

# GALE SIG Newsletter

November 2010

## What is the purpose of the GALE SIG?

Gender Awareness in Language Education Special Interest Group (GALE SIG) of the Japan Association of Language Teachers (JALT) exists:

- to research gender and its implications for language learning, teaching, and training, such as differences in discourse styles, preferred teaching and learning styles, interests, needs, motivation, aptitude, achievement, classroom interactions, same-sex versus coeducational classrooms and same-sex vs. opposite-sex teaching, and social identity.
- to improve pedagogical practices, develop language teaching materials, and provide a clearinghouse for materials inclusive of gender and gender-related topics in EFL subject areas such as communication, history, literature, linguistics, science, sociology, cultural studies, etc.
- to raise awareness of workplace and human rights issues related to gender for language professionals, such as discrimination, harassment, and violence based on gender and sexual orientation, and discrimination on the basis of marital or parental status, and to provide information for countering such discrimination.
- to increase networking opportunities among language professionals interested in teaching, researching, and/or discussing education, such as biological sex, gender identity, gendered language, sexual orientation, gender behavior, gender roles, and gender socialization.

**GALE Website - [www.gale-sig.org](http://www.gale-sig.org)**

## GALE at IGALA6

By Kristie Collins

From September 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, GALE members had the wonderful opportunity to attend and participate in the Sixth International Gender and Language Association Conference (IGALA) held at Tsuda College in Tokyo. Behind the scenes, a GALE team—ably led by Michi Saki—had been involved for months in vetting papers and organizing a distinct 'GALE stream' for the conference that featured individual papers and panels that promoted research done by GALE members and featured issues close to our hearts. In total, twenty presenters from GALE shared their work at the conference, and we all benefited immeasurably from the experience.

Beyond the GALE stream itself, our members had the amazing chance to meet and interact with world-renowned scholars and respected activists. The conference plenary speakers, Kanto Gakuin University's Momoko Nakamura and Macquarie University's Ingrid Piller presented thoughtful talks on gender and language from historical and cross-cultural perspectives, and the conference closed

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Photo by Florence Smith JALT Conference 2008, Tokyo

## Program Chairs Report

By Michi Saki & Gwyn Helverson

Gerry Yokota will be GALE's Featured Speaker at JALT 2010. In addition, Gale co-sponsored Laurel Kamada with the Bilingualism SIG to be their Featured Speaker at the JALT 2010 conference.

GALE also co-sponsored an event with the Kyoto JALT Chapter in July. Two GALE members, Folake Abass and Robert O'Móchain presented on gender-related issues in the classroom. Abass addressed gender stereotypes and explored different ways to encourage students to think about and beyond culturally inherited stereotypes. O'Móchain discussed representations of masculinities on Japanese television and how such observations can be reported in EFL classrooms.

GALE played an important role in the IGALAS Conference in September. The program chairs organized the GALE Stream by coordinating the presentations and panel discussions of GALE members. They also assisted with the conference's promotional materials and mailings.

We are looking forward to planning new events and provide more opportunities for research and discussion for our GALE members in 2011, such as our continued involvement in National Conference, as well as co-sponsored events with fellow SIGs and local JALT chapters.

### GALE JALT SIG EXECUTIVES 2009-2010:

#### Coordinators:

Kristie Collins/ Salem K. Hicks: [coordinator@gale-sig.org](mailto:coordinator@gale-sig.org)

#### Program Chairs:

Michi Saki/ Gwyn Helverson: [programchair@gale-sig.org](mailto:programchair@gale-sig.org)

#### Treasurer:

Dod Levine: [treasurer@gale-sig.org](mailto:treasurer@gale-sig.org)

#### Membership Chair:

Tina O'Brien: [membershipchair@gale-sig.org](mailto:membershipchair@gale-sig.org)

#### Publications Chair:

Joanna Hoozyk: [publicationchair@gale-sig.org](mailto:publicationchair@gale-sig.org)

#### Member-at-Large:

Folake Abass: [memberatlarge@gale-sig.org](mailto:memberatlarge@gale-sig.org)

## The story behind the GALE Banner

By Folake Abass

In February of this year I went to Cape Town, South Africa to do some volunteer work with an organisation called Cross-Cultural Solutions. Through them, I had the opportunity to work with a group of amazing women at a trust called Etaleni.

The women who are all HIV Positive work for the Trust's Income Generation Program and as part of the program they are trained in embroidery, smoking, patchwork and beading. The crafts produced are sold locally and internationally, and through these orders, the women are able to receive a steady income which allows them to support themselves and their families.

It was truly inspirational working with those women and watching them embrace each day with smiles on their faces and songs in their hearts in spite of their HIV status.

I worked at Etaleni for only 3 weeks and upon returning to Japan and after such an amazing experience there, I felt a need to support the women in some way. And so, GALE commissioned them to design our banner. This is our first official banner and one that I know we will have and cherish forever.



IGALAS Conference, 2010 Japan



## \*JALT 2010\*

November 19<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup>

WINC Aichi, Nagoya.

Creativity: Think outside the box.

