

AILA World Congress of Applied Linguistics

9-14 August 2020 in Groningen, the Netherlands | www.aila2020.nl

Symposium title:

S055: Gender in literacy and language education

Symposium Organizers:

Dr. Dietha Koster, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, dikoster@uni-muenster.de
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Christine Ott, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München,
christine.ott@germanistik.uni-muenchen.de

Though research on the role of gender in literacy and language education knows a long tradition, many questions remain unanswered (Menard-Warwick, Mori & Williams, 2017). The field's richness in theoretical and methodological approaches towards the topic and its many subthemes contribute to the ongoing debates. On the one hand, studies have focused on (the production of) gender representations, and their intersections with parameters such as sexuality, ethnicity, class in learning materials (e.g. Sunderland, 2015, Mills & Mustapha, 2015, Ott, 2017). The panel interlinks this research branch with studies and meta-analysis on how gendered language affects one's perceptions, including perceptions of occupations and vocational self-efficacy (e.g. Gabriel, Gygax & Kuhn, 2018; Vervecken & Hannover, 2015).

On the other hand, research addresses the role of gender in literacy and language teaching and learning, e.g. language teachers' gender-related attitudes on learners' motivation or capabilities or – lately questioned – gender-specific programming in children's literacy education (e.g. Philipp, 2017). Latest methodological approaches to this diverse field will be discussed (e.g. Litosseliti, 2006; 2018). The panel concludes with reflections on how to transfer knowledge on gender from the fields of Applied Linguistics (in)to language classes, contributing to a model of language-related “gender-competence(s)”.

The aim of this symposium is to spur on debates on gender, language and education by uniting researchers with different methodological foci. We welcome contributions focused on production, usage and meaning of (intersections with) gender in learning materials and literacy education; and their influence on teachers' and learners' perceptions and actions.

Featured speakers:

Dr. Jane Sunderland, Lancaster University
Dr. Lia Litosseliti, City University London

This panel consists of two half-day slots. We welcome talks (10 min.) and poster presentations (2 min. pitches). Paper submission via aila2020.nl.