raise awareness of women's experiences in relationships, at work, and at school
- Planned and implemented a fundraising plan and raised more than \$5,000 for a student scholarship

You Are Welcome Here

October 2018

Event chair

- Worked with a team of volunteers to plan and implement the Auraria campus's first-ever conference on LGBT+ inclusion in faith communities
- Raised funds to support the conference and worked with local faith organizations to build a series of LGBTQ-inclusive events for the Denver-area community

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Gender & Sexuality

Queering the Schoolhouse: LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Education **Fall 2019**
Online MOOC on LGBTQ+ identities and issues for educators, offered through the Coursera Learning Platform.

Queering Identities: LGBTQ+ Sexuality and Gender Identities **Fall 2019**
Online MOOC introducing LGBTQ+ issues and identities, and providing an overview of Queer Theory, offered through the Coursera Learning Platform.

Education

University of Missouri-St. Louis **2016-2018**
Online course: ELE ED 6482, Research for Reading Teachers (capstone course for graduate students—taught 3 sections)

University of Colorado **2015-2016**
EDUC 6368, Adolescent Psychology and Development (graduate-level course for teachers) (taught 2 sections)
EDUC 4222, Language study for educators (taught 1 section)

Indiana University **2011-2014**
Online course: EDUC Y520, Strategies for Educational Inquiry (Survey of qualitative and quantitative methods for graduate-level education majors—taught 1 section)
EDUC P251: Educational Psychology for Elementary Education Majors (taught 6 sections)
Online course: EDUC P251: Educational Psychology for Elementary Education Majors (taught 1 section)
EDUC P250: Educational Psychology (learning in out-of-school contexts) (taught 1 section)
EDUC P250: General Educational Psychology (survey course) (taught 1 section)

Community Leadership

INVST Community Leadership Program, University of Colorado **2015-2016**
INVS 4402, Nonviolent Social Movements (taught 2 sections)

English, Composition, and Business Communication

Suffolk University, Bridgewater State University, Newbury College, Colorado State University
Freshman Composition (17 sections) 2003-2007
American and British Literature (4 sections) 2003-2007
Business Communication (1 section) 2006
Creative Writing (1 section) 2005

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Gender and Sexual Diversity

Anderson, S., **McWilliams, J.**, & Miller, K. (April 12, 2019). Stop talking about genitals! A workshop on gender-inclusive practices in addressing sexual assault. Presentation to the Sexual Assault Interagency Council: Denver, CO.

McWilliams, J., Seamont, M., & Wold-McCormick, K. (Nov. 13, 2018). CU's New Personal Identity Values: Definitions, Uses, Access & Security. *University of Colorado Diversity & Inclusion Summit*. University of Colorado Boulder: Boulder, CO.

Easton, D., & **McWilliams, J.** (June 27, 2018). Building an inclusive community for transgender and gender nonconforming students. *Student Affairs Conference 2018: CommUnity*. University of Colorado Denver: Denver, CO.

Smith, T.R., & **McWilliams, J.** (October 2017). A Transgender Man and a Homosexual Walk into a Room...: Challenging Messages about Masculinity and Gender Expression in Higher Education. *LGBTQ + EMAC Symposium, 2017*: Denver, CO.

McWilliams, J. (April 2017). Chasing Trans Inclusion When the Starting Line Keeps Shifting. *AERA Annual Meeting 2017*: San Antonio, TX.

McWilliams, J. (April 2016). Transgender Narratives, Drag Performance, and Gender Fluency in the Late Elementary Classroom. In symposium session: "We're Here, We're Queer, We're in Elementary Schools." *AERA Annual Meeting 2016*: Washington, DC.

McWilliams J., & Penuel, W. (April 2016). Queering Safe Spaces by Design. In symposium session: "Power and Privilege in the Learning Sciences: Critical and Sociocultural Theories." *AERA Annual Meeting 2016*: Washington, DC.

McWilliams, J. (April 2016). Against the Progress Narrative: Addressing the "Ambivalent Gift" of LGBT Legitimation. In structured poster session: "Social Movements, Learning Sciences, and Possibilities for Transformation." *AERA Annual Meeting 2016*: Washington, DC.

