

BALID's 32nd Informal Literacy Discussion, on  
**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2018, 5-7pm** at  
UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL\*



## Meaning Making and Meaning Shaping: the contribution of oral storytelling to literacy learning



*led by*

**Dr Alastair Daniel**

In *The Meaning Makers*, his seminal study of how language and literacy develop, Gordon Wells (2009) suggests that children's literacy development is supported most in homes in which stories are shared. His view that storying is a fundamental way in which we make sense of the world aligns both with Gottschall's suggestion in *The Storytelling Animal* (2012: 3) that humans are *homo fictus* or 'the great ape with the storytelling mind', and also with perspectives that see storytelling as, by nature, a social activity.

In this seminar, Alastair Daniel will lead a discussion on the role of oral storytelling in the cooperative shaping of ideas and language. He will ask the group to consider their own experiences of storytelling practices, and the way in which those practices relate to broader dimensions of literacy, both in spoken language and written text. He will highlight research into the effects of storytelling on literacy development, and explore some of the storytelling activities that are used in schools to support literacy teaching and learning, including teacher-led story making and *Kamishibai* (Japanese 'paper theatre').

**Dr Alastair K. Daniel** currently works at the University of Roehampton as the Principal Lecturer in Primary English Education. Before entering full-time academia in 2010, he spent twelve years dividing his time between university lecturing and educational storytelling in schools in the UK and Belgium. He is an active researcher into storytelling performance and associated pedagogies, and (in particular) focuses on the contribution of environmental context to story creation and telling. Alastair's blog 'Talking Storytelling' can be found at: <https://www.akdaniel.co.uk/blog>.

\* Please check the BALID website [www.balid.org.uk](http://www.balid.org.uk) or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BALID.org.uk> for details of the exact venue nearer the time.