

Adult and Family Literacy Today

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Updates on adult and family literacy research, policy, and practice

Research to Practice

Diverse Paths to Inclusion: Exploring Multicultural Literacy in Adult Education

Multicultural literacy is a vital component of adult education (Kusá et al., 2014), enabling the inclusion and empowerment of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and providing them with a wider range of learning opportunities. Understanding and implementing multicultural literacy practices not only enriches the educational experience but also promotes equity within adult basic education programs. Research has shown that incorporating multicultural literacy practices in adult education classrooms can transform interactive patterns between students and teachers, enriching the learning experience for all involved (Kim & Slapac, 2015; Thomas & Kearney, 2008; Singer & Smith, 2003).



In today's multicultural society, it is crucial for adult educators to understand multicultural literacy and its role in promoting inclusiveness and equity in the classroom. Weinstein (1998) emphasizes the importance of recognizing the influence of family dynamics, cultural heritage, and community contexts on literacy practices within adult education settings. Drawing from the author's work, educators can adopt a range of practical strategies tailored to the needs of adult learners as well as family literacy programs:

1. **Inquiry-Based Learning**: Begin instruction by exploring learners' lives, including their linguistic and educational resources, cultural backgrounds, and social networks. This approach helps tailor instruction to learners' needs and interests.
2. **Needs-Driven Curriculum**: Design curricula that address the needs and concerns that learners themselves identify. This could involve incorporating learners' experiences, concerns, and interests into lesson planning and curriculum development.
3. **Intergenerational Knowledge Sharing**: Facilitate intergenerational knowledge sharing within adult learning contexts. For example, encourage adult learners to share their life experiences, cultural traditions, and wisdom with younger generations, while younger generations can contribute their knowledge of new technologies and languages.
4. **Cultural Sensitivity**: Recognize and respect the cultural diversity within the classroom. Incorporate materials, activities, and discussions that reflect the cultural backgrounds and experiences of the learning community.
5. **Community Involvement**: Promote community partnerships and involvement in the learning process by providing resources and support for learners and families to engage in literacy activities at home.

By integrating these strategies into classroom practices, educators can create inclusive, engaging, and empowering learning environments that honor the diverse backgrounds and experiences of adult learners in multilingual communities.

Resources:

[READ USA Videos](#)

[Multicultural books for children](#)

[A strengths-based approach to multilingualism for adult education and family literacy](#)

Literacy Around the World

Initiative to advance literacy learning in Morocco launches

Digital skills are key for literacy teaching in the twenty-first century. However, many literacy educators have limited capacity to use technology for instruction. Locally relevant training in this area is therefore essential.



[Read the Article](#)



A mother's journey of learning and empowerment through literacy in Afghanistan

For decades, the literacy rate in Afghanistan has remained low. Only 20.6% of Afghan women are literate, among the lowest in the world. Education and literacy have transformative impacts on women's lives. Educated women are empowered to make positive contributions to the development of the economy, health system, and the overall societal progress.

[Read More](#)

Resources



Summer Family Literacy

Summer is always a critical time for students to be engaged in literacy activities, especially if they are already experiencing difficulties with reading (Karl L Alexander, Doris R Entwisle, Linda Steffel Olson, 2007; Quinn, 2015).

Check out the video, [Supporting Literacy at Home In the Summer](#), to discover ideas for how families can support their child's literacy development during the summer. Learn about why summer learning is important as well as tips, strategies, and other everyday literacy opportunities to engage in with children.

Watch the Video

Multicultural Literacy: Ideas for the Summer

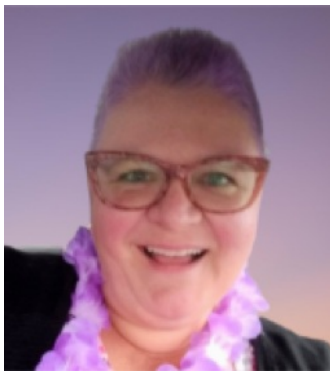
If you are interested in fun ways to enhance your children's bi- or multicultural competence during the summer, the web offers a wide array of ideas! You can learn and [play games from different parts of the world](#), [play interactive games online](#), visit this [multicultural blog](#), and discover [new tales and songs!](#)



More Resources Here

What's New at the Institutes?

Welcome, New Colleagues!



Lorie Tan, M.A., began her 25-year career in education as an elementary classroom teacher in multilingual communities in Arizona and Texas before moving abroad to teach English at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. While in Turkey, she earned the Cambridge University DELTA qualification (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) and a master's in TEFL from Bilkent. Lorie joined Penn State in 2021, initially as adjunct faculty in the Intensive English Communication Program, and currently as an instructor in the Career Pathways ELL program. Lorie takes particular interest in sociolinguistics and phonology, but she is most passionate about creating a classroom environment in which all students feel safe, welcome, and supported in reaching their language learning goals.



Kelly Capers grew up in State College. After high school, she attended undergrad at West Chester University then got her Doctorate of Chiropractic from Northeast College of Health Sciences and spent 14 years in healthcare. She recently spent some time focusing on her children as a stay-at-home mom and is thrilled to be entering back into the workforce by starting her career at the Institute for Study of Adult Literacy and the Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy in the College of Education as a Proposal and Award Generalist. In her spare time, she enjoys spending quality time with her husband, 3 energetic sons (11, 4, and 3), and 3 dogs.



Shannon Frey recently joined as an instructor with the Career Pathways ELL program, in addition to her position coordinating the tutor program. She has worked with adults in educational settings for the past decade, including ABE classrooms, adult distance learning, correctional settings, and with university students, and holds a Ph.D. in Adult Education. As an adult education practitioner as well as researcher, her interests focus on learner interactions, building learning communities, peer-led instruction, and student perceptions of success in educational settings.

Upcoming Events and Conferences

23rd European Conference on Literacy

The 23rd European Conference on Literacy, which is jointly organized by the Federation of European Literacy Associations and the Hellenic Association for Language and Literacy (HALL) will take place in **Chania, Greece from June 24th to June 26th, 2024**. This edition's theme is "Literacy for All: New Challenges, New Perspectives."



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XVIII World Congress of Comparative Education Societies

Fostering Inclusive Ecologies of Knowledge: Education for Equitable and Sustainable Futures

22-26 July 2024, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA

XVIII World Congress of Comparative Education Societies

Founded in 1970 as an international academic organization of comparative education societies worldwide, the World Council of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES) has been in official consultative partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) since 1973.

The 28th World Congress will be hosted by **Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, from 22 to 26 July 2024**. The theme is "Fostering Inclusive Ecologies of Knowledge: Education for Equitable and Sustainable Futures."

[Visit the Website](#)



AAACE 2024 Annual Conference

This year, the Annual Conference of the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE) will take place in Nevada from **October 29 to November 1**. This edition's title is "Creating new trajectories for adult education."

[Visit the Website](#)



2024 Families Learning Conference

The Families Learning Conference is coming to Louisville, Kentucky **November 18-20, 2024**.

Each year, the National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) recruits the country's leading family engagement professionals to present best practices, strategies, and resources to help families succeed in accomplishing their learning and career goals. NCFL is seeking proposals reflecting highly interactive and engaging presentations that include strategies and/or materials that attendees can use in their classrooms or programs.

[Visit the Website](#)



2024 ProLiteracy Conference on Adult Education

The 2024 ProLiteracy Conference on Adult Education will take place from October 6 to 9, 2024 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront in Baltimore, MD.

[Visit the Website](#)

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[Visit the Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy](#)

[Penn State Career and Family Pathways](#)

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