Imagination and Literacy: Theory and Practice

The 9th Pan-African Literacy for All Conference &
the 10th RASA National Literacy Conference

2nd – 5th September 2015

FIRST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS

AND PAPERS

Organised by

Reading Association of South Africa (RASA)

International Reading Association (IRA)

International Development Committee-Africa (IDC-A)
The purpose of this conference is to open up ways of thinking about imagination and literacy. The theme is *Imagination and Literacy: Theory and Practice*. The conference will provide a forum for teachers, teacher educators, writers, librarians, researchers, academics, publishers, parents and children and local and international development workers to showcase research, practice and innovative literacy strategies that imaginatively engage literacy development across Africa.

The Pan African conferences are important literacy events on the African continent, providing platforms for literacy professionals and researchers to interface with policy makers in government and the donor community. In the eight countries (South Africa (1999); Nigeria (2001); Uganda (2003); Swaziland (2005); Ghana (2007); Tanzania (2009); Botswana (2011) and Kenya (2013) where the conference has been held, positive developments have been noted. These include growth and development of community libraries, adult literacy classes, children’s reading tents, emergence of reading and writing clubs in schools and communities and positive policy pronouncements in favour of the book sector and publishing industry.

The first conference (held in Pretoria in 1999) focused on reading among children. The second one (held in Abuja in 2001) considered the role of communities in building a reading culture. The third one (held in Kampala in 2003) was on analyzing and surmounting factors impeding the transmission and use of literacy skills. The fourth one (held in Swaziland in 2005) was on exploring the connection between literacy and sustainable development. The fifth conference (held in Accra in 2007) was on literacy for human liberation. The sixth one (held in Dar es Salaam in 2009) focused on literacy for community based socio-economic transformation and development. The seventh conference (held in Gaborone in 2011) was on a reader becoming an empowered leader. The eighth conference (held in Nairobi in 2013) was on literacy for all: leading the way to literacy excellence. The design of the 2015 conference and the choice of theme have been inspired by the interests of people working in the field of literacy in South Africa.

The first three days of this conference will follow the regular conference format with plenaries, colloquia and academic papers as well as opportunities for teachers to showcase good classroom practice. The fourth and final day, Saturday 5th September, will be a day of imaginative events, stalls and installations around the theme of *Igniting imagination: reading and writing as pleasure and play*, aimed at the widest community of those involved with literacy, reading and writing.

It is possible to attend only SATURDAY without registering for the whole conference.

**The objectives of this combined conference are:**

- To spark new ways of thinking about the power of imagination and creativity for young and old readers and writers;
- To share research and experiences about igniting imagination in literacy development; about literacy as pleasure and play;
- To infuse ideas about imagination and literacy into networks and frameworks for development.
The following list of sub-themes and topics around imagination and literacy gives a sense of the range of areas you can address in your abstracts. You should address one of the sub-themes and indicate two or three topics within the sub-theme. These are:

**Imagination in literacy practices (early years/primary/secondary)**

- Teaching reading (emergent literacy)
- Teaching writing (emergent literacy)
- Making meaning of stories
- Visual literacy
- Digital literacies and new technologies
- Multiliteracies and multilanguages
- Critical literacies
- Ethics and literacy
- Literacy across the curriculum
- Literacy and lifelong learning
- Literacy and policies
- Literacy and entrepreneurship
- Policies concerning literacy (gender, race and class)
- Barriers to literacy

**Imagination and spaces**

- Classroom spaces (storyworlds, circle time, literature circles)
- Bedtime reading/family literacy
- Reading clubs/community literacy/adult literacy
- School, public and community libraries
- Outdoor spaces
- Virtual spaces (ICT and the learning environment, e-libraries)
- Distance learning
- Augmented realities
- Literacy and transnational/transborder movement (refugees)

**Imagination and the body**

- Literacy and the body
- Drama
- Art and literacy
- Music and literacy
- Physical movement/technologies of literacy
- Imaginative play
- Links between emotions, cognition and imagination

