

Sonja Varbelow

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Education

- 2015 PhD in Curriculum and Instruction.
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi, TX.
- 1990 MA in Education and English & Russian Literature and Language.
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Berlin, Germany.
- 1995 Teacher Certification for English and English SL.
University of Texas at Brownsville. Brownsville, TX.
- 1999 German Foreign Language Certificate.
Texas Education Agency. Brownsville, TX.

Professional Organizations

- American Educational Research Association - AERA (2011-present)
Society for Professors of Education - SPE (2015-present)
Canadian Society for the Study of Education - CSSE (2016-present)
Phi Kappa Phi (2015-2016)

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor

Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX, Teacher Education
September 2015-present

Field-Based Teaching Specialist

University of Texas at Brownsville, Brownsville, TX, Teaching, Learning and Innovation
August 2009-August 2015

Lecturer

University of Texas at Brownsville, Brownsville, TX, Curriculum and Instruction
August 2007 – August 2009

Instructor for German

Villa Maria Language Institute, Brownsville, TX

January 2009 – June 2009

Instructor for Grammar, Writing and Conversation in English

University of Texas at Brownsville, Brownsville, TX, Language Institute

August 2007 – December 2007

Teacher for English, English SL and German

Gladys Porter High School, Brownsville I.S.D., Brownsville, TX

August 1993 – July 2007

Chair, Department of English as a Second Language

Gladys Porter High School, Brownsville I.S.D., Brownsville, TX

January 2005 – July 2005; August 1995 – July 1999

Teacher for English and Russian

Fritjof Nansen Gesamtschule, Berlin, Germany

August 1991 – July 1993

Teacher for General Education

School for Autistic Children, Berlin, Germany

August 1990 – July 1991

Awards

Nomination – ASU President's Award for Teaching.

San Angelo, TX (2019)

Nomination – Gary and Pat Rodgers Distinguished Award

San Angelo, TX (2019)

Nomination – ASU President's Award for Faculty Excellence in Research.

San Angelo, TX (2018)

Finalist - UT Regents' Teaching Award.

Brownsville, TX (2015)

Community Engagement Certificate: UTB/TSC Center for Civic Engagement.

Brownsville, TX (2010)

Who' Who Among America's High School Teachers, Brownsville I.S.D.,
Brownsville, TX (2002 - 2006)

Recognition Award National Campaign for Tolerance, Brownsville I.S.D.,
Brownsville, TX (2004 - 2005)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Varbelow, S. (in press). The test of curriculum: A single-case study of how early educational experiences enable agency throughout life. *Journal of Educational Thought*.

Varbelow, S. (2019). Embracing the Otherness of Others: An Approach for Teacher Educators to Assuage Social and Political Tribalism. In Sharma & Althier (Eds.) *Rethinking 21st Century Diversity in Teacher Preparation, K-12 Education, and School Policy: Theory, Research, and Practice*. Springer International Publishing AG.

Varbelow, S. & Gee, D. (2018). The curriculum in praxis: How purpose of school is actualized in Vietnam, Mexico, and the United States. In Rooft & Bezzina (Eds) *Intercultural Studies of Curriculum: Theory, Policy and Practice*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Varbelow, S., & Griffith, B. (2016). Catching up with the self through education. *Journal of Educational Thought*, 49(2).

Bhattacharya, K., & Varbelow, S. (2014). Cultural brokers and aliens: Marking and blurring interlocking spaces of difference. *Qualitative Inquiry*, 20(10), 1157. doi: 10.1177/1077800414545229

Varbelow, S. (2013). Curriculum theory and the ecology of learning: Understanding identity and place. In B. Griffith & D. Loveless (Eds.), *The interdependence of teaching and learning* Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Varbelow, S. (2012, June 06). *Deschooling society: Re-examining Ivan Illich's contributions to critical pedagogy for 21st century curriculum theory*. Retrieved from <http://www.eric.ed.gov>

Varbelow, S. (2012). Society and curriculum: iterations based on the ideas of William Doll. *International Journal of Instruction*, 5(1).

