

Neelofer Tajani, Ph.D.

119 Kentwood Ridge Ct, Sugar Land TX 77479

281-627-4596 neelutajani@gmail.com

[Google Scholar Profile](#)

CAREER SUMMARY

Neelofer Tajani has a deep passion for early childhood education and lifelong learning. Dr. Tajani shares knowledge through teaching, with strong work ethic, and excellent interpersonal skills.

EDUCATION

University of Houston—Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Education (2017), Houston, TX

University of Houston—Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Education (2004), Houston, TX

University of Houston Clear Lake—Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (1998), Houston, TX

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS and COURSES TAUGHT

University of Houston (2018-present), Lecturer - Curriculum and Instruction/Early Childhood Education Program

CUIN 3316: Prekindergarten Curriculum (Undergraduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

CUIN 3317: Kindergarten and Primary Curriculum (Undergraduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

CUIN 4315: Assessment of Children (Undergraduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

CUIN 6383: Introduction to Early Childhood Research (Graduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

CUIN 7300: Play in Early Childhood Education (Graduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

CUIN 7383: Early Childhood Curriculum (Graduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

EDUC 7384: Trends and Issues in Early Childhood Education (Graduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

Texas Education Agency (June – November 2020), Prekindergarten Writer - Safal Partners for the Texas Resource Review

University of Houston (2017-2018), Adjunct Lecturer

CUIN 3316: Prekindergarten Curriculum (Undergraduate, Early Childhood Education Program)

University of Houston (2017-2019), Site Coordinator

EDUC 4311: Student Teaching 1 (Undergraduate, Teacher Education Program)

EDUC 4313: Student Teaching 2 Undergraduate, Teacher Education Program)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Texas Education Agency (Summer/Fall 2020), Prekindergarten Writer - Safal Partners for the Texas Resource Review

University of Houston (Summer 2019) Research Associate, United Way Bright Beginnings Grant

University of Houston (June – August, 2017) Postdoctoral Research Associate, United Way Bright Beginnings Evaluation Team

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University of Houston (2014 - 2017) Graduate Research Assistant, United Way Bright Beginnings Evaluation Team

Fort Bend Independent School District (2011 - 2014)

K-12 Associate Teacher

K-12 Student Teacher, Rita Drabek Elementary

Learn and Excel Early Learning Center (2005 – 2010) Early Childhood Teacher/Curriculum Specialist

Faith School for Young Children (2002 – 2005) Early Childhood Lead Teacher

ACADEMIC JOURNALS AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- **Tajani, N** (2020). Teacher Educators' Perspective on Preservice Teacher Preparation/ Coursework Provided to Engage Diverse Families for Student Learning. *Journal of Higher Education Theory and Practice* 20 (8), 135-140
- **Tajani, N.,** Andrews, N. (in development). Difference in preservice teachers' perspective on preparation for family engagement in urban schools during residency. *Action in Teacher Education*.
- **Tajani, N.,** Andrews, N. (in development). Preservice teachers' perspective on preparation to engage diverse families for student learning in urban schools. *Research in Teacher Education*.
- **Tajani, N.** (2017). Preservice teachers' perspective on their preparation for family engagement. *The Texas Forum of Teacher Educators*, 7, 125-131.
- **Tajani, N.** (2013). Parental Involvement to Promote Student Learning. *Advocate: Journal of Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children*
- **Tajani, N.** (2013). Effective and engaging strategies to use during circle time. *Early Years: Journal of Texas Association for the Education of Young Children*;

COMMISSIONED PUBLICATION

- University of Houston, Houston, TX; United Way Bright Beginnings Evaluation Team. United Way Bright Beginnings Program of Greater Houston and ExxonMobil, prepared by Nicole Andrews, Pamela Tobe, Kenneth Powers, Amanda Rutters, and **Neelofer Tajani**; (2015 – 2017)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2021 **Early Childhood Special Service Stipend** for \$10,000
- 2020 **Prekindergarten Report Writer** for Safal Partner for \$2500
- 2019 **Community of Practice Self Study Grant** for \$2500
- 2019 **USPREP Faculty Training and Travel Award** for \$1,000
- 2017 NAEYC **Building a Lasting Legacy Campaign Scholarship** Recipient for \$500
- 2016 **Doctoral Student Research Travel Award** for \$500

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- 2015 Recipient of **Mylie E. & Charles A. Durham Endowed Scholarship Fund in Education** for \$1000
- 2009 **Mentor of the Year**, Sartartia Middle School
- 2004 **Volunteer of the month**, Walker Station Elementary School
- 2002 **Teacher of the Month**, Faith School for Young Children, Richmond, TX

