

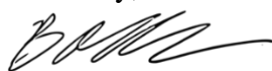
Letter from the editors

We are thrilled to continue the exciting work of publishing student research in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics at York University with this second volume of WALLY. This volume reflects the work of students in 2022, including, of course, the proceedings from the annual YorkU Graduate Symposium in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics.

We begin with two papers featuring student work submitted separately from the graduate symposium. In the first of these, Mandy Lau's "Content moderation as language policy: Connecting commercial content moderation policies, regulations, and language policy", the author critically surveys recent changes in Canada's online content moderation policies, highlighting the advantages as well as the (ethical) drawbacks of moderating online activity using algorithms versus humans. Continuing to interrogate questions of equity and policy, Maryam Elshafei offers a critical, auto-ethnographic reflection on precarious employment in the language teaching sector, touching particularly on the effects of this type of employment on the students in the classroom in her article, "Part-time language teachers and teaching quality". With the third article, "Nation-building and state support for creole languages: The cases of Haiti and the Seychelles" by Griffin Cahill, we move to the symposium proceedings. Here, Cahill compares and contrasts the policies and political decisions which have variably supported or impeded the maintenance and use of French-based Creoles in Haiti and the Seychelles. This text is followed by Katarzyna (Kasia) Kasztenna's paper, which turns a critical eye to the speeches of Canadian and US political leaders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Comparing the rhetorical strategies of Prime Minister Trudeau and President Trump, Kasztenna shows two distinct approaches to public discourse which correspond to the relative successes of associated policy. Continuing the analysis of public discourses, Marianne Laplante takes us to an analysis of language use and identity construction in a popular Quebecois podcast dealing with racialization in the context of popular culture. Also focussed on new media, QingXiao Cui's paper, "Meme genres and the art of the YouTube apology parody", provides a multimodal analysis of the emerging genre of Youtube apology parodies, considering their intertextual relationships to the similarly emerging genre of Youtube apologies. The following text, by Gabriel Frazer-McKee and Kendall Vogh, zooms in on the understudied genre of graduate student conference abstracts, deploying genre analysis to identify structural and informational challenges in such abstracts and to advocate for improvements in graduate students' training in this critical professional skill. Wrapping up the proceedings and the volume, Maryam Elshafei, draws additional attention to the challenges faced by academic professionals on short term contracts, including institutional exclusion and exploitation.

Once again, we thank the authors for submitting their compelling research and we also extend our thanks to Prof. Geoff Lawrence, our faculty sponsor, and Tomasz Mrozewski, digital publishing librarian at York, without whom this journal would not be possible. We hope you enjoy these contributions from the second volume of WALLY, and we warmly invite you to contribute your work to WALLY in 2023. Best wishes for a successful end to 2022!

Sincerely,



Brittney O'Neill
WALLY Editor



Ana-Maria Jerca
WALLY Editor