



**A virtual panel in  
recognition of  
International  
Literacy Day**

**Tuesday  
September 8  
10:00-12:00  
Eastern US Time**

**Free registration  
by e-mail to  
bbkimtesol@umbc.edu**

Proclaimed by UNESCO in 1966, International Literacy Day is commemorated annually on the 8th of September to raise awareness about the essential role of literacy in human development.

## **The Language and Literacy in Education Research Cluster at the UMBC Department of Education Presents**

# **Literacy in Education During Challenging Times**

International Literacy Day 2020 focuses on 'literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond', drawing attention to how the global public health crisis exacerbates existing educational challenges and inequalities. Panelists will discuss their research-based work on effective ways to foster literacy development, highlighting a range of interdisciplinary and collaborative initiatives that involve teachers, schools, and communities in shaping equitable spaces for learning.

### **Panelists**

**Francis M. Hult, PhD** ♦ *Introduction: Sustainable Literacy Education*

**Keisha McIntosh Allen, EdD** ♦ *Just Teaching: Engaging Racial Literacy During Distance Learning and COVID-19*

**Jennifer Mata-McMahon, EdD** ♦ *How a Dual Language Program is Supporting Biliteracy for ELLs in a Baltimore City Public School*

**Kindel Nash, PhD** ♦ *The Children Come Full: Toward Culturally Sustaining Literacy Practices in Urban Communities*

**Tracy Irish, PhD** ♦ *STEM Literacy: Integrating Content across Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through Cross Cutting Concepts, Collaboration, and Communication to Develop Informed Citizens*

**Jiyeon Lee, PhD** ♦ *A Collaborative Approach to Language Assessment Literacy Development in the Midst of COVID-19*

**Mavis G. Sanders, PhD** ♦ *Promoting Early Literacy Through Research-Practice Partnerships: The Role of UMBC's Sherman Center for Early Learning in Urban Communities*

Language and literacy in education is a focal area of research among faculty in the UMBC Department of Education. While representing a spectrum of topics and



theoretical orientations to language and literacy, faculty researchers in the cluster share a commitment to generating knowledge about language and literacy development and practices that foster equitable educational and social opportunities for learners of diverse backgrounds. Following from this, cluster members are also actively engaged with how research can inform classroom practice, teacher education, policy, and advocacy.

### **LANGUAGE, LITERACY, AND CULTURE DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

Students interested in doctoral study on topics related to language and literacy in education can read more about the Language, Literacy, and Culture doctoral program (<https://llc.umbc.edu/>) at UMBC. Individual faculty members also welcome inquiries to discuss prospective students' research topics.

**[education.umbc.edu/lerc](https://education.umbc.edu/lerc)**

## RESEARCHERS

Faculty researchers investigate language and literacy in education from multiple vantage points, and they draw upon an array of methods and approaches such as action research, case studies, classroom observation, content analysis, corpus linguistics, (critical) discourse analysis, (critical) ethnography, experimental and quasi-experimental design, grounded theory, interpretive policy analysis, interviewing/focus groups, linguistic landscape analysis, narrative methods (e.g., poetic inquiry and life history), nexus analysis, phenomenology, reflective practitioner research, and survey research. The intellectual traditions in which cluster members work include (social) constructivism, critical digital literacy, critical race theory/critical whiteness studies, interpretivism, multiliteracies, new literacies studies, poststructuralism, social constructionism, (critical) sociocultural theory, task-based language teaching, and translanguaging.

### **Keisha Allen**

Culturally responsive education, critical multicultural teacher education, urban education, qualitative research methods

### **Zane L. Berge**

Training systems, distance education, computer-mediated communication

### **Francis M. Hult**

Discourse studies, educational linguistics, ethnography, language policy and planning, linguistic landscapes, multilingual education, nexus analysis, sociolinguistics, sustainability, and transdisciplinarity

### **Teresa Irish**

Science education, STEM education with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of STEM education, professional learning communities, mixed methods and quantitative analysis

### **Jiyoon Lee**

Learner-centered assessment, language assessment literacy, second language acquisition, teacher education, surveys, interviews, thematic analysis, mixed methods, quasi-experimental design, quantitative research methods

### **Jennifer Mata-McMahon**

Early childhood education; bilingual education; translanguaging; teacher preparation for urban settings; secular spirituality; children's spirituality; qualitative and mixed research methods, including grounded theory, phenomenological and survey-based designs.

### **Kindel Nash**

Language, literacy, and culture in early childhood; teacher preparation for urban contexts; critical race theory; critical whiteness studies; and critical sociocultural theory; critical ethnographic, phenomenological, and narrative/poetic methods of qualitative research

### **Christopher Rakes**

Mathematics education, STEAM education, scientific inquiry in mathematics, education technology, teacher knowledge, teacher preparation and professional development, curriculum development and analysis, culturally responsive mathematics teaching, mixed methods research design, structural equation modeling, multilevel modeling, meta-analysis and systematic review

### **Mavis Sanders**

School, family and community engagement; education reform and improvement; African American student achievement; qualitative research methods

### **Shannon Sauro**

Computer-assisted language learning, fanfiction and fan practices, language learning in the digital wilds, task-based language teaching, telecollaboration/virtual exchange

### **Eugene C. Schaffer**

Mentoring, school effectiveness, professional development schools, at risk students

### **Sarah J. Shin**

Bilingualism, heritage language education, language policy, TESOL methodology, second language writing, academic language