



LITERACY™
RESEARCH
ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2021

NEWSLETTER



SUBMIT YOUR NEWS

Have news or publications you want to submit for the next newsletter?

Please [share your news](#) on our website!



OVERVIEW:

- President's Update
- Conference Update
- Executive Director Announcement
- Fall Lecture Series
- Nominations Committee Update
- STAR Fellows in LRA Leadership
- Member News

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

LRA Family & Friends,

Let's try to take in a little more sunshine as we say "goodbye" to a beautiful summer. I'm already experiencing cool mornings in Michigan, but by noon, the sun is shining brightly. This is always an exciting time for me. I enjoy the hustle and bustle of a new school year. For me, it's another opportunity to welcome new and familiar faces into my personal space as a teacher. I also reflect on the faces that are missing, because they have graduated and moved forward in their careers.

As a LRA family, we are also experiencing a time of new beginnings in our organization. Our 71st LRA Conference will open conference registration VERY soon. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Atlanta.

Please help me welcome our new executive director – VJ. He comes highly recommended and has been a joy to work with during our board meetings and planning sessions. VJ is an energetic, innovative thinker. When you see him in Atlanta, be sure to welcome him into our LRA family. Welcome VJ!

We're happy to welcome VJ but sad to say "goodbye" to dear Caitlin – our previous executive director. She has been a tremendous blessing to LRA in multiple ways, and we will miss you, Caitlin. The good news is that Caitlin is part owner of our management firm – Associated Services Group and her administrative responsibilities have increased because the company is doing so well. Although we will miss Caitlin, we are delighted to see her progress in her career. Congratulations Caitlin!

In keeping with our goal of LRA becoming more than a conference, LRA is sponsoring a new event – the LRA Fall Lecture Series. The first lecture What is Ethical and Socially Responsible Research? is sponsored by the Research Committee, on Sunday, September 26th from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. (ET). Please register right away.

Finally, the next several newsletters will highlight STAR Fellows who are in LRA leadership positions. Please help me congratulate Alice and Patriann. Also, we have three LRA members who are spotlighted. Congratulations Chea, Abdulsamad, and Kelly.

I hope to see you soon!

Blessings,
Gwen



Gwendolyn Thompson McMillon
President 2020-2021
Oakland University
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71ST LRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

December 1-4, 2021
Atlanta Georgia



David Yaden
2021 LRA Conference Chair
University of Arizona
dyadenjr@email.arizona.edu



Doris Walker-Dalhouse
2021 LRA Associate Conference Chair
Marquette University
doris.walker-dalhouse@marquette.edu

Be on the lookout!



REGISTRATION BEGINS SOON!

The eBlast and announcement are forthcoming.

Check your email and the LRA website to register right away.

In the meantime, BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM [here](#).

See you in Atlanta!



Reminder: Call for Nominations 2021 Awards

The purpose of LRA's annual awards is to recognize exemplar members who have provided contributions to our organization. The nomination process for the year 2021 is now open!

Follow the links below to learn about each of the currently open 2021 awards and how to nominate a scholar in our community.

P. David Pearson Scholarly Influence Award

Materials due September 5, 2021

[Read more >>>](#)

Arthur Applebee Award

Materials due September 7, 2021

[Read more >>>](#)

J. Michael Parker Award

Materials due October 1, 2021

[Read more >>>](#)

The Barr/Mosenthal Award

Materials due October 30, 2021

[Read more >>>](#)

LRA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LRA is pleased to welcome Vincent J “VJ” Mayor, CAE as its new Executive Director. VJ has shadowed former Executive Director, Caitlin Hyatt, on all things LRA since September of 2020 and the Board officially voted him in as Executive Director in June. VJ has proven to be an accomplished non-profit professional with his Certified Association Executive (CAE) designation and will be providing leadership and direction for all activities related to conceptualizing and implementing development strategies including event, membership, communication, and advocacy for ASG clients. As a member of the American Society of Association Executives’ (ASAE) Diversity Executive Leadership Program (DELP), VJ participated in an accelerated leadership program of education, mentoring, and volunteer service in the association community for under-represented identity groups. Based on his experiences as a DELP scholar, VJ has the background to assist ASG client associations as they develop motivated leaders to fuel organizational success and enhance the effectiveness of the wider association community through education and programming. VJ has received national recognition as an Association Forum’s 40 Under 40 in 2016 and being named to the 2017 ASAE NextGen Class. As a non-profit executive, VJ has spoken frequently at ASAE’s Annual Meeting, where thousands of association professionals and industry partners gather to exchange knowledge, resources, strategies, and solutions.



Vincent "VJ" Mayor, CAE
vjmayer@asginfo.net

THANK YOU, CAITLIN!



Caitlin Hyatt
chyatt@asginfo.net

Association management professional Caitlin Hyatt has served as LRA’s Executive Director since October 2017. During her time as Executive Director, Caitlin provided professional insight to ensure the success of LRA. LRA is thankful for the dedicated and helpful service that Caitlin has provided for the association over the years. Caitlin will be transitioning into a prominent leadership position at Association Services Group, the professional association management company that provides management for LRA.

