



**VIRGINIA GOMES**

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### **My Deepest Belief:**

**I believe a high-quality education is the most important asset a person can pursue in life. I also know in my core that cooperation and solidarity and the relationship with nature should be premises of a quality and equitable education. These values create spaces where students feel a sense of belonging, are empowered to raise their voices, share their perspectives, and ultimately shape a better future for themselves and others.**

### **EDUCATION**

- PhD, University of Maryland - International Education Policy – Candidacy in progress. Dissertation title: From Individualism and Competition to Cooperation and Solidarity: Can School change this Paradigm?
- 2011 - M.Ed., Florida Atlantic University. Major: Social Foundations: Multicultural Education
- 2000 – M.B.A., Fundação Getúlio Vargas/Brazil
- 1994 - B.S., State University of Ceara/Brazil. Major: Business Administration

### **AWARDS**

- 2025 - University of Maryland Alumni Association Scholarship
- 2025–2026 LACS Graduate Resident
- 2024 – Fall SPARC Doctoral Grant Program
- 2024 – Latin America and Caribbean Studies Center Pop-Up Research Grant
- 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 - College of Education Scholarship
- 2020 – University of Maryland Dean’s Fellowship from the Graduate School and Departmental Fellowship
- 2019 – Staff of Character for Broward County – Sun Sentinel award
- 2015 - Ross Roberts Broward County Mentor of the Year 2015 – Ford Salute to Education Program

### **EMPLOYMENT**

- **Project CLIMB Assessor** – Fall 2024
- **Graduate Assistant at College of Education** in the International Education Policy Department at University of Maryland – **July 2021 to present (ends July 31st 2024)**
- **College Advisor at College Academy** – August 2012 – June 2020 - Advise students on their new college path after high school, including choosing a university, major, application requirements, financial aid, and scholarships. Communicated with parents, organized college tours and scholarship seminars.

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**French** - fluent      **Portuguese** - fluent (native)      **Spanish** - communicates well

### **PART-TIME TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- **BOSS Program at Children Service Council of Broward Consultant/Trainer - July 2016 – July 2018.** Monthly post-secondary opportunities training meetings with 12 Best Opportunity for Student Success (BOSS) coaches.
- **ESOL Instructor** – Broward College, Florida – Project Renew for Refugees – January 2012 – August 2012
- **Adjunct Professor part-time** – Florida Atlantic University – Cross Cultural Management – Summer 2004

## **JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Jing Lin, Amanda Fiore, Erin Sorensen, **Virginia Gomes**, Joey Haavik, Maha Malik, Shue-kei Joanna Mok, Jordan Scanlon, Emmanuel Wanjala & Anna Grigoryeva (2023) Contemplative, holistic eco-justice pedagogies in higher education: from anthropocentrism to fostering deep love and respect for nature, Teaching in Higher Education, 28:5, 953-968, DOI: 10.1080/13562517.2023.2197109

Jing Lin, Erin Sorensen, **Virginia Gomes** & Denise McHugh (2023) Love as the Foundation for Reconciliation and Peace: Embodying Interconnection and Oneness through Contemplative Education, Peace Review, DOI: 10.1080/10402659.2022.2162335

## **BOOK CHAPTER**

Lin, J., **Gomes, V.**, Haavik, J., Malik, M., Mok, J., Scanlon, J., Wanjala, E. & Grigoryeva, A. (2023). Disrupting Hierarchies for New Landscapes of Learning by Action: Experiences and Reflections From a Climate Change Course. Amani Williams, H., Huskić, H., Noto, C. Disrupting Hierarchy in Education. Teachers College Press.

## **CONFERENCES**

2025 - CIES Conference - Comparative and International Education Symposium Conference. Chicago, IL - March 22-26. Circles of Trust: Bring yourself to this space to build community and erase boundaries while sharing deep questions. Mindfulness Activities. Special Session from Contemplative Inquiry And Holistic Education SIG.

2024 - CIES Conference - Comparative and International Education Symposium Conference. Miami, FL March 09-14. Cooperative Learning and Social Movements – An Idea Worth Fighting For (Paper Presentation). The Soul of Education: Building a safe space to ask and answer important questions and build community ( Special Session, Workshop).

2023 – CIES Conference - Comparative and International Education Symposium Conference – Feb 14-22 Highlighted Session: The Power of Contemplative Learning for Integrating our Body, Heart, Mind and Spirit, and for Radical Re-envisioning of Education. Washington DC.

2023 (April 13-16 ) – AERA Conference - Tackling Climate Change through Critical, Contemplative, and Transformative Experiential Teaching and Learning. Chicago

2022 - Student Research Symposium - Coping with Covid: The Experiences of Students from a Cooperative Learning School in Rural Brazil During the Covid-19 Pandemic – College of Education UMD

2021 - Graduate Student Research Conference - Education Transformation: A Solution Through Cooperative Learning in Rural Latin America - Online

2021 - 4th World Council of Comparative Education Societies Symposium - Coping with COVID: The Experiences of Students from a Cooperative Learning School in Rural Brazil During the Covid -19 Pandemic - Online

## **PODCASTS**

- PODCAST (May 2023): [A Candid Conversation on Catholicism.](#)
- PODCAST (May 2023): [A Candid Conversation about Privatization of Education.](#)

## **PAST - PRESENT VOLUNTEER WORK/MEMBERSHIP in the last 10 years**

- 21st Century Educational Alternatives: Confronting Racial Capitalism, Patriarchy, Militarism, and the Climate Crisis Comparative and International Society (CIES) SIG secretary since 2024
- The Alternatives Project – [www.thealternativesproject.org](http://www.thealternativesproject.org) – Facilitation group member since 2022
- Comparative and International Education Society(CIES) - member since 2021 – SIG secretary since 2024
- UMD College of Education IEP Board Member – 2020 to present
- UMD HESI Preview Programming/WebTech Committee – 2021 - 2022 – 2023 - 2024