



LITERACY™
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION

Newsletter



Literacy Research Association - February 2020

2020 LRA Annual Conference - Call for Proposals

Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon, Conference Chair
David B. Yaden, Jr., Conference Associate Chair

#LRA2020

Hilton Americas in downtown Houston, Texas is the site for our 70th annual Literacy Research Association Conference December 2nd – 5th, and preparation has already begun. The hotel is spacious with many places to collaborate and lots of great restaurants within walking distance. There is a beautiful park across the street, with a playground and a playhouse made of stone. Your family can enjoy many activities while you attend conference sessions. Pictures and information will be posted monthly to keep you abreast as new developments unfold. In the meantime:



PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS

by the deadline of 11:59 PM P.S.T. March 2nd.

We are especially looking for innovative sessions that include researchers who approach topics of interest from multiple perspectives. ***All of Us are Smarter than Each of Us.***

You do not want to miss #LRA2020. Collaborate for IMPACT!

See you in Houston!

LRA members, we NEED your help. [Submit a proposal](#) and encourage your colleagues, grad students, and others in your professional circles, to submit proposals, as well.

This is our 70th annual conference. Let's make this a conference to remember.



A Message from #LRA2020 Area Chairs:

Area 5 knows that All of Us are Smarter than Each of Us and so we invite you to submit your conference papers by March 2nd to Area 5, the Early and Elementary Processes Strand. Area 5 welcomes submissions in all areas of literacy geared toward PK-elementary students, educators, and classrooms. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, child development, comprehension, critical literacy pedagogy, emergent literacy, family and community literacies, and multiliteracies (for a full list, please see the call for proposals). Area 5 will work to group your paper with others that are similar in nature in an effort to build on the theme Collaborate for Impact. Submitting to Area 5 will provide opportunities to make new connections and engage in session discussions that will help advance your research and scholarship.

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Member Publications

LRA members and former STAR fellows **Grace Enriquez and Gilberto P. Lara**, along with other colleagues, have co-authored a book, titled *The Reading Turn-Around With Emergent Bilinguals: A Five-Part Framework for Powerful Teaching and Learning (Grades K-6)*, published by Teachers College Press. A link to the book can be found [here](#).

George Hruby recently published "Language's vanishing act in early literacy education" for the Phi Delta Kappan, 101 (5). You can read the article [here](#). He also recently published [Students experiencing reading difficulties: What we know and what we can do](#) [Literacy Leadership Brief]. Newark, DE: International Literacy Association. You can find it [here](#).

Bessie P. Dernikos recently published "[A Gender Gap in Literacy? Exploring the Affective Im/materiality and "Magic" of Allure with/in a First Grade Classroom](#)" in *Reconceptualizing Educational Research Methodology (Special Issue - PhEmaterialism: Response-able Research and Pedagogy)*. Thinking with (Jackson & Mazzei, 2012) posthumanist theories of affect and assemblage (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987), the author argues that literacy learning within a first-grade classroom (NYC) involved allure (Thrift, 2008), or more-than-human technologies of public intimacy that were affectively contagious and seemed to take on a life of their own. This work contributes a new dimension to current literacy-gender debates by exploring how the im/material practices of allure emerge to produce entanglement, bliss, and even violence. While boys' entangled reading practices disrupted popular assumptions of "failing boys," they, at

Area 5 Chairs:

- Celeste Bates
- Sonia Cabell
- Jacquelynn Malloy
- Rebecca Norman
- Ashley Patterson
- Kathryn Roberts

In your study did you...

- Visit Miss Stretchberry's class and document the ways in which children engage with poetry and *Love That Dog*?
- Learn how *A Rock Is Lively* and *A Butterfly Is Patient* as you analyzed a text set?
- Get "curious" along with your colleague George about the ways in which the man with the big yellow hat represents colonialism?
- Take a page from *The Book Itch: Freedom Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore* and consider ways in which readers engage with texts about social justice?
- Observe how *Tomás and the Library Lady* get readers, who are *Waiting for the Biblioburro* as well as those in classrooms, *Wild About Books*?
- Work with Lane Smith to learn about how children interact with a text whether it's digital or *It's a Book*?

If any of these questions remind you of your research, then **Area 9: Text Analysis, Adult, Children's, and Young Adult Literature** can't wait to read your LRA 2020 proposal!

Area 9 Chairs:

- Lisa Domke
- Mark Lewis
- Amanda Thein

Area 7 has been updated! What's new?