LRA PRESENTS - FALL LECTURE SERIES



LITERACY™
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WHAT IS ETHICAL AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH IN LITERACY?

Sponsored by LRA's Research Committee
Sunday, September 26
7:00-8:00 PM ET via Zoom

As outlined in its Strategic Plan, LRA is committed to ethical and socially responsible research. *But what is ethical and socially responsible research?*

To explore this question, the Research Committee is thrilled to invite you to a **virtual dialogue exploring ethical and socially responsible literacy research.**

Panelists will discuss what ethical and socially responsible research means to them. This discussion will set the stage for breakout room conversations where attendees can further unpack these concepts.

Register for this free event today by visiting <https://forms.gle/NqcR78mdhnwL3Wy96>

FEATURING



Gina Cervetti
University of Michigan
cervetti@umich.edu



Maria Paula Ghiso
Teachers College, Columbia University
ghiso@tc.edu



Patriann Smith
University of South Florida
psmith4@usf.edu

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The 2022 Nominations Committee is hard at work! The Nominations Committee (NC) is entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing the nominees and renewing the LRA leadership. The charge specified in the Policy and Procedures Handbook which is “to create a slate for each position that needs to be filled. The slate shall consist of at least two (2) members for each open position for Board of Directors and Vice President-Elect. The slate shall align with the LRA Mission Statement with respect to leadership, scholarship, diversity, and membership”. The criteria to be used to review the CVs of nominees in the process of creating the slate of candidates is specified below:



Doris Walker-Dalhouse
Vice President (2020-21)
Marquette University
doris.walker-dalhouse@marquette.edu

LRA CRITERIA FOR NC MEMBERS AND SLATE OF CANDIDATES (From PPH, p. 6)

i. Leadership

Leadership includes, but is not limited to service as Area Chair, journal and/or publications editorship, ICG Chair, Board of Directors Member, Committee (awards, standing committee, ad hoc) Chair. Leadership may also be recognized in service to other literacy and research organizations.

ii. Scholarship

Scholarship and leadership are interrelated. LRA is distinguished by its continuing efforts to provide a forum for questions and directions in research. Leaders understand the value of research in the organization. Scholars and leaders ask questions, develop rationales, communicate, and respect colleagues. A scholar/leader interprets questions about procedures and policies with respect to the concerns of all the members and is able to be responsive and forward-thinking within the guidelines and practices established by the organization's membership and guiding documents.

iii. Diversity

Diversity, scholarship, and leadership are interrelated. People in leadership roles in LRA show evidence of their insight into, support of, and respect for diversity in their work and relationships.

iv. Membership

All candidates must be members of LRA in good standing. A candidate may update their membership at the time they are invited by the Nominating Committee Chair to submit their names for candidacy

The committee is extremely pleased with the robust response of the LRA membership to the multiple Calls for Nominations requesting self-nominations or nominations by colleagues for leadership positions made in May. Additional names of potential nominees were gathered from the Annual Volunteer Survey, members of the BOD and Executive Committee, and the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee has worked diligently to review all CVs of nominees in its efforts to fulfill its charge.

STAR FELLOWS IN LRA LEADERSHIP



Alice Lee
Field Council Chair (2020-23)
University of California, Riverside
alice.lee@ucr.edu

Dr. Alice Y. Lee, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Critical Literacy in the Graduate School of Education at University of California, Riverside. She theorizes about the racial and linguistic life experiences of teachers, and how such experiences are embodied into pedagogy to offer the frame, Teacher Embodiment as Lived Pedagogy. She employs this lens to interrogate the continued maltreatment of Black Language speakers in schooling. Her scholarship utilizes ethnographic case study methodologies and draws on critical race theory, cultural practice theories, and raciolinguistics.

Lee's work on Teacher Embodiment as Lived Pedagogy connects conversations about diversifying the teacher workforce and demands for Black linguistic justice. Specifically, she argues that teachers of color have a unique raciolinguistic apparatus that affords them a predisposition to live culturally responsive and anti-racist pedagogies. She applies this work towards teacher selection, recruitment, and education. She strives for praxis in her work through two main avenues: 1) efforts to diversify the teacher workforce and 2) innovating linguistically just practices for Black Language speakers in early childhood and elementary classrooms. Her work has been supported by Spencer Small Grants in 2019 and 2021 and has been published in the inaugural chapter on critical race methodologies in literacy research in *Literacy Research Methodologies*, as well as in *Journal of Curriculum Studies Research*, *Literacy Today*, *The Reading Teacher*, *Language Arts Journal of Michigan*, and *Talking Points*.

The STAR program has been instrumental in her academic career, and opened up networks and opportunities that are often elusive for scholars of color. Through the labor and mentorship of senior scholars of color, the STAR program has become a community of love and support, which propels fellows into scholarly excellence and into leadership in our field. Lee seeks to cultivate more avenues for this kind of community within LRA and other organizations.



