

GLOBAL MEANING MAKING

Disrupting and Interrogating
International Language and
Literacy Research and Teaching

Edited by Lori Czop Assaf,
Patience Sowa and Katina Zammit

ADVANCES IN RESEARCH
ON TEACHING

VOLUME 39

GLOBAL MEANING MAKING

ADVANCES IN RESEARCH ON TEACHING

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ADVANCES IN RESEARCH ON TEACHING VOLUME 39

**GLOBAL MEANING
MAKING: DISRUPTING AND
INTERROGATING
INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE AND LITERACY
RESEARCH AND TEACHING**

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

To all the teachers who are grappling on a daily basis to improve the social and educational outcomes for all students.

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PREFACE

Global meaning-making: Venturing beyond the “out-of-bounds”

Robert J. Tierney

Preface for Katina Zammit, Lori Czop Assaf and Patience Sowa (Eds.), *Global Meaning Making: Disrupting and Interrogating International Literacy Research and Teaching*. Emerald Publishing.

The contributors to this volume explore global meaning-making – the pursuit of global moves that emanates from the foundational deliberations and objectives of global and Indigenous educators, postcolonialists, and others. Instead of emphasizing comprehension approaches that focus on reading simply for understanding, global meaning-makers examine our worlds – including how ideas and peoples are positioned – to unmask, reflect, and act upon sociopolitical analyses. Central to global meaning-making are changes that embrace pluralism and multiculturalism.

Anchoring the book is the suggestion that a shift to global meaning-making can contribute to a wave of change that considers the crucial roles our diversities play in our futures. To this end, the editors and authors detail how the goals and nature of their pursuits step out of the bounds of standardization and buck monolingualistic, assimilative tendencies. They initiate practices aligned with multitopic or pluriverse imaginaries – forms of literacy that extend to agency, activism, and alternatives.

To foster this aspirational imaginarieness of global meaning-making, the editors and authors foreground endeavors that pursue spaces where pluralism is embraced. As editors Katina Zammit, Lori Czop Assaf, and Patience Sowa state in their introduction:

The authors of this edited book are global meaning-makers. In a multiplicity of research contexts around the world about teachers, teacher educators, teacher candidates, communities and students, their chapters illustrate their willingness to question and self-interrogate, cross borders, collaborate, translanguange, promote indigenous languages, decolonize, reimagine, transform, and adapt research and pedagogical practices in language and literacy.

Further, the editors note how the authors draw upon the notion of global meaning-making in concert with a Freirean advocacy for “reading the world” (Freire & Macedo, 2005):

The authors in this book are educational activists, taking action in their own contexts to question the dominant educational and language and literacy discourses. They employ critical pedagogy in which “literacy becomes a meaningful construct ... viewed as a set of practices that functions to either empower or disempower people... [and] is analyzed according to whether it serves to reproduce existing social formations or serves as a set of cultural practices that

promotes democratic and emancipatory change” (Freire & Macedo, 2005, p. 220). The authors have given voice to marginalized communities, interrupting the existing educational discourses, questioning and critiquing the enacted language and literacy policies and practices, recommending alternative ways for local, indigenous communities to be heard and included, and offering possible strategies for the use of researchers, teacher education students, teacher educators, teachers and policy makers to encourage them to also become educational activists. They demonstrate global meaning making in action.

The Call and Nature of Global Meaning-Making

Global meaning-making involves complex negotiations that are not preset or standardized, but anchored in ethics – ethics aligned with respect for the local, the pursuit of reciprocity between local and global, and ecological eclecticism. As the chapters of this volume suggest, the dimensions of global meaning-making are akin to a set of values and guidelines – like compass points for telescopes, in search not of a single destination but of multiple paths forward. The discussions put forth by the authors and editors convey how global meaning-making is therefore not a scripted reading of the world applied in a singular or monolithic fashion. Its dynamic processes are, by their very nature, situated, diversified, multilayered, and multifaceted – involving fusions and adaptations.

