

Centering critical digital literacy in the lives of language teaching professionals: Why critical ethical literacy matters

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Abstract

Consistent with recent calls to critically recognize how digital technologies shape ideologies, inequities, and exclusion, I will explore how the digital turn in composition reflects the massive inroads that have been made with respect to multiliteracies since the New London Group put forward their pedagogical blueprint almost 30 years ago. Specifically, I will present findings from a critical collaborative autoethnography (Kim et al., 2025). By engaging in constructive dialogue with my co-authors, I will illustrate how the dual identity roles we inhabited as transnational teachers and teacher educators shaped our understanding of critical digital literacy (CDL). By adopting a CDL lens within the framework of platform studies (Nichols & Garcia, 2022), my presentation also addresses the political-economic and technological dimensions of platforms, which remain relatively underexplored. In addition to calling for incorporating CDL development into pre-service teacher education, I also extend the New London Group's notion of multiliteracies, which highlighted critical engagement as a cornerstone of multiliteracies education, by underscoring the need to develop critical ethical literacy (Kim et al., 2026) in multiliteracies work.

Speaker

Peter I. De Costa is a Professor in the Department of Linguistics, Languages & Cultures and the Department of Teacher Education at Michigan State University. He is also the English as a Second Language (ESL) graduate director in the College of Education. As a critical applied linguist, his research areas include emotions, identity, ideology and ethics in language learning, language teaching, and language policy. He is the co-editor of TESOL Quarterly, the Associate Editor of The Modern Language Journal, and the Immediate President of the American Association for Applied Linguistics.

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Time: 4:00pm HKT

Venue: EN Meeting Room for EN Staff and PhD students / Zoom for other audience



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