

The Research and Practice in Adult Literacy Network

Who we are

RaPAL is an independent national network of learners, practitioners, teachers, managers and researchers engaged in adult literacies and numeracy. Our support is generated by membership subscription only, and we are therefore completely independent in our views. RaPAL is the only national organisation focusing on the role of literacies in adult life.

What we do

- **campaign** for the rights of adults to have access to the full range of literacies in their lives
- **critique** current policy and practice where it is based on simplistic notions of literacy as skill
- **emphasise** the importance of social context in literacy
- **encourage** collaborative and reflective research
- **believe** in democratic practices in adult literacy
- **create** networks by organising events (including an annual conference) to contribute to national debate
- **publish** a journal three times a year

RaPAL Officers 2006-2007

Chair	Fiona Macdonald, Communities Scotland, Paisley
Secretary	Tara Furlong, College of North West London
Treasurer	Irene Schwab, Institute of Education
Journal Co-ordinator	Deirdre Parkinson, dp-associates, Glasgow
Production Editor	Amy Burgess, University of Lancaster
Membership Secretary	Kathryn James, University of Lancaster
Website Manager	Mary Hamilton, University of Lancaster

Editorial Information

The Editorial Group for 2006-2007 includes the following researchers, practitioners and practitioner researchers: Yvon Appleby, Sue Bates, Amy Burgess, Maxine Burton, Ellayne Fowler, Tara Furlong, Barbara Hatley-Broad, Mary Hamilton, Kieran Harrington, Gaye Houghton, Fiona Macdonald, Colleen Molloy, Deirdre Parkinson and Sarah Rennie. Overseas members of the Editorial Group include: Jean Searle, Rosie Wickert, Stephen Black, Australia; Mary Norton, Bonnie Soroake, Sheila Stewart, Canada; Janet Isserlis, Elsa Auerbach, Steve Reder, USA; and Cathy Kell, New Zealand

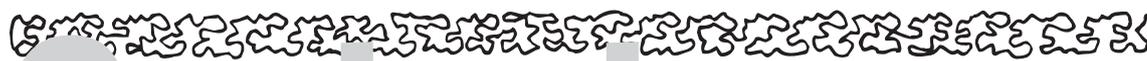
Members are involved in the compilation of the journal as reviewers/referees and editors.

We are a friendly group - open to new members and new ideas. Please contact us with any contributions (views, comments, reports and articles) and do not be put off if you are new to the field or if you have not written for a publication before. This Journal is written by and for all learners, tutors and researchers who want to ask questions about this field of work. It does not matter if the questions have been asked before. We want to reflect the many voices within adult literacy and numeracy work and to encourage debate. Why not join in?

Further information can be found at our website: www.rapal.org.uk

The RaPAL Journal expresses a variety of views which do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial group.

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Editorial

As you will see from the articles, photographs and comments throughout this issue, the 2006 RaPAL Conference on Transforming Literacies was regarded as an outstanding success. Conference started earlier, finished later and opened with a challenging and, for some, controversial keynote address by Liam Kane of Glasgow University. A choice from over twenty workshops was available over the 2 days, followed by reflective circles to share feedback. For the first time at Conference we took time to consider what we wanted from RaPAL and the results of this consultation will be available shortly. Also innovative were Jan Nimmo's banner-

making workshop, during which delegates produced a banner to celebrate 21 years of RaPAL, and Graeme Ogilvy's cartoons which highlighted delegates' comments and thoughts as the Conference progressed. And somewhere in this busy schedule we managed to find time for a lovely Conference dinner and a fast-moving ceilidh. The Celtic Conference connection continues this year and we are sure that the 2007 Conference in Belfast in June will be equally successful and enjoyable. We look forward to seeing you there!

**Fiona Macdonald
and Deirdre Parkinson**



RaPAL Journals 2006-2007 Themes and Deadlines

Issue	General Theme	Copy deadline
Spring 2007	Open issue.	Fri 30th March 2007
Summer 2007	International Literacies	Fri 29th April 2007
Autumn 2006	Conference 2007 edition: Learning journeys - voices and identities in adult literacy, numeracy and ESOL	Fri 28th Sept 2007