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

American Educational Research Associations (AERA)

- **Tajani, N. A.** & Andrews, N. L. (2020, Apr 17 - 21) *Teacher Educators' Perspective on Preservice Teacher Preparation/ Coursework Provided to Engage Diverse Families for Student Learning* [Poster Session]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/s55oo9n> (Conference Canceled)
- Gronseth, S., Wilson, J. C., Cooper, J. M., **Tajani, N. A.** & Thompson, A. (2020, Apr 17 - 21) *A Cross-Case Analysis of Collaborative Studies Across Courses in a Large Urban Teacher Education Program* [Paper Session]. AERA Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA <http://tinyurl.com/wllvg9k> (Conference Canceled)
- **Tajani, N.**, Andrews, N. (2019, Apr 17 - 21) *Difference in Preservice Teachers' Perspective on Preparation for Family Engagement in Urban School During Residency* [Paper Session]. AERA Annual Meeting Toronto, Canada
- **Tajani, N.**, Andrews, N., Edgar, T. & Thompson, A (2018, Apr 13 - 17) *Preservice Teachers' Perspective on Preparation to Engage Diverse Families for Student Learning in Urban Schools.*[Paper Session]. AERA Annual Meeting New York, New York

Association of Teacher Educators (ATE)

- Faculty Perspectives of Kind of Activities and Experiences Regarding Family Engagement Do Preservice Teachers Receive (2019)

Southwest Educational Research Associations (SERA)

- Family Engagement: Implications for Urban Teacher Preparation (2017)

National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE)

- Tajani, N., Andrews, N. (2020, June 8) *Preservice Teachers' Experiences for Engaging Diverse Families for Student Learning During Fieldwork.* [Paper Session]. NAECTE Virtual Summer Conference
- Preservice Teachers' Perspectives on their Preparation for Family Engagement during an Early Childhood Teacher Preparation Program (2017)

R.T. Garcia Early Childhood Conference

- Identifying and Managing the Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood Classroom (2015)
- Striving for High Quality Environments through Best Practices (2014)

Texas Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC)

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- Strategies for School to Involve Culturally Diverse Families in Student Learning (2014)

Critical Questions in Teacher Education (CQiE)

- Strengthening Family Engagement through Teacher Education (2013)

Houston Area Association for Young Children (HAAEYC)

- Teaching Strategies and Profile of the Learner (2012)
- Professional Development for Teachers to Involve Parents in the Classroom (2011)

INTERNATIOAL CONFERENCE PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- Preservice Teachers' and Faculty Perspectives on the kinds of activities and experiences regarding family engagement receive in EC-6 teacher education program presented the paper at the 19th Roundtable of the International Network (INET) On School, Family, And Community Partnerships (2018)
- Strategies for Teachers to Involve Parents in the Classroom presented the paper at International Educator Conference at Aga Khan University Karachi, Pakistan (2010)

COMMUNITY-WIDE PRESENTATIONS

- "Family Engagement: Teachers' and Parents' Perspective" Annual Education and Psychology Research Symposium, University of Houston, Houston, TX (2014)
- "Early Years Guide for Parents of Children between the ages of Zero to three" Week of Young Child (WOYC) Celebration, Sugar Land, TX (2012)
- "Classroom Management for K-6 Teachers" Teacher Training Program, Austin, TX (2011)
- "Strategies for Classroom Management" Teacher Training Program, Spring, TX (2011)
- "Keys to Effective Classroom Assessment" facilitated at Teacher Training Program, Beaumont, TX (2009)

PROFESSIONAL, PROGRAM AREA, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

PROFESSIONAL

- **Manuscript Reviewer**, "The rural and urban divide in early literacy acquisition in Tanzania: The mediating roles of home and school contexts" *Journal of Research in Reading*
- **Discussant**, "Engaging Families and Communities in Learning Across Concepts and Contexts" AERA 2021
- **Principal Investigator**: Approved IRB for the research study designed to examine the Impact of COVID-19 on Teacher Education Program
- **Candidacy Committee Member**: *The Impact of Social Media on Involving Latino Low-Income Families in School Communities* by Usero Gonzalez, Francisco (May, 2020)
- **Session Chair**: When Preservice Teachers Learn Alongside Students, Families and Communities – Teaching and Teacher Education (2019)

