

Bio:

Lauren Aimonette Liang is an associate professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Utah and teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in children's and young adult literature and reading instruction. Her research focuses on the interrelated areas of selection and evaluation of children's literature and K-12 students' understanding and engagement with specific texts. Within the overlap of the two she investigates educational uses of children's literature to support meaning-making processes, text characteristics as related to K-12 student response and comprehension of texts, and the role of children's literature in teacher preparation programs. Dr. Liang is co-director of the READ-U program (Reading with Empathy, Awareness, and Diversity with U.)

Dr. Liang's work has been published in journals such as *Journal of Children's Literature*, *Reading Research Quarterly*, and *Reading Psychology*, as well as in both professional and practitioner books. She is an author of the widely used children's literature textbook, *Literature and the Child*. Since 2003, she has also helped create the annual "Annotated Bibliography" for *Research in the Teaching of English*, selecting the best research on children's literature and literary response published each year.

Dr. Liang serves on editorial boards for several journals and committees for the American Library Association (ALA), the International Literacy Association (ILA), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY). She was a member of the 2017 ALA Caldecott Medal Committee, and the chair of the ILA Children's and Young Adult Book Awards Committee from 2012-2016. She recently served as the chair of ALA's 2020 Mildred Batchelder Award Committee. Dr. Liang was president of the Children's Literature Assembly in 2019 and 2020 and is currently serving as past-president.

Dr. Liang has received the University of Utah Early Career Teaching Award and the College of Education Faculty Teaching Award. She also held the University Professorship Award from 2016-2018.