

2022 Promising Researcher Award Winner

The Promising Researcher Award selection committee congratulates **Monica Kleekamp** 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 Catí de los Ríos (Chair), Leigh Patel, and Vaughn Watson.



Monica Kleekamp, PhD, CCC-SLP

“No! Turn the Pages!” Repositioning Neuroqueer Literacies

Monica C. Kleekamp (she/her/hers), is an assistant professor of speech-language pathology at Maryville University in St. Louis, MO. Kleekamp's research with dis/abled students who have complex communication needs reimagines pedagogical possibilities and methodological approaches by disrupting deficit orientations to these students' literacies. Kleekamp juxtaposes theoretical framings from the fields of literacy research and disability studies to reframe students who have always been positioned as incompetent as active meaning makers within intricate, interdependent classroom networks. Specifically, through a lens of neurological queerness, this work invites scholars, teachers, and other professionals to engage in anti-ableist endeavors that redefine what counts as literacy and who counts as literate. Kleekamp's scholarship has been published in several academic journals, including *Journal of Literacy Research*, *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*, *The Reading Teacher*, and *Research in the Teaching of English*.