

## Gender Awareness in Language Education



Community

Newsletter

SUMMER 2015

### From the Coordinators

Diane Nagatomo Eucharía Donnery

Hi Everyone!

I hope that you are surviving the hot summer heat and that you are having a productive and/or relaxing summer holiday, whether you are in Japan or abroad.

It was so nice to see so many GALE people and GALE related presentations at the PAN-SIG Conference in Kobe in May.

Many thanks to Gerry Yokota for representing GALE at JALT's EBM in June where crucial issues concerning JALT were discussed, one of which, you already know, involves the raising of JALT membership fees. The fees will be raised, but there is still time for you to take advantage of the current fee structure by paying your dues before the raise goes into effect.

During the PAN-SIG conference several of the GALE Executive Team met to discuss ways to run our SIG more efficiently and effectively. We decided that a strong organization would operate like a pyramid, with a solid officer structure at the bottom consisting of the Program and Publicity committee—a group of people working together with the nuts and bolts of publicizing and promoting our group's activities. In the past, programming and publicity have not really combined their efforts enough and now that there's a team in place the work won't fall just on one person. Then there's the publication team—which handles our GALE Journal and this newsletter. This team also has a number of people

working together in various ways. Then there's the treasurer and membership chair, both of which are rather solitary roles, and at the top are the coordinators who make sure things run smoothly and who work together with JALT.

If you would like to take a more active role in GALE, you can get involved in any of the above positions. But in particular, there are two positions that are urgent to fill by November: coordinator and treasurer

This is my fourth year as a coordinator and I'll be stepping down in November. Many thanks to Eucharía Donnery who became GALE's co-coordinator in November (and a big thank you to Fiona Creaser, the previous coordinator) and who has been doing a great job. What we now need is another co-coordinator to work together with Eucharía for a year or so, and then take over as coordinator with another person coming in to shadow at a later date

In addition, we have an urgent need for someone to become treasurer from November as well. GALE cannot operate as a SIG without a treasurer—so PLEASE, could someone volunteer for this position? If you need more information as to what this involves, Shane Doyle (who has been doing this for the past two years) can give you more details. Ideally, this is someone who is good with numbers, and because of the US tax laws, it would be most convenient for this position to be filled by a non-US citizen.

Enjoy the rest of your summer holidays, and see you in the fall!

Diane Nagatomo

Hello GALE members,

My name is Eucharía (pronounced you-care-ree-yeah!) from Ireland and it is an honor to help Diane in the role of coordinator. Diane has done some splendid work over the years, and has devoted so much time and energy to GALE that it now runs like a ship on calm waters.

Growing up with a best friend with muscular dystrophy in Ireland made me conscious and aware of the role of minority groups in society first-hand. When I (finally) got to university (I was the one smoking behind the bicycle sheds and getting expelled for insubordination!), I was again drawn to those who are marginalized by race and/or gender. As a woman, I myself did not experience any gender discrimination in Ireland of that time, that happened here in Japan, when I was asked to pour the tea for the men in the office. I looked at the messenger in disbelief, while my colleague Michael looked at me in horror, as my levels of clumsiness were well-known to him. Michael, to diffuse the situation, held the tray as I inelegantly plopped the tea down on the various desks. We hatched a plan to do this until the situation changed in some way so, when our lovely female colleague got up to do it the next day, we intervened, albeit politely, and smiling sweetly, repeated the ploy of the previous day. Given my lack of Japanese skills, I cannot be absolutely sure what happened next, but the result was that the female colleagues were no longer forced to stop their work and serve the males. It became self-service, people got up from their desks and went to get their tea and snacks- and usually for the people around them or their seniors.

Working in a Department of Computer Sciences at a Shonan Institute of Technology, females are very much in the minority. With the result that there is an extremely supportive network of female teachers who support each other and the female students. There is zero-tolerance on anything remotely off-color and, within the university, we are equal to the male teachers. My own department is very

progressive and dynamic in this regard as there are three females, two foreigners and an openly gay member in a department of fourteen.

On a national level, the picture is not quite as rosy, and Japan has far to go in terms of gender balance. When students (mostly male!) are shown statistics of the gender-biased wage gap, they are shocked and start telling me that this is an unfair work practice. The impact of the IMF leader, Christine Lagarde's criticism of Japan seemed to spur the government into making superficial and unsustainable changes, which have ultimately failed. And failed the women of Japan who face the ignominy of part-time work in exchange for committing career-suicide by getting married and having children. My own country of Ireland has huge childcare problems too, but there is more societal support for women returning to the workplace. If nothing else changes during my time in Japan, it is that I wish for my female students to have exactly the same opportunities and comparable salaries to their male counterparts.

