

Workshop

Critical Literacies: Priorities and Practices in EFL and EAP Programs

Speaker: Dr Brian Morgan

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Abstract

This workshop will begin by addressing several key concepts and tensions around the notion of 'literacy' and our understanding of the term 'critical'. We will also examine a broader notion of text, one that includes not only conventional print-based forms but also sounds, images, spaces, gestures, and their integration into what are often termed multi-modal text, requiring new literacies or multiliteracies for education and public life. As well, we will examine the new "affordances" or meaning-making potential offered through digital texts and hypermedia environments found typically on the Internet. We will then address the pedagogical priorities and goals that arise from these conceptualizations with particular emphasis on the interplay between texts, literacy practices and identity formation in educational settings.

The next section of the workshop will provide a critical literacy "tool-kit" in action. Participants will have an opportunity to examine various critical literacy practices in settings such as content-based English for Academic Purposes, Intensive English programs, community-based ESL, and primary and secondary EFL programs. Participants will be encouraged to evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of these lessons for programs with which they are familiar. The concluding section of the workshop will be devoted to a group discussion of issues that have arisen from the session. Additional topics may include: critical literacies and the geopolitics of English; the relevance and possibilities for a Hong Kong-based approach; the ecological critique of Paulo Freire's methodology.

Dr Brian Morgan is Associate Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University. His current research interests include theory and practice in critical applied linguistics, particularly for EAP settings; critical media literacies/ multiliteracies in ELT; language, culture, and identity; community-based adult ESL, and language teacher education. His publication has appeared in journals such as the *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics*, *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, and the *Journal of Language, Identity, and Education*. Along with Vaidehi Ramanathan, Dr Morgan is the co-editor of the forthcoming 2007 *TESOL Quarterly* Special Issue on Language Policy Enactments in TESOL.

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6 February 2007 (Tuesday), 2-4pm

**LG01, Hui Oi Chow Science Building, The University of Hong Kong
Chair: Dr Jasmine Luk, Faculty of Education, HKU**

All postgraduate students and interested parties are welcome.

Registration: <http://www.hku.hk/clear/morgan.html>

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