

Reading Association of Ireland

Editors

Gerry Shiel

Ursula Ní Dhálaigh

Other Ways of Seeing:

Diversity in Language and Literacy

**Proceedings of the
12th European Conference on Reading**

Volume Two



12th **EUROPEAN
CONFERENCE
ON READING**

*Other Ways of Seeing:
Diversity in Language and
Literacy*

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Volume 2

*Proceedings of the 12th European Conference on Reading,
Dublin, July 1-4, 2001*

EDITORS:

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READING ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND/
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE COMMITTEE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION

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Foreword by the President of the Reading Association of Ireland

It gives me great pleasure to write a brief introduction to this, the proceedings of the 12th European Conference on Reading, hosted by the Reading Association of Ireland at Dublin City University in July of 2001.

The conference was a wonderful event, bringing together as it did, educators and reading specialists from the far-flung corners of the globe. It was also a truly international event. We celebrated our diversity from our common interest in literacy and in the written and spoken word. It was a very gentle and gracious event, marked with good humour and tolerance for our many differences. And all of this was made possible by the hard work of a truly remarkable group of people on the organising committee! We owe each of them a debt of gratitude, especially those who may not have found themselves in the limelight during the week, but who quietly went about the work of making sure that each and every delegate was looked after, and made welcome. And on your behalves, I would like to acknowledge the work of the organising committee and to thank them.

This book is an ‘éacht oibre’ – a great work. It brings together a selection of papers on a range of topics on the teaching of reading. Each paper adds to our collective understanding of the efforts we are engaged in to bring reading education into focus at the centre of the wider education debate. We thank each one of you who submitted papers and hope that you find as much to think about in the other papers here as their authors will in yours!

Le Gach Dea Ghuí,

FINIAN O’SHEA
(President, RAI, 1999-2002)
Learning Support Department
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Dublin
June 2003

**Foreword by the President of the International Development in Europe
Committee of the International Reading Association (IDEC)**

It was a great pleasure and honour to preside at the 12th European Conference on Reading in Dublin, in Ireland, my mother's native land. As Declan Kiberd powerfully argued in his opening keynote address, there is every reason to resist being forced into false dichotomies – and I am proud to be both English by birth and (half) Irish by ancestry. It gave me great pleasure to hear so many excellent presentations and see the interest and friendship that grew from this truly international occasion, for which we thank the host organisation, the Reading Association of Ireland (RAI), most warmly.

These volumes of Proceedings from the conference contain almost 70 papers from 19 countries. Forty-two papers come from Europe and 28 from elsewhere. Within those from Europe, the host country features strongly (15), and 14 other countries are represented.

Having given some idea of the quantity, let me give you some feeling for the quality. In the three keynote addresses, Declan Kiberd ranges over Irish literature in Irish and English and the complexities and ambiguities of identity involved; Bente Hagtvet reports on research tackling the pressing problem of poor reading through prevention rather than remediation; and Vincent Greaney, former President of RAI and now working for the World Bank in Washington, DC, writes movingly of the problems of literacy in developing countries.

In addition, the Contents pages show that the papers cover the full gamut of literacy processes and topics (except that information and communications technology is curiously absent), and that every topic is shared across countries (except that all the papers on teacher development come from the United States) – both observations suggest powerful areas for future research in Europe. And in all the research and development that we do, learners must be central – as indeed they are in all the papers here. I trust that these volumes will give readers as much pleasure and food for thought as the conference gave the participants.

GREG BROOKS
(President, IDEC, 1998-2002)
University of Sheffield School of Education
England
June 2003

Reviewers

The Editors wish to acknowledge the assistance of the following in reviewing papers:

Greg Brooks, University of Sheffield
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