"White epistemologies have long narrated the literacy practices taught in teacher education programs and enacted in classrooms. Literacy education has siloed issues of literacy and equity, and mutually excluding them in the teaching of literacy methods perpetuate white-centric literacy instruction in classrooms. In this talk, I argue for a Black epistemological literacy education that centers Black Language in the process of teaching literacy methods. By intertwining the two, this approach shifts whose epistemologies are centered, and offers an equitable pathway for future teachers to re-imagine early childhood and elementary literacy instruction. This approach also elucidates how phonics instruction in its current state belongs to White Mainstream English. I have conceptually framed this work through linguistic and sociolinguistic theories of Black Language, as well as through raciolinguistic notions and raciolinguistic ideologies. As a non-Black scholar, I adjoin myself to historic Black Freedom movements as I work in community with Black Language scholars to combat white hegemony. By connecting scholarship in Black Language and literacy education, this talk illuminates the possibilities of interdisciplinary research when Black epistemologies are centered. Teachers need to envision how Black Language is integral in all aspects of literacy for young readers and writers. In our contested context for Black Lives mattering in schools, there is an urgent need to cohere our precepts and practices in our work towards Black equity."

Dr. Alice Lee