

# 2019 AERA Annual Meeting: Leveraging Education Research in a 'Post-Truth' Era: Multimodal Narratives to Democratize Evidence

## Professional Development Grant Report from Xue Zhang

The 2019 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting was held in Toronto, Canada, from April 5-9. This conference is one of the largest education events, serving as an international platform for education researchers to showcase their cutting-edge, innovative studies, for education practitioners to seek professional advancement, and for education students to inspire their minds. The theme of this year's annual conference was "Leveraging Education Research in a 'Post-Truth' Era: Multimodal Narratives to Democratize Evidence". There are 12 divisions, representing major scholarly areas within education research; each division has multiple Special Interest Groups (SIGs), offering a forum for involvement of attendees within a common interest in a field of study, teaching, or research.

As a novice ELL researcher and educator, I am particularly involved in SIG-Second Language Research (SLR). The purpose of the SIG-SLR is "to promote research in second-language learning/acquisition, and to facilitate exchange of ideas among educators involved in second-language teaching and language program administration". This year, the SIG-SLR showcased 18 topics in four sessions types, including invited speaker session, symposium, roundtable session, and business meeting, respectively. I participated in the invited speaker session, a mentoring session, which connects doctor students and junior scholars with mid-career and senior scholars to learn about job writing for publication, applying for grants, and navigating the

job market. I presented my own studies at two roundtable sessions: 1) Understanding Language Use and Language Learning in Second Language Acquisition classrooms and 2) Language Across Domains: Literacy and Oracy Experiences for Emergent Bilingual in the Curriculum. Besides, with a keen interest on the application of technology in the language classroom, I attended three roundtable sessions: Technology and Second Language Learning, 2) Conversations on Technology + Pedagogies (English Learners/Learning), 3) Perspectives on Technologies + Pedagogies. These experiences have allowed me to network with researchers from all over the world to gain ideas and insights on how to better prepare for my future career.

The 2020 AERA Annual Meeting will be held in San Francisco, CA, from April 17-21, 2020. The call for submissions will be released on May 10 and the deadline for submissions is July 10.

For further information about SIG-SLR, please visit <http://www.aera.net/SIG108-Second-Language-Research-SIG-108>

For further information about 2020 Annual Meeting, please visit <https://www.aera.net/Events-Meetings/Annual-Meeting/2020-Annual-Meeting-Theme>