



Programme

Day 1: Wednesday, 22 October 2025

09:00

Free, Guided Tour of Valletta

Meeting Point: *Triton Fountain, just outside the main entrance to Valletta*

12:00

Registration and Light Lunch

12:50

Welcome Address

Reading Between the Lines, Acting Beyond Them

Carmel Borg, Convenor and Chair of Day 1

13:30 – Plenary Panel 1

From Perception to Practice: Advancing Critical Literacy in Pre-Service Teacher Training and Beyond

- *Norwegian Pre-Service Teachers' Knowledge and Perceptions of Critical Literacy*
Camilla Gudmundsdatter Magnusson (Østfold University College)
Lisbeth Elvebakk (OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University)
Cecilie Weyergang (University of Oslo)
Linda Undrum (University of South-Eastern Norway)
- *Institutional and Pedagogical Barriers to Critical Literacy Integration: Preparing Pre-Service Teachers for Literacy and Social Change*
Sophia Gorla (University of Thessaly, Greece)
- *"Echoes, Doubts, and Dialogues": Mapping Teacher Identity in IB English Language and Literature Classrooms*
Eunju Choe (University of Oxford)

14:45 – Plenary Panel 2

Planting the Seeds of Critical Literacy: Early Childhood and Primary Classrooms in Action

- *Critical Literacy in the First Grade Classroom*
Desirée Fristedt (Linnaeus University)
- *Critical Literacy in Early Childhood: Practices Fostering Active Citizenship*
Chrysoula Tsirmpa, Nektarios Stellakis, Eleni Ntente (University of Patras)

15:45 – Plenary Panel 3

Student Agency and Critical Engagement: Pathways to Transformative Learning

- *Fostering Student Agency through Student-Generated Questioning: A Large-Scale Study in South Korea*
Roh Deul, Ok Hyounjin (Ewha Womans University)
Chung Hyeseung (Gyeongin National University of Education)
Seo Soohyun (Gwangju National University of Education)
- *Empowering Young Minds through Transformative Learning: A Systematic Literature Review of Critical Engagement with Children's Literature*
Anitha Rose George (University of Potsdam)
Winnie-Karen Giera (University of Potsdam)

16:45

Break

17:15 – Plenary Panel 4

Power, Pedagogy, and Representation: Critical Readings of Chinese Cultural Narratives

- *Classical Literature, Recitation and Colonial Governance: Chinese Language Curriculum and Pedagogy in 1950s Hong Kong*
Zeyi Wang (The University of Hong Kong)
- *Female Voices of Dissonance and Dissent: Reading the Cultural Images of Female Concubines in Zhang Yimou's Raise the Red Lantern*
Jo Muscat (University of Malta)

18:15

End of Day 1

Day 2: Thursday, 23 October 2025

08:55

Welcome and Administrative Announcements

Carmel Borg, Convenor

Chair of Day 2: Maria Brown (University of Malta)

09:00 – Plenary Panel 5

Grassroots Learning, Digital Activism, and Critical Literacies: Reimagining Adult Education

- *Embodied Praxis: Weaving Freirean and Feminist Pedagogies in Grassroots Education*
Julia Alegre Mouslim (University of Malta)
- *Educational Interventions for Digital Activism: Approaches and Methodologies*
Vasiliki Xesternou (University of Ioannina)
- *A Critical Mathematics Approach to Designing a Financial Literacy Resource Book for Adult Students*
Rafel Grima (University of Malta)

10:15 – Plenary Panel 6

Children as Storytellers and Rights-Holders: Critical Engagement through Narrative and Digital Media

- *Young Students Using Digital Tools to Create Fairy Tales: Narrative Structures and Genre Traits through a Critical Literacy Lens*
Ann-Charlotte Rohman (Linnaeus University)
- *"I Have Rights Means..."*
Antigoni Anastasiou (University of Patras)

11:15

Break

11:55 – Plenary Panel 7

Narratives, Borders, and Bodies: Critical Readings in Contemporary Culture and Education

