



**NGCP Webinar Chat Transcript:  
Breaking Stereotypes through Children's Books**  
April 27, 2023

Marisa Garcia: Hi all. Marisa Garcia joining from Boston, MA. I'm a big NGCP fan! I work on STEM curriculum for prek-5, often writing and/or linking stories and books to the content. Currently working text for a comic for a 3-5 out-of-school time unit :)

Brenda Britsch: Hi everyone. This is Brenda Britsch with NGCP. I am really looking forward to this webinar!

Colleen King: Hello everyone! My name is Colleen King and I work with ACC High School Career Programs :)

Ashley Gaboury: Hi! My name is Ashley Gaboury, and I'm a Programs Educator at the Scott Family Amazeum!

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Welcome ! We are so glad you are here. Please introduce yourself here.

Katie Hessen, SciGirls [she/her]: Hi! I'm Katie Hessen from SciGirls and Twin Cities PBS in Minnesota

Kristi.Hickson: Hi all, My name is Kristi Hickson and I work with the Cobb County Library System in Marietta, Georgia.

Lori Petrelius (she/her): Hello all! I'm Lori Petrelius (she/her), Museum Programs Manager at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation. I especially love children's literature, so I'm very excited for this session!

H Blackwell: Hi all, Helen from Buckinghamshire, UK here. I volunteer in a public children's library, at a primary school (2-11 year olds) and studying my masters in Library and Information studies

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Welcome SciGirls! Hi Kristi. Welcome Lori and H Blackwell

Caitlin Phillips (she/her/ella): Hello! I am Caitlin Phillips (she/her/Ella) and I work with the Children's Museum of the Brazos Valley in Bryan, Texas and I am in charge of story time curriculum! 😊

Jacki Lane: Hello! I'm Jacki Lane (she/her). I am the program manager for Project Scientist.

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Welcome Jacki!

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Learn more about NGCP: <https://ngcproject.org/>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): IF/THEN Collection: <https://www.ifthenshecan.org/>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Youth Advisory Board:  
<https://ngcproject.org/about/initiatives/youth-advisory-board>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): FabFems: <https://www.fabfems.org/>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Check out our upcoming events and webinars:  
<https://ngcproject.org/events-announcements>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her) : Subscribe to NGCP monthly e-newsletter:  
<http://ow.ly/Zuds30qwpOK>

Marisa Garcia: feline overlords 🐱

Katherine Locke (they/them): There's one asleep behind me right now and I'm hoping he stays asleep and not disruptive! 😊

Adrienne: always ready for a feline zoom appearance!

Marisa Garcia: I wouldn't mind an interruption from a cat :)

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Stay connected with Dr. Kast on social media:

- DJ Kast on Instagram: @djscience7
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dieuwertje-kast/>
- USC JEP\_STEM on Twitter: @StemJeP

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her) : Ask questions for DJ here, we will address them near the end of the program.

Adrienne : Are arts also part of the program?

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Great question Adrienne - we will ask.

Melody Reese: Use student-written books

Lori Petrelius (she/her): So much of it is systemic.!

Katie Hessen, SciGirls [she/her]: Broader support for authors and illustrators of color

Adrienne: There are books available, but not as well known - so perhaps make lists available of those?

Katherine Locke (they/them) : (I'm also happy to talk about some of the changes I've seen as an author in the industry since 2013 that resulted in some of those stats changing later in the Q&A section!)

Colleen King: Start writing books with those populations featured. Have kids start writing stories too

Marisa Garcia: I have, in the past, tried to break into the children's publishing world with my own stories with diverse characters and it is HARD! traditional publishing is so difficult to navigate

Lori Petrelius (she/her): We need to support authors and illustrators by increasing diversity in publishing.

Farah Faruqi: Cultural and systemic barriers

Marisa Garcia: <https://www.roomtoread.org/> if others are interested!

Marisa Garcia: are these authors employed by USC or room to read? I'm very interested in how this happens as an aspiring author myself!

Adrienne: Are the books available in Spanish as well?

Marisa Garcia: ditto, Adrienne!

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Room to read STEM Powered Collection:  
<https://www.roomtoread.org/steam>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): The STEAM powered career books are digitally available in English and Spanish for free. Check them out:

Spanish links to the books: <https://literacycloud.org/readinglists/65334-carreras-impulsadas-por-steam>

English links to all the books: <https://literacycloud.org/readinglists/62877-steam-powered-series>

Adrienne: what grade/age level?

Colleen King: Did these scientists have experience writing books before? How did you support those who didn't have experience writing for children but wanted to contribute?

Marisa Garcia: how did you recruit the authors and scientists?

Sana Karim: How did authors and scientists collaborate? Were they paired?

