

# JoLLE@UGA<sup>®</sup>

## JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE & LITERACY EDUCATION

### JoLLE 2022 Winter Conference Reflection

#### Olumide Ajayi, Conference Chair

During the conference weekend, we had another opportunity to dive into fascinating, thought-provoking, and interesting conversations with our amazing keynote speakers and presenters. We were excited to connect virtually again this year and had lots of attendees from the United States and beyond who had glowing comments about the success of the conference.

Our Pre-Conference workshop was uniquely spread over the week leading to our conference weekend; we had one speaker per day for five weekdays. This arrangement was designed to accommodate attendees who were willing to attend most or all the Pre-Conference sessions. We invited four diverse workshop speakers from the Center for Teaching and Learning, Department of Comparative Literature, Department of Language and Literacy Education, and an ESOL Instructional Coach from Gwinnett County Public Schools. This diverse and inclusive event attracted students and faculty from across UGA and the world.

During the conference on Saturday March 5th, our keynote speaker, Manuela Wagner shed light on the role of language education in helping students develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to engage in intercultural dialogue. She emphasized the role of education as to anticipate and prepare students to reflect and act together to promote appropriate action. She adopted Byram's (2008) model of intercultural communicative competence in stressing the need to go beyond teaching linguistics skills for students to engage in intercultural dialogue. Dr. Wagner also underlined the links between intercultural citizenship education, social justice education, and other critical approaches. Irina Golubeva, also our keynote speaker illustrated why universities should offer an intercultural learning opportunity to all students regardless of whether or not they are interested in or able to participate in study abroad programs and she highlighted the theory and practice of intercultural citizenship education. Additionally, our conference program covered a wide range of topics including language and literacy education, professional ethics, critical disability studies, multilingualism, intercultural citizenship, social justice education, young adult education, teacher education, second language acquisition, translanguaging, and many more.

As the 2022 conference chair, I would like to appreciate all who contributed to the success of JoLLE 2022 conference. I want to thank all the presenters and attendees for sharing their wealth of knowledge

during the conference. I would like to thank our keynote speakers for an inspiring keynote address. I'd specially appreciate Usree Bhattacharya, our faculty advisor, for her continuous guidance and support throughout the process. I'd also like to thank the faculty and students in LLED for always showing their immense love and support for our conference. Lastly and most notably, I'd like to thank the 2021-2022 JoLLE Editorial board members, Yixuan Wang, Jennifer Ervin, Madison Gannon, Wei-Yi Lee, Xing Wei, Saurabh Anand, Wisnu Agung Pradana, Tugba Nur Dogan and Helena Karas for their strong support, suggestions, and encouragement throughout the conference year.