



**BALID**

British Association for  
Literacy in Development

# Annual Report 2018 – 2019

AGM 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019,  
Kings College, London



*A schoolteacher in South Sudan who also facilitated family learning classes*

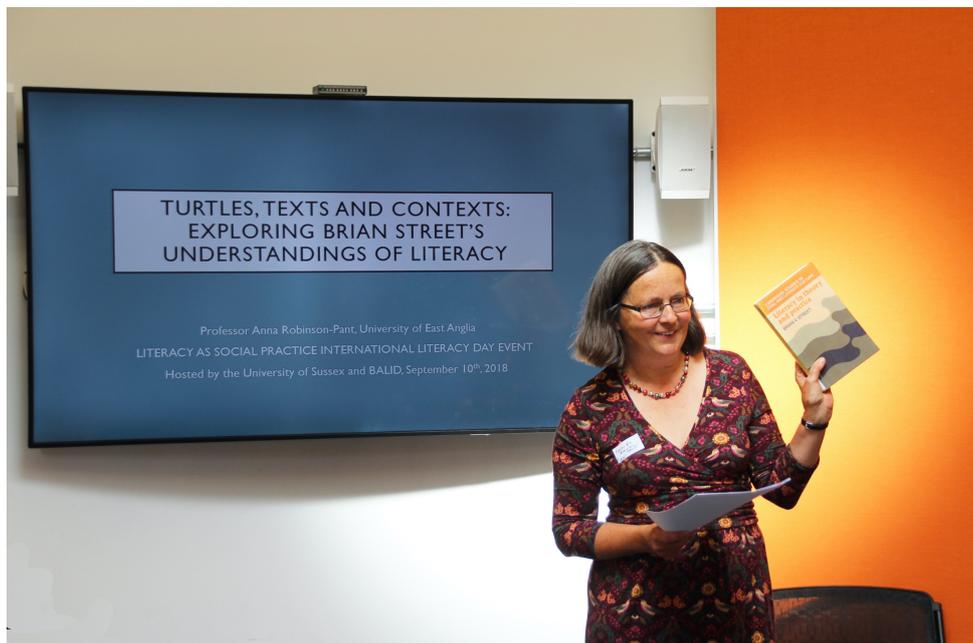
**British Association for Literacy in Development (BALID)**  
c/o Feed the Minds, The Foundry, 17 Oval Way, London SE11 5RR, UK  
[www.balid.org.uk](http://www.balid.org.uk)

## Highlights of the last year

Our AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018, was held at the The Mitre, Lancaster Gate, London, after which we had a buffet meal and reminisced about the generosity and friendship of our late president, Brian Street, as well as the influence he had on literacy.

### **LITERACY AS SOCIAL PRACTICE, University of Sussex, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

Louise Gazeley, Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning Research at the University of Sussex, and Marta Paluch from BALID organised this seminar at the University of Sussex to remember Brian Street, who taught at the university for 20 years until he moved to King's College, London.



*Anna Robinson-Pant at the University of Sussex*

The seminar was timed to coincide with International Literacy Day. It was a wonderful celebration of International Literacy Day and the seminal work of Brian Street, who impacted the development of New Literacy Studies and was influential in its continuing importance to literacy education today. The event brought together academics, researchers and practitioners interested in working with a social practice approach to literacy education, and speakers included Professor Anna Robinson-Pant of the University of East Anglia, and Dr John Pryor of the University of Sussex. The titles of the panel contributions were:

- Literacy as social practice in vocational and professional contexts;
- The contribution of Brian's theory to practice; and
- The literacy dimension in community development projects.

In the afternoon BALID Committee members Katy Newell-Jones, Juliet McCaffery and Tara Furlong reflected on the influence which Brian had had on them.

