

Innovating for Linguistic Justice in Higher Education

A Cross-Unit Approach

STLHE Conference (June 18, 2026)



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Queen's
UNIVERSITY

Centre for
Teaching and Learning



Queen's
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STUDENT AFFAIRS
Student Academic
Success Services

Introductions: Who we are and what we do



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Success Services
(SASS)



Yunyi Chen,
Educational
Developer-Global
Learning,
Curriculum, &
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Dr. Karalyn McRae,
Educational
Developer,
Stephen J. R Smith
Faculty of
Engineering and
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Agenda/Session Goals

01

Describe our experiences bridging student-facing and faculty-facing units to enhance a culture of inclusivity

02

Demonstrate how this partnership has broken down institutional silos and provided synergistic supports for students and faculty

03

Reflect on how cross-unit collaborations can enhance your own projects and initiatives

What brings us together?

Students' Right to Their Own Language, Statement of the Conference on College Composition and Communication, 1974

“We affirm the students' right to their own patterns and varieties of language—the dialects of their nurture or whatever dialects in which they find their own identity and style. Language scholars long ago denied that the myth of a standard American dialect has any validity. *The claim that any one dialect is unacceptable amounts to an attempt of one social group to exert its dominance over another.* Such a claim leads to false advice for speakers and writers, and immoral advice for humans. A nation proud of its diverse heritage and its cultural and racial variety will preserve its heritage of dialects. We affirm strongly that teachers must have the experiences and training that will enable them to respect diversity and uphold the right of students to their own language.”

SASS' Story

- Work with students across all levels and disciplines—and from all backgrounds; developed specific programming for multilingual learners
- Take a strengths-based or anti-deficit approach to writing and skill support
- Emphasis on student choice and agency sometimes sits in tension with institutional, faculty, or assessment expectations

CTL's Story

- Support educators across disciplines and career stages through consultation, professional development, resources, and collaboration
- Promote equity-informed, inclusive, and accessible teaching and learning practices
- Identify emerging needs within the teaching community and lead innovative, evidence-based initiatives

We collaborate to...

Bridge	the gap of linguistic injustice in higher education
Provide	consistent messaging to students and faculty
Support	educators and students; teaching and learning

We care...



For student (and overall community) wellbeing, linguistic justice, equitable internationalization of higher education

About the different perspectives our units bring to shift institutional culture toward equity and inclusion

About collaborations based on mutually beneficial relationships

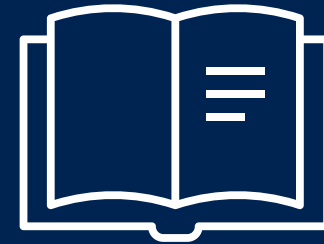
Initiatives



Workshops

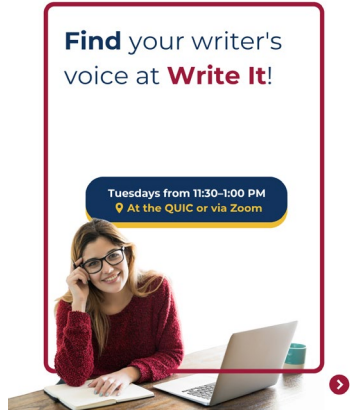


Training



Resources

Workshops



Write It!

- Interactive weekly workshop exploring topics in academic writing
- Emphasis on clarity, context, choice



Linguistic Justice and Assessment

- Introduces the concept of linguistic justice and discusses practical strategies for designing responsive assessments

Linguistic Justice in the Age of GenAI

- Explores challenges to linguistic justice posed by GenAI and identifies pedagogical ways to mitigate challenges

Training



Training for SASS staff :

- Critical language awareness (CLA)
- Translanguaging
- Writing cultures

Organized by the **Centre for Teaching & Learning** in partnership with **Student Academic Success Services**.

Accent Discrimination and (Re)Institutionalized Listening

An interactive workshop on accentism with **Dr. Vijay Ramjattan**, where participants will consider how they can change their perceptions of accents and how university practices and policies might change to create listening structures that aurally welcome all.



January 28, 2025



10:30am – 12:30pm

Register for this in-person event with the link in our bio.

Sponsored by the **Robert Sutherland Visitorship Fund**.



Resources