The new title for **Area 7** is *Critical, Cultural, and Social Issues of Literacy Practices In and Out of School* (formerly known as *Social, Cultural, and Political Issues of Literacy Practices In and Out of School*). In addition, Area 7 now includes more focus on critical perspectives, with the updated description: Research focusing on the critical, cultural, political, and social issues of literacy. Additional areas that have been added under Area 7 are highlighted below in the full description:

- Critical literacy, affect, and activism
- Culture, identity, and intersectionality
- Digital and popular culture
- Discourses and social practices
- Family and literacies
- Inclusivity, diversity, equity, and activism
- Power and agency
- Quantitative and qualitative research studies that address critical, cultural, and social issues of literacy
- Race, racism, and anti-racism
- Social class and critical dis/ability

Last year, Area 7 featured presentations that included *Race and Social Justice*, *Writing and Social Activism*, *Illuminating Imprisoned Voices*, *Care and Compassion In and Out of Schools*, *Black Literacies and Afrofuturism* and *Refugees and School Experiences*. This year, Area 7 co-chairs look forward to new proposals based on the revised description. **What will you submit?!**

Area 7 Co-chairs:

- Christina Dobbs
- Jen Scott-Curwood
- Christine Ehret
- Grace Enriquez
- Melody Zoch

Remember to share #LRA2020 information on Twitter.

Cast your vote: 2020-2021 Election

The 2020-2021 Vice President and Board of Directors Election is now open to all LRA members.

LRA uses an online ballot to gather votes. Each member will be allowed to vote once and all votes will be anonymous.

the same time, reinforced rigid heteronormativities. Ultimately, attending to literacy learning as alluring invites more ethically response-able (Barad, 2007) considerations that take seriously how the forces of gender, sexuality, and race work to not only animate/contain bodies, spaces, and things, but also shape the un/making of students as "successfully literate."

Dr. Jeanne Dyches was awarded the Critical Issues in Curriculum and Cultural Studies SIG's Early Career Award. She will receive her award in April at AERA's annual conference.

Call for Book Proposals

LRA Member Evan Ortlieb is co-editing a new book series with DOI Press entitled, *Literacies and Culture*.

Evan is currently seeking book proposals related to issues and opportunities of the crucial nature of language acquisition and culturally responsive literacy teaching and learning as it frames the broad discipline of literacy itself.

Shorter manuscripts (primers ~100 pages) are also considered. Please reach out for more information.

For more information, contact Evan Ortlieb (ortliebe@stjohns.edu)

The Reading Clinics/Literacy Labs ICG Ongoing Projects

The Reading Clinics/Literacy Labs ICG has two ongoing projects. First, they have been in high gear in collaboratively working on data analysis across 10 sites. We have some important findings of the perspectives of students and their families who participate in a clinic/lab, whether university-based or school-based.

Secondly, they are working towards creating and editing a series of videos to report on the research out of clinics/labs that can be applied to classrooms/schools.

The Reading Clinics/Literacy Labs ICG welcomes to our group all newcomers who are clinic directors, instructors, or researchers. For further information, write to blaster@towson.edu.

Submit Your News!

Have news you want to submit? News submissions from members are due on the 15th of every month! You can submit your news on our website! [Submit your News!](#)

Current/active LRA members received an email with voting instructions including a personal link and login to cast your vote. **If you did not receive this email, please email ktynner@asginfo.net.**

This election will run from March 1, 2020 - March 10, 2020, 11:59 PM Eastern Time (US & Canada).

Review all of the nominees and their candidate statements on our [website](#).

2020 Early Career Achievement Award Committee: Call for Nominees

Purpose of Award

The Early Career Achievement Award is awarded annually to honor the new members of the LRA community who have been actively involved in research, teaching, and service for approximately 3-7 years, and have demonstrated outstanding commitment and accomplishment.

Criteria for Consideration

Nominees for the Early Career Achievement Award can be of any rank. However, nominees must: (1) be members of LRA (for at least three years, but not necessarily consecutively) (2) possess a terminal doctoral degree, and (3) have worked in the field seven years or less from the conferral date of their degree to the posted deadline for this competition.

Procedures for Nomination

An LRA member may be nominated by a peer member of LRA through a recommendation letter outlining the candidate's contributions to the field of literacy research and the nominee's participation in LRA. **Please submit nomination letters to Julia López-Robertson by midnight, April 15, 2020.**

Nominees will then be asked to submit in ONE DOCUMENT: (1) a current curriculum vita, including affiliations, degrees, research honors and awards, publications, and service on editorial boards of research journals; (2) a statement of approximately 1,500 words delineating professional growth and research agenda; (3) a letter of support from the candidate's current institution (e.g., teaching/research colleague, department Chair). **These materials are to be submitted to Julia López-Robertson by midnight, May 15, 2020.**

Contact Information:

Julia López-Robertson, PhD

Chair, Early Career Achievement Award Committee

University of South Carolina, Columbia

Email: lopezrob@mailbox.sc.edu

Congratulations to Travel Grant Recipients!

The international ICG is given an amount of money each year to support travelers from outside of the US to attend the LRA Annual Meeting. Priority is given to doctoral students or junior faculty members who received their doctorate within the last five years, members attending the Annual Meeting for the first time and members who are from countries with limited research infrastructure and funding. In 2019 five possible recipients applied for a grant of varying size. We were happy to give those eligible for receiving grant support to attend the conference in Tampa, FL.

These four were:

Kerryn Dixon, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, Jessica Rubin, University of Waikato, New Zealand, Claudia Cañas, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Colombia and Velta Douglas, University of Toronto, Canada.

Congratulations to the four travel grant recipients!



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