

## Gender Awareness in Language Education



Community

Newsletter

FALL 2014

### Message from the Coordinators

Diane Nagatomo Fiona Creaser

---

Hi Everyone!

Welcome to the FALL 2014 JALT newsletter. By the time you receive this, you will be in full-conference mode. We hope to see many of you in Tsukuba this year where GALE will be playing a major role by sponsoring one of the plenary speakers. You may be aware that Kimie Takahashi, who had planned to speak about gender and intercultural education on Sunday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, was forced to withdraw from the conference due to poor health. We look forward to her speedy recovery. Fortunately for us, Gerry Yokota kindly accepted our invitation, extended only two weeks before the conference, to serve as plenary speaker. She will be speaking on gender in anime and manga at the plenary speaker session on Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November (5:40-6:40pm).

We will also be holding the GALE SIG AGM on the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:35 to 4:20 pm in Room 402, finishing shortly before Prof. Yokota's talk begins. Congratulations are in order to Blake Edwards for winning the GALE best of JALT award.

This year we will not have a separate GALE party at JALT, but expect to join instead with CUE and enjoy dinner with them. We hope you will join us.

The PGL conference, where many GALE members will be speaking, is just around the corner, coming on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December in Kobe. In addition, Sandra Healy and Amanda Gillis-Furutaka are organizing an event for the near future on qualitative methods for language teachers, which should be of great interest.

Finally, I, Diane, would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Fiona who has been working with me since we joined as co-coordinators at the same time a few years ago. It has been a wonderful experience getting to know such a fabulous lady. Fiona will be stepping down this year, but we are fortunate to be joined by another newcomer, Eucharia, who has agreed to take over the position. I will be working with her in the coming year, and will gradually be turning over all responsibility. Please join me in giving her a big welcome. If you would like to get more involved in GALE please let us know and you can come in as a co-coordinator next year as well.

Diane and Fiona

---

## CONFERENCE REPORTS

### **IGALA8**

#### **"Shifting Visions: Gender, Sexuality, Discourse and Language"**

Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada  
June 5-7, 2014



#### **Conference Overview**

In June, seven GALE members attended the IGALA (International Gender and Language Association) conference in Vancouver, Canada. The theme of the conference "*Shifting Visions: Gender, Sexuality, Discourse and Language*" brought together scholars, activists, and artists from around the world to present and discuss their research. The conference was a great success, and the GALE force also had a wonderful time exploring the host city. It was announced at the closing ceremonies that IGALA9 will be held in Hong Kong in 2016, so let's be sure to join our colleagues for another stellar conference!

*GALE member presentations*

#### **Kristie Collins**

##### **"Women of Fukushima"**

*This presentation offers insights gained from the documentary, "Women of Fukushima," and discusses women's roles in recovery efforts in natural and "man-made" disasters. As Japan rebuilds Tohoku and (re)considers its reliance on nuclear energy, Japanese women must claim a*

*seat at the table as equal stakeholders in the country's governance.*

#### **Gerry Yokota**

##### **"The power of metaphor: Representations of gender and sexuality in Japanese anime"**

*I will take a cognitive linguistic approach to the analysis of selected examples from three prominent subgenres of anime--mechas, cyborgs and beautiful fighting girls--and explore how gender stereotypes are reproduced and transformed therein, particularly through the use of metaphor, myth and symbol.*

#### **Fiona Creaser**

##### **"Reflections on harassment prevention policies and systems at Japanese universities"**

*This paper will examine sexual and academic harassment prevention systems at Japanese universities and how these systems often fail the people they are supposed to protect. Reasons for this failure will be analysed and suggestions for improvement of these systems will be discussed.*

#### **Folake Abass**

##### **"Female genital mutilation and women's sexuality"**

*Using sociocultural theory as a framework and adopting a narrative analysis approach, this presentation will illustrate some of the ways in which Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) robs girls and women of the right to express their sexuality and, ultimately, control their bodies.*

#### **Mary Goebel Noguchi**

##### **"Is women's vision of Japanese shifting?"**

*Using data from two focus groups, this presentation investigates how closely the language of older Japanese feminists and Japanese female college students adheres to traditional gendered norms and what the participants feel about these norms--especially whether they feel that the norms constrain their ability to express themselves.*

**Robert O'Mochain**

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

*This paper reports on data from a university in Tokyo, Japan. What are the implications for an educator who comes out to students? At the end of the semester, students were surveyed for their opinions of LGBT issues. I evaluated survey results and comments (98 students with 60 survey replies).*

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

**2014 JALT National Conference  
"Conversations Across Borders"**

November 21-24, 2014  
Tsukuba, Japan

*Note: Kimie Takahashi had to cancel her plenary session and workshop due to health issues. Everyone at GALE wishes her the best and hopes for her swift recovery.*

