

CIES 2014 Global Literacy SIG: Call for proposals

The Global Literacy SIG of the Comparative and International Education Society invites the submission of abstracts for individual papers, group panels and poster sessions for the 2014 CIES conference to be held March 10-15, 2014 in Toronto, Canada.

The conference theme for 2014 is ***Revisioning Education for All***. The Global Literacy SIG encourages contributions that address aspects of reading, writing and literacy as they relate to international learning and education goals. Among the themes and questions we will consider in Toronto are:

- **Reading assessment: Progress, opportunities and critique.** Reading skills assessment has taken a significant role in many recent literacy initiatives, particularly those that are implemented in the formal education system. How is this assessment affecting learning outcomes and program direction? What are we learning from this relatively recent emphasis on measuring reading skills?
- **Literacy, literacies and “cultures of reading”.** The place of literacy and text use in societies around the world merits real attention. What does it mean to be literate? What is the impact of a concentrated focus on written communication in cultures which are oral by preference or by capability? How has the increase in digital communication possibilities affected the use of reading and text?
- **Family literacy and the home/school connection.** Parental support for a child’s learning has long been recognized as a key feature of learning success. How does the home environment affect literacy learning specifically? What initiatives have successfully integrated family-based reading into classroom outcomes? What is the relevance of adult literacy for children’s reading and writing?

- **Reading, writing and development.** Literacy has been described as a key feature of development of all kinds. Are we learning anything new on this point? How is development being conceptualized today, and where does the ability to read and write fit into that?
- **Literacy and language.** Research is showing clearly that the choice of language of instruction has a significant impact on learning outcomes. What are we learning regarding first-, second- and third-language reading instruction? How are reading and writing skills and habits best transitioned from one language to another? How are reading fluency and text comprehension linked in the various languages of the world?

Proposals for individual papers, group panels and poster sessions (groups of individual posters organized on a common theme, topic, question, method etc., and presented as part of a group session) are encouraged.

Do be aware that only proposals that are submitted via the CIES 2014 website will be considered, and the guidelines and requirements of submission must be followed. When submitting, please be sure to select the Global Literacy Special Interest Group. Authors of proposals selected for presentation in the Global Literacy SIG sessions will be required to become members of the SIG.

The Literacy SIG will host a business meeting at the CIES conference, where members can meet and think together about the goals and direction of the SIG; so keep an eye out for it on the conference schedule!