

First Announcement/Save the date!



Engaged Minds: Exploring the Intersection of Critical Literacy and Social Change

Research Symposium, ARLE SIG Literacies: Reading, Writing & Oracies

22-24 October 2025, University of Malta, Valletta Campus, Malta

The special interest group on ‘Literacies: Reading, Writing & Oracies’ of the International Association for Research in L1 Education (ARLE) is pleased to announce a research symposium with the theme *Engaged Minds: Exploring the Intersection of Critical Literacy and Social Change*. The symposium is being held in collaboration with the Department of Arts, Open Communities and Adult Education, Faculty of Education, University of Malta.

Format

Throughout the symposium, research will be presented and discussed, either as finalised or as work-in-progress. There will be a separate session for poster presentations.

The symposium will also include network sessions and social events to facilitate informal discussions and future collaborations.

Sessions

The three-day symposium includes paper and poster presentations.

1. *Paper presentations*

Presentation and discussion of individual papers based on ongoing or complete research. The paper-presentation sessions will be organised thematically.

Paper session proposals should include:

- an abstract, max. 500 words excl. references
- contact details (name, affiliation, contact information)

2. Poster presentations

Short presentations with visual support (10 minutes) followed by a discussion with the audience.

Poster proposals should include:

- an abstract, max. 300 words excl. references
- contact details (name, affiliation, contact information)

Proposal deadline

Authors should submit their proposal/s by not later than **28 March 2025, on the conference website** ([still in process, will be shared in our next flyer](#)).

Aims of the symposium

1. **To explore the role of critical literacy in understanding and challenging social inequalities** — This seminar aims to emphasise how critical literacy can be used to analyse and question societal structures, power dynamics, and ideologies that perpetuate inequality.
2. **To foster a deeper understanding of how critical literacy practices can drive social change** — Attendees will engage with both theory and practice to see how literacy can serve as a tool for activism, advocacy, and social transformation.
3. **To create an interdisciplinary dialogue on critical literacy's impact on social justice movements** — By bringing together educators, activists, scholars, and community leaders, the seminar seeks to bridge the gap between academic discourse and grassroots social change efforts.
4. **To inspire educators and practitioners to integrate critical literacy into their work** — The seminar will focus on strategies for incorporating critical literacy into curricula, teaching practices, and community initiatives to empower learners of all ages.

Publication

As a follow-up to the research symposium, we aim to produce an edited book titled *Engaged Minds: Exploring the Intersection of Critical Literacy and Social Change*.

Review Process

All proposals will be peer reviewed by a committee of SIG Literacies members. A decision will be announced by **30 May 2025**.

Venue

The symposium will be held at the University of Malta, Valletta Campus. The Valletta Campus, popularly known also as the 'Old University Building' in Valletta, was constructed to serve as a Jesuit College, the first stone laid in 1595 by Grand Master

Martino Garzes. Within two years the construction had advanced so much that it was possible to transfer to the new premises the classes which used to take place in an old house in Valletta.



Programme

The symposium starts at 12pm (registration and light lunch), on Wednesday 22 October, and ends at 2 pm, on Friday 24 October.

Social events

On Wednesday 22 October a 10am there will be a two-hour, free tour of Valletta, the capital city of Malta. On the evening of Thursday 23 October we will have a conference dinner serving Maltese dishes. In the afternoon of Friday 24 October there will be a free tour of the three cities on the other side of the Grand Harbour.

Registration Fee

Suggested Symposium fee for scholars and professors: **80 EUROS** (in keeping with past editions) – to be verified by the logistics manager. The fee includes full access to the symposium, symposium material, 2 light lunches, and 4 coffee breaks. **There is no registration fee For PhD-students and MA students who are presenting a paper or a poster.** A dinner will be organised on Thursday, 24 October. The dinner is not included in the symposium fee. **We encourage scholars with insufficient funds to apply for financial support through the Erasmus programme.**

Accommodation

Accommodation is not included in the seminar fee. We will send out suggestions for specific hotels at a later date.

Important Dates

- Proposal deadline: 28 March, 2025
- Announcement of review decisions: (by) 1 June, 2025
- Final registration date: 30 September, 2025.
- Research symposium: 22 - 24 October, 2025.

Convenor

Carmel Borg, Faculty of Education, University of Malta (carmel.borg@um.edu.mt)

Logistics Manager

Lucienne Bugeja (Lucienne.m.bugeja@um.edu.mt)

Scientific Committee

Carmel Borg, Winnie-Karen Giera, Wiebke Dannecker, Seong Seog Park & Nektarios Stellakis