Global meaning-making also assumes all behaviors are political; that responsible and responsive meaning-making respects and serves the interests of all of our worlds; and that meaning-makers’ engagements seek to change, challenge, or mitigate unjust systems. This view builds upon discussions among the growing circle of literacy scholars invested in global thinking, especially those researchers who investigate translanguaging, hybridity, global mobility (e.g., Lam & Warriner, 2012; Nelson, Barrera IV, Skinner, & Fuentes, 2016; Pieterese, 2005; Rizvi, 2009a; Robertson, 1985); global citizenship (e.g., Andreotti & de Sousa Santos, 2011; Torres, 2015; UNESCO, 2015); and copedagogy (Grigorov & Fleuri, 2012; Misiaszek, 2015). It stems from the search for other spaces, as discussed by Escobar (2018), Perry (2020), Gutiérrez (2008), and Gutiérrez, Baquedano-López, and Tejeda (1999). It befits the argument for deference to and respectfulness of cultures (e.g., Campano, Honeyford, Sánchez, & Vander Zanden, 2010; de Sousa Santos, 2007b, 2013; Singh, Fenway, & Apple, 2005; Stein, 2017). It draws heavily upon issues of mobility – in terms of people, cultures, and literacies. It is consistent with the model of community-based literacy events and practices explored by Victoria Purcell-Gates (2006) and her colleagues (Purcell-Gates, Perry, & Briseño, 2011); explorations of the participatory dynamics of literacy across time and space (e.g., Dyson, 1988; Jenkins, Purushotma, Weigel, Clinton, & Robison, 2009; Jenkins, Shresthova, Gamber-Thompson, Kligler-Vilenchik, & Zimmerman, 2016); and pursuits of epistemological diversity, especially Indigenous ways of knowing (e.g., Archibald, 1995, 2008; Assié-Lumumba, 2017; Battiste & Henderson, 2000; Bishop, 1994; Connell, 2007; de Sousa Santos, 2007a; Nakata, 2001, 2004; Rigney & Hattam, 2018; Rigney, Hemming, & Bignall, 2018).

Befitting practices of shuttling back and forth between local and wider worlds, global meaning-making also weaves together notions of cosmopolitanism

(e.g., what has been described as public diplomacy) with a fundamental respect for cultural diversity. As with Rizvi's (2009b) discussion of cosmopolitanism, global meaning-making is "a political philosophy, a moral theory and a cultural disposition" (p. 253). It is, as Martha Nussbaum (1997) suggests, a process of critical reflection and reflexivity – one that identifies with the global human community and engages one's ability to imagine across cultural differences. As Allan Luke (2004) explained, this involves:

... exploring the conditions for intercultural and global intersubjectivity... an engagement in globalized analyses that continually situate and resituate learners... their local conditions, social relations and communities, in critical analyses of the directions, impacts and consequences of global flows of capital, bodies, and discourse. (pp. 1438–1439, 1441)

This disposition and process of engaging across local and global sites similarly reflects transliteracy approaches. It explores dimensions such as emergence, uptake, resonance, and scale as a way of capturing "different kinds of relations among people and things – whether in horizontal, vertical, rhizomatic, or other relationships – and highlight(ing) people's literacy practices within and across systems that (re)produce, exacerbate, and/or challenge social inequities" (Stornaiuolo, Smith, & Phillips, 2017, p. 84).

As noted, global meaning-making builds upon sociocultural views of reading (e.g., García, 2009; García, Johnson, & Seltzer, 2017; García & Kleifgen, 2020; Lee, 2020; Purcell-Gates, 2006); discussions of globalism (Rizvi, 2009a; Robertson, 1985; Singh, 2005; Singh & Lu, 2020); and postcolonial epistemologies (e.g., Connell, 2007; Connell, Collyer, Maia, & Morrell, 2017; de Sousa Santos, 2013; Ndimande, 2018; Said, 1979, 1993; Tierney, Smith, & Kan, 2021). In keeping with discussions of pluralism, global meaning-makers adopt different stances to see how the worlds of others may or may not be part of their own (Escobar, 2018; Perry, 2020). They interrogate issues of indigeneity, sovereignty, and cultural affirmation, and read against the deep-rooted systems and hegemones that perpetuate planetary affronts to diversity – including those that seek cultural homogeneity or advantages tied to historic privilege (Tierney, 2017, 2018, 2020).

Global meaning-making thus comprises a triad of critical contemplation, analysis, and advocacy, stemming from the convergence of sociocultural, critical, and globalist views. At one level, a reader's sophistication in terms of engaging with these processes is relative. It rests upon their pre-existing knowledge about people, places, and times; their adroitness and the tools available to support them as they move with others within and across borders of space and time; and their ability to adapt and adjust to shifting norms and expectations. At another level, global meaning-makers require knowledge of themselves as they step in, out, and to the side of worlds to observe and engage with others with respect (Freire, 1973; Smith, 2000, 2005).