**BAICE CONFERENCE *Comparative Education and Development Alternatives*,  
University of York, 12th-14th September 2018**

The BALID symposium held at the BAICE conference was entitled *Adult Literacy and Development: Structural Problems and Innovative Responses*. It was organised by Marta Paluch and chaired by Juliet McCaffery. Some 20 people attended and heard the following presentations, which were followed by lively discussion:

- *'I Read and Write in My Own Language': A Case Study of a Non-Formal Indigenous Language Literacy Programme in Mexico*. Lorena Sanchez, UCL Institute of Education
- *Literacy Resources for Refugee and Immigrant Adults: Addressing a Critical Need*  
Martha Young-Scholten, University of Newcastle
- *An Analysis of Mid-Term Withdrawals by Facilitators in Some Adult Literacy Learning Programmes*. Abiy Menkir Gizaz and Turuwark Zalalam Warkineh, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia
- *Adult Literacy Facilitators' Collaborative Learning on a Pilot Literacy Project in Guatemala*. Marta Paluch, University of Sussex.



*Literacy and income generation workshop for parents in South Sudan*

### **Programme of Informal Literacy Discussions (ILDs)**

During the 2018-19 year we enjoyed a very varied programme of seminars, which are summarized below. We continue to be delighted that so many people value the opportunity to share their work with BALID and contribute to our vibrant community of passionate advocates for literacy.

In October 2018, our BALID chair, Dr Katy Newell-Jones, addressed **The literacy dimension in community development**, drawing on experiences in the UK, India, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sierra Leone, and Pakistan. Katy inspired us to see how literacy as social practice transforms people's lives.

Then in December 2018, Dr Alastair Daniel of the University of Roehampton gave us a fascinating insight into the relationship between oral storytelling and children's literacy. Entitled **Meaning making and meaning shaping**, his presentation explored the child within all of us and how we create our own meaning from narrative – with huge implications for literacy.

We began 2019 with a seminar about ESOL and the **Hidden benefits of learning English**, presented by Dr Sarah Freeman of the University of Sheffield. In this context, the learning of language and literacy often go hand in hand, and new understandings can be gained about both.

In March 2019, we were privileged to hear Mirza Moqem Baig of Rural Aid Pakistan speaking on **Literacy and maternal health in rural Pakistan** at the UCL Institute of Education.

Our next venue, in June 2019, was The Embassy of the Philippines in central London, when Christopher Millora spoke very movingly on **'Taking hold' and 'losing grip' of bureaucratic literacies: Insights from local volunteering in the Philippines**. This glimpse of the bureaucratic hurdles that face people in poor communities did not make for comfortable listening.



*Christopher Millora's presentation at the Embassy of the Philippines*

Our last ILD – our 36<sup>th</sup> over a period of eight years – was led by Lorena Sanchez Tyson of the UCL Institute of Education, London. She gave us a very interesting overview of literacy teaching and practices in Mexico. Her seminar was entitled **Bilingual literacy for life: an indigenous language literacy programme in Mexico**.

The BALID committee offer grateful thanks to all who have shared their deep understanding of literacy issues in many parts of the world. We could not exist without you.

**Mary Anderson**

## Report from the Chair

In the last year BALID has continued to strengthen partnerships with organisations involved in literacy in development, including The Institute of Education, the University of East Anglia, Research and Practice in Adult Literacy (RaPAL), the University of Sussex and Kings College London.

The year started in September, on International Literacy Day, with *Literacy as social practice*, a seminar hosted by the University of Sussex organised by the Centre for Teaching and Learning Research at the University of Sussex in collaboration with BALID. This seminar was a wonderful celebration of International Literacy Day and the seminal work of Professor Brian Street, late President of BALID, who impacted the development of New Literacy Studies and its continuing importance to literacy education today. The event brought together academics, researchers and practitioners interested in working with a social practice approach to literacy education, and speakers included four BALID committee members as well as Professor Anna Robinson-Pant, UNESCO Chair for Adult Literacy and Learning for Social Transformation at the University of East Anglia, UK.



*Literacy and peacebuilding in workshops in Kenya*

BALID had a very successful AGM on 22 November 2018 at a new venue, The Scullery at The Mitre, Craven Terrace, Lancaster Gate, London. After presentation of our Annual Report and the election of officers, we then moved on to a very enjoyable buffet meal where we reminisced about Brian Street and the influence he had on the field of literacy. Recurring themes focused on his generosity and friendship.