McWilliams, J. (April 2015). "Maybe You Disagree--Most Boys Don't": Teaching Gender in the Age of "Not All Men!" In roundtable session: "Negotiating Masculinities." *AERA Annual meeting 2015*: Chicago, IL.

McWilliams, J. (March 2015). Trans* behind the camera: Living our theories in gender's high-tension zone. *Trans*Forming Gender Conference*, University of Colorado Boulder: Boulder, CO.

McWilliams, J. (April 2014). Queer behind the camera: The secret life of the queer educational researcher. In symposium: "Disrupting 'safe spaces' with queer bodies: Exploring perceptions of safety and vulnerability as teachers and researchers." *AERA Annual meeting 2014*: Philadelphia, PA.

Issues in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education

McWilliams, J. (March 2017). Queering STEM: A Repeal and Replace Manifesto. *Invited Talk for the University of Calgary Diversity Week*: Calgary, Alberta.

McWilliams, J., & O'Connor, K. (April 2016). Feminism, Robots, and the Body in Becoming an Engineer. In roundtable session: "Situating Learning and Becoming in Practice." *AERA Annual Meeting 2016*: Washington, DC.

Peck, F., O'Connor, K., Cafarella, J., & **McWilliams, J.** Producing Calculus (Un)Readiness (April 2016). In structured poster session: "Applying Cultural Construction Frameworks in Engineering Education Research." *AERA Annual Meeting 2016*: Washington, DC.

Literacy and Digital Media

McWilliams, J., Danish, J., & Keene, J. (April 2013). 'I Hate That Word Savage / Don't Mind If You Use It': Exploring the 'Safe Space' Construct. *AERA Annual Meeting 2013*: San Francisco, CA.

McWilliams, J. (April 2012). Silence at the Intersection: Essentialism and Truncation of Experience. *AERA Annual Meeting 2012*, Vancouver, BC.

Clinton, K.A., & **McWilliams, J.** (April 2010). A Model for Reading in a Participatory Culture. *AERA Annual Meeting 2010*: Denver, CO.

Assessment

Hickey, D.T., **McWilliams, J.**, Bishop, S., & Soylu, F. (April 2011). Participatory Assessment for Engagement, Understanding, and Achievement in Online Learning Contexts. *AERA Annual Meeting 2011*: New Orleans, LA.

Hickey, D.T., **McWilliams, J.**, & Bishop, S. (Nov. 2010). Participatory Assessment for Engagement, Understanding, and Achievement. Presentation for *Faculty Research Seminar*, Office of Research and Development, Indiana University School of Education.

Hickey, D.T., Honeyford, M.A., & **McWilliams, J.** (April 2010). Participatory Assessment: Remediating Curriculum and Testing for the 21st Century. *AERA Annual Meeting 2010*: Denver CO.

Honeyford, M., Rupert, R., & **McWilliams, J.** (Nov. 2009). What is Assessment for? Creating Participatory Classrooms for Readers and Writers. *National Writing Project Convening: Digital Is....*, Philadelphia, PA.

Democracy, equity, and social justice issues in education

McWilliams, J. (March 2012). "I would just stop that shit": When kids question the world of the story they've been written into. In session: "Thoughts from DML's Emerging Scholars: Findings and Insights from Early Career Researchers, Developers, and Practitioners." *Digital Media & Learning Conference 2012*, San Francisco, CA.

McWilliams, J. (March 2011). On the question of democracy and empowerment. Presentation for symposium: "Participatory Culture Reconsidered: Moving Beyond Rainbows, Unicorns and Butterflies." *Digital Media & Learning Conference*, Long Beach, CA.

McWilliams, J. (Oct. 28 2010). When we tell kids they can make a difference...and we're wrong. *Disembodied citizens and communities: How new technologies are changing how students learn, collaborate and construct civic identities*, panel for the International Association for Research of Service Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Jenkins, H., & Kelley, W., with Clinton, K., **McWilliams, J.**, & Reilly, E. (2013). *Reading in a participatory culture: Remixing Moby-Dick in the English classroom*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

McWilliams, J. (2016). Queering participatory design research. *Cognition and Instruction*, 34(3).

