

August 6th, 2017

Solidarity Award Report

Attending the AILA 2017 conference was intellectually enriching and stimulating. As I currently conduct ethnographic fieldwork for my dissertation away from my university campus, I appreciated being immersed in an intellectual environment with a focus on current debates and conversations in the field of applied linguistics. I was drawn to the various panels and symposia on the roles of race, language and power in society, and in particular, in educational settings. I look forward to draw on insights and new literature on this sub-field for the analysis of some of my dissertation data, to contribute to the field with my dissertation work in an Indigenous language learning setting, and to join others committed to creating more just and inclusive language learning environments. Through the conference, I appreciated the variety of topics addressed by keynote speakers, and I especially enjoyed learning more about Mary Bucholtz's engagement with the SKILLS project, offering an inspiring example of what bringing together critical scholarship with applied work with youth can look like.

In addition, through the symposium I organized, 'Children and youth in indigenous language revitalization: Latin American perspectives', I joined fellow symposium presenters and audience members in thinking together about current work across Latin America with a focus on the roles of youth and children in Indigenous language learning processes, in formal and non-formal educational settings. Identifying trends across the various contexts of study, both of emerging possibilities and challenges, reinforced my interest in the continued need for this type of research, specially research which offers implications for practice, makes use of multiple

modalities for data collection, representation, collaboration and dissemination, and engages in collaboration with youth and other educational actors through the research process.

In terms of next steps, I have three goals. The first is to move onto the analytical and writing stage of my dissertation. In this sense, insights from AILA will be intellectually stimulating, as well as feedback I received from conversations with different scholars throughout the conference on my project. The second is to follow up on collaborations with Peruvian colleagues which arose from conversations in between conference events, and which include invited talks on my dissertation research back in the Catholic University (PUCP) and Cayetano Heredia University of Lima, Peru, both to an academic audience as well to future bilingual educators. Together with these colleagues, I believe, we can continue reflecting on what a Peruvian branch of the Applied Linguistics Association could look like. Third, I plan to share the insights learned at my symposium and the conference more broadly with the Quechua language educators I collaborate with in Cusco, Peru, and which will take place when I return to my field site.

I deeply appreciate and applaud the commitment of AILA to provide the financial support for others like me to attend this event.

Sincerely,

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