Adrienne: The project makes me think of Dolly Parton's reading program where she provides free books for children 0-5, not sure any have a STEM focus.

Amanda Sullivan: These are such great questions everyone, we will address as many as possible that have not already been answered during the Q&A after Katherine's talk!

Amanda Sullivan: Keep putting in questions here or sending them to me directly

Dr. DJ Kast (she/her): @colleen - Room to Read is very supportive of first time authors of color. Only one of us Jocelyn had written a book before (also for Room to Read and their peace and equality series), all of the other authors and scientists were first timers.

Dr. DJ Kast (she/her) @Sana - Yes, the authors and scientists were paired for each book and worked together to do so. Each book interviewed the scientists within it

Marisa Garcia: for Dr. DJ Kast: how did you determine the story lines/style of your books? did you do any research on the types of stories that resonate most with the students you are aiming to reach and/or about the types of STEM story structures already out there in the world and how to bring something new?

Dr. DJ Kast (she/her): @Marisa - We recruited mostly from USC. We onboarded mostly educators for the authors that work with low-income students of color so they would be another way to disseminate/distribute the books. Almost all the scientists were USC based as well and mostly ones that had worked with our STEM programs previously

Adrienne: Is there any educator curriculum with the book?

Marisa Garcia: good question, Adrienne, and/or family resources?

Amanda Sullivan: We'll ask during the Q&A!

Amanda Sullivan: Great questions

Sheila Baker: What is your argument for those districts who are removing LGBTQ+ books from classroom and library shelves? Librarians would love to purchase books like this for their libraries, but fear repercussions from admin and parents.

Amanda Sullivan: Great question, Sheila! We'll pose as many q's as possible during the Q&A. If anyone in the room has suggestions, please share your ideas and approaches too!

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Follow Katherine online:

[www.KatherineLockeBooks.com](http://www.KatherineLockeBooks.com) and @bibliogato on Twitter and Instagram.

Amanda Sullivan: We'll include the slides on our website with the webinar recording!

Amanda Sullivan: So you will all have all of these resources Sheila Baker : Thanks, Amanda. I teach in Texas where censorship is running rampant.

Sheila Baker : Thanks, Amanda. I teach in Texas where censorship is running rampant.

Dr. DJ Kast (she/her): @Marisa- each author really delved deep into the fields and what topics to explore content wise that would lend itself well to lesson plans in the animated component of the book and then scientist interviews and STEM field for the second Half of the book

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): LGBTQReads <https://lgbtqreads.com/>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her) : What Are Your Words? Available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0316542067?tag=hacboogrosit-20>

Adrienne: Library of Congress

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Pronouns <https://pronouns.org/>

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): The STEAM powered career books are digitally available in English and Spanish for free. Check them out:

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English links to all the books: <https://literacycloud.org/readinglists/62877-steam-powered-series>

Adrienne: Any curriculum for Katherine's book?

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Room to read STEAM Powered Collection: <https://www.roomtoread.org/steam>

Marisa Garcia: digestion with panty hose! I love that 🤪

Katherine Locke (they/them): No curriculum for my book that I'm aware of but I'll ask the publisher!

Katie Hessen, SciGirls [she/her]: We are developing a new children's tv show that features read-aloud of STEM focused books featuring BIPOC characters and by BIPOC authors. Would LOVE recommendations on books!! [khessen@tpt.org](mailto:khessen@tpt.org)

Marisa Garcia: i need to sign off to get to a meeting, but thank you so much to both of the speakers and to the NGCP staff!

Sheila Baker: Thank you so much! Great presentations!

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): If you enjoyed this webinar, support the work of the National Girls Collaborative: <https://ngcproject.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donation>

Adrienne: Any thoughts on making the pronouns book into an animated film? Add music?

Katherine Locke (they/them): I don't have the rights to this book, so that would be up to Little Brown Books for Young Readers! (Feel free to Instagram message them about it ;) I'd love to see it as a little short!)

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her):

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- NGCP YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQit07cAU9fE-rwv9nSA40g>

Amanda Sullivan: Let's continue all these questions and thoughts on social media! See the links Nancy shared above!

Adrienne : Thank you for today's presentation! Take care everyone and keep writing, drawing, and reading!

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her) : Learn to be an Ally to Girls and Women in STEM:

<https://ngcproject.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/ngcproject/event.jsp?event=724>

Farah Faruqi: Great session. Thank you for sharing.

Nancy Scales-Coddington (she/her): Complete the post-webinar survey:

<https://forms.office.com/r/xB7DYw8GHu>

Martha Tran: Thank you for today!

Caitlin Phillips (she/her/ella): Thank you all!!

Jacki Lane: Thank you!

Lupe Suarez: Thank you!

Brenda Britsch: Thank you to our presenters - fantastic resources!