

# Joining the dots: learners ... families ... communities

Friday 7 December 2018

Aerial Function Centre, UTS

## NSW Adult Literacy and Numeracy Council Annual Conference

This conference is a forum for discussion and debate about how the field of adult basic education can reclaim learning spaces for adults, particularly those who are currently excluded from education. We will consider what adult basic education in the future could look like if programs were built by listening to learners' needs and aspirations, rather than by fitting learners into pre-determined programs that may not suit them - a struggle faced by many practitioners now. The conference will acknowledge many practitioners' desire to inject more organic and authentic approaches, without which our ability to respond to the needs of diverse learner groups is limited. The conference also considers how we can make a strong case for working differently. One aspect of this will be consideration of the benefits of adult basic education, not only to individual learners, but also to their families and communities.

### Keynote Speakers

**Dr Julie Choi**, Melbourne Graduate School of Education on -  
**Immigrant and Refugee Women's Resourcefulness in English Language Classrooms: emerging possibilities through plurilingualism**

With major funding cuts to the adult migrant education sector and persistent public 'deficit views' of immigrant and refugees' levels of literacy, approaches to teaching and learning in this sector require flexible views of language that embrace plurilingualism as a valuable resource within and outside of the socially-orientated ESL classroom. In this presentation, I discuss my findings from a study in which I taught English to immigrant and refugee women in a housing estate in Melbourne, Australia, and investigated the effects of a plurilingual view on the women's English language learning experience and communication skills. Drawing on recorded classroom dialogues, observation notes, and worksheets produced by the women, I illustrate the extraordinary plurilingual resourcefulness immigrant and refugee women bring to the challenge of learning to communicate in English.

**Phil Kane**, University of Auckland

**Researching workplace numeracy as a social practice - case studies from New Zealand**

My interests in adult numeracy began when teaching mathematics to bridging learners at a large urban polytechnic in the early 1990s. The people often stated that they struggled in school mathematics but then claimed they had not needed mathematics after leaving school. Then as a member of a national adult numeracy development team (2006-11), during visits to tutors and trainers of literacy and numeracy, some of the same messages still percolated. In the same period I studied two workplace roles (kiwifruit orchard managers, and urban recycling and refuse collectors) to see what mathematics was actually being used. It was clear how deeply embedded the elements of estimation and spatial awareness are in those workplace practices, and how these elements underpinned many critical decisions in those roles, whether the participants noticed the mathematics, or not. My own noticing where people operate within their adult numeracy spaces has become so much keener.

**Hosted in partnership with School of Education, University of Technology Sydney**

NSW Adult Literacy and Numeracy Council – [nswalnc@gmail.com](mailto:nswalnc@gmail.com) – [nswalnc.org.au](http://nswalnc.org.au)



Joining the dots:

learners ... families ... communities

Friday 7 December 2018

Aerial Function Centre, UTS

NSWALNC Annual Conference

## Call for Paper and Practitioners-led Roundtable Proposals

In addition to having our keynote speakers, contributions are invited for:

1. **Practitioners-led roundtables:**

- Collaboratively working through a teaching and learning issue that is likely to be shared by many ABE teachers and trainers in their everyday work; or
- Presenting a teaching and training innovation that has been implemented or is planned, and inviting feedback from professional colleagues as 'critical friends'

2. **Paper presentations of original research findings (or research in progress)** on issues and topics pertinent to adult literacy and numeracy policy, practice and/or pedagogy.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please use the appropriate template and email it to the conference organisers at [nswalnc@gmail.com](mailto:nswalnc@gmail.com). If you would like to discuss the suitability of your proposal for the conference, or would like assistance in preparing your abstract please contact the conference organisers at [nswalnc@gmail.com](mailto:nswalnc@gmail.com).

If two or more proposals on a very similar issue or innovation are received, the organisers may discuss the possibility of a joint session. The closing date for the proposals is: **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.

**Hosted in partnership with School of Education, University of Technology Sydney**

Joining the dots:

learners ... families ... communities

Friday 7 December 2018

Aerial Function Centre, UTS

NSWALNC Annual Conference

## PROPOSAL TEMPLATE FOR A PRACTITIONERS-LED 'ROUNDTABLE'

Proposal template for a **Practitioners-led 'roundtable'** for:

- Collaboratively 'problem solving' a specific issue that is salient for many adult literacy and numeracy practitioners and trainers in their everyday work; or
- Presenting a teaching and training innovation that has been implemented or is planned, and inviting feedback from professional colleagues as 'critical friends'

Proposals will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- Relevance of the issue/ innovation to adult literacy and numeracy policy, practice and/or pedagogy
- Likelihood of interest in the issue/ innovation among the identified target audience
- Potential for active engagement by the participants in the form of problem-solving and/ or discussion during the session

Please note: The roundtable will be 1 hour long, and should provide opportunities for participant input, i.e. the 'presentation' of the issue or innovation should not exceed 20 minutes.

*Your name:*

*Your contact telephone number:*

*Your email address:*

*Name of your organisation:*

*Your position in the organisation:*

*Names of others involved in this proposal:*

*100 word bio notes for the presenter/ presenter team:*

*The proposal*

1. Title of the roundtable
2. Abstract - 300 words outlining the issue or innovation that will be the subject of the roundtable discussion, and why it is of interest and importance.
3. Target participants – identify the key groups that would benefit from participating in this roundtable (e.g. workplace literacy and numeracy teachers, learner support teachers, community literacy class teachers, volunteer tutors).
4. Participant input - a 300-word outline of how you plan to run the roundtable session, indicating the contributions you are seeking from the participants.

**Hosted in partnership with School of Education, University of Technology Sydney**



# Joining the dots:

## learners ... families ... communities

Friday 7 December 2018

Aerial Function Centre, UTS

NSWALNC Annual Conference

## PROPOSAL TEMPLATE FOR A PAPER PRESENTATION

Proposal template for a **Paper presentation** of original research findings (or research in progress) on issues and topics pertinent to adult literacy and numeracy policy, practice and/or pedagogy.

Proposals for a research paper will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- Relevance of the issue/ research to adult literacy and numeracy policy, practice and/or pedagogy
- Originality or potential to adding to existing scholarship
- Conceptual, methodological and theoretical soundness
- Coherence and clarity of written expression
- Reference to appropriate literature

Please note: The paper presentation session will be 30 minutes long: 20 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for questions from the audience.

*Your name:*

*Your contact telephone number:*

*Your email address:*

*Name of your organisation:*

*Your position in the organisation:*

*Names of others involved in this proposal:*

*100 word bio notes for the presenter/ presenter team:*

*The proposal*

1. Title of the paper
2. Abstract - 500 words outlining
  - a. The research question(s) being investigated
  - b. The rationale for this research
  - c. Conceptual framework/ theoretical underpinnings
  - d. Methodology
  - e. Summary of key findings/ emerging findings
  - f. Potential significance of the findings, or for whom/what
  - g. Up to 5 key scholarly references

**Hosted in partnership with School of Education, University of Technology Sydney**