Soldan, W., Varbelow, S., & Varbelow, A. (2006). *Curriculum framework for German I*, Brownsville Independent School District, Brownsville, TX.

Other Scholarly Activity

- Varbelow, S. (2018). *More Than A Score: Enabling Humane Teaching in Future Educators*. Faculty Learning Commons Mini-Grant for Instructional Innovation \$2,500. Angelo State University.
- Varbelow, S. & Dickerson, K.L. (2016). Angelo State University – Council for the Accreditation of Educator Programs (CAEP) Self-Study: Standard 3.

Conference Presentations

- Varbelow, S. (2019). *Whose Truths Matter: School Purpose in the U.S., Vietnam, and Mexico*. Book chapter presentation presented at the 2019 SPE Meeting (Society for Professors of Education). Toronto, Canada.
- Varbelow, S. & Gee, D. (2018). *The Curriculum in Praxis: How Purpose of School Is Actualized in Vietnam, Mexico, and the United*. Book chapter accepted to the 25th Annual Conference of the American Association for Teaching & Curriculum (AATC). Dallas, TX.
- Varbelow, S. (2018). *Educating Educators in Divisive Times*. Book chapter presentation presented at the 2018 SPE Meeting (Society for Professors of Education). New York City, NY.
- Sohn, L. & Varbelow, S. (2018). *Global Culture of Change: Seeking Solutions in Environmental Education*. Unpublished paper accepted to the 25th Annual Conference of the American Association for Teaching & Curriculum (AATC). Dallas, TX.
- Varbelow, S. (2017). *Embracing the Otherness of Others: An Approach to Assuage Social and Political Tribalism*. Unpublished paper presented at the 24th Annual Conference of the American Association for Teaching & Curriculum (AATC). University of Denver, CO.
- Varbelow, S. & Griffith, B. (2017). *Catching Up With the Self Through Education*. Published paper presented at the 2017 Congress for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada.
- Varbelow, S. (2017). *Protecting the Integrity of the Teaching Profession by Enabling Critical Consciousness and Social Justice*. Unpublished paper presented at the 2017 SPE Meeting (Society for Professors of Education). San Antonio, TX.

- Varbelow, S. (2016). *"We're All Bigots": Enabling Critical Consciousness in Learners*. Unpublished paper presented at the 2016 Original Lilly Conference. Oxford, OH
- Varbelow, S. (2016). *Daring to Become: Changing Curriculum to Educate for Freedom and Democracy*. Unpublished paper presented at AERA. Washington, DC.
- Varbelow, S. (2016). *Why I Need to De-School My Future Colleagues*. Unpublished paper presented at the 2016 SPE Meeting (Society for Professors of Education). Washington DC.
- Varbelow, S. (2016). *Dwayne Huebner and a Curriculum for the Makers of This World*. Unpublished paper presented at the 39th Meeting of the Society for the Study of Curriculum History. Washington, DC.
- Varbelow, S. (2015). *Lessons From Zarathustra: Education for the Creators of the World*. Unpublished paper presented at the Transformative Researchers and Educators for Democracy (TRED). New Bedford, Massachusetts.
- Varbelow, S. & Griffith, B. (2015). *Growing Into the Size of Your Feet: A Narrative Inquiry Into the Role Early Educational Experiences Play Throughout Life*. Accepted to Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative, Savannah, GA.
- Varbelow, S. (2014). *What Does School Have to Do with Anything? A Narrative Approach to Understand Meaning-Making of Educational Experiences*. Unpublished paper presented at the Primer Congreso Internacional de Educacion, Brownsville, TX/Matamoros, Mexico.
- Varbelow, S. (2013). *One Foot in and One Foot Out: Using Arts-Based Approaches to Negotiate Tensions*. Unpublished paper presented at the Ninth International Conference for Qualitative Inquiry. Chicago, IL.
- Varbelow, S. (2012). *Re-enacting the Self: The School Stories Project*. Unpublished paper presented at the 11th annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Curriculum Studies (AAACS). Vancouver, Canada.
- Varbelow, S. (2011). *Curriculum and Society*. Unpublished paper presented at Curriculum Camp 2011. Baton Rouge, LA.
- Varbelow, S. (2011). *Curriculum Theory and Emergence*. Unpublished paper presented at TAMUCC Reading Conference. Corpus Christi, TX.

