Facilitators for One Book, One U Instructor Reading Groups

Matt Acevedo
Matt Acevedo is the Director of Learning Innovation and Faculty Engagement at the University of Miami, where he leads a team of instructional designers who partner with faculty to enhance their teaching through meaningful, student-centered pedagogies and technologies across instructional modalities. Learning Innovation and Faculty Engagement, part of UM Academic Technologies, conducts one-on-one and small group consultations and workshops with faculty and other university stakeholders; executes the university’s Faculty Learning Community program; and hosts the Faculty Showcase, UM’s annual teaching conference.

In his role at UM, Matt designed and facilitated the faculty development program on Learning Through Discussion and Dialogue in support of UM’s Quality Enhancement Plan; is an ex-officio member of the University of Miami Libraries and Lowe Art Museum Andrew W. Mellon CREATE Grants Program committee; and has served as a founding co-organizer of the Miami Teaching, Learning, and Technology Collective, a consortium of faculty development and educational technology professionals from the University of Miami, Florida International University, and Miami Dade College. Matt is also a Faculty Fellow in the Honors College at FIU, where he teaches Urban Inequality and HBO's The Wire, a two-semester seminar on issues relating to race and class, criminality and policing, neoliberalism, education, and the media, using The Wire as a source text.

Matt holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Florida International University, where his dissertation research explored how faculty members navigate and maneuver quality assurance audits for distance learning courses. Matt also holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film, a Master of Arts in Instructional Design and Technology, and a Graduate Certificate in Instructional Design for Simulations, all from the University of Central Florida.

Prior to working at the University of Miami, Matt was the Instructional Design Manager at Florida International University, where he oversaw the distance education instructional design teams and managed critical and high-visibility online learning initiatives. He has had roles as an instructional designer, educational technology consultant, and classroom teacher. Matt’s professional interests and research areas include educational development, instructional design and technology, qualitative research and scholarship of teaching and learning, neoliberalism in higher education, and critical pedagogy.

Ava Brillat
Ava Brillat received her MLIS from the University of South Florida in 2010 and her MA in Liberal Studies from the University of Miami in 2019. Prior to coming to the University of Miami, she worked as an Instructional Design Librarian. Born and raised overseas in Saudi Arabia, she enjoys the cross-cultural experiences Miami has to offer. Her personal research is focused on mentoring, collaboration, and user-focused projects in librarianship. Her non-librarianship research focuses on the role of the family in horror literature and film.
Kelsa Bartley
Kelsa Bartley is the Education and Outreach Librarian in the Learning, Research, and Clinical Information Services department at the Louis Calder Memorial Library. She joined the University of Miami Libraries in 2013 as a Manager in the Reference and Education department.

Kelsa has a Master of Science (MS) in Information degree, with a certificate in Health Information Technology from Florida State University. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Photography from Barry University, in Miami Shores, Florida.

Kelsa is Calder Library’s EndNote Specialist, and she manages Calder Library’s social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. She creates content for the Library’s promotional materials, displays and online presence. She also answers questions related to mobile apps and library resources with videos and images.

Kelsa is a member of the University of Miami Library’s Diversity and Inclusion Group. She is also a committee member on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee for the Medical Library Association (MLA). She is currently the Social Media Coordinator as a member of the Florida Health Science Library Association (FHSLA). She is also a member of the MLA Southern Chapter.

Miriam Lipsky
Dr. Miriam Lipsky serves as the Assistant Provost for Institutional Culture at the University of Miami. Since joining the Office of Institutional Culture (OIC) in 2016, Dr. Lipsky has helped spearhead the new Intergroup Dialogue initiative, obtaining several grants to move this work forward within the university. She teaches a course for undergraduates on Intergroup Dialogue, and launched the UDialouge program on Intergroup Dialogue for faculty and staff in the fall of 2019. As part of her work in the OIC, Dr. Lipsky designs and leads educational programs about diversity and inclusion, and consults with units throughout the university on programs to promote a Culture of Belonging.

Roxane Pickens
Roxane Pickens, Director of the UM Learning Commons and Librarian Assistant Professor, joined the University of Miami Libraries in fall 2017. As Director of the Learning Commons (since fall 2019), she works collaboratively with UML and administrative and academic units across the three campuses of the University of Miami with the goal of providing the highest level of educational support for students and scholars who visit
and work with the Libraries. Based at Richter Library, she coordinates Learning Commons Partners to provide services that range from introductory-level course tutoring to sophisticated research data analysis. Additionally, she serves as the subject liaison for Africana Studies.

With a scholarly background in the field of American Studies, Pickens also serves as the Director of the American Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. From 2012 to date, she has taught introductory and intermediate courses for the program on U.S. identity construction and the rhetorics of racial/ethnic festive and expressive culture. She began a three-year term as program director in fall 2020 and was Interim Director for 2018-19.

Pickens has worked at University of Miami since 2007, when she joined the faculty of the Composition Program in the Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences. For over ten years, she taught introductory writing courses that focus on identity construction, culture, community, and play. In her capacity as part of the writing faculty, she regularly tutored in the Writing Center and served as its Assistant Director from 2014 to 2017.

Earning her M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, Pickens completed a dissertation project that explores identity and festivity in Harlem Renaissance/Jazz Age literature and expressive culture. Originally from Lafayette, Louisiana, she earned a B.A. in American Studies from the former Newcomb College at Tulane University (New Orleans, LA). She holds memberships with the American Library Association, the American Studies Association, and the Modern Language Association.