

Polly Parkinson

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Work and Research Experience

Utah State University, National Science Foundation, ASPIRE, Logan, UT

Graduate Research Assistant for Engineering Research Center, 3 years

- Examine environmental, transportation, education, and employment justice relevant to electric vehicle adoption, including access barriers
- Conduct 20 interviews, 1 focus group, 100+ surveys & collect community event data
- Analyze qualitative data from field notes & interviews, develop codebooks
- Analyze quantitative data from public survey
- Conduct literature review of relevant engineering and equity research
- Write journal articles, present research, prepare slide summaries
- Synthesize and report on best practices for EV adoption, workforce development, and community-engaged research
- Report back to engineering research center and community stakeholders

Ensign Elementary School, Salt Lake City, UT

Library Manager and Teacher for 350 Students, 3 years

- Manage all purchasing, processing, and circulation of collection of 16,000 items
- Evaluate diversity and equity of resources and expand to fill gaps
- Collaborate to analyze learning needs, teach every child twice a week
- Promote and model curriculum development and effective teaching
- Implement annual school-wide reading program to add an irresistible cachet to reading and to recognize individual accomplishments; including porch presentations, video announcements, and surprise Zoom class visits during COVID-19 pandemic to add joy and unity during a difficult time
- Design website, manage social media accounts, photograph school activities
- Write weekly update for principal and parents to build school community
- Host community events and plan outreach to facilitate family sharing
- Fund and implement makerspace to provide hands-on STEM learning and creative play opportunities for students

Carden Memorial School, Salt Lake City, UT

Second Grade Teacher for 25 students, 6 years

- Teach all homeroom subjects using Carden Method and Saxon Math
- Implement science journals to teach observation and notation skills, daily diverse book reading to expand the students' known world, advocate for school uniform equality and salary transparency for greater school equity and respect

Utah Arts Council Artist in Residence Program

Arts Education Teacher for Literary Arts and Visual Arts, 8 years

- Teach classes on book making, poetry, and botanical illustration at numerous Utah schools, design curriculum to meet local needs, reflect and honor surrounding environment, and include special education students as equals:
 - South Rich Elementary School, Randolph, UT
 - Rees Elementary School, Spanish Fork, UT
 - Rowland Hall Service Learning Program, Salt Lake City, UT
 - Weber State University, Museum Outreach Program, Ogden, UT
 - YWCA Women and Children's Programs, Salt Lake City, UT
 - Hawthorne Elementary Extended Learning Program, Salt Lake City, UT
 - Dutch John Elementary, Dutch John, UT
 - Bates Elementary, North Ogden, UT

Escalante Elementary School, Salt Lake City, UT

Family Involvement Coordinator for 360 students, 1 year

86% ethnic minority, 46% multilanguage homes, 83% low income

- Advocate for students and families by arranging translation services, business donations, volunteers, healthcare clinics, English-language classes to assist newcomer families, informative bulletin boards to support family involvement, and correspondence for better communication and ongoing success

Utah County Council on Drug Abuse Rehabilitation, Orem, UT

Communications Specialist, 3 years

- Write and produce materials representing agency (brochures, quarterly newsletter, portable agency exhibit) to engage people in need of treatment, and improve knowledge of low-cost options to benefit a wider community, provide free education resources to decrease mental health stigma
- Edit education manuals and grant proposals
- Design and place print advertising
- Coordinate public relations strategies & act as media liaison

Charter Canyon Hospital, Orem, UT

Marketing Assistant Director, 2 years

- Direct focus group research for hospital and 5 counseling centers in 2 states
- Write and supervise marketing plans for 3 counseling centers to reach more people needing treatment
- Organize employee marketing program to improve morale and honor existing funds of knowledge

Community Education Coordinator, 1 year

- Organize seminars, special events, all in-house editing, media relations, public relations, speakers bureau, newsletters, brochures, ad agency supervision

Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Public Affairs Intern, GS 7 level, 1 term

- Review publications; editing, layout, articles and interviews to represent Library
- Coordinate publicity events & media contacts to spread awareness of offerings
- Attend rallies and protests to understand political climate

Leadership Experience

Catholic Community Services Refugee Mentor

Supported family of ten from Democratic Republic of Congo beginning with meeting them at the airport, through housing, school, employment, social adjustments, health issues, graduation, and citizenship

Beehive Book Award Children's Fiction Committee

Selected and nominated three books per year featuring diverse characters, collected data on student and adult reviews, negotiated winner selection process, prepared book kits for teachers

Quilters Without Borders Founder

Formed interfaith organization to respond to diverse religious conditions locally, brought together people from different organizations to meet monthly and make quilts to donate to local charitable groups, applied for and secured ongoing funding from cash grant and materials supplies, coordinated media coverage

Bonneville Hills Community Council Housing Chairperson

Attended monthly council meetings in area of 3500 residents, formed and staffed a new committee to address housing issues, supervised local survey of residences to understand existing conditions, compiled and analyzed data, reported results at community meetings, initiated and conducted a community vote on proposal to give all residents a voice

