INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF
MOTHER-TONGUE EDUCATION (IAIMTE)

SEVENTH BI-ANNUAL CONFERENCE

23 – 26 JUNE, 2009
(23 June: Pre-conference for PhD candidates)

Toronto, Canada

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

DEADLINE: 15 March, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Recent IAIMTE conferences (1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 and 2007) succeeded because of their relatively small scale, high levels of social interaction, and the diverse range of languages and educational cultures represented. The conference proposed for 2009 builds on these strengths to create a conference where researchers and teachers of mother tongue education meet to share research findings and through interactive dialogue, to understand and appreciate the shared challenges of mother-tongue education in shifting contexts and cultures.

We invite you to participate in this conference for specialists in the teaching & learning of language and literature including early childhood, primary and secondary schools and higher education. The conference aims to exchange theory, research, curricular developments and the 'best practices' in education, teacher education and in-service. The international exchanges and interactions offer an international platform for language and education researchers and practitioners – including Ph.D. candidates – to present, for an international audience, their research and reflections on mother tongue education in their particular national, educational and school contexts.

CONFERENCE THEME
Re/Thinking Literacies:
Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

For the 2009 conference, we explore the challenges of mother-tongue education in culturally diverse classrooms as well as providing a forum for mother tongue educators from different educational and social cultures to exchange experiences, research studies and reflections on cultural similarities and differences.
We invite you to contribute to Group Sessions or Round Tables (see below) in learning and teaching mother tongues. We hope these sessions will illuminate differences and similarities of different educational cultures and contexts.

CONFERENCE THEMES

Special conference themes

We invite researchers and practitioners from a diverse range of countries to present their research and reflections on such themes as:
1. Developing multi-literacies in multi-cultured classrooms
2. Children's literature, and children's reading choices
3. Teaching cultural texts in multicultural contexts
4. Addressing literacy cultures of new technologies (media; texting; multimodality)
5. Language classrooms as sites for multiple oracies

Regular conference themes

a. Reading
b. Writing
c. Oracy: Speaking and Listening
d. Literature, Fiction, Film and other media
e. Language Awareness and Language Teaching
f. Educational policy: relationship between first, second and mainstream languages in learning and teaching
g. Relationship between first, second and mainstream languages in learning and teaching
h. Textbooks in mother-tongue teaching

PROPOSED DOMAINS

- Theories and/or research of effective practice
- Descriptions of best practice programmes/curriculum in schools
- Descriptions of best practice programmes/curriculum in teacher education
- Programmes/curriculum in in-service teacher education/development
- Theory/knowledge of language and learning in multi-cultural classrooms

PROPOSED FORMATS

- *Structured poster sessions* (grouped by the Local Committee) consist of about five poster presentations with short oral introductions (5 minutes) and in-depth discussion introduced by a discussant. To give participants access to as many presentations as possible, all presenters prepare a poster.
- *Group Sessions*: a maximum of five scholars discuss alternative solutions or interpretations of a common problem, or its relation to a complementary issue. The organiser proposes a chair and two opponents. The organiser has to include all participants, the chair and the opponents in the abstract.
- *Round Table* (grouped by the Local Committee): contains short presentations and an extended dialogue among participants and presenters. The Local Committee invites a chair and a discussant.
- *Symposium*: a maximum of five scholars present a short paper. The organisers propose at least two opponents and a chair. The organiser has to include all participants, the chair and the opponents in the abstract.
- *Workshop*: contains learning by doing and reflective discussion.
- *Demonstration*: focus is on an educational tool. The presenters run it through its paces and offer time to discuss its pros and cons.

BOOKS AND JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

As organisers, we do not publish proceedings. Instead, we publish books with six to eight chapters on themes emerging from the conference. We published everal books from the last conferences. See: http://www.ilo.uva.nl/development/iaimte/Books/Books_available.htm.

We also invite participants to submit their publications to the peer reviewed research journal *L1-Educational Studies in Language and Literature*
http://www.ilo.uva.nl/development/L1EducationResearch/

PH.D. PROGRAMME

A pre-conference workshop day for Ph.D. students will take place on Tuesday, 23 June, 2009. Small groups of Ph.D. students from diverse national and educational contexts will present their work-in-progress and discuss it with specialists in the field. Participants will forward their papers to others in their group prior to the conference.

WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSION

The various formats of presentation will be grouped together around specific themes. To access to as many presentations as possible, all presenters are requested to prepare and present a "poster," and give a short oral introduction to their presentation. On the last day of the conference, theme "chairs" will summarize the presentations.

LIMITED ENROLLMENT

To facilitate social interactions in the conferences, we limit enrolment to 150-200 participants. We strive for representation from a diverse range of nations, regions, and language communities.

LANGUAGE

The working language of the Conference will be (International) English.

CONFERENCE FEE

The conference fee will be €300 (€250 for Ph.D students) including the programme and abstract book, lunches, coffee and tea, excursion and receptions. Early registration payments made before 15 March, 2009 qualify for a **€25 discount**. Accommodation and other meals are not included.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations before 15 March, 2009 will be entitled to a refund of 50% of the registration fee. No reimbursements can be offered after 15 April, 2009.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The conference is coordinated as a joint enterprise by the University of Toronto & the University of Amsterdam & the IAIMTE:

Mary Kooy, OISE/University of Toronto (Chair)
Shelley Peterson
Linda Cameron
Clare Kosnik
David Booth
Godelieve Debeurme (Univ. of Sherbrooke)
Isabella Montesinos Gelet (Univ. of Montreal),
Dana Colarusso (Grad. Students OISE/University of Toronto);
Isabelle Gauvin (Grad Student, U. of Montreal).
Alice Wong (Grad. Students OISE/University of Toronto)

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PROPOSAL AND REGISTRATION

Visit

To find links to the electronic registration form and proposal form
http://www.ilo.uva.nl/Projecten/Gert/iaimte/default.html

If you do not want to register digitally, send the proposal form and registration form to (fax):
IAIMTE 2009 Conference
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PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 15 FEBRUARY, 2009;
NOTES OF ACCEPTANCE WILL BE SENT BY 15 MARCH, 2009.

For news: see http://www.ilo.uva.nl/Projecten/Gert/iaimte/default.html
International Association for the Improvement of Mother Tongue Education
The Learning and Teaching of Language and Literature