Varbelow, S. (2009). *I Don't Wanna Go to School: Effects of Intrinsic Motivation on the Learner*. Unpublished paper presented at the 16th Annual Bi-National Conference. Brownsville, TX.

Varbelow, S. (2008). *The Importance of Being a 21st Century Teacher: An Approach from Chaos Theory and Complexity Sciences*. Unpublished paper presented at the 15th Annual Bi-National Conference. Matamoros, Mexico.

Professional Development

ESCALA Training, San Angelo, TX, 2019

TxAATE Conference, Austin, TX, 2019

edTPA Training, San Antonio, TX, 2019

AERA, New York City, NY, 2017 – panel chair

AERA, San Antonio, TX, 2017

Blackboard Collaborate Ultra Workshop, San Angelo, TX, 2016

2016 CAEPCon, San Diego, CA, 2016

10th Human Trafficking Conference, McAllen, TX, 2015

XXI Binational Congress, Brownsville TX/Matamoros, Mexico, 2014

Ninth International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Chicago, Illinois, 2013

AERA, New Orleans, LA, 2011

AAACS, New Orleans, LA, 2011

Curriculum Camp, Baton Rouge, LA, 2011

16th Annual Bi-National Conference, Brownsville, TX, 2009

15th Annual Bi-National Conference, Matamoros, Mexico, 2008

Chaos Theory in Psychology and Life Sciences. Richmond, VA, 2008

Chaos, Complexity and Conflict Resolution. Omaha, NE, 2008

American Society for Public Administration's National Conference. Dallas, TX, 2008

Seminar on Trade, Economic Development and Education. Rancho Viejo, TX, 2008

Service - Angelo State University

Service to the Profession

Reviewer for the Society for Professors of Education (SPE) (Spring 2019-present)
 Reviewer for Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue (CDT) Journal (Fall 2017-present)
 Reviewer for AERA Division B – Curriculum Studies (2017 - present)
 Reviewer for National Professional Development (NPD) grants (Spring 2017)
 Reviewer for the American Association for Teaching and Curriculum Conference (AATC) (2017 - present)
 Reviewer for Heart of Texas Children’s Literature (Fall 2015- Fall 2017)

Service to Angelo State University

Instructional Technology Committee (2018-present)
 Mentor for Korean Clinical Teachers (Spring 2018- present)
 Freshmen Seminar Curriculum Committee (2017-present)
 University Curriculum Committee (2017-2018)
 Invited Guest Seminar for MGMT 3304 Organizational Behavior (Spring 2017)
 Graduate Advisor (Spring 2016 – present)
 Traffic Appeals Committee (2016 – 2017)

Service to the College of Education

CAEP Standard 3 Co-Chair (Fall 2015-present)
 Awards Committee (Fall 2015 – present)
 Meet Your Major, College Representative (Fall 2017)
 True Blue Friday, College of Education Representative (Spring 2016 & 2018)
 Lunch&Learn Presentation (Spring 2016)

Daring to Become: Changing Curriculum to Educate for Freedom & Democracy

Service to the Department of Teacher Education

Co-Director for Study Abroad (Fall 2017 – present)
 Tenure and Promotion Committee (Fall 2016 – present)

Recruitment Committee (Spring 2017 – present)

Service to the Community of San Angelo

Board member San Angelo Boys and Girls Club (Spring 2016 – Summer 2018)

Mentoring Project Santa Rita (Spring 2018 - present)

Service - University of Texas at Brownsville

Service to the College

Undergraduate Pedagogy MS, HS, and AL Committee

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (January 2015 – August 2015)

Partnership Initiative for Student Teaching

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (January 2014 – June 2014)