The BALID series of Informal Literacy Discussions (ILDs), which started in 2011, has continued to be engaging and inspiring. This year there has been a strong focus on the emerging work of PhD students, supported by Lorena Sanchez as the BALID student representative, in partnership with the Institute of Education and the University of East Anglia (see report from Mary Anderson). Six ILDs have taken place this year, exploring a wide range of literacy-related issues and bringing the total number of ILDs to thirty-six. BALID continues to receive offers to lead ILDs and is considering a new publication drawing on the ILD programme in the future. The first, entitled ***Theory and Practice in Literacy and Development: Papers from the BALID Informal Literacy Discussions*** was published in 2016.

Looking forward, in December 2019 the Annual Brian Street Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Prof. David Bloome, EHE Distinguished Professor of Teaching and Learning, Ohio State University, USA, in a whole day event entitled *Literacy as social practice: future directions and new challenges*. This event is hosted by BALID in partnership with Kings College London and the University of East Anglia and will also feature presentations by PhD students. A full report of the event will be available on the BALID website.

Committee members have continued to dedicate considerable amounts of time to BALID over the year with particular thanks to Juliet McCaffery (secretary), Mary Anderson (ILDs), Tara Furlong (IT and link person with RaPAL), Ian Cheffy (treasurer) and Lorena Sanchez (student representative).

There will be some changes in the BALID committee following the AGM in December. Juliet McCaffery will hand over responsibility as secretary and I will be stepping down as chair of BALID. Both of us have held these positions for more than 12 years. Juliet has been actively involved with BALID since it was established 22 years ago and deserves special recognition for her continued commitment to the role of adult literacy in development. Lorena Sanchez is also stepping down as student representative to focus on her dissertation and associated publications. We wish her every success and hope to see her at future BALID events.

Thanks once again to all others who continue to support BALID in a variety of ways.

Literacy in development continues to be relevant both at policy-making levels and in programme implementation. BALID is actively seeking the involvement of new faces and so if you would like to be involved in the next stage of development of BALID, please do get in contact with one of the BALID committee or email [admin@balid.org.uk](mailto:admin@balid.org.uk).

**Katy Newell-Jones**  
**Chair November 2019**

## **Report from the Secretary**

### **Committee Meetings were held on**

December 11, 2018 at The Institute of Education

February 7, 2019 at Feed the Minds, Vauxhall, London

May 28, 2019 at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London

September 12, 2019 meeting via Skype

I have been involved in BALID since 1988 and Secretary for about the last 12 years, so I think it is time someone new and younger than me assumed the position of secretary.

BALID, in its current form, was established by Don Clarke in 1988 who recognised the importance of having an organisation that was globally involved in literacy for adults. Unfortunately, he died a few years later and was not able to benefit from seeing the organisation grow and develop into what it is today.

The education of children is most governments' key priority, but children benefit from support from their parents. While all parents support their children in the best way they can, it is obviously beneficial if they can read themselves; enabling adults, and therefore parents, to read is BALID's objective.

Enabling parents to read is extremely important to me. While BALID's target audience is people living elsewhere in the world, we should not forget that a considerable number of adults in our country experience reading difficulties. I have become very much aware of this as I am currently teaching a woman of around 50, who until now had no reading skills.

It would like to thank Professor Alan Rogers and Professor Brian Street for their contribution and support over the years. Sadly, as was reported last year, Prof Street has died, but his extraordinary contribution to BALID will always be remembered. He was particularly concerned to ensure literacy was seen as a social practice and that both children and adults should learn the literacy of their communities – the literacy used in everyday life, not something of little relevance imposed upon them from above.

Officers and committee members give their time freely and work entirely voluntarily. Without their commitment and work BALID would not exist.

**Juliet McCaffery**

**Secretary November 2019**

## **Report from the Treasurer**

I am glad to report that the BALID finances continue to be in good shape, with reserves sufficient for our immediate needs and enabling us to continue to pursue our objectives effectively. Overall income amounted to £586 in total, as can be seen in the accompanying report by Mr Ray Douglas, the independent examiner of the BALID accounts.