Within GALE, I hope that we can share our thoughts, and experiences with each other, secure in the knowledge that this is a supportive environment that celebrates our different experiences as we are all coming at gender awareness from disparate backgrounds.

Looking forward to meeting you both online and in real life.

All the best,

Eucharía

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### **PanSIG2015**

#### **"Narratives: Raising the Happiness Quotient"**

Kobe University of Foreign Studies

May 16-17, 2015

*GALE member presentations*

#### **Fiona Creaser**

##### **"Mobbing in the workplace"**

*'Happiness' related research is becoming increasingly important in a number of academic fields, yet education is a profession where 'mobbing' is more likely to occur. Mobbing is harassing/bullying behaviour whereby a group of people target an individual and subject them to repeated emotional abuse. Often the 'mobbing' is ignored or condoned by senior management. In most cases the target is forced out of the workplace and in extreme cases the target self-harms or commits suicide. It is hoped that this presentation will increase people's understanding of mobbing and how to prevent it from occurring in the workplace.*

#### **Diane Hawley Nagatomo**

##### **"How being positioned as an 'insider' or an 'outsider' in the workplace influences professional identity: One teacher's story"**

*This presentation explores the complexity of teachers' professional identity. An examination of four ninety-minute life-history interviews with "Andrea" show an identity shift over a ten-year period. Her identity formed through relationships with colleagues, gendered attitudes, institutional policies, and the broader social context. Andrea transformed from being a valuable "insider" to being an "outsider" with questionable professional abilities after her maternity leave. Although painful, Andrea then relinquished her former status by physically and emotionally distancing herself from her department. She enrolled in a graduate program and happily reinvented herself as a university English teacher with greater linguistic and pedagogical knowledge.*

#### **Gerry Yokota, Sandra Healy, Fiona Creaser, Brent Simmonds, Kim Bradford Watts**

##### **"How are Narratives Gendered?" (GALE Forum)**

*Gender, like other dimensions of identity, is created in discursive interactions. GALE would like to use this forum to exchange narratives about gender. Instead of focusing on the presentation of a few, all attendees will be invited to participate by telling narratives related to language teaching in which gender plays a substantial role. No one will have "answers"; rather, we will each come with possibilities, and through a collaborative "Yes, and?" process, collectively seek teaching methods that promote awareness about gender diversity and facilitate mutually respectful interactions.*

#### **Robert O'Mochain**

##### **"Coming out in university EFL classrooms in Japan: Report on a pilot study"**

*Many students and educators who identify as LGTB (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered) often find that negotiations of identity become particularly challenging in language classrooms. Some theorists value "Coming Out,"--the explicit identification of self with a label of non-heteronormative identity--as a key resource in the construction of open-ended narratives of self. What are the implications, though, for an educator who comes out to students? Does this influence attitudes towards LGBT issues? This paper reports on data from a survey of university students in a language classroom in Tokyo. This presentation will discuss the survey results and comments.*

#### **Aaron David Hahn**

##### **"Gender and sexuality in MyShare activities"**

*Gendered and sexual identities are performed in the classroom, but many teaching plans fail to explicitly consider this important aspect of student and teacher identity. This can result in exclusionary lessons and the replication of hegemonic gender imbalances. This presentation looks at the past five years of MyShare lessons from JALT's "The Language Teacher." Several*

activities which foregrounded gender were especially worrisome, but even those in which gender and sexuality played no explicit role are likely to have unintended, potentially negative consequences. Overall, a close analysis suggests that MyShare editors and contributors need to pay closer attention to this issue.

**Gerry Yokota**

**"Gender in Teaching Stories, Old and New"**

*How might awareness of gender issues in teaching stories enhance our ability to support students who are keen to engage with current issues but need scaffolding to progress from information to knowledge? I will apply ideas gained from an edX MOOC called "The Science of Happiness" to two movie scripts to elucidate this problem. "Paradise Road" and "To End All Wars" are set respectively in women's and men's WWII POW camps. Both offer promising leads into discussions about current events such as the Islamic State. I will demonstrate effective ways to adapt such scripts for use in the EFL classroom.*

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In December 2014, **Jane Joritz-Nakagawa** gave a presentation for the Hamamatsu JALT chapter on the topic of gender and poetry as part of a "My Share" session featuring a variety of presenters.

