

24 May 2013

2:45pm – 3:30pm

Room A607

Roundtable Title: Multimodal Academic Literacy

Presenters: Aditi Jhaveri, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Abstract

The challenge of teaching academic literacy to first year university students is currently complicated by the existence of multimodal literacies in society at large. This is primarily because higher education has continued to privilege traditional texts. Consequently, the academic literacy valued by universities is often at odds with the types of literacies students encounter in their everyday life as they access and create content on the Internet outside the classroom. Since writing forms the dominant basis of judging students' ability, those who do not exhibit mastery of the art are considered less able. However, an integration of multimodal texts in academic literacy may not only be effective in supporting students' learning, it can also have a high motivational impact on them. Therefore, this discussion explores the possibility of increasing the pedagogical scope of traditional academic literacy to include multimodal texts in a way that students can develop as academic writers and thinkers.

Biodata

Aditi Jhaveri has been teaching language, media, journalism and communications-related subjects for nine years in Hong Kong universities, and is currently pursuing a PhD in English language education from HKU. After obtaining a masters degree in 'International Journalism' with distinction from the University of Westminster, she worked as a news writer and presenter for BBC World Service Radio in London. With work experience in the mass media and a significant track record of teaching at the tertiary level, she has developed a keen interest in contemporary issues in higher education, especially in areas such as second language learning, new literacies, media/journalism education and teacher training. She has presented her research in various international conferences, published a co-edited book, and written journal articles and book chapters on topics pertaining to media, language and education. She received the 'Outstanding Teacher Award' from HKU SPACE in 2007 and was later awarded the 'Postgraduate Fellowship, 2008' by HKU for excellent academic performance. As a university teacher, she has consistently received excellent feedback from students, which in turn motivates her to do the best she can in her profession.