This facet of global meaning-making demands self-interrogation of one's own enculturation – ongoing scrutiny of one's interests, activities, positionality, perspectives, and biases. As Spivak (1988) cautions, such self-examinations should be ongoing, lest they become aligned with the systems they purport to challenge. This

undoubtedly requires a study of self that seeks to challenge both self-righteous objectives as well as failures to self-implicate. Global meaning-makers should, as Spivak (1988, 1990) suggests, be contemplative as they reconcile their complicity with their own privilege, and adopt dispositions and approaches that are not presumptuous, colonizing, or recolonizing. Global meaning-making is a call to break away from pretailored worlds governed by practices and policies that perpetuate insularity, homogeneity, monolingualism, and assimilation. To such ends, global meaning-making is rarely solitary, and engagements are apt to require collaborators with local knowledges, Indigenous histories, migrant pasts, and cultural moorings from a range of places.

Indeed, global meaning-making entails reckoning with oneself and one's cultural ways of knowing as one journeys across borders with others, with and for the interests of all. It represents a mix of participatory literacies, promoting approaches that are cooperative, collaborative, and contrastive while being respectful and reciprocal (Smith, 2000, 2005). It befits a planetary view that is ecumenical and emancipatory. A key thesis undergirding the rationale for global meaning-making is the advancement of "other" alongside "all," in concert with accommodation for (rather than assimilation of) differences. It is the pursuit of eclecticism in support of a global complementarity, or inter-operationality. It entails a turn from self-righteousness to critical reflexivity; from imposition and imperialism to respect and restraint. It involves what Hymes (1990) describes as a kind of dialectic between insider–outsider perspectives.

Broadly considered, then, global meaning-making involves a mindfulness toward the world. It demands agency, responsibility, and respect as one acts upon sociopolitical discernments in ways that are ethical and community-based. Whereas prior notions of meaning-making may have stressed the importance of building from one's background knowledge and experiences, global meaning-making represents a shift in the intimacy of one's engagement with texts and the world of media. Global meaning-makers are action-oriented – moving beyond the page to consider possibilities, recognize their roles in relation to others, and respond carefully, respectfully, and responsibly. They embrace an ethos of acceptance and reconciliation, adopt a planetary epoch outlook, and are informed by notions of plurality and universal rights. Distinguished from engagements that seek merely to understand others, such transformative global engagements reckon with, challenge, and change hegemonies, with a reverence for the sovereignty and various ways of doing by others.

That said, questioning the nature of proposed changes – as well as their presumed benefits – is essential to this activist stance. Lest meaning-makers become interlopers and opportunists, they should not assume positions that advance pursuits in the interest of others without full regard and respect for those interests. They should not be blinded by arrogance and discount the need for cultural intermediaries situated in communities to guide any engagement. Instead, they should engage in practices that lay a foundation for trust and allyship (Bishop, 2009; San Pedro, 2018). Similar to Marilyn Cochran-Smith's (2000) suggestions in her discussion of racism, global meaning-makers need to continually interrogate their "own complicity in maintaining existing systems of privilege and

oppression” (p. 186). It is crucial that they not turn a blind eye to the systems at play, including educational approaches that supplant cultures, dismiss local knowledges, and relegate nonmainstream populations to positions where their backgrounds lack currency.

To these ends, global meaning-making involves a combination of stances, including:

- (1) *Perspectival*: To engage different perspectives, especially those stemming from considerations of context and relevance, so that engagements are respectful, responsive, and proffer understandings of events that illuminate different understandings.
- (2) *Evaluative*: To delve into different readings and analyses and consider the assumptions, norms, and tenets that serve as the bases for perspectives and understandings. That is, to bear responsibility for judging the ideologies represented in and by the text, including the systemic forces at play that undergird societal hierarchies and frame exchanges.
- (3) *Reflexive*: To seek understandings of one’s frames and their nature or potential for influence – especially in terms of limiting or skewing understandings; to acknowledge self-interest; and to respect the interests of others (i.e., Indigenous interests and ways of knowing, etc.).
- (4) *Proactive and Transformative*: To promote and pursue agency, advocacy, and transformative change (i.e., forms of systemic change that address the development needs of communities in ways that are respectful, organic, and sustainable).
- (5) *Ethical*: To be responsive, respectful, and trustworthy; to address matters of human rights and planetary responsibilities with an eye toward – and reverence for – the local and global.