In early 2015, Jane gave three well-received presentations: in February 2015 for the Liberlit conference in Tokyo at Meiji Gakuin University on the topic of poetry, gender, and learner differences; on March 24th on Sylvia Plath and gender norms, at Nagoya University for the conference "American Literature at the Crossroads of Race and Gender"

<http://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~nagahata/nualcs/nualc-15conf-program.html>; and Sunday April 12th for the Shizuoka JALT Chapter as part of a "My Share" session. Jane's Shizuoka JALT presentation title was "Poetry and language learning: a perfect match!" and featured poems about gender, animal rights, and racial discrimination.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### **Central Japan Literature Society**

**Date and time:** Saturday September 12, 2015  
from 3:00 PM till approximately 5:30 PM

**Location:** Tokoha University, Shizuoka city, Sena campus, meeting room in the library  
[http://fujinokuni-consortium.or.jp/english/universities/tokohagakuen\\_eng.html](http://fujinokuni-consortium.or.jp/english/universities/tokohagakuen_eng.html)

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Shizuoka-shi, 420-0911; Tel. & Fax 054-261-3909 (054-263-1125 main number)

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### **2015 JALT National Conference**

**"Focus on the Learner"**

November 20-23, 2015  
Shizuoka Convention & Arts Center  
"GRANSHIP"  
Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture, Japan

*GALE Forum*

*"Teaching and Learning about Gender"*

Presenters:

Avril Hayes Matsui, Jane Joritz-Nakagawa  
and Gerry Yokota

### **GALE MEMBER PUBLICATIONS NEWS**

#### **Blake E. Hayes**

"The unbearable lightness of collectivity: Complicity, voice and exit." *Ritsumeikan Annual Review of International Studies*, 13 (December 2014).

Available online at:  
<http://www.ritsumeai.ac.jp/acd/cg/ir/college/bulletin/index-j.htm>

"CEDAW's efficacy and gender regime (im)mutability in Japanese university institutions." *The Ritsumeikan Journal of International Studies (Ritsumeikan Kokusai Kenkyu)*, 27(2) (October 2014).

Available online at:  
<http://www.ritsumeai.ac.jp/acd/cg/ir/college/bulletin/student.html>

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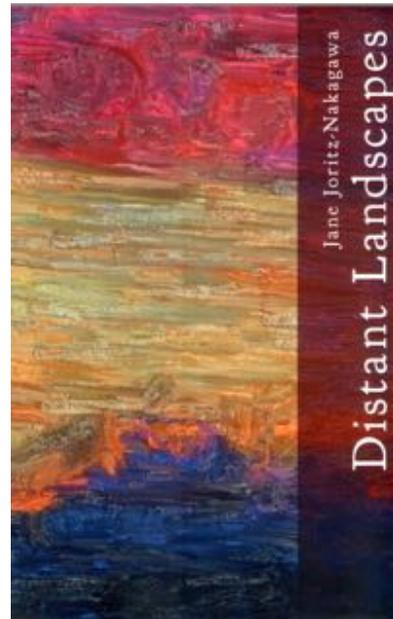
### **Brent Simmonds**

"JALT's Environmental Committee." *The Language Teacher*, 39.4 (July 2015).

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### **Jane Joritz-Nakagawa**

Jane Joritz-Nakagawa's eighth poetry book, "distant landscapes"? (US poetry publisher Theenk Books) was published in March, 2015.? Contact Theenk, or Jane, for details: [janejoritznakagawaATgmailDOTcom](mailto:janejoritznakagawaATgmailDOTcom) for more information, to request a review copy, to request an interview about the book, or purchase a copy.



Jane's poetry chapbook titled "diurnal," a small collection of sonnets, is forthcoming with Grey Book Press (USA) in 2016. Excerpts from this work are in or forthcoming in 2015 in the U.S. poetry journals "New American Writing," "Altered Scale," "experiential-experimental-literature" and "Zoomoozophone Review."

Jane's monograph, "Dying Swans," discussing Sylvia Plath and the Hollywood film "Black Swan," was published as an ebook in March 2015 with poetry and poetics publisher The Argotist Online (UK):  
<http://www.argotistonline.co.uk/DYING%20SWANS.pdf>

Jane's cross-genre fictional piece "HELLO KITTY" about living and working in Japan as an expat teacher from a gendered perspective was published online in "The Font: A Literary Journal for Language Teachers" in April, 2015.

## **GALE Journal**

Started in 2008, the online Journal and Proceedings of the Gender Awareness in Language Education special interest group of JALT—affectionately known as "THE GALE JOURNAL"—has been attracting excellent academic research articles related to gender issues and awareness raising. Published once a year, it is a double-blind, peer-reviewed academic journal with an editorial team dedicated to publishing quality research papers that add to knowledge in gender awareness and education. The Journal also publishes other academic writing such as resource reviews, perspective and forum pieces.