It is encouraging to note that membership subscriptions again reached almost £400, comparable to those of last year, the highest level for many years. I am very grateful to those individuals and organisations who pay their fees by standing order. Other income consisted of a contribution from a non-member who attended an ILD and sales of the BALID ILD book, one copy of which was bought by the University of Sussex and two by the SIL literacy training programme in Canada, and.

Contributions of £135 were received from those attending the meal in honour of Prof Brian Street held after the 2018 AGM. Total expenditure on the AGM, including printing of the annual report for that year, amounted to £347. In line with the decision of the Executive Committee in 2017, travel expenses were reimbursed to those committee members requesting them, amounting to £145. The remaining expenditure item of £11 related to postage of the ILD books to Canada, as mentioned above. The total income of BALID exceeded expenditure by £83, with the balance at the end of the financial year being very similar to that of the previous year.

It should be noted that the ending balance of £2,597 included restricted funds of £200 given in memory of Brian Street and £334 as the remainder of the grant provided by BAICE for the *Bridging the Gap* seminar in 2015 to be used for the benefit of students; both of these are expected to be used appropriately in the near future.

I am once again grateful to Mr Ray Douglas for his willingness to carry out an independent examination of the BALID accounts and I am happy to propose that he be reappointed for the coming financial year.

**Ian Cheffy**

**Treasurer November 2019**

**BALID**  
**Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 August 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
ILD Contributions and Book Sales	53	88
Memberships	398	400
Gifts (re Brian Street 2017 only)	-	5
Weaving Literacy Seminar	-	841
SOAS Meeting	-	460
AGM / Seminar	135	-
Miscellaneous	-	33
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>1,827</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
AGM / Seminar Expenses	347	326
World Literacy Summit (Weaving Literacy Seminar 2017)	-	932
ILD Book	11	405
Committee Travel Expenses	145	80
Other Meeting and Admin Expenses	-	301
Miscellaneous	-	23
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>2,067</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>-240</b>
Balances brought forward	2,514	2,754
<b>Balances carried forward</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>2,514</b>

**Balance Sheet at 31 August 2019**

		<b>2018</b>
	£	£
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Balance at Lloyds Bank	2,780	2,594
<b>Less: Current Liabilities</b>		
Accrued expenses	183	80
<b>Net Current and Total Assets</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>2,514</b>
<b>Reserves carried forward</b>	<b>2,597</b>	<b>2,514</b>

Hon Treasurer .....  
 I P Cheffy

Date 24 Nov 19

**Report of the Independent Examiner**

I have carried out an informal examination of the simplified accounts set out above, which are in agreement with the books and records according to the explanations given to me.

Hon Independent Examiner .....  
 R L S Douglas

Date 24.11.19

## **Officers and Committee Members 2018 – 2019**

### **Officers:**

Chair: Dr Katy Newell-Jones  
Secretary: Dr Juliet McCaffery  
Treasurer: Dr Ian Cheffy

### **Committee members:**

Dr Mary Anderson, Prof. Alan Rogers, Tara Furlong, Lorena Sanchez (student representative)

### **Organisation Members:**

Adult Learning and Empowerment Facilitators (ALEF)      Feed the Minds  
SIL      University of East Anglia

### **Associate members:**

Ulrike Hanemann, Willy Ngaka

### **Chair: Dr. Katy Newell-Jones**

Katy was formerly Programme Director of Feed the Minds and is now a consultant in learning and teaching with a strong focus on literacy in development. Since 1992, she has been involved in capacity building of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), during which she developed a strong interest in the role of literacy in post-conflict and other challenging contexts. In recent years, her interest has been on embedding literacy into community development projects, ranging from maternal health projects in Nepal and Pakistan to land rights, vocational training and agricultural extension projects in Rwanda.

