

Come to BALID's 36th Informal Literacy Discussion!

**Bilingual Literacy for Life:
an indigenous language literacy programme
in Mexico**



Thursday 4th July 2019, 5.30 – 7pm

UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL
nearest stations Euston Square, Warren Street, Euston and Russell Square

This Informal Literacy Discussion led by **Lorena Sanchez Tyson** of UCL Institute of Education aims to explore the underpinning value and role that literacy has for adults in rural and indigenous areas in Mexico. With 68 recognised indigenous languages spoken by over 6 million people, Mexico represents an unrivalled diversity of culture, language and tradition in Latin America. At the same time, this diversity also presents many challenges with regards to providing relevant and inclusive learning opportunities for all.

This discussion will focus on an innovative non-formal literacy programme in Mexico called the Bilingual Literacy for Life Programme (BLLP) which is conducted in Spanish and in indigenous languages and targets some of the most marginalised and disadvantaged people in the country (particularly indigenous women, who make up over 90% of the programme participants). Drawing from ethnographic techniques in literacy research, three case studies were carried out in the Mexican states of Campeche, Oaxaca and San Luis Potosí. The data consisted of study circle observations, 9 focus group interviews, and individual semi-structured interviews with 14 learners and 9 facilitators. Through the theoretical lens of the New Literacy Studies, this discussion will also explore how literacy as social practice is rooted in conceptions of knowledge and identity and is linked to power relationships and different socio-political and economic realities.

Lorena Sanchez Tyson is a doctoral researcher at UCL Institute of Education. Her research focuses on an indigenous language literacy programme for adults in Mexico. She is a postgraduate teaching assistant for the BA Education Studies and a Student Facilitator for the Research Training Programme at UCL IOE. She is also currently the co-editor of a forthcoming special edition journal issue entitled 'New directions in lifelong learning' for the London Review of Education.

All are welcome. Please consider joining BALID at the event – or check [our website](http://www.balid.org.uk).