SPA Writer Social Studies/History

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (March 2012 – December 1013)

Chair for NCATE Committee for Clinical Experience (Standard 3b)

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (January 2012 – April 2014)

Mentor for University Scholars Program

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (August 2012- August 2015)

NCATE Pedagogy Team

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (August 2011- August 2015)

TLI Assessment Committee

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (January 2011- June 2014)

EC-6 Curriculum Review Committee

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (January 2011 – April 2011)

Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts NCATE Committee

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (August 2009- June 2014)

Texas State Teacher Association Student Chapter Advisor

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (August 2009 – June 2011)

Teaching, Learning and Innovation Undergraduate Committee

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (August 2009- July 2011)

Service to the Department

Design of Lesson Plan Templates for Student Handbook

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (January 2010- May 2010)

Textbook Adoption Advisor for EDCI/EDSC 4324 & 4325

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (April 2009- July 2009)

Special Assignment: Development of Department-Wide Syllabi for EDCI/EDSC 4324 & 4325

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (April 2009- July 2009)

Search Committee for Field-Based Teaching Specialist

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (January 2009 – April 2009)

Service to the Community

HEB Read 3 Coach

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education,
Brownsville, TX (August 2011- May 2012)

Service Learning for EDCI/EDSC 4324 and 4325 at the
Good Neighbor Settlement House/City of Brownsville PRD

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (August
2009- July 2011)

After-School Activities for Brownsville's Youth

The University of Texas at Brownsville, College of Education, Brownsville, TX (August
2009- May 2011)

Volunteer tutoring of students in German language

The University of Texas at Brownsville, Language Institute, Brownsville, TX (January
2008 – May 2008)

Lecture *Germany Today*, Porter High School, Brownsville I.S.D,
Brownsville, TX (March 2003)

Lecture *Children in Nazi Germany*, St. Mary's School,
Brownsville, TX (February 2002)

Lecture *Genocide in WW II* St. Mary's School
Brownsville, TX (May 2001)

Workshops

Varbelow, S. (2014). *Preparing Meaningful Lessons during the Teacher Candidate Practicum*.
Presented to Teacher Candidates at UT Brownsville. Brownsville, TX.

Varbelow, S. (2014). *Reflection and Self-evaluation of Clinical Experiences*. Presented to
Teacher Candidates at UT Brownsville. Brownsville, TX.

Varbelow, S. *Using the Teacher Work Sample as a Tool during the Practicum*. Seminar with
Teacher Candidates at UT Brownsville. Brownsville, TX.

Courses Taught

Angelo State University

GS 1181 Self, Other, and World (traditional)

GS 1181 Career Explorations (traditional)

EPSY 3314 Linguistically Diverse Learners (online)

ED 2302 Teacher Education and Practice (online and traditional)

ED 4321 Secondary School Organization & Curriculum (hybrid)

ED 4322 Teaching Techniques in the Secondary School (online and traditional)

ED 4323 Teaching in the Secondary School (online)

ED 4381 Special Topics in Education Study Abroad: Linguistically Diverse Learners

University of Texas at Brownsville

EDUC 1301 Introduction to the Teaching Profession (online and traditional)

EDCI 3330 Designing Instruction & Assessment to Promote Student Learning (online and traditional)

EDSC 4328 Implementing and Assessing Effective Secondary Pedagogy

EDCI 4324 Designing Instruction for Elementary Education

EDSC 4324 Designing Instruction for Secondary Education

ECDI 4325 Instruction and Assessment for Elementary Education

EDSC 4325 Instruction and Assessment for Secondary Education

UTB Language Institute

ESOL 0238 High Intermediate Writing

ESOL High Intermediate Grammar

ESOL High Intermediate Conversation

Kindergarten-12th Grade

English I, II, III, IV

English as a Second Language I, II, III, IV

German I

German for Native Speakers

Russian I-VI

Languages

German – native

English – like native

Russian – conversational

Spanish – intermediate

French, Latin, Arabic - beginner