### **Secretary: Dr. Juliet McCaffery**

Juliet specialises in literacy, gender and equalities. She worked in schools and adult literacy in the US, Brighton and London and then as gender officer at the British Council. On leaving the British Council she became an international consultant. She trained literacy facilitators, designed and evaluated literacy and education programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and Indian sub-continent. She became interested in English Gypsies and Irish Travellers as an elected councillor and undertook research for her PhD on their attitude towards education. She currently assists at an activity club at the local Traveller site. Her research interests are literacy and education in marginalised communities

### **Treasurer: Dr. Ian Cheffy**

Ian is a Literacy and Education Consultant with SIL International, the NGO which develops writing systems for communities speaking previously unwritten languages so that they can use their languages for their own education and development.

He worked in Cameroon for ten years until 1999 but is now based in the UK. He recently undertook a research project in five African countries exploring the changes which have come about in the lives of individuals and their communities as a result of literacy in local languages. His PhD explored the meanings of literacy for people in a language community in northern Cameroon.

### **Dr. Mary Anderson**

Mary is a linguist with a special interest in Nigeria and West Africa. She has worked for many years in language-teaching publishing, both as a commissioning editor and as a writer. More recently she has become involved with developing materials for teaching basic literacy skills in non-European languages.

## **Tara Furlong**

Tara has twenty years' experience in adult education and training in the private and public sectors in the UK and abroad, specialising in integrated English language, literacies and digital learning. She is involved in delivering professional development via national organisations in the UK, and publication work; and has an established history of designing and implementing systemic curriculum quality initiatives in education providers.

Tara has an ongoing interest in the relationship between multi-modal and contextualised versus abstracted learning; its mirror in social and literate practice and language across life spheres; and the function of storytelling in co-ordinating action. As well as work with Designing Futures Ltd, Tara does pro bono work for RaPAL, BALID, and is an active local school governor.

## **Prof. Alan Rogers**

Alan is an adult educator with research and training interests in adult learning and teaching. He has worked widely as a practitioner in the training of teachers in adult literacy and basic education, especially in countries of Africa and Asia. He recently completed a review of the Folk Development Colleges in Tanzania (with the assistance of Sida) and is currently working on projects in Ethiopia and Afghanistan. A Visiting Professor at the universities of East Anglia and Nottingham, he has written extensively in these fields.

## **Lorena Sanchez Tyson**

Lorena is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Education, Practice and Society at University College London's Institute of Education. Her doctoral thesis focuses on an indigenous language literacy programme for adults in Mexico, where she aims to explore the roles and potential that literacy has in the lives of learners and facilitators in multilingual contexts. In addition to her studies, Lorena is a postgraduate teaching assistant for the BA in Education Studies and a student facilitator for the research training programme at the IOE. Lorena is originally from Tampico, Mexico. She holds a BA in English from the Universidad Autonoma de Tamaulipas and in 2015 was awarded an Erasmus Mundus Partner Country scholarship to undertake a joint MA from both UCL and the Universidad de Deusto in Spain. Lorena currently resides in London.

## **BALID and RaPAL**

The last year has seen RaPAL publish two further BALID event reports in different styles, including edited video clips. The previous summer's *Models of Literacy Learning* and last autumn's panel contribution *Literacy as Social Practice in Vocational and Professional Contexts* were published in last autumn's edition of the RaPAL Journal *Collaboration and Connections*. Juliet McCaffery contributed to a collective obituary of Sue Gardner *A Mood of Hope, a Legacy of Writing: Sue Gardner and the Community Literacy and Publishing Movement* in the autumn edition; and a book review on *Identity and Resistance in Further Education* by Pete Bennet and Rob Smith in RaPAL's spring edition *Conference 2018*. The RaPAL newsletter and social media promote BALID events. Tara Furlong, RaPAL's Chair, sits on the BALID Committee and participates in BALID meetings, project work and events, such as contributing to organising this autumn's *Literacy as Social Practice: future directions and new challenges*. Sarah Freeman, RaPAL's Treasurer, presented ILD 33 *The Hidden Benefits of Learning English*. A wider network of RaPAL members and past office holders participate in BALID's offer.

## **Tara Furlong**

**BALID Committee Member and Chair of RaPAL**



*Literacy and agriculture in Rwanda, looking at a national map of crops and farming techniques*

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