

Language and Literacy Researchers of Canada (LLRC)
L'Association canadienne des chercheurs en langue et littérature (ACCLL)

Ordinary Literacies in Extraordinary Times: Creating Meaning through Texts, Bodies, & Objects

14th Annual Language and Literacy Researchers of Canada (LLRC) Pre-Conference
Saturday 27 May 2017

Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario

Co-sponsored by Language and Literacy: A Canadian e-journal

Plenary Speaker: **Pam Whitty**, University of New Brunswick

The theme of Congress 2017 is *Canada: The Next 150!* - a call to reflect on the past, present and future. As we do so, we recognize that we are living in extraordinary times - technologically, politically, and socially. These times require new ways of thinking about education, communication, and life. At this year's pre-conference, we are seeking to engage the embodiment turn in social science research as a possible future for literacy and language research and practice. In this work, the body is central to the experiences and productions of language and literacy. This call invites us to explore how we assemble communicative and semiotic resources and creativity to make meaning as the human body interacts with material, social, and spiritual spaces through ordinary textures of everyday life. As a provocation, we invite you to consider Sara Ahmed's (2006) work:

Objects and bodies 'work together' as spaces for action [...] My neck gets sore, and I stretch to ease the discomfort. I pull my shoulders back every now and then as the posture I assume (a bad posture I am sure) is a huddle: I huddle over the table as I repeat the action (the banging of keys with the tips of my fingers); the action shapes me and leaves its impression, through *bodily sensations* [...] I write, and in performing this work I might yet become my *object* -- become a writer, with a writer's *body*, and a writer's tendencies... (p. 57, emphasis added)

Current theories of embodiment lead us to ask questions such as: what happens when bodies engage with texts, ideas and other bodies? How might this shift in perspective change the objects of literacy teaching and research? How are alternative and embodied literacies experienced and expressed in the "little things" of everyday life? What historical stories of literate bodies, or what it means to be literate, continue to circulate; what do they do to us and what can we do with them? How are practices of everyday literacies materially and discursively embodied in contemporary times? How do a multiplicity of meanings animate intimate moments of lived lives? What creative ways of knowing and making meaning do embodied literacies open up or renew? By considering the ordinary in the extraordinary, the momentary and the

overarching stories in lived literacy experiences, we hope the pre-conference will identify, redefine and help to bridge the micro and macro in literacy learning, teaching, and research.

The pre-conference will offer delegates opportunities to explore diverse perspectives from research, teaching, and activism, to engage in discussions across the research areas in our work, including reading, writing, multiliteracies and multimodalities, arts-based practices, indigenous perspectives on land and literacy, children's literature, literacy and literacies studies, communications and digital media. We invite work from the perspectives of emerging and established research methodologies. The LLRC pre-conference has become a community in which scholars can contribute to each other's work through attentive discussion and critical exchange on our research. This year, we continue the tradition as we explore ordinary literacies. To enable this process, full papers will be circulated in small groups two weeks before the pre-conference so that participants may engage in discussion and provide constructive feedback.

For more information about the LLRC, please visit: <http://www.llrcaccl.ca/doku.php>

Inquiries can be directed to pre-conference Chairs, Mairi McDermott (mairi.mcdermott@ucalgary.ca) and Andrea Rosenfield (andrea.rosenfield@mail.concordia.ca).

References

Ahmed, S. (2006). *Queer phenomenology: Orientations, objects, others*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

LLRC Pre-Conference Proposal Submission Guidelines

1. Please include a cover page with your contact information as well as the names and affiliations of any additional authors. Please indicate whether you would be willing to present in English and/or French.

2. Please prepare a 150-word abstract and a research summary (max. 750 words). The research summary should include the following information:

- Rationale
- Theoretical Perspectives / Framework
- Research design/ Methodology
- Findings
- Conclusions
- 3 questions from your research that you would like to discuss in your group

3. To facilitate the blind review process the abstract and research summary should not name any authors. The cover page is provided in order to provide your contact information as well as the names and affiliations of any additional authors.

4. Please email complete proposals (including submission form, abstract, and research summary) to: llrcprecon2017@gmail.com. DO NOT submit proposals to CSSE.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 1 February 2017, by Midnight Eastern Standard Time

Please check the Language and Literacy Researchers of Canada website for additional information about the Pre-conference: <http://www.llrc-accll.ca/doku.php>

Pre-conference registration (includes lunch):

- Faculty/Instructors: \$50.00 (CAD)
- Students: \$35.00 (CAD)

Online Registration: The online registration system will be set up in February of 2017. At that time, a link for registration will be emailed to all members. The link will also be posted on the LLRC website at: <http://www.llrc-accll.ca/doku.php>