We are always looking for eager volunteers to join our editorial team as editors, peer reviewers for blinded papers, and proofreaders.

### ***Call for papers for GALE Journal Volume 9 WINTER 2016***

**Completed Paper Deadline: March 1, 2016**

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

See website for archive Journals and submission guidelines.

For past issues and journal guidelines, please see the GALE website.

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### ***Submissions for the GALE Community Newsletter Fall 2015***

**Deadline: November 1, 2015**

Send submissions and inquiries to:  
[newslettereditor@gale-sig.org](mailto:newslettereditor@gale-sig.org)

## 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 behaviour, gender roles and gender socialization.

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### GALE Professional Development Scholarship

GALE invites GALE members *without access to research funds* to apply for a Professional Development Scholarship to attend a conference in which GALE officially participates. The number of scholarships available per year will depend upon the financial situation of GALE, and in some cases the scholarship money will be

divided between conferences. The purpose of the scholarship is to support research in the field of gender awareness and to support GALE members without research funding. A grant for up to 40,000 yen, depending upon the type of presentation to be given, will be made available to the successful applicant. The scholarship is intended to help defray conference attendance expenses. In return, the successful applicant agrees to 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 the following: an academic research article based on that presentation or a practical pedagogical article to be published in the next edition of the GALE Journal and Proceedings or in the GALE Newsletter. The placement of the scholar recipient's article will be made after discussion with the applicant, the Publications Chair and the Coordinators. The deadline for Journal letters of intent is annually on Dec. 15 and the deadline for the GALE Newsletter is several times a year.

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 research interests.
4. A 250-word detailed abstract for presentation and subsequent paper. The proposal should deal with an issue pertinent to GALE's purpose and be written clearly with a specific focus and well defined research goals. It should address issues that have not been dealt with before or deal with issues in a new way that 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**

**2013 Scholarship Recipient: Michele Steele**

**A Brief History of GALE (revised from the last newsletter—please feel free to provide more information so we can have a complete history of our vibrant group)**

**1995** A group of fourteen women attending the November 1995 annual conference of the Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) met for dinner and created WELL (Women in Education and Language Learning—which later became Women Educators and Language Learners)

**1996** Three WELL members presented on a Colloquium at JALT 1996 on "Gender Issues In Language Education" (Hardy, Yamashiro & McMahill, published in 1997).

**1998** "Gender Issues in Language Education" was included in a list of content area categories on the JALT conference application form.

Two JALT presentations included the words "gay" and "lesbian" in their abstract or title for the first time: First, a Forum called "**Silent Voices in the Classroom: Unraised, Unheard**" (Mateer, Lubetsky, Sakano, & Kim, 1998) looked at sexual orientation (Lubetsky), gender roles (Sakano), and ethnic background (Kim). It was sponsored by the Junior/Senior High School Special Interest Group and avoided the general proposal vetting process.

Second, Summerhawk's "**From Closet to Classroom: Gay Issues in ESL/EFL**" was part of another Gender Issues in Language Education Colloquium (Smith, Yamashiro, McMahill, & Summerhawk, 1998). These presentations undoubtedly helped legitimize gay and lesbian issues.

GALE and WELL members at JALT 1998 facilitated the selection of Kei Imai, a female Japanese professor of economics, who gave a Parallel Plenary Address on "**Women Graduates in Employment.**"

The May 1998 volume of JALT's monthly magazine *The Language Teacher* was a Special Issue entitled "Gender Issues in Language Teaching" (Smith & Yamashiro, 1998). It included an introduction, nine research articles (two in Japanese), an opinion piece, three articles on teaching materials and a list of Internet resources on gender. So many submissions were collected that three articles spilled over into the June issue of *The Language Teacher* (MacGregor, 1998).

**2000** JALT plenary speakers have typically been non-Japanese males, although this trend reversed at JALT 2000, with all four plenary speakers being female. GALE sponsored Jane Sunderland as a JALT main speaker.

There was also a GALE conference in Hiroshima organized by Cheryl Martens.

**GALE became an official JALT Sig in 2000**

**2001** A GALE-WELL conference was held in Tokyo at Daito Bunka Kaikan entirely in Japanese organized by Barbara Summerhawk, Jane Joritz-Nakagawa and others.

**2001 (September 29)** A joint GALE-EASH (East Asian Studies Hokkaido) conference titled "The Other Hokkaido: Gender, Diversity and Minorities" conference was held at Hokkaido International School in Sapporo featuring forty speakers from nine different countries including Cynthia Nelson as a guest speaker.

Nov 2001 Robert O'Mochain organized a masculinities panel featuring Japanese and Western experts for the Kitakyushu National JALT conference.

