

Curriculum Vitae

Dessy Stoycheva

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Education

B.A.E., Bulgarian and English Studies, University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria; May, 2008
M.A.E., Educational Psychology, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; Jun, 2013
Ed.D., Curriculum & Instruction, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, IA; Dec, 2018

Honors and Awards

GPA Award, Summa cum laude- University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria; 2008
Scholarships- University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria; 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Graduate Research Assistantship- University of Northern Iowa; 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18
Best Poster Presentation Award- IEREA Conference, 2016
Nominated for Outstanding Graduate Student Poster Award- AERA Conference, 2017

Associations/ Memberships

Member of the American Educational Research Association, Division C: Learning & Instruction- now
Member of the American Psychological Association, Division 15: Educational Psychology- now
Member of the Planning Committee of the UNI Education Summit- 2016, 2017
Reviewer for Journal of STEM, Arts, Crafts, and Constructions- 2016

Professional Experience

Dates Employed	Position	Institution
Aug 2007- May 2008	EFL Teacher	Pre-service teaching at the School District of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria
May 2008-May 2010	EFL Teacher for the Talented & Gifted	School District of Kavarna, Bulgaria
Aug 2010-May 2011	Volunteer Literacy Tutor	UNI-CUE; Waterloo, IA; Supervisor- Dr. Kimberly Knesting
Jan 2014- Jan 2018	Psychology Adjunct Faculty	Hawkeye Community College, Waterloo, IA; Supervisor- Catherine Freeman
Aug 2016- May 2017	Teaching Assistant	University of Northern Iowa; Ed.D. Inquiry course; Supervisor- Dr. Ralph Reynolds
Aug 2015- May 2018	Graduate Research Assistant	University of Northern Iowa, Jacobson Center for Comprehensive Literacy; Supervisors- Dr. Ralph Reynolds, Dr. Salli Forbes
Jan 2018- now	Instructor	University of Northern Iowa, Department of Educational Psychology & Foundations; Supervisor- Dr. Benjamin Forsyth

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Teaching Experience

- Introductory Psychology
- Developmental Psychology
- Development of Middle School Child
- Human and Work Relations
- Learning and Motivation
- English Literature and Grammar
- Bulgarian Literature and Grammar
- English as A Foreign Language

Research Interests

Broad research interests in educational psychology with a focus on cognition and learning. In particular, existing experience in STEM education, reading comprehension, and interpersonal forgiveness. Specific interest in a multidisciplinary approach to learning and studying the role of individuals' background differences in understanding and interpreting social contexts. Such knowledge can aid the process of curriculum development and instructional interventions design.

Current Research

- Dissertation: a quantitative, causal-comparative study about forgiveness understanding and practices, titled *Understanding Forgiveness: American Muslims', Christians', and Atheists' Perspectives*. The conceptual framework is founded in psychology of interpersonal forgiveness, cognitive development, and schema theory.
- Participation in a research project on young children's comprehension of metaphors which will result in six quasi-experimental studies. It is grounded in the cognitive theories of metaphor, such as the Contemporary Theory and the Attribution Theory. It focuses on the ability of young children (grades 1 to 3) to comprehend metaphors and on development of metaphor instructional intervention facilitating a better performance on metaphor comprehension tasks and ultimately increased reading comprehension abilities.
- Participation in a fast visual recognition quantitative study, titled *The Effect of Two Instructional Interventions on Rapid Visual Word Recognition*. It is informed by the Verbal Efficiency Theory and the Reading Recovery instructional approach to literacy and aims to observe the effect of Reading Recovery interventions and code-based instruction on word recognition time.
- Just completed two quantitative studies on science integration into arts, as a part of the project titled *Preservice Teachers Make Still Life Paintings of Crystals or Animal Skulls in an Art Integration Class*. The purpose of the studies is to test whether the use of science integration into arts will increase incorporation of science detail and creativity in artwork.

Professional Presentations

- Stoycheva, D. S. (2015). *Studies in Interpersonal Forgiveness: Implications for Cultural Diversity and School Interventions*. Presentation at the University of Northern Iowa Education Summit, Cedar Falls, IA.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2016). *Three-and Four-year-olds Learn About Gears Through Art Incorporation: Implications for meeting science standards*. Poster presented at the Iowa Educational Research & Evaluation Association Conference, Iowa City, IA.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2017). *Three-and Four-year-olds Learn About Gears Through Art Incorporation*. Poster presented at the American Educational Research Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2017). *Piecemeal Change in Higher Education: An Example of Curriculum Re-conceptualization*. Poster presented at UNI Education Summit, Cedar Falls, IA.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2017). *Re-conceptualization of Psychology Curriculum*. Poster presented at the University of Northern Iowa Graduate Student Symposium, Cedar Falls, IA.

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- Stoycheva, D. S. (2017). *Re-conceptualization of Psychology Curriculum*. Poster presented at the Iowa Educational Research & Evaluation Association Conference, Iowa City, IA.
- Stoycheva, D. S., Reynolds, R. E. (2018). *The Model of Domain Learning- a good, science-based theory?* Structured Poster Session at the American Educational Research Association, New York City, NY.

Manuscripts

- Stoycheva, D. S. (2007). *European Portfolio for Student Teachers of Languages*. Council of Europe. Retrieved from the library of University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2008). *Methodological implications of the new curriculum as represented in the literature textbooks for 5th grade* (Bachelor thesis). Retrieved from the library of University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2013). *Cross-cultural comparison and contrast of Americans' and Bulgarians' understanding of forgiveness* (Master thesis). Retrieved from UNISTAR Library Catalog, b4480022.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2015). *How a couple participating in a marriage mentoring program understands forgiveness*. Pilot Study Manuscript.
- Stoycheva, D. S. (2017). *Applying change models to higher education: An example of curriculum reconceptualization*. Manuscript.
- Stoycheva, D. S., & Hussain, M. (2017). *Systematic literature review on metaphor comprehension: Results from theoretical and experimental work*. Manuscript.
- Stoycheva, D. S., Hussain, M. (2017). *An insight into the meaning and functions of metaphor: Views of Lakoff and Ortony*. Manuscript.
- Stoycheva, D. S., Hussain, M., & Rule, A. (2017). *Preservice teachers make still life paintings of animal skulls in an art integration class*. Manuscript.
- Hussain, M., Stoycheva, D. S., & Rule, A. (2017). *Preservice teachers make still life paintings of crystals in an art integration class*. Manuscript.
- Pepanyan, M. & Stoycheva, D. (2018). *Integrating English Reading Course and Learning & Motivation Course into UbD curriculum unit*. Manuscript.

Published Papers

- Stoycheva, D. S., & Perkins, L. (2016). Three- and four-year- olds learn about gears through arts incorporation. *Journal of STEM, Arts, Crafts, and Constructions*.
- Perkins, L., & Stoycheva, D. S. (2016). Preschoolers explore greenhouses by visiting a greenhouse, making a model, and growing plants. *Journal of STEM, Arts, Crafts, and Constructions*.

Book Chapters

- Reynolds, R. E. & Stoycheva, D. S. (2018). The model of domain learning: A good science-based theory? In Dinsmore, D. & Fives (Eds.), H. *The Model of Domain Learning: Understanding the development of expertise* (pp. 145-154). New York, NY: Routledge.

References

- Dr. Ralph Reynolds- rerey145@gmail.com
Dr. Salli Forbes- salli.forbes@uni.edu
Dr. Audrey Rule- audrey.rule@uni.edu
Dr. Suzanne Freedman- Suzanne.freedman@uni.edu
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