McWilliams, J., & Plucker, J. (2014). Brain cancer, meat glue, and shifting models of outstanding student behavior: Smart contexts for the 21st Century. *Talent Development and Excellence*, 6(1).

Yi, X., Hu, W., Plucker, J., & **McWilliams, J.** (2013). Is there a developmental slump in creativity in China? The relationship between organizational climate and creativity development in Chinese adolescents. *The Journal of Creative Behavior*, 47(1).

McWilliams, J., Hickey, D.T., Hines, M.B., Conner, J.M., & Bishop, S.C. (2012). Using collaborative writing tools for literary analysis: Twitter, fan fiction and *The Crucible* in the secondary English classroom. *Journal of Media Literacy Education*.

Hickey, D.T., Honeyford, M.A., & **McWilliams, J.** (2011). Reading *Moby-Dick* in a participatory culture: Organizing assessment for engagement in a new media era. *Journal of Educational Computing Research*, 45(2), Special Issue: Young people, Learning and Social Media.

Book chapters

Plucker, J., **McWilliams, J.**, & Guo, J. (2017). Smart contexts for 21st-Century Talent Development: Sociocultural approaches to gifted education. In J.A. Plucker, A.N. Rinn, & M.C. Makel, *From giftedness to gifted education: Reflecting Theory in Practice*. Waco, TX: Prufrock Press.

McWilliams, J., & Penuel, W. (2016). Queer theory in the Learning Sciences. In I. Esmonde & A. Booker, *Power and Privilege in the Learning Sciences: Critical and Sociocultural Theories*. New York: Routledge.

Plucker, J., **McWilliams, J.**, & Alanazi, R. (2016). Creativity, culture, and the digital revolution: Implications and considerations for education. Forthcoming in V. Glaveanu (Ed.), *The Palgrave handbook of creativity and culture research*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

McWilliams, J. (2014). Queering educational research and the politics of 'conservatively queer': Sexmuteness in American public schools. In G. Walton (Ed.), *The Gay Agenda: Creating Space, Identity, and Justice*. New York: Peter Lang.

McWilliams, J. (2013). Lessons from a classroom participatory culture. In H. Jenkins & W. Kelley (Eds.), *Reading in a participatory culture: Remixing Moby-Dick in the English classroom*. New York: Teachers College Press.

McWilliams J., & Clinton, K. (2013). Reimagining and reinventing the English classroom for the digital age. In H. Jenkins & W. Kelley (Eds.), *Reading in a participatory culture: Remixing Moby-Dick in the English classroom*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Clinton, K., Jenkins, H., & **McWilliams, J.** (2013). New literacies in an age of participatory culture. In H. Jenkins & W. Kelley (Eds.), *Reading in a participatory culture: Remixing Moby-Dick in the English classroom*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Kelley, W., Jenkins, H., Clinton, K., & **McWilliams, J.** (2013). From theory to practice: Building a “community of readers” in your classroom. In H. Jenkins & W. Kelley (Eds.), *Reading in a participatory culture: Remixing Moby-Dick in the English classroom*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Hickey, D.T., Honeyford, M.A., & **McWilliams, J.** (2013). Participatory assessment in a climate of accountability. In H. Jenkins & W. Kelley (Eds.), *Reading in a participatory culture: Remixing Moby-Dick in the English classroom*. New York: Teachers College Press.

Hickey, D. T., Honeyford, M. A., Clinton, K. A., & **McWilliams, J.** (2010). Participatory assessment of 21st century proficiencies. In V. Shute & B. Becker (Eds.), *Innovative assessment in the 21st century: Supporting educational needs*. New York: Springer.

SERVICE

CU Denver Employee Assistance Committee. Appointed committee member, July 2020-present.

International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs. Virtual Conference Coordinator, March 2020-present.

City of Denver LGBTQ Commission. Appointed Commissioner and Executive Committee member. August 2019-present.

Auraria Gender & Sexualities Alliance. Staff sponsor. January 2019-present.

CU Denver I Anschutz Medical Campus Staff Council. Elected Staff Council representative. April 2019-present.

University of Colorado Denver I Anschutz Medical Campus Gender Equity Working Group. Co-chair, January 2017-December 2019.