**Imagination and children’s literature**

- Storytelling
• Moral imagination
• Picture books/fiction/non-fiction/graphic novels
• Visual grammar
• Philosophy with children
• Publishing and materials development

Imagination in assessment practices

• Alternative assessment practices (eg Reggio Emilia)
• Multiliteracies and learning outcomes

Imagination in teacher education and professional development

• Literacy in tertiary/higher education
• Academic literacies
• Continuing professional development

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

For the first three days’ programme you can submit one of the following five types of presentations:

• Individual papers: These will be presented by one or two individuals and will be allotted 30 minutes each (20 minutes for the presentation and 10 for discussion).

• Colloquia: These will be presented by four or five people working together and will be allotted two hours. The presenters may divide the time amongst themselves as they wish, but should allow at least 40 minutes (not necessarily all together) for audience discussions.

• Workshops: These are interactive sessions, with a facilitator. Each will be allotted one hour. A workshop should be practical and involve the participants’ activity.

• Showcasing imaginative classroom practice: These are demonstrations of excellent classroom practice. These will be 30 minutes long including presentations and discussions.

• Poster sessions: These will be graphic displays of information, which will be posted in a central place in the Baxter Hall. Special times will be allotted in the programme for presentation and discussion of the posters.

• Films/Documentaries: These should be presented digitally and will be allotted 30 minutes each. Films should be no more than 20 minutes long to allow time for viewers’ questions and comments.

Your abstract should be between 150-200 words. Please submit online at the Conference website at: www.rasa2015.co.za

For more information about submitting abstracts, please contact:
belinda.chapman@uct.ac.za

Deadline for submission of abstracts – 15 December 2014
Notification of acceptance of abstracts – 1 March 2015
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Everyone who wishes to take part in the conference, whether presenting a paper or not, will be required to pay conference registration fees (a different form will be provided later for this purpose). The registration fee per person for participants from Africa including Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar is as follows:

- Teachers: R1000
- Early Bird registration: R2000
- Late registration: R2500
- Full time students – give your student number when registering: R500
- The registration fee per person for participants from other continents is US$250.

IGNITING IMAGINATION: LITERACY AS PLEASURE AND PLAY - SAT 5TH SEPT

The Saturday programme has a special theme: *Igniting imagination: reading and writing as pleasure and play*. This day will be a celebration of experiences, offerings, ideas and creativity. It is aimed at a wide community of people involved with literacy, including parents, babies, children, teachers, librarians, NGOs, publishers, booksellers, artists, musicians, social workers, authors, actors, and early childhood practitioners. This day will be advertised to the general public.

There are two types of proposals:

- **Stall or Installation:** A stall or installation is a physical space where activities/exhibitions/displays/demonstrations involving books/materials/puppets/games etc. will be run or displayed throughout the day in the Baxter foyer. Stalls for commercial groups will cost R1000, and for NGOs R500, for the minimum space which is 2m x 2m depending on the space you need.

- **Event:** This is a once-off activity (between 20 minutes and 1 hour) that will take place in the programme in the Baxter Concert Hall. This can include storytelling, drama/poetry/music/demonstrations/interactive writing/talks/films etc.

Please submit your proposal for the Saturday programme via email to Belinda.chapman@uct.ac.za

Please provide the following information:

- Name of presenter/s
- Name of institution
- NGO/Commercial
- Email address(es)
- Phone number
- Title of stall/installation/event
- Audio visual requirements
• Stall/Installation or Event
• Indicate the amount of space you need
• Intended audience
• Attach a 150 word outline explaining how your stall/installation or event ignites imagination and fosters reading and writing as pleasure and play.

For further information about submitting proposals for the Saturday programme please contact belinda.chapman@uct.ac.za

Submission of proposals: www.rasa2015.co.za

Deadline – 1 May 2015

Notification of acceptance – 1 June 2015