

## 2021 Promising Researcher Award Winner

The Promising Researcher Award selection committee congratulates Stephanie Toliver for being selected as this year's Promising Researcher Award Winner.

Submitted manuscripts were evaluated based on their statements of research problems, reviews of relevant literature, methodology and data analysis, grounding of evidence, significance of results, and clarity and style.

This year's committee had the difficult task of selecting recipients. Serving on the selection committee this year were Sybil Durand (Chair), Sakeena Everett, Lauren Leigh Kelly, Danny C. Martinez and Catí de los Ríos.

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Stephanie Toliver, PhD

“Freedom Dreaming in a Broken World: The Black Radical Imagination in Black Girls’ Science Fiction Stories”

Stephanie R. Toliver is an assistant professor of literacy and secondary humanities at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Informed by her love of science fiction and fantasy texts as well as her experience as a ninth- and tenth-grade English teacher, Toliver’s scholarship centers the freedom dreams of Black youth and honors the historical legacy that Black imaginations have had and will have on activism and social change. Specifically, she focuses on representations of and responses to Black youth in speculative fiction texts to discuss the implications of erasing Black children from futuristic and imaginative contexts and to assist teachers in imagining how classrooms can use speculative fiction as a means to center Black joy and Black dreams. Her academic work has been published in several journals, including *Journal of Literacy Research*, *Journal of Children’s Literature*, *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, and *English Journal*. Her public scholarship has been featured on LitHub, Huffpost, and the Horn Book.