



Dear members of ARLE,

This last ARLE newsletter of 2022 focuses on two major topics: **1)** The 14th ARLE conference in Melbourne, Australia. and **2)** a call for papers for the L1 journal.

**The 14th ARLE conference in Melbourne, Australia
Place, Language, Story: local and global identities in L1 Education.**

The 14th ARLE conference, and the first in the Southern Hemisphere, will be held at the University of Melbourne, at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, <https://education.unimelb.edu.au/>.

Located in the heart of the city, on the unceded lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples, this conference will invite dialogue about the role and concepts of place (and displacement), storytelling and belonging in L1 research. It will draw attention to issues of access, identity and plurilingualism in L1 Education globally.

Conference Chair Professor Larissa McLean Davies and the 'local' team of ARLE colleagues from Universities in Victoria and NSW look forward to welcoming all ARLE members to Melbourne!



Call for Papers: Special Issue “Multimodality in L1 Education”

Journal: L1 – Educational Studies in Language and Literature

Guest Editor: Dr. Marco Magirius (University of Education Heidelberg)

Shifts in media preferences like the drastic decline in the everyday reading of books are often perceived as threats to literature education. The special issue sets a counterpoint to these laments and builds on the premise that literature education is not limited to narratives which are conveyed through written language alone.

The main research question is: How can the specifics of different media help to initiate aesthetic experiences for learners with different abilities and differences in prior knowledge?

Multimodal media use “multi-layered sign systems” in order to “present worlds and stories” (Eder 2022, 354). Visual media convey story worlds in “perceptual concreteness” (ibid). In this case, viewers often face the challenge of reconstructing the inner states of characters. Written narratives on the other hand use techniques like internal monologues to extensively display inner states. In this case, readers have to reconstruct the concreteness of the story world via imagination. Comics combine these sign systems and additionally pose the challenge of interpreting transitions between images (McCloud 1992). All of this results in different forms of ambiguity and undecidability for each medium. Both can be tentatively resolved with the help of emotions. “They are not the adversary of considered and reflective action, but rather an indispensable compass” (Seel 2018, 132) for the purpose of perceiving the idiosyncrasies of an aesthetic object, and thus enabling aesthetic experiences.

All these challenges put demands on the abilities and prior knowledge of the learners. The special issue focuses on empirical studies with heterogeneous learning groups and differences between learners in terms of cultural backgrounds, genders, and comparisons between experts- and novice-readers/- viewers etc. A qualitative research paradigm is suggested, but not mandatory. The special issue brings together contributions on multimodal media like films, comics, picture books, literary computer games etc.

Your abstract (200-400 words) should describe the theme, research question, and, if possible, method(s), main results, and implications. Please send your abstract with the submission system at www.l1research.org by January 31, 2023. Please use the “Subject Box” to indicate that your submission is designated to the special issue. All authors and co-authors must register on the platform.

Should you have any questions concerning the special issue or the submission process, please send an email to magirus@ph-heidelberg.de (and not to the generic L1 journal email address).

Preliminary Timeframe

- Submission of Abstracts by January 31, 2023
- Selection of Contributions around February 7, 2023
- First Submission of Manuscripts by May 31, 2023
- Internal Review until June 30, 2023
- External Review until October 31, 2023
- Revisions of Manuscripts by January 15, 2024
- Final Review and Publication around June 15, 2024

References

- Eder, J. (2022). Film: The Affective Specificity of Audiovisual Media. In: Routledge Companion to Literature and Emotion, ed. by Patrick C. Hogan et al., pp 354-365. Routledge.
- McCloud, S. (1994). Understanding Comics. HarperCollins.
- Seel, M. (2018). The Arts of Cinema. Cornell University Press.

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