

Shushan Vardanyan

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education | GPA: 4.0

The University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL, USA

Dec 2019

M.Ed. Contemporary Education | GPA: 3.8

Murdoch University, Perth, Australia

June 2013

B.A. Linguistics | GPA: 3.8

Yerevan State University of Armenia

Aug 2002

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education

The University of Mississippi – Oxford, MS

August 2022 - present

- Teach 5 courses per year – In-class/Web (EDEC324/320/321/606/605)
 - Work on research projects.
 - Meet students for advice.
 - Provide educational services for Mississippi state
 - Create/modify graduate and undergraduate courses/syllabi.
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Faculty

Midland College – Midland, TX

Jan – July 2022

- Teach 15 semester credit hours (4 courses/semester) – In-class/Hybrid/Web.
 - Collaborate with colleagues and supervisors with all programs in the Education division.
 - Create syllabi and course modules.
 - Meet students for advice. Grade, provide intensive feedback, and guidance. Create assignments/assessments aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards.
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4th Grade Teacher

IAA School – Homewood, AL

2021-2022

- Subjects – Language/Art, Science, Math, and Social Studies.
 - Savvas Realize and McGraw Hill online resources to teach Science, Math, Language, and Social Studies.
 - Face-to-Face and Online classes (Google class platform).
 - Follow the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Alabama Learning Exchange (ALEX).
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K Teacher – Sundays

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham

2018-2022

- Plan and carry out art activities to develop social justice, moral judgment, fine/gross motor skills, language, and communication.
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Graduate Assistant

The University of Alabama at Birmingham

2015-2017

- Principal Investigator - Conducted research to explore cultural influences on an immigrant child's language acquisition and cultural adaptation in the USA.
 - Teaching assistant – Co-taught a class “Home Visitation” during summer semester.
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Kindergarten Teacher

Deira Private School - Dubai, UAE

2008-2014

- Subjects taught – English, Math, Science, Art.
 - Developed IEPs for children with special needs (high to low functioning autism spectrum, speech delay).
 - Modernized classroom observations to create visual assessments for children's performances by utilizing multiple intelligence theory and Bloom's taxonomy.
 - Mentored teachers for effective classroom management, and developmentally appropriate practices.
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1st Grade/ 2nd Grade Teacher

Al Ma'arifa International School - Sharjah, UAE.

2007-2008

- Taught Language/Art, Math, Social Studies, and Art.
- Assessed student progress by administering tests and evaluating results.

Kindergarten Co-teacher

Philadelphia Private School - Dubai, UAE.

2006-2007

- Supervised 24 students throughout the entire school day.
- Conducted individual assessments to evaluate children's academic achievements.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed - Published

Vardanyan, S. (2019). Teachers' Experiences of Change from Traditional Teaching Methods to Active Participatory Learning Approaches Within the Alabama P-3 Pilot Program: A Case Study (Order No. 27547564). Available from ProQuest One Academic. (2378844143).

<http://umiss.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/teachers-experiences-change-traditional-teaching/docview/2378844143/se-2>

Ernest J. M., Nicholas A., **Vardanyan S.**, Hafiz F., Alazemi M., and Dixon D. (2019). Childhood remembered: Reflections on the role of play for holistic education in Armenia, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the USA, and Wales. *International Journal of the Whole Child*, 4(1), 5-19.

Vardanyan S., Ernest J., and Perkins F. (2018). A case study of bioecological influences on how culture affects an immigrant child's language acquisition. *International Journal of Early Childhood Education and Care*, 7, 42-51.

Peer-Reviewed - Submitted for Publication

Vardanyan, S. (2023). Exploring First-Grade Literacy Through Adult Mediated Play Learning: A Case Study of Children's Creative Writings, Drawings, and Group Games. *Early Childhood Development and Care*.

Vardanyan, S. (2023). A Monster Who Killed the Man: We All Failed. *Early Child Development and Care*

Vardanyan, S. (2023). Exploring First Grade Teachers' Perspectives on the Developmentally Engaging Learning and Teaching (DELTA) Program: Pre- and Post-Implementation Insights.

Vardanyan, S. & Stapp, A. (2024). Seven Principles of Teaching and Learning: Lessons Learned from First Grade Reading and Writing Sessions.

In Progress:

Vardanyan, S. (2023). Developmentally Engaging Learning and Teaching Approaches (DELTA): Teacher Handbook

Vardanyan, S. (2023). Bottom-up and Outside-inside Perspectives of the Quality of School Life.

Vardanyan, S., Causey, C. & Cunningham, R. (2024). Young children are solving a novel math problem: Inventing and reinventing arithmetic.

Vardanyan, S. & Amidon, K. (2024). Preschool and kindergarten children's understanding of number concept: development of number order and hierarchical inclusion.

Vardanyan, S. (2024). Young Children's Creative Writings and Drawings: Analysis of Higher Order Thinking.

AWARDS, GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

September 2023 – FACT Institute Grant (\$4000). Proposal for Redesigning EDEC324 by Implementing Critical Thinking

March 2023 – The University of Mississippi School of Education Board of Advisors Grant Making Initiative (\$1500). Title of the Project - Developmentally Engaging Learning and Teaching Approaches (DELTA).