Intermountain Therapy Animals Team Lead

Weekly visits to Primary Children's Hospital, passed bi-annual training with canine companion, participated on testing team for new applicants, helped with fundraising

Educational History

Utah State University, Logan, UT

Doctoral Candidate in Cultural Studies, all coursework completed

Teacher Education and Leadership, College of Education and Human Services

Researched and submitted papers on topics such as: humanizing library and information science, equitable inclusion standards for gifted education, content analysis of queer picture books, data collection and analysis at local center for low-income families, race and ethnicity literature review, primary source analysis of place-space theory in Topaz Japanese incarceration camp, disability theory analysis of documents related to first Eagle Scout with disabilities, literature review of intersection of empathy/classroom literature/civic engagement, qualitative study of distance learning students.

Goethe Institut, Washington, D. C.

Transatlantic Outreach Program, Educator Travel Study Grant

Hosted by the German Federal Foreign Office and the Goethe Institut, focused on modern Germany addressing racist history. Readings on education system, religious

traditions, party system, geography, history, demographics, language. Site visits to schools, presentations by professors, and first-person accounts supported my research interest in the use of personal narratives in a critical theory framework as it relates to civic engagement, community justice, and societal change.

University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace Certificate

Utah State Board of Education

Professional Educator License

Secondary Education, K-12 Library Media Endorsement

Utah State University, Logan, UT

School Library Media Administration Endorsement

Instructional Technology and Learning Sciences Department

Emporia State University, Emporia, KS

Information, Technology, and Scientific Literacy Graduate Certificate

School of Library and Information Management

Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Focus on illustrated literature, literature of place, and literature of loss

Thesis: Literature of Loss and Place: An Illustrated View

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

Bachelor of Arts in Communications

Major: Public Relations, Minor: English

Publications

Parkinson, P., Groves, F. C., Mecham, E., Wilson-Lopez, A., Santiago, I. (under review).

Designing Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure to Benefit Historically-Marginalized Residents

Parkinson, P. (2024) Second Reaction: Letters to a Prisoner. *First Opinions, Second Reactions*

16.3: Article 5. <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/fosr/vol16/iss3/5>

Valle, J. M., Stepback, L., Parkinson, P., Groves, F., Minichiello, A., Ohland, M. W. (2024)

Pathways From Engineering Programs to Labor Unions. American Society for Engineering Education. Conference Publication.

Parkinson, P., Groves, F. C., Mecham, E., Wilson-Lopez, A., Santiago, I., Ramos-Chavez, J.

(2023) *Community Perceptions of Procedural and Distributive Justice in Engineered Systems: A Case Study of Community-Engaged Vehicular Electrification*. American Society for Engineering Education. Conference Publication.

Parkinson, P. (2022). Humanizing LIS Education and Practice: Diversity by Design. *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*, 63(4), 478-479.
<https://doi.org/10.3138/jelis-2022-0031>

Invited Talks and Professional Learning Sessions

Community Electrified Transportation Forum, Salt Lake City, Utah
Department of Sustainability, Salt Lake City Corporation
Presentation: "Template for Community Charging Station Amenities"

American Society for Engineering Education, Baltimore, Maryland
Annual Conference and Exposition
Presented paper: "Community Perceptions of Procedural and Distributive Justice in Engineered Systems: A Case Study of Community-Engaged Vehicular Electrification"

ASPIRE Engineering Research Center, Logan, Utah
Centerwide Meeting
Presented report on research: "Community Stakeholder Engagement with Vehicular Electrification in a Near-Port Community"

Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Merrill-Cazier Library, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
Poster: "Arriving in a Strange Place: Japanese Americans Write About Incarcerated Life at Topaz"

Carden Memorial School, Salt Lake City, Utah
Presented Professional Development Seminar
"Personal Narratives of Identity and Community" inquiry-based lesson plan
Designed for Goethe Institut, Transatlantic Outreach Program

Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Data Analysis Symposium
Presented Poster: "Arriving in a Strange Place: Japanese Americans Write About Incarcerated Life at Topaz"

Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Student Research Symposium, Discipline: Social Science & Education
Oral Presentation: "Finding Themselves in a Strange Place: Japanese Americans Write About Life at Topaz"

University of East London, London, England
Association for the Study of Literature and Environment
Presented paper: "Transformed by Immersion: Authors Kathleen Norris and Terry Tempest Williams Write of Their Native Lands"

Honors, Awards & Grants

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

Goethe Institut, Transatlantic Outreach Program, Educator Travel Study Grant

100% for Kids Interactive Books Grant

Salt Lake City School District Online Learning Grant

Donors Choose Diverse Books Project Grant

Salt Lake City School District Arts Grant

Utah STEM Action Center Classroom Grant

Smart Women, \$3,000 Grant, Zions Bank

Community Builder Award, Utah Women's Alliance for Building Community