



Applied Linguistics and Literacy
in Africa and the Diaspora

An AILA Research Network

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Editor's comment

Dear ReN Africa members,

It is with great pleasure – but also a heavy heart – that I take up the position as the Editor of the ReN Africa Newsletter on Applied Linguistics and Literacy. All of us who knew the former Editor, Dr. Juliet Tembe, were saddened by the loss of a wonderful colleague and a formidable advocate of language rights, education, and health, particularly for African children. I will do my best to continue her work on this newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter presents five conferences on Africa – three in Europe and two in Africa: LiA BAAL SIG in Reading; Education for Life in Africa in The Hague; SOAS Africa in London; PALFA in Nigeria; and Language and Development in Dakar. I am also proud to present three publications from my country, Uganda: A new edited volume on Ugandan English is the first book on historical and present-day sociolinguistics of English in Uganda, while two articles on language in Uganda focus on language education through policy and classroom practice. We conclude the newsletter with the list of journals that are relevant to the field of applied linguistics in Africa, and invite you to add to that list through a Google spreadsheet for the benefit of the readers of the future editions of this newsletter.

With best regards,

Yours,



Medadi Ssentanda,
Editor





Upcoming conferences and events

Language in Africa SIG (BAAL) Annual Conference, Reading, UK, May 2017

The next annual conference of the LiA BAAL SIG will be held on May 12, 2017, at the University of Reading. The theme is “Language without Borders: Multilingual communication in Africa and the diaspora”. Professor Friederike Luepke is giving the plenary talk: “Multilingualism without Borders? Perspectives on language and development in multilingual Casamance (West Africa)”.

Venue: University of Reading

Dates: May 12, 2017

Website: [here](#)

Education for Life in Africa, The Hague, May, 2017

This two-day conference on the theme “Education for life in Africa” celebrates the 20th anniversary of the Netherlands Association for Africa Studies (NVAS). Keynote speakers are Jos Walenkamp, Goolam Mohamedbhai, and Ingse Skattum.

Venue: The Hague University of Applied Sciences

Dates: May 19–20, 2017

Website: [here](#)

SOAS Africa Conference, London, July 2017

The SOAS Centre of African studies (CAS) Africa Conference will be held on July 20–21, 2017. The conference theme, “Imagining Africa’s Future”, marks SOAS’ centenary, and in order to celebrate a century of African studies we look forward to examining future key trends, changes and debates that are likely to shape the African continent over the coming century, drawing from a broad range of disciplines and perspectives in a truly inter-disciplinary conference.

Venue: SOAS University of London

Dates: July 20–21, 2017

Website: [here](#)

Pan African Literacy for All (PALFA) Conference, Abuja, August 2017

The Reading Association of Nigeria will host the 10th annual Pan African Literacy for All Conference. The conference theme is “Connecting and engaging with literacies: Systems and structures for sustainable development”.

Venue: Abuja, Nigeria

Date: August 27–31, 2017

Contact: Judith Baker (judithbakr@gmail.com)

Website: [here](#)





The 12th biennial international Language and Development Conference, Dakar, November 2017

Under the theme “Language and the Sustainable Development Goals”, the conference will be hosted by the British Council and its partners in Senegal, bringing together scholarship from the francophone and anglophone world. Proposals are due May 19. Some scholarships are available.

Venue: Dakar, Senegal

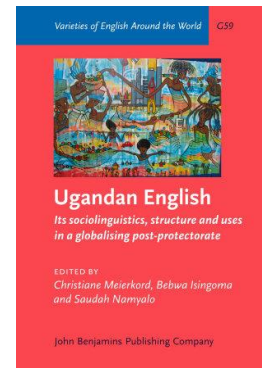
Date: November 28–30, 2017

Website and call for papers: [here](#)

Publications

Meierkord, C., Isingoma, B., & Namyalo, S. (Eds.) (2016). Ugandan English: Its sociolinguistics, structure and uses in a globalising post-protectorate. John Benjamins Publishing Company

This book brings together African and European scholars in a first-ever collection of articles that offer comprehensive discussions of the historical and present-day sociolinguistics of English in Uganda and fine-grained analyses of the structural characteristics of and attitudes to this hitherto largely unknown variety. [More information.](#)



Ssentanda, M., Huddleston, K., & Southwood, F. (2016). The politics of mother tongue education: The case of Uganda. *Per Linguam*, 32(3)

This paper aims to explain the trend of mother tongue (MT) education in Uganda by examining particularly the government’s practices towards MT education. Because of disappointing levels of literacy attained by learners, MT education was (re)introduced in Uganda in 2006/2007 with the hope of improving literacy skills particularly among rural children. Based on data gathered from rural schools (both government and private), this paper questions what exactly it is that government seeks to reclaim, restore and/or rejuvenate in Uganda’s education system via MT education. [Full text.](#)

Stranger-Johannessen, E. & Norton, B. (2017). The African Storybook and language teacher identity in digital times. *Modern Language Journal*, 101(S1)

The [African Storybook](#) (ASb) is a digital initiative that promotes multilingual literacy for African children by providing openly licenced children's stories in multiple African languages, as well as English, French, and Portuguese. Based on [Darvin and Norton's](#) model of identity and investment, and drawing on the [Douglas Fir Group's](#) framework for second language acquisition, this study investigates Ugandan primary school teachers’ investment in the ASb, its impact on their teaching, and their changing identities. [Full text.](#)





Miscellaneous

List of journals for applied linguistics in Africa

To address the question of where to publish articles on applied linguistics in the African context, we have compiled a list of journals that in our experience have an international audience and are interested in publishing on African themes.

Journals originating in Africa

- [Perspectives in Education](#)
- [Reading and Writing](#)
- [Journal of Education and Development in Africa](#)

Other journals

- [Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development](#)
- [Compare: A Journal of Comparative Education](#)
- [TESOL Quarterly](#)
- [Language and Education](#)
- [Journal of Language, Identity, and Education](#)
- [Anthropology and Education Quarterly](#)
- [Modern Language Journal](#)
- [International Journal of Educational Development](#)
- [Language, Culture and Curriculum](#)
- [International Multilingual Research Journal](#)
- [International Journal of bilingualism education and bilingualism](#)

These lists are far from exhaustive, and we encourage our readers to add to the list, and perhaps even add a short comment on this [Google spreadsheet](#).

Tell us about your research!

Send us a short profile (one paragraph) of the research you are undertaking on language or literacy education in Africa by October 20, 2017, for inclusion in our next issue.