**2002** The inaugural Peace as a Global Language Conference took place at Daito University's Daito Bunka Kaikan in Tokyo, founded by GALE Coordinator Jane Nakagawa with the help of members of GALE, WELL, and many other groups, and especially but not only the help of Barb Summerhawk, Kazuya Asakawa, Keiko Kikuchi and Cheryl Martens.

**2003** Kristine Mizutani became the coordinator. Because no one had indicated interest in becoming coordinator by the summer of 2004, Kris proposed disbanding GALE. It was then that Andrea Simon-Maeda and Steve Cornwell offered to be officers to keep GALE, a much needed SIG, afloat.

**2007** The Gender and Beyond GALE conference was co-sponsored by the Pragmatics SIG, GILE, CUE, TE, PALE, the Osaka Chapter of JALT, and the Pragmatics Society of Japan.

**2008** GALE rejoined the PanSIG conference [after several years away] in order to be more active and network with other SIGs.

Salem Hicks worked with LLL coordinator Eric Skier and collaborated to offer Neela Griffiths' SIG forum presentation at the JALT national conference.

**2009** Folake Abass and Salem Hicks helped with the PanSIG conference.

**2010** GALE collaborated with the IGALA6 Conference in Japan. Kristie Collins, GALE coordinator, collaborated with the Bilingual SIG to sponsor Laurel Kamada as JALT featured speaker.

**2011** Michi Saki and GALE collaborated with Kyoto JALT to host an event.

**2011** Folake Abass (Coordinator) organized a one-day conference at Kyoto University entitled: Gender Awareness in Language Education: Exploring Gender and its Implications

**2012** Diane Nagatomo and Fiona Creaser, as new GALE coordinators, facilitated GALE's participation in the PAN-SIG Conference. GALE

sponsored Diane Nagatomo as a featured speaker for the JALT national conference.

**2013** GALE took part in the PAN-Sig conference in Nagoya in May. GALE hosted a forum at the JALT National Conference in Kobe on October 26 with Michi Saki, Kim Bradford-Watts and Shane Doyle presenting. In addition, GALE members Gerry Yokota and Salem Hicks presented individual papers.

**2014** GALE hosted a forum on gender awareness in the classroom at the 2014 PanSIG Conference in Miyazaki in May. Fiona Creaser, Aaron Hahn, Susan Pavloska and Frances Shinkai presented papers. In June, GALE members Folake Abass, Kathleen Brown, Kristie Collins, Fiona Creaser, Mary Goebel Noguchi, Robert O'Mochain, and Gerry Yokota attended and delivered papers at the IGALA8 conference in Vancouver, Canada. GALE members were also very active at the JALT Annual Conference in Tsukuba, presenting poster sessions (Brent Simmonds), giving papers (Blake E. Hayes, Salem K. Hicks, Julia Kimura, Gerry Yokota, Reiko Yoshihara), organizing the GALE panel (Folake Abass, Kristie Collins, Laurel Kamada) and delivering one of the conference plenary talks (Gerry Yokota).

## GALE JALT SIG EXECUTIVES:

### Coordinators:

Diane Hawley Nagatomo/ Eucharía Donnery:

[coordinator@gale-sig.org](mailto:coordinator@gale-sig.org)

### Program Chairs:

Laurel Kamada/ Sandra Healy: [programchair@gale-sig.org](mailto:programchair@gale-sig.org)

### Treasurer:

Shane Doyle [treasurer@gale-sig.org](mailto:treasurer@gale-sig.org)

### Membership Chair:

Brent Simmonds: [membershipchair@gale-sig.org](mailto:membershipchair@gale-sig.org)

### Publications Chair:

Kristie Collins: [publicationschair@gale-sig.org](mailto:publicationschair@gale-sig.org)

**Web Person** Paul Arenson: [webperson@gale-sig.org](mailto:webperson@gale-sig.org)

**Member(s)-at-Large:** Gerry Yokota, Aaron Hahn, Jane

Joritz-Nakagawa

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

## JOINING GALE

Although GALE is a special interest group of JALT, you do NOT have to be a member of JALT to be a subscriber of GALE. Subscribers have full access to member rights except they cannot become GALE executive board members. Those who wish to join GALE can do so using either of these methods:

JALT members: ¥1,500 should be sent by post to the JALT office using a “furikae” form in “*The Language Teacher*” magazine. Please contact the JALT Central Office at <[jco@jalt.org](mailto:jco@jalt.org)> for more details.

Non-JALT members: ¥2,000 should be sent to the GALE treasurer. Please contact the GALE membership chair for more details.