

Delphia S. Smith, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of reading/literacy education and holds an appointment in the Howard University School of Education. Her scholarly research centers literacy (reading) underestimated (Black and Brown) children, and inequities they face, often marked by unequal treatment, access, and outcomes. Smith's current research agenda wishes to explore the most effective way to improve reading for America's K-12 students, particularly its underestimated [Black and Brown] children as well as ensure a more equitable educational system that affords all students opportunities and access to be successful.

A first-generation college graduate, Smith earned a bachelor's degree in primary education at the University of the Bahamas (formerly the College of the Bahamas), a master's degree in reading education at Florida International University (FIU), and a PhD in curriculum and instruction with an urban literacy focus at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC). During her time at UNCC, she was selected as an Urban Education Collaborative Doctoral Fellow, where she engaged in research and was afforded mentorship and professional development opportunities that prepared her for the professoriate. She also served as a 2017-2018 Graduate Life Fellow in the Center for Graduate Life & Learning at UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC. Here, she served as a liaison to her peers across campus, while working to discover new ways to support graduate student success through the creation and execution of programming.

Before entering the academy, Smith served as an elementary educator for over 11 years in the United States and her home country, the Bahamas. A lover of reading and writing, Smith has coauthored several children's books that focus on areas such as race, diversity, and the importance of hard work and dedication.