Patriann Smith
Board Director 2020-2023
University of South Florida
psmith4@usf.edu

Dr. Patriann Smith is a tenured Associate Professor of Literacy Studies at the University of South Florida. Dr. Smith uses a transdisciplinary approach to examine cross-cultural, cross-racial, and cross-linguistic factors that impact Black immigrant literacy teaching and learning. She has proposed 'a transraciolinguistic approach' and the 'Black immigrant literacies' framework for clarifying Black Caribbean immigrant Englishes and literacies by highlighting ideologies that influence transcultural literacy teacher education and international literacy assessment. Her scholarship, which lies at the intersection of race, language and immigration, is geared towards enhancing cross-linguistic, cross-cultural and cross-racial understanding, locally and globally, in and beyond schools and universities. Dr. Smith's experiences include serving as Reading Specialist & Reading Teacher Program Coordinator, coordinating the University of Illinois' Summer Reading Clinic in Urbana-Champaign and managing the USDOE-funded East Lubbock Promise Neighborhood Literacy Champions Initiative in Lubbock, Texas. She has recently served as a Consultant for the Caribbean Community Association of Tampa Bay and is the recent co-recipient of a \$3.6 million USAID grant designed to establish the Caribbean Educational Research Initiative Center at The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill. Dr. Smith's ongoing research projects include examining the re-imagining of (trans)racialization in the literacies of Black American, Black immigrant and Black Caribbean youth. She serves in numerous editorial roles including Editorial Review Board Member of the *Reading Research Quarterly*, *The Reading Teacher* and *Journal of Literacy Research*. Dr. Smith is Co-Editor of the *Caribbean Educational Research Journal* and Associate Editor of *Linguistics and Education: An International Journal*. She is a recent recipient of USF's Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Award (2021), a former recipient of ILA's Reading Hall of Fame Emerging Fellow Award (2013) and of AERA's Language and Social Processes Emerging Scholar Award (2015). Dr. Smith currently serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Literacy Research Association.

The STAR fellowship received from the Literacy Research Association has significantly impacted my scholarly trajectory in three major ways: (a) mentorship, (b) community and (c) capacity. First, as a STAR fellow, I was fortunate to be mentored by the gracious Dr. Ramon Martínez, who so willingly took the time to read my research, provide feedback, and guide me. The mentorship of Dr. Martínez was critical in enabling me to articulate more clearly, the insights I had explored in my research and wished to share with the field. Second, being a STAR fellow allowed me to find community with a wonderful group of scholars who I considered to be family – the brilliant and amazing Drs. Eliza Braden, Kisha Bryan, Delicia Greene, Stephanie Jones, Gilberto Lara, Alice Lee, and Claudia Rodriguez-Mojica. As we journeyed through the fellowship together, I came to cherish the camaraderie we shared. It was such a relief to finally find a sense of belonging in the academic community through my connection to fellow STARS. Third, completing my tenure as a STAR fellow significantly enhanced my capacity to write effectively, write more, write for impact, and translate my research into practice for diverse publics. It was humbling to be able to share my research in journals such as the *Reading Research Quarterly* while also connecting with lay audiences through outlets such as the London School of Economics and Political Science United States American Politics and Policy (LSE USAPP) blog. As a STAR, I learned how to unapologetically but humbly, bring my full self to literacy and to my research. There has been no greater joy for me in my academic journey thus far. I am tremendously grateful for the opportunity to have been blessed with such a wonderful community of scholars and I am excited to pay it forward.

MEMBER NEWS



Chea Parton
University of Texas at Austin
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Chea Parton has launched a website that collects, reviews, and discusses the teaching of rural young adult literature. After working with rural out-migrants (folks who have left rural areas to settle in the sub/urban ones) ELA teachers, she became aware of various obstacles and challenges teachers and teacher educators face in finding and including critical rural perspectives and rural YA literature in their classroom libraries and instruction.

Visit www.literacyinplace.com to learn more.



Abdulsamad Humaidan
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
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Abdulsamad Humaidan, a doctoral candidate majoring in Language, Literacies, and Culture was selected for the TESOL Leadership Mentoring Program for 2021. TESOL is the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages International Association and according to their website the Leadership Mentoring Program (LMP) "helps TESOL members become more involved in the work of the association". At the TESOL convention, the program pairs selected individuals with TESOL leaders who mentor recipients throughout the year as the partnership works together to contribute their time and expertise to TESOL and its varied activities and projects." Abdulsamad was also an LRA Ethnicity, Race, and Multilingualism Travel Award (2018) recipient, a Dissertation Research Assistantship Awardee (2020-2021), and a Fulbright Foreign Student Program recipient (2012-2014).



Kelly Johnston
Baylor University
kelly_johnston@baylor.edu

Kelly Johnston recently published two works. Johnston, K.C., Omogun, L., & Lee, C. (2021). From New York City to the world: Examining critical global literacies in the English Language Arts classroom. *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*. Johnston, K.C., & Harper, T. (2021). Refining literacy pedagogy through practitioner inquiry partnerships. *The Reading Teacher*. DOI: 10.1002/trtr.2040