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- **Session Chair:** Preservice Teachers Learning in and About Diverse Families – Teaching and Teacher Education (2018)
- **Session Chair:** Implementation of Family Engagement Programs – Family, School and Community Partnerships (2018)
- **Session Chair,** “Preservice Teachers’ Learning in and About Diverse Families” American Educational Research Associations (AERA) Annual Conference, New York City, New York (2019)
- **Session Chair,** “Implementation of Family Engagement Programs” American Educational Research Associations (AERA) Annual Conference, New York City, New York (2018)
- **Member-at-Large** for Southwest Educational Research Association Graduate Student Council; (2017)
- **Student Representation** Member for University of Houston, College of Education, Graduate Studies Committee (2016)
- **Guest speaker** at Wharton County Junior College to speak to students regarding the role of families in providing high quality learning for children in early years. (2015)
- **Reviewer** for Journal Articles for *Texas Journal for Literacy Education* (2015)
- **Reviewer** for Journal Articles for *Texas Journal for Literacy Education* (2014)
- **Conference Session Chair** for UH Houston Area Student Teacher Conference (2013)
- **Conference Session Chair** for UH Inter-Institutional Student Teaching Conference (2013)

DEPARTMENTAL/PROGRAM AREA

- **Interviewer,** Formal Admission Interview for Teacher Education Program (Fall 2018-Present)
- **Interview Panelist,** Ph.D. Admission Interview (April 2020)
- **Judge,** DISTCO Digital Storytelling contest (May, 2020)
- **Committee Member,** COE Ending Inequalities Sub-Committee (August – November, 2020)
- **Discussion Facilitator,** Stamped by Jason Reynolds book for teacher candidates
- **Co-Investigator,** Course (CUIN 3317) Study of the Use of Video Rehearsal as a Teacher Educator Pedagogy (2019)
- **Co-Investigator,** Course Study of the Teachers Candidates Perception of Professional Attributes (2019)
- **Committee Member,** Deidre Brooks Candidacy Proposal Defense at University of Houston, College of Education on the topic of Early Childhood Teacher Perspectives on Integrating Technological Innovations into Classroom (2019)
- **Design Research Agenda and Coach,** graduate student interns for Early Childhood Program Area (2018-2019)
- **Invited Presenter at University of Houston,** College of Education Faculty Meeting on the topic of Informing Practice: Urban Teacher Preparation and Family Engagement (2017)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- **Focus Group Planning and Execution Lead,** Parent Engagement Portfolio at the Aga Khan National Council for United States (2020 – April 2021)
- **Outreach and School District Liaison Member,** NASA’s Downlink In Flight Program for the Aga Khan Education Board for the Southwestern United States (2020 – March 2021)
- **Event Volunteer,** TWEENS READ, October 2019
- **Organizing Committee Member,** National Speech Day at Ismaili Jamat Khana and Center, March 2019

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- **Organizing Committee Member**, International Day of Education at Ismaili Jamat Khana and Center, January 2019
- **Master Teacher Trainer**, The Ismaili Tariqa and Religious Education Board, 2017 – Present
- **Program Lead**, The Ismaili Professionals in Education and Academia, 2017 - 2019
- **Teacher Trainer**, Trained Literacy Volunteer of Fort Bend County, 2003 - Present
- **Parent Educator**, Early Childhood Development Center, Houston, TX, 2012 - Present
- **Teacher**, Trained Literacy Volunteer of Fort Bend County, 1995 - Present
- **Troop Treasurer**, Rainbow Star Service Unit Girl Scouts for San Jacinto, TX, 2007- 2019
- **Financial Secretary**, Walker Station Elementary Parent Teacher Organization Sugar Land, TX, 2010-2012
- **Program Manager**, Learning Center for Parents and Children, Houston, TX, 2005 – 2008

CERTIFICATIONS

- Texas Educator Certificate Generalist (EC-6); 2011, 2017
- Director License with Professional Administrators National Credentialing (PAC); 2005 - Present

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- **Member**, American Educational Research Association (AERA); 2015 - Present
- **Student Representative Member**, Graduate Student Council, Southwest Educational Research Association (SERA); 2016 – Present
- **Member**, National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators (NAECTE); 2017 - Present
- **Member**, Association of Teacher Educators (ATE); 2017 - Present
- **Member**, National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC); 2005 - Present
- **Member**, Texas Association for Education of Young Children (TAEYC); 2005 - Present
- **Member**, Greater Houston Area Association for the Education of Young Children (HAAEYC); 2005 - Present
- **Member**, Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA); 2005 - Present
- **Member**, Editorial Review Board Member for TX Journal for Literacy Education; 2014 - 2016
- **Member**, Early Childhood Program Area Member, Curriculum and Instruction Graduate Student Organization; 2014 – 2017