April 2023 – The Community Engagement Partnership Development Award (\$1000) from Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Title of the Project – DELTA. Worked with Bramlett elementary 1st grade teachers.

May 2018 - Scholarship Award (\$2000) for academic achievement and community involvement while pursuing a doctorate in early childhood education – the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Feb 2016 - The Virginia Horns-Marsh Scholarship – USA.

Jan 2013 - Certificate of distinction for scholastic achievement and membership of the Dean's List – Murdoch University, Perth, Australia.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Jan 2024 – Vardanyan, S. & Amidon, K. presented in *Critical Questions in Education conference in New Orleans, LA*. Title: Math Education in America vs. Children’s Number Knowledge: A Critical Analysis

June 2023 – Vardanyan, S. presented in NAEYC Institute. 2023 Professional Learning Institute: Joyful, Equitable Learning for All. Presentation Title: From Worksheets to Active Learning Phonics Lessons: How Differentiation Works. Portland, Oregon.

May 2023 – Vardanyan, S. presented in Educator Institute, Oxford School District. Summer 2023. Title of the Presentation: Active Learning. Oxford, MS.

Mar 2023 – Vardanyan, S. presented in Toolbox Talks 2023. Webinar Presentation Title: Benefits of Projects.

Feb 2023 – Vardanyan, S. advocated for NAEYC 2023 Public Policy Forum. Met with the Mississippi senators Cindy Hyde-Smith and Roger Wicker, and Mississippi representatives in the Hill to advocate childcare quality and provision. Washington DC, USA.

Feb 2023 – Vardanyan, S. presented in Mississippi Early Childhood Alliance Conference “Re-Imagining Early Childhood Education”. Presentation Title: “Less Worksheets; More Literacy.” Jackson, MS.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Nov 2023 - NAEYC 2023 Annual Conference in Nashville, TN.

July 2023 – Place-based learning (one week), Educators Conference. The Island School. Rock Sound, Eleuthera, The Bahamas. (Participated)

Apr 2023 – Participated in Equity in Education: Equipping Exceptional Educators, Oxford, MS.

Feb 2023 – Participated in IMPACT Training. School of Education, the University of Mississippi. Oxford, MS.

Jan 2023 – Participated in The Inclusive and Equitable Hiring Processes: Faculty and Staff Searches Training. The Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Oxford, MS.

MEMBERSHIPS

Mar 2023-present – DELTA Student Club Advisor

Aug 2024-present – Faculty Equity Task Force

Mar 2023-2024 – Teacher Education Equity Task Force.

Jan 2023-present – National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Jan 2023-2024 – IMPACT, the University of Mississippi School of Education.

Aug 2022-present – The Phil Hardin Scholars Program. To grow and sustain early childhood teacher educators across Mississippi.

WORKSHOPS & CERTIFICATES

Aug 14, 2023 – Certified CLASS 2nd Edition Observer Pre-K-3rd

Aug 2023 – The University of Mississippi’s 5th Annual Faculty Approaches to Critical Thinking (FACT) Institute. Oxford, MS.

June 2023 – Certificate of Completion CLASS 18 hours training. TeachStone

June 2023 – Title IX and Sexual Harassment Employee Training. Oxford, MS.

Apr 2023 – Youth Mental Health First Aid USA. Oxford, MS.

Jan 2023 – CITI Program. Human Research: Supplementary Modules for SBR Investigators and Research with Children. Stage 1 – Basic Course. Oxford, MS.

Dec 2022 – CITI Program. Human Research: Group 2A SBR Faculty and Staff at the University of Mississippi. Complete all Required Modules. Stage 1 – Basic Course. Oxford, MS.

Aug 2022 – Online Teaching Endorsement, the University of Mississippi

Mar 2022 – Creating Effective Assessments in Higher Education (mini course), Midland College, TX.

Mar 2022 – BasicPlus – CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults, Midland College, TX.

October 2013 – The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – Continuing Professional Development, Dubai, UAE.

April 2013 – The Creative Classroom - Early Years Educational Services (EYES), Dubai, UAE.

March 2012 – Letterland Workshop for Teaching Literacy Skills, Dubai, UAE.

March 2011 – Letterland Workshop for Teaching Literacy Skills, Dubai, UAE.

September 2011 – Certificate of Completion of the University of Cambridge International Examination Online Professional Development Course: Introduction to Cambridge Primary, an online course delivered by the University of Cambridge.

November 2007 – “What is the Best Instructional Technology” – TESOL Instructional Technology at the Canadian University of Dubai, UAE.

October 2007 – A pedagogy for self-regulation” – Magrudy’s Educational Resource Center, Dubai, UAE.

SKILLS & TECHNOLOGIES

Technology: SPSS | R | Interactive Board | Zoom | Microsoft Teams | Google Class | ClassDojo | Electronic Presentation Skills | Database Skills | Word Processing Skills | Cengage | MindTap | Canvas | Google Docs.

Languages: English: fluent | Russian: advanced | Arabic: intermediate | Armenian: native | German (read/write)