***Plenary Session***

**Gerry Yokota**

***"Beyond the Binary: Anime, Gender and the Multicultural Subject"***

Day: Sunday, November 23  
Time: 10:25 a.m. - 11:25 a.m.  
Room: Main Convention Hall

*Japanese anime and manga are fertile sources of material for prompting classroom discussion. But educators are justly concerned about their frequently problematic representations of gender, sexuality and violence. In this plenary talk, I will introduce recent examples from three prominent subgenres (mechas, cyborgs and beautiful fighting girls) and invite you to join me in a border-crossing adventure. Together we will explore how metaphors and symbols in anime are embodied, and often gendered, but not universal, and contemplate the advantage of cultivating a*

*multicultural, multilingual subjectivity as a valuable asset for venturing into borderlands.*

***GALE Forum***

**Discussants: Folake Abass, Laurel Kamada and Kristie Collins**

**"Gender Across Borders"**

Day: Saturday, November 22  
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Room: 401

*Following the theme of the conference, this forum will focus on gender across national, cultural, disciplinary, psychological and linguistic borders. The three presenters will discuss: women's issues in Saudi Arabia and the consequences of excluding women from public life, how Japanese hybrid youths in two countries work to deconstruct racial and gendered social positionings of themselves as "marked" and "foreign," and how gender studies may be incorporated in classrooms across disciplines.*

***Individual Papers, Posters and Workshops***

**Julia Kimura**

**"Female Leaders in a Language-Teaching Organization" (Poster)**

Day: Saturday, November 22  
Time: 11:35 a.m. - 1:35 p.m.  
Room: 1st Floor Atrium

*As a means of promoting economic development in Japan, policymakers have recognized the value of encouraging more women to join the workforce. While more than 35 percent of workers in Japan do not have permanent, full-time jobs, these workers are more likely to be women than men. In order to examine women's leadership roles, leaders and potential leaders in a professional organization of foreign language teachers were interviewed to explore participants' experiences.*

**Blake E. Hayes**

**“Conversation on Gender Borders: Japanese Academia” (Short Paper)**

Day: Saturday, November 22

Time: 12:45 p.m. - 1:10 p.m.

Room: 407 A

*Meritocracy is widely utilized in hiring and promotion criteria in Japanese universities. The defining criteria have been socially constructed and are not gender-neutral. This paper examines continuing barriers to gender equality in organizational processes, as well as ways to include women's voice and merit in creating broader criteria used to define meritocracy. Creating ways for women and men to converse about inequality will be explored in order to re-envision the borders of our profession.*

**Salem K. Hicks**

**“International Students: Catalyst to Policy Reform” (Short Paper)**

Day: Saturday, November 22

Time: 1:55 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Room: 301

*Specialized university degree programs offered in English have attracted international students to Japan. These multicultural student populations assemble very different academic expectations, motivations, and classroom interactions than normally found in the Japanese classroom. Using student and faculty interviews, and classroom observation data, this paper discusses differences between international and local students, arguing that this "new" diversity may be an unwitting catalyst to some of the elusive educational, market, and gender equality government policy reforms.*

**Brent Simmonds**

**“NGO Gender Awareness Material” (Poster)**

Day: Saturday, November 22

Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Room: 1st Floor Atrium

*This poster will illustrate how materials provided by NGOs can be utilized and adapted to suit the needs of the EFL classroom. Teachers often face*

*challenges integrating gender and global issues into the classroom whilst students often need additional background knowledge. Furthermore, material can be graded at a higher level than students can be expected to comprehend. Students exposed to material from NGOs displayed a greater understanding of complex issues involving gender.*

**Gerry Yokota**

**"Guided Discussion: Analyzing Gender in Anime"**

Day: Saturday, November 22

Time: 5:40 p.m. - 6:40 p.m.

Room: Convention Hall 300

*Japanese anime and manga are popular topics online and on campus. But have you ever found yourself harboring concern about a problematic representation of gender, sexuality or violence in a work that you otherwise find not only entertaining but intellectually engaging, with promising potential for classroom use? I will open this guided discussion with a few specific examples, and invite you to bring your own. I especially encourage you to consider the potential effects of metaphors and symbols on our cognitive processes.*

**Reiko Yoshihara**

**“The Development of Feminist EFL Teachers' Identities” (Short Paper)**

Day: Monday, November 24

Time: 1:20 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

Room: Convention Hall 300

*In this study, I explored how nine Japan-based feminist EFL university teachers formulated feminist identities and developed their professional teacher identities in relation to feminist identities. In this presentation, while I discuss how my participants constructed feminist identities and what feminism meant to them, I attempt to illustrate feminist identities as nonunitary, multiple, contradictory, and changing over time and space. It is important to explore teacher identities because teacher identities influence teaching practices.*

\*\*\*

## PEACE AS A GLOBAL LANGUAGE 2014

Kobe Gakuin University, Port Island Campus

December 6-7, 2014

Website: [pgljapan.org](http://pgljapan.org)

GALE member **Richard Miller**, is on the organizing committee for this annual conference.