### GALE related presentations:

#### Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup>:

11:20am – 12:20pm (Rm 901) Jhana Bach "From boxed in daughters to carnivore women"

11:20am – 12:20pm (Rm 903) Laurel Kamada "Being 'Half': Contesting and Celebrating Difference" (JALT Featured Speaker)

2:35pm – 3:35pm (Rm 903) Gerry Yokota "Boxes" (GALE Featured Speaker)

3:50pm – 4:15pm (1205) Folake Abass "The complex link between gender and global issues"

7:00pm – 7:25pm (1205) GALE AGM

7:45pm – GALE Dinner @ Maharaja (Nagoya Station)

#### Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup>:

9:15-10:45 (Rm 1006) Anna Baltzer "Thinking outside the box: Education and action for social justice" (JALT Featured Speaker)

12:20-1:50 (Rm 1006) Laurel Kamada "Discourse analysis and ethnic identity outside the box" (JALT Featured Speaker)

with a riveting lecture entitled "Sex on the Brain: Language, Sex/Gender and the New Biologism" delivered by Oxford University's Deborah Cameron.

Between sessions, too, the lobby area and the space around the GALE table were buzzing with activity and energy—truly an inspiration from start to finish!

As with all good conferences, however, the opportunities to connect with people and share ideas extended far beyond the conference halls. Our thanks go to Folake Abass for organizing a superb GALE dinner at Junkadelic on Saturday night as friendships and collaborative project ideas flourished over the margaritas! Furthermore, GALE is indebted to Gerry Yokota for taking charge of the postcard fundraising project and to the GALE members who spent time selling cards and explaining our materials and organization aims to those who visited our table. Finally, heartfelt congratulations go out to GALE's own Gwyn Helverson for her award for best poster at the conference for her "Performing the Gendered Body in Visual Art: My Grandmothers: Yanagi Miwa Challenges Japanese Society's Concept of Aging" poster.

In closing, it was truly a pleasure to attend the IGALA conference as part of the GALE team. Here's looking forward to a strong GALE turnout for IGALA7 in Brazil, 2012!

*The Journal and Proceedings of the Gender Awareness in Language Education  
special interest group of JALT  
...affectionately known as "THE GALE JOURNAL"*

*Call for papers for GALE Journal Volume 4, Summer 2011*

*\*Letter of intention to submit and 150 word abstract  
Deadline: December 15, 2010*

*\*Completed Paper Deadline: January 31, 2011*

*Send Submissions and Inquiries to [editor@gale-sig.org](mailto:editor@gale-sig.org)*

## GALE Professional Development Scholarship

GALE offers one Professional Development scholarship to each conference that GALE officially participates in. The purpose of the scholarship is to support research in the field of gender awareness and to help support GALE members who do not have research funding.

A grant for a maximum of 40,000 yen will be made available to the successful applicant. The funding is intended to be used to help defray transportation, accommodation and conference fee costs for the conference. This grant is only available to GALE members who do not have access to research funds or conference travel funds from any of their employer(s). In return, the successful applicant MUST give a presentation on a GALE related topic at the conference [under the content area of Gender in the case of JALT conferences] and commit to writing an academic research article based on that presentation to be published in the next edition of the GALE Journal and Proceedings. [Deadline for Journal letters of intent are annually on Dec. 15].

In order to apply for this scholarship, application materials should include:

1. A signed statement that the candidate does not have access to research funds from another source such as an employer.
2. A signed commitment to give the presentation and write a related research paper to be published in the GALE Journal in the next edition of the GALE Journal and Proceedings.
3. A short introduction including your research interests.
4. A 250 word detailed abstract for presentation and subsequent paper. Make sure that your proposal deals with an issue(s) pertinent to GALE's purpose; it is written clearly, with a specific focus; the research goals are clearly defined; the proposal addresses issues that have not been dealt with before or are dealt with in a unique way. In other words, check that your proposal in some way furthers research or theory in the area of gender awareness.

Please send enquires to: [scholarship@gale-sig.org](mailto:scholarship@gale-sig.org)

### 2009 Scholarship Recipient: Rachel Winter

JALT 2009 PanSIG Conference

Presentation Title: Maria diets and Mr. Schmit does overtime: Gender bias in textbooks for learners of Japanese

#### Links:

AIDS Education – [www.japanetwork.org](http://www.japanetwork.org)

Etaferi Trust – [www.etaferitrust.org](http://www.etaferitrust.org)

Feminism/Gender - <http://ifeminist.com/>

Global Issues – [www.globalissues.org](http://www.globalissues.org)

Ingrid Piller & Kimie Takahashi -

[www.languageonthemove.com](http://www.languageonthemove.com)

IGALA –

[www.lanca.ac.uk/ass/organisations/igala/index.html](http://www.lanca.ac.uk/ass/organisations/igala/index.html)

Those who wish to join GALE can either contact the Membership Chair OR you can fill out the JALT postal "furikae" form in "The Language Teacher" magazine.

Payment (1,500 yen for JALT members or 2,000 yen for non-JALT members) should be sent to the JALT office and can be made from any post office in Japan.

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