

GALE SIG Newsletter

June 2012

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.

GALE Website - www.gale-sig.org

GALE presentations at the 2012 PanSIG Conference...

SATURDAY

- 12:00 -13:00 **GALE SIG: General meeting**
13:00 -13:30 **Diane Hawley Nagatomo:** *Issues faced by Eikaiwa teachers*
13:30 -14:00 **Gerry Yokota:** *Gender literacy in the EFL classroom*
14:10 -14:40 **Sandra Healy:** *Japanese students' perceptions of gender issues in education*
14:40 -15:10 **Sarah Mulvey:** *A re-examination of gender stereotypes in the Japanese classroom*
15:50 -16:20 **Amanda Gillis-Furutaka:** *Music video literacy: Challenging assumptions*
18:00 -18:30 **Robert O'Mochain:** *Media literacy and masculinities: Using film for classroom inquiry*
18:30 -19:00 **Aaron Hahn:** *Linking mathematical literacy and gender issues*

SUNDAY

- 11:15 -11:45 **Reiko Yoshihara:** *What is feminist pedagogy?*
11:45 -12:15 **Kristie Collins:** *Strong, spirited, and single: Re-reading femininity in Anne of Green Gables*
13:15 -14:45 **Fiona Creaser, Salem K. Hicks, Blake E. Hayes:** *Japanese academia: Paving the way for equality*



GALE at JALT National Conference
38th Annual International Conference on
Language Teaching and Learning & Educational
Materials Exhibition
12 – 15 October, 2012, ACT City, Hamamatsu.

We are proudly sponsoring our very own co-coordinator Diane Hawley Nagatomo to be a JALT featured speaker. Keep an eye out for her presentation and workshop at the conference. Here is her presentation abstract:

Gender Counts: Women in Japanese Higher Education

Diane Hawley Nagatomo

Teachers' identities form through constant movement between their personal and professional lives, and they are shaped by the wider sociocultural context in which they live and work. In Japan, a distinct gendered division between the educational and professional opportunities available for women and men may beat the heart of how teachers see themselves and how others see them. This featured speaker workshop at JALT will be comprised of two parts. The first part will be a guided discussion covering gender issues that influence the lives of Japanese and non-Japanese female and male teachers. The second half of the workshop will explore ways of interpreting identity formation through a guided analysis of data obtained from Japanese female university teachers' narratives. Upon completion of this workshop, participants should have a greater understanding of a useful analytical tool for exploring gender-related issues in personal and professional settings.



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 Etafeni.

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, smocking, 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 Etafeni 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.



Salem, Fiona, Folake, Blake

GALE Journal

http://gale-sig.org/website/the_gale_journal.html

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 high quality research papers which add to the volume of 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, proof-readers.

This summer we are publishing two volumes, a regular volume plus a special conference volume based on last year's GALE mini-conference in Kyoto.

Call for papers for GALE Journal Volume 6, Summer 2013

150-word abstract deadline: Nov. 1, 2012
Completed Paper Deadline: Dec. 15, 2012

Submissions and inquires: editor@gale-sig.org
See website for archive Journals and submission guidelines.

Helping ALTs teach about social issues

By Aaron Hahn

In February, 2011, I gave a presentation to the senior high school ALTs in Fukuoka Prefecture, where I have been an ALT for almost five years, about including social issues in their lessons, and several ALTs expressed a keen interest in doing so. However, it is challenging for many ALTs to teach about these topics, because Japanese Teachers of English (JTEs) don't understand their relevance, textbooks often have little connection to the real world, and most ALTs have little teaching experience. However, such lessons are possible; during my presentation I talked about a two lesson sequence I did with first-year high school students based upon a textbook chapter entitled, "Do you share the housework?" By grounding the lesson in the concrete decisions that males and females make with regards to chores, and focusing another portion of the lesson on topics generated by the students, it was possible for the students to simultaneously practice English language skills and confront issues of gender inequality in Japan. I was lucky to have a background in feminist pedagogy and rhetorical analysis, but many ALTs do not, and thus often find themselves at a loss for how to approach such lessons.

I believe that members of GALE (and other JALT members) can assist ALTs in their desire to make lessons more socially relevant. First, ALTs need better access to materials on such topics. Many JET groups maintain online or print collections of lesson plans and other resources, and they may welcome input from language professionals outside of JET. In addition, in many prefectures, the JET Programme invites one or more guest speakers to ALT meetings and conferences, and thus it may be possible for you to give a presentation about teaching social issues or other topics of relevance to the JET community. If you would like to pursue one of these means of assisting your local JET organization, the easiest way is to first contact the Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching (AJET), an auxiliary organization that supports both individual JET participants and the JET Programme nationally; they can be reached at the Voice section of their website (<http://ajet.net>). AJET can then put you in touch with the JET Programme representative (usually called a Prefectural Advisor) in your area.

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. The deadline for Journal letters of intent is 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

2009 Scholarship Recipient: Rachel Winter

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

Paper presented JALT 2009 PanSIG Conference.

Full Paper published in GALE Journal Volume 3, 2010 available online.

GALE JALT SIG EXECUTIVES 2010-2011:

Coordinators:

Diane Hawley Nagatomo/ Fiona Creaser:

coordinator@gale-sig.org

Program Chairs:

Michi Saki/ Sandra Healy: programchair@gale-sig.org

Treasurer:

Nancy Lee: treasurer@gale-sig.org

Membership Chair:

Jennifer Teeter: membershipchair@gale-sig.org

Publications Chair:

Salem K. Hicks: publicationschair@gale-sig.org

Member(s)-at-Large: Kristie Collins, Blake E. Hayes, Tina Ottman, Folake Abass, Gerry Yokota

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 either:

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> for more details.

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