*In our increasingly interconnected global village, where we live in close proximity to people from different backgrounds, creeds, genders, ethnicity, orientation and ages, many questions remain, but conflict management is a critical aspect that needs to be explored and debated. How should we work toward solving issues that divide our communities, both at the local and international levels? How can we work together to achieve better ties for all, despite the multifaceted challenges that everybody faces on a daily basis? This year's conference will explore and discuss these topics on several unfortunate anniversaries; the 20th anniversary of Rwanda and the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. With the above in mind, we cordially invite scholars, teachers, peace activists, students and members of the community interested in these issues and more to join us in the first weekend of December in the seaside campus of Kobe Gakuin University's Port Island campus for discussion, debate and contemplation, and to come together to realize our potential as co-inhabitants of a shrinking planet. Looking forward to welcoming you to PGL 2014.*

### **GALE member presentations**

**Gerry Yokota**

"To Honor Nelson Mandela"

*How do you remember Nelson Mandela? How did he impress you when he was living? How might his eternal legacy continue to enrich your life after his death? I will begin my talk by sharing reflections on my personal experience meeting the man and his lifelong impact on me. I will not deify*

*him. He was human, with human flaws. But precisely because he was so human, he gave hope to millions, hope that it might be possible to emulate his integrity. His philosophy of nonracialism and his vision of gender equality were truly integral, and with his actual implementation of those beliefs in the constitution and in his national policy as the first democratically elected President of South Africa, he set a clear example for the world. It is now our turn to further that vision, and one powerful platform for action is the global movement to honor his memory: Mandela Day.*

### **GALE MEMBER PUBLICATIONS NEWS**

Jane Joritz-Nakagawa's books "FLUX" and "wildblacklake" were reviewed in the ecopoetics journal *Plumwood Mountain* by Australian poet Pam Brown:

<http://plumwoodmountain.com/pam-brown-reviews-flux-and-wild-black-lake-by-jane-joritz-nakagawa/>

In the review, Brown touches on style and themes in the books such as the Fukushima disaster, gender and environment.

Jane's conversation with American poet and co-editor of the anthology *Beauty is a Verb* Jennifer Bartlett was published in the poetry journal "Jacket2" online at:

<http://jacket.2.org/commentary/jennifer-bartlett-conversation-jane-joritz-nakagawa>

*Beauty is a Verb* collects poems and essays by poets with disabilities. Some of the poems and essays also touch on gender and sexual orientation and could be used with students in Japan of intermediate English and above. Excerpts from Jennifer's own poetry exploring disability appearing towards the end of the interview would also be appropriate English class material.

Jane's poetry book *distant landscapes* —inspired by current events, memory, Japanese and Western art, and time spent in a remote mountainous region of Japan— is forthcoming in 2015 with American poetry publisher Theenk Books. Excerpts have appeared in numerous print and online poetry publications, most recently in October 2014 in the poetry blogzine *On Barcelona*:

<http://onbarcelona.blogspot.jp/2014/10/jane-joritz-nakagawa.html>

and in November 2014 in poetry blogzine *Truck*:

<http://halvard-johnson.blogspot.jp/2014/11/jane-joritz-nakagawa.html>

### **GALE Journal**

[http://gale-sig.org/website/the\\_gale\\_journal.html](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 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 8 FALL 2015***

**150-word abstract deadline: Dec. 15, 2014**

**Completed Paper Deadline: Jan. 31, 2015**

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

See website for archive Journals and submission guidelines.

\*\*\*

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

**Deadline: April 30, 2015**

Send submissions and inquiries to:  
[squires.todd@gmail.com](mailto:squires.todd@gmail.com)

## 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 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 with 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 Pan-SIG 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 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 in Hiroshima. 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 Hick presented individual papers.

**2014** GALE hosted a forum on gender awareness in the classroom at the 2014 Pan-SIG Conference in Miyazaki in May. Fiona Creaser, Aaron Hahn, Susan Pavloska and Frances Shinkai presented papers.

#### **GALE JALT SIG EXECUTIVES:**

##### **Coordinators:**

Diane Hawley Nagatomo/ Fiona Creaser:  
[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

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