- *The Polish-Belarusian Border Crisis in Documents and Literature: Educational Approaches*
Karolina Wawer (Jagiellonian University)

- *Reading Between the Episodes: Critical Literacy, Youth Reception, and the Social Consequences of Narrative in 13 Reasons Why*
Deborah Ebejer (University of Malta)
- *Unmasking Organised Crime Narratives: Metareference, Media Literacy, and the Politics of Representation in Sabina Guzzanti's La trattativa*
Glen Bonnici (University of Malta)

13:15

Lunch Break

14:30 – Plenary Panel 8

Rethinking Pedagogy: Critical Literacy, History, and Higher Learning

- *Towards Critical Reading in Higher Education: A Speculative Pedagogies of Qualitative Research Study*
Rachel Heydon (University of Western Ontario)
Lori McKee (University of Saskatchewan)
- *Historical Context in the Critical Literacy Pedagogy – Terra Firma or Quicksand?*
Florentina Sâmihăian, Andrea Ghiță (University of Bucharest)

15:30 – Plenary Panel 9

Reimagining L1 Education: Critical Literacy, Discourse, and Authentic Learning

- *Critical Literacy and the Potential for a Socio-Political Approach to Texts in the L1 Subject*
Camilla Magnusson (Østfold University College)
Lisbeth Elvebakk (OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University)
- *Fostering Skills and Strategies for Critical Discourse Analysis in the Curricula of Greek Language Education*
Athanasios Michalis (University of Athens)
- *All the World's a Classroom: How Using an L1 Design Model Can Shape Authentic Learning Environments for Students*
Georgia Papaspyrou, Nektarios Stellakis (University of Patras)

16:45

End of Day 2

20:00

Symposium Dinner

Restaurant: Nenu The Artisan Baker, 143, St Dominic Street, Valletta

Day 3: Friday, 24 October 2025

09:00

Welcome and Administrative Announcements

Carmel Borg, Convenor

Chair of Day 3: Carmel Borg (University of Malta)

09:10 – Plenary Panel 10

Advancing Critical Literacy through Multiliteracies and Learner-Centred Pedagogies

- *Multiliteracies and Critical Literacy in Greek Elementary Education: An Action Research Study*
Tsampika Makrogianni (University of the Aegean)
Vasilia Kourtis-Kazoullis (University of the Aegean)
Eleni Skourtou (University of the Aegean)
- *Enhancing Critical Literacy through the Heutagogy Approach*
Michal Ganz-Meishar (Levinsky-Wingate Academic College)
- *Informational Books Enhance Critical Literacy: Penetration of Social Sciences through Informational Books for Children*
Katerina Papadimitriou (University of Patras)
Nektarios Stellakis (University of Patras)
Polyxeni Manoli (University of Patras)

10:30 – Plenary Panel 11

The Politics of the Image: Body, Ideology, and Resistance in Film

- *Unveiling the Political Unconscious: The Female Body and Ideology in 'The Substance'*
Andrea Gravina (University of Malta)
- *The Filmic Knife of Resistance: Critical Literacy, Censorship, and Satirical Humour in Knife in the Water and the Polish Kabaret Tradition*
Mario Cordina (University of Malta)

11:30

Break

12:00 – Plenary Panel 12

Learning to Read the World: Pedagogical Pathways in Literacy and Inclusion

- *Critical Literacy and Liquid Racism: How Students Can Identify Racism in an Antiracist Humorous Media Narrative*
Vasia Tsami (University of Crete)
Eirini Skoura, Argiris Archakis (University of Patras)
- *Methods of Teaching Handwriting in Polish Early Childhood Education: A Preliminary Comparative Analysis of Traditional and Inclusive Approaches Based on Grade 1 Research Results*
Anna Guzy (University of Silesia in Katowice)
Zofia Oslislo-Piekarska (Academy of Fine Arts in Katowice)

12:40 – Plenary Final Reflections