Closing

The pursuit of global meaning-making is a call for exchanges to flow across and within a futuristic, pluralistic world. Its approach to everyday literacy involves shared responsibilities as well as alternative spaces that afford expression and advocate for change (Gutiérrez, 2016). These ideas reflect Kris Gutiérrez’s (2008) discussions of a third space – an aspirational hybrid space wherein exchanges flow across cultural identities and positionalities, in accordance with sociopolitical dynamics. Within this third space, improvisations within and across borders and identities serve to both empower engaged individuals and improve the group as a whole. As noted by postcolonialists, meaning-makers can too often find themselves confined to sites where forms of epistemological imposition and resocialization occur. These insular sites might be tailored to Eurocentric traditions that befit colonialist or assimilationist models rather than those espousing epistemological eclecticism, Indigeneity, and internationalism (Abdi, 2015; Connell, 2007; Nozaki, 2009; Takayama, 2009; Takayama, Sriprakash, & Connell, 2017).

Global meaning-makers must instead read for sociopolitical currents and pursue critical forms of advocacies that advance diversity. In so doing, they

engage an ethics of respect for sovereignty and self-determination – one that supports rather than imposes, and codevelops rather than intervenes. At the same time, they are never untethered from their own histories, predispositions, and positioning, including the influence of mainstream forces of colonization (e.g., marketing strategies tailored to digital user profiles). To fuse self with others, global meaning-makers must therefore engage with persona and ethos, the pragmatics of language use, and notions of identity over space and time. As they consider the diverse circumstances within and across countries and cultures, their communications may take the form of translanguaging and other means of criss-crossing meaning-making communities. As Willinsky (1998) suggested, meaning-makers should engage not as imperialists but as critical culturalists, working across borders with a view of themselves as foreigners in support of others (see also: Kristeva, 1991).

As noted, the process of global meaning-making requires a combination of contemplation, analysis, and advocacy undergirded by reflexivity and self-consciousness. It calls for meaning-makers to recognize their own biases and consider how broader systems and influences inform their perspectives, color their interpretations and evaluations, or constrain their discernment. Alongside the meanings derived from the text or circumstance, global meaning-makers are themselves subject to critical interrogation as they consider their roles and potential complicities relative to systems and hierarchies. Global meaning-making requires support for and commitment to engaging with forms of border crossings, as one steps across or out of line. It is more provocative than neutral, and more disruptive than dissociated. In a way, it is similar to forms of counterdiscourse, coupled with proactive engagements, such projects or praxis, that are directed toward transformative change.

In closing, let me express my thanks to the editors and authors for what they shared, as well as my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to respond and contribute to their volume. As I have indicated, this volume is inspirational. Writing this chapter not only fueled my passion but also spurred my sense of responsibility to interrupt and transform our educational approaches – especially our literacy practices. As educators we need to ensure that our educational and literacy practices build upon the synergies of our diverse cultures, experiences, ways of knowing, and languages, to afford understandings that lean upon, grow, and affirm our diversities. This book does not represent an appeal to tokenism or simply a study of issues. This goes beyond suggestions of adjustments on the margins. The essence of global meaning-making is a call for transformative change. It may seem daunting, but I would suggest necessary.

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SECTION 1

LITERACY PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND CURRICULUM

Section 1 highlights critical analysis of collaborative language and literacy programs, policies, and curriculum in Peru, Belize, New Zealand, Spain, Chile, and Argentina.

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INTRODUCTION: STITCHING A GLOBAL MEANING MAKING PATCHWORK QUILT

Patience Sowa, Katina Zammit and Lori Czop Assaf

ABSTRACT

This chapter explains how the idea of this book occurred, and introduces readers to Tierney's multidimensional framework for global meaning making. It describes the organization and structure of the book and the contents of each chapter and calls on readers to transform international language and literacy research through global meaning making.

Keywords: Bordercrossing; education; indigenous peoples; language; literacy; low-and-middle income countries; self-study; translanguaging

In this introductory chapter, we describe the genesis of this book and introduce global meaning making (Tierney, 2018) as a multidimensional framework for interrogating our international language and literacy research and pedagogical practices. Last, we describe the organization of the book, the focus of each section and chapter, and how they align with the different tenets of global meaning making.

The idea for this book emerged from study group meetings of the International Innovative Community Group of the Literacy Research Association. As a group, we delved deeply into the teaching and learning of language and literacy in international contexts, as well as the paucity of published research representing Global South perspectives. In the study group, we held conversations and discussions about the challenges and tensions inherent in collaborating as well conducting research in international contexts, cross-cultural settings, and across epistemologies, as well as our ethical responsibilities to interrogate our

Global Meaning Making

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approaches to language and literacy research and teaching. In 2018, the *Journal of Literacy Research*, published Tierney’s article “Toward a Model of Global Meaning Making.” In this article, [Tierney \(2018\)](#) highlights seven tenets of global meaning which are:

- (1) Interrupting existing frames;
- (2) Decolonizing spaces: Adapting, translanguaging, fusing, and border crossing;
- (3) Reading self;
- (4) Shifting to an ecology of eclecticism;
- (5) Being mindful: Finding a higher moral plane;
- (6) Being an activist or actionist; and
- (7) Interrogating truth and posttruth.

Tierney posits that using these tenets can serve to develop a model of literacy and language research and teaching which reaches across cultures and borders, encompasses local ways of knowing, and develops rich understandings of the world we live in to develop global readers – learners who read the word and the world ([Freire & Macedo, 2005](#)). His article encapsulated our thinking about international research and global collaboration, providing us with a framework within which we might explore our work, question our stances as international language and literacy scholars, and move away from teaching and research that exist in a “Eurocentric cultural cocoon (p. 398).” Tierney exhorts us, as international scholars, to interrogate and confront practices which privilege some ways of knowing and perpetuate racism, social inequity, and colonizing practices. Instead, he advocates research and pedagogical practices which are culturally inclusive and respectful, and honor diverse understandings.

Our practices as global meaning makers should advocate for local self-determination and community activism. Through the implementation of the tenets of global meaning making, Tierney maintains we can create transformative, collaborative, and democratic spaces in international language and literacy research. The authors of this edited book are global meaning makers. In a multiplicity of research contexts around the world, about teachers, teacher educators, teacher candidates, communities and students, their chapters illustrate their willingness to question and self-interrogate, cross borders, collaborate, translanguage, promote indigenous languages, decolonize, reimagine, transform, and adapt research and pedagogical practices in language and literacy.

STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK

The book consists of three sections, which are framed by this introduction and the conclusion at the end of the book. Each of the three sections represent a key theme or topic in which chapter authors explore global meaning making in language and literacy across various international contexts. After each chapter, the authors provide additional readings. The sections are described below.

Section 1: Literacy Programs, Policies and Curriculum

Section 1 comprises four chapters which provide critical analyses of collaborative language and literacy programs, policies, and curricula in Peru, Belize, New Zealand, Spain, Chile, and Argentina. In Chapter 2, Pallais-Downing begins this section with a critical review of how international literacy-based projects are often undergirded by assumptions that disregard the alternative ideas and ways of knowing in the South American Amazon. She critiques these projects for frequently ignoring country contexts, oral language practices, and lived histories of Amazonian communities. Her chapter is followed by Caliz, Lawrence, Murillo, Neal Sanders, Tyndall-Howell, and Williams' auto-ethnographic self-study in Chapter 3, which uses a dialogic format to describe how these researchers explored, interrogated, and ultimately decolonized their language and literacy education program to become more Belizean in content.

Rubin and Fa'avae (Rubin and Fa'ave continue in Chapter 4, with the theme of ensuring that the work of international scholars is culturally relevant and sustaining by interrupting existing frames associated with a literacy teacher education curriculum which privileged colonial ways of knowing. In Chapter 5, making explicit the tensions inherent in literacy initiatives in Ibero-American contexts through a critical review of three academic literacy programs in Argentina, Chile, and Spain; Errazuriz, Natale, and Núñez Cortés explore practices which are truly contextualized, collaborative, and co-designed by faculty, students, and tutors in the contexts of these countries, leading to richer, localized curriculum and program improvement.

Section 2: Language of Instruction Policies and Practices

Section 2 of this edited book highlights the impact of the language of instruction policies and practices in low-and middle income countries in Africa and Asia, and indigenous peoples in Australasia. The authors in this section explore the experiences and practices of teachers, teacher candidates, and researchers as they grapple with the power and privilege which accompany colonial legacies of language of instruction in these countries. In a variety of ways, the authors question and interrogate their own assumptions as well as explore transformative teacher practices which integrate learner ways of knowing, as well as their social and cultural capital. In Chapter 6, Sowa uses a scoping review to explore the characteristics and nature of successful upper primary interventions in low- and middle-income countries. Her findings reveal that the interventions were successful mainly in part because researchers and teachers decolonized classroom spaces by using learner's linguistic repertoires, their cultural and social capital, and school communities to achieve learning outcomes.

Martin and Denston describe in Chapter 7 how intentional noticing made them, as a research team, become more aware of their assumptions about teaching and learning in an indigenous Maori school in New Zealand. These authors noticed how indigenous teachers in their research study interrupted existing Western models of pedagogy to ensure children learned how to read. The

research study led these authors to recognize more the importance of building relationships with indigenous people when conducting cross-cultural research.

In Chapter 8, Abiri and Zammit discuss the impact of country language of education policies on teaching and learning. These policies can serve to delegitimize indigenous or mother tongue languages and position colonial languages such as English as languages of social mobilization, power, and prestige. Abiri and Zammit discuss changes in the Papua New Guinea curriculum regarding English as a language of teaching and learning and how teachers subvert the system and use strategies such as translanguaging to tap into learner linguistic repertoires to support their learning of English.

Assaf, Lussier, and Hoff in Chapter 9 move us from classrooms and teachers to teacher candidates and a description of a service-learning program in rural South Africa. As teacher candidates collected and observed community and school literacy practices, they became more aware of broader definition and use of literacy which transcends reading and writing to encompass audio, visual, and gestural tools which can be used for communication. Their experiences also led to deeper understandings of the politics of language education, and how language policies, ideologies, and histories such as apartheid continue to impact educational and social practices.

Section 3: Engaging in Global Literacies

Section 3 includes studies that describe global literacy pedagogy with inservice teachers and students from the United States, Belize, Germany, and China. Hills' chapter (Chapter 10) on immigrant and refugee youth in Germany explores how teachers interrupted existing frames which treated these students from a deficit point of view, and instead used culturally relevant pedagogies and mindfulness to support these youth. In Chapter 11, Hoff, too, explores the use of literacy pedagogies with refugee students. She interrogates the narrowly defined literacy practices that were implicitly valued by a community college and describes how these refugee students navigated the expectations of a college program.

Next, in Chapter 12, Kerkhoff and Yi explore the tensions, benefits, and challenges inherent in using a cosmopolitan approach to literacy instruction to cultivate and promote globally minded students through the lenses of 24 educators from Belize, China, and the United States.

Ikepeze and Schultz in Chapter 13, touch on how the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the inequities in education world-wide generally and more specifically reveals the impact of the digital divide even in rich countries in the Global North like the United States, for students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Ikepeze and Schultz describe teacher reflections on using digital pedagogies during the pandemic noting that poverty and the digital divide were the major barriers to successful learning. The authors emphasize the need for social emotional learning skills to be infused in literacy teaching to support students, skills which are often left out of language and literacy programs, teaching, and research.

In Chapter 14, Ruan and Jin explore the reading motivation of three Chinese students when they were in fourth and sixth grades and the patterns of motivational development as the students in these studies progressed. Informed by the global meaning making tenets of decolonizing and indigenizing, Ruan and Jin's study introduces a new model of reading motivation development from a Chinese sociocultural context.

The concluding chapter highlights the ways in which authors in this book address three themes of interrupting existing practices and policies, decolonizing spaces for learning and indigenous curriculum and pedagogy. In this chapter, Zammit, Sowa, and Assaf, also call for stakeholders in international literacy and language education to continue a dialogue which leads to the creation a shift to a place where all ways of knowing are equally heard, respected, and valued.

In *Global Meaning Making: Disrupting and Interrogating International Literacy Research and Teaching* chapter, authors grapple with the tensions and challenges inherent in global meaning making among all stakeholders in language and literacy education. They critically reflect on their research, their identities, perspectives of the world, and privilege. These authors reimagine and describe global approaches that respect and honor the histories, ways of knowing, needs, hopes, and values of marginalized voices in the Global South and Global North, weaving and quilting a rich tapestry of the possibilities of transformative and democratic literacy research and pedagogies. As Tierney (2018) notes, global meaning making is a work in progress, a patchwork quilt which “explores readings of our worlds against the push and pull of internationalization versus Indigeneity, standardization versus ecological diversity” (p. 399). We invite you, our readers, to join us in adding to this quilt to chart a way forward in global meaning making in international literacy teaching and research, for “there is still much work to be done” (Tierney, 2018, p. 399).

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