

RaPAL



MOTIVATED OR MANDATED:
ENGAGING ADULTS IN
LEARNING AND SUPPORTING
THEM TO SUCCEED

20 OCTOBER 2014

RaPAL

*Research and Practice
in Adult Literacy*

rapal.org.uk

NIACE The National Institute for Adult Literacy and Essential Skills



literacy journal social practice conference reflection research multimodality numeracy literacy journal literacy digital writing social research practice teachers learners multimodality reading conference

The Research and Practice in Adult Literacy Network

Who we are

RaPAL is an independent national network of learners, 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 2015

Chair	Sallie Condy
Secretary	Claire Collins
Treasurer	Alison Wedgbury
Journal Co-ordinator	Naomi Horrocks
Production Editor	Kieran Harrington
Reviews Editor	Sarah Freeman
Membership Secretary	Yvonne Spare
Website Manager	Tara Furlong

Editorial Information

The editorial group for 2015 includes the following researchers, practitioners and practitioner-researchers: Sam Duncan, Julie Furnivall, Sarah Freeman, Tara Furlong, Kieran Harrington, Naomi Horrocks, Linda Pearce, Anne Reardon-James, Irene Schwab, Yvonne Spare, Peggy Warren and Alison Wedgbury.

RaPAL members are involved in the compilation of the journal as editors, reviewers and referees.

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. The journal is written by and for all learners, tutors/teachers 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 us?

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

The RaPAL journal is also available from EBSCO Information Services.

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

The RaPAL journal has been designed by Image Printing Company, Lumsdale, Matlock, Derbyshire

RaPAL Membership form

Help us to double RaPAL's membership in 2015!

We are always keen to attract new individual and institutional members. Please join us and consider passing this to friends, colleagues and libraries / resource centres and encouraging them to join RaPAL now!

Members' benefits

Membership brings:

- three RaPAL journals per year
- discounted attendance at RaPAL conferences
- participation in the RaPAL JISList

We are happy for our members to participate in the journals and conferences and the organisation and administration of RaPAL.

How to join

To join, please complete this form and email to membership@rapal.org.uk or post to:

RaPAL Membership, c/o Yvonne Spare, Sysondale, Anslow Lane, Rolleston on Dove, DE13 9DS, UK.

By joining, you confirm you sympathise with RaPAL's aims as stated in the Constitution.

Your details

Full name: _____

Email: _____

Please tick if you do NOT wish your email to be used in the RaPAL network

Address: _____

County: _____ Postcode: _____

Country: _____

Mobile / work / home telephone numbers: _____

To set up a Standing Order, please provide the name and address of bank or building society:

Sort code: _____ Account number: _____

Alternatively, you may post a cheque for £ (see below for the appropriate fee)

Fees 2015

Our membership year runs August to August. Please tick the appropriate subscription rate:

Digital editions

Individual membership

£40 Full-time £25 Low waged, unwaged or student

Institutional Membership

£90 this includes multiple electronic access to the journal and discounted attendance for one employee at the conference

Please tick here if you require an invoice

Contents

Editorial

Kieran Harrington, Sam Duncan, Irene Schwab, Anne-Reardon James, Tara Furlong

Blame, shame and guilt: challenging negative labels and inequality through critical literacy

Vicky Duckworth

Literacy for freedom and expression

Jaqueline Panton

Using www.writeon.ie as part of a blended learning approach with adult learners

Tina Byrne

Unintended consequences of incentives, penalties and compulsion

Maxine Burton and Greg Brooks

Reviews

New Literacies around the Globe: Policy and Pedagogy

Edited by Cathy Burnett, Julia David, Guy Merchant and Julia Rowsell

Reviewed by Sam Duncan

Illiteracy in Victorian England: 'Shut out from the World' by Maxine Burton

Reviewed by Jane Mace

Adult Literacy and Development: Stories from the Field by Alan Rogers and Brian Street

Reviewed by Yvonne Spare

Learning with Adults: A Critical Pedagogical Introduction by Leona English and Peter Mayo

Reviewed by Alan Rogers

Learning with adults: A Reader Edited by Peter Mayo

Reviewed by Alan Rogers

Editorial

Kieran Harrington, Sam Duncan, Irene Schwab, Yvonne Spare,
Tara Furlong, Ann Reardon- James

In this edition we combine articles originally intended for Volume 84 (“Women and Literacies”) with articles for Volume 85 on the NIACE/NRDC/RAPAL/UCU “Motivated and Mandated” conference on the theme of engaging and supporting adults, which took place in London in October 2014.

The first article is Vicky Duckworth's “Blame, shame and guilt: challenging negative labels and inequality through critical literacy”. It focuses on practitioner research on the themes of women, literacies and empowerment. It explores how literacy classes can challenge symbolic violence, and how the effect of blame and guilt can be shifted by critical approaches to education and curriculum design. Next, Jacqueline Panton's short reflection, “Literacy for freedom and expression”, reminds us how therapeutic and liberating writing can be, and it highlights the value of the social aspect of writing within a group.

In the first of the articles stemming from the presentations of the October 2014 conference, Tina Byrne, who is a research officer with the National Adult Literacy Agency in Ireland, summarises the main points from research on blended learning in numeracy and ESOL. She concludes that the benefits of introducing blended learning in an adult literacy context outweigh the challenges.

In “Unintended consequences of incentives, penalties and compulsion”, Maxine Burton and Greg Brooks report on various studies carried out on the correlation between attendance and progress, and between attendance and incentives and punishments. These questions are debated every day of the week in adult literacy centres all over the world, so it is enlightening to read about the production of “perverse effects” when incentives and penalties were introduced in a situation where intrinsic motivation already existed.

We are delighted to review five books in this edition, all of them important additions to the literature of adult literacy. Jane Mace, one of the founder members of RaPAL, returns as a reviewer, and it is good to hear that she is still involved in research. Her perpetual passion for literacy shines through, as does that of all the other writers and reviewers in this edition. We would like to thank all them for their work and patience over the last couple of months.

As always, please note that the views expressed by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect those of RaPAL.