

Call for Proposals: Conference on Multiliteracies, Multimodality, and Genre

Key Information

Proposals due March 13th by 5pm Central: [Please submit your abstract here.](#)

Decision of acceptance communicated by March 31st, end of day

Date: Saturday, April 25th | 9:00am-4:00pm

Location: Patterson Hall, University of Memphis (530 Patterson St.)

Fee: Free Registration

We invite proposals for a one-day in-person conference focused on multiliteracies, multimodality, and genre, broadly construed.

Literacy and language practices have long been **multilingual, multimodal, embodied, and material**. What is new is the extent to which scholars now foreground these dimensions as central to meaning-making, pedagogy, and participation in academic, professional, creative, and public genres. This conference creates space for empirical research, pedagogical reflection, and creative exploration that take these realities seriously. The conference **celebrates and explores the complexity of literacy practices and literacy learning**, particularly through the lens of multiliteracy. We welcome scholars, teachers, students, and practitioners working in applied linguistics, writing studies, rhetoric and composition, communication, literacy studies, and TESOL, and literary studies, as well as creative and interdisciplinary contributors whose work meaningfully engages the conference theme.

Events at the Conference

The conference includes concurrent individual paper sessions and a Modes of Meaning Showcase, featuring poster and innovative multimodal sessions. Feature events also include sessions of invited Deb Talbot Roundtable **talks by Suresh Canagarajah (Penn State University) and Matt Kessler (University of South Florida)**, and a live plenary session on multimodality by Sage Graham (University of Memphis). The Deb Talbot Roundtable talks are on April 23rd at 5pm. Email the conference organizer for details or to request accommodations.

Submission Categories and Session Types

You will be asked to specify a category and session type for your proposal. Submission categories describe the *type of work* being proposed (empirical, pedagogical, or creative) and session types describe the *format* in which that work will be presented.

Submission Categories

We welcome empirical, pedagogical, and/or creative submissions. Please specify which

of these three *most* closely matches your session. Work-In-Progress papers are welcome and should be identified in the abstract/proposal.

Empirical – may draw from applied linguistics, writing studies, rhetoric and composition, literacy studies, or literary studies, and may address any language(s), modality(ies), or contexts. Such proposals should address the following issues, if relevant: research focus/questions, data/methods/analytical approach, and key findings/contributions.

Pedagogical – may focus on language, writing, or literacy instruction, broadly defined, including classroom practice, curriculum design, assessment, professional development, or community-based instruction. Such proposals should address the following issues, if relevant: instructional context, pedagogical approach, learning goals, concrete takeaways for pedagogy and/or curriculum.

Creative – may include multimodal, digital, literary, performative, or hybrid academic–creative work that meaningfully engages the conference theme. Such proposals should address what the session will include, format and presentation style, projects connection to multiliteracy, multimodality, and/or genre, audience engagement or takeaways.

Session Types

Authors may select one preferred session type when submitting. The program committee may suggest alternative formats to support scheduling or presentation goals.

Individual Paper Sessions: Presentations (up to 20 minutes + 5 minutes for questions) should be designed for a general interdisciplinary audience.

Modes of Meaning Showcase: This portion of the conference is structured as a traditional poster showcase with presenters set up in stations, but it includes both poster presentations and technology to support innovative multimodal sessions including demonstration of multimodal pedagogies, presentation of multimodal research artifacts, visual poetry, etc. Posters may also be physical, digital, or hybrid, and presenters should plan for informal discussion with attendees during the session. Technology requirements must be specified in the abstract.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals should include a title, abstract (maximum 300 words), and reference list (if needed, not included in word count). The abstract should clearly state audience takeaways and describe methods and findings (for empirical work), instructional context and implications (for pedagogical work), or session structure and engagement (for creative projects). **[Please submit your abstract here.](#)**

The event is free to attend. Certificates of participation will be provided after the event. Contact Dr. J. Elliott Casal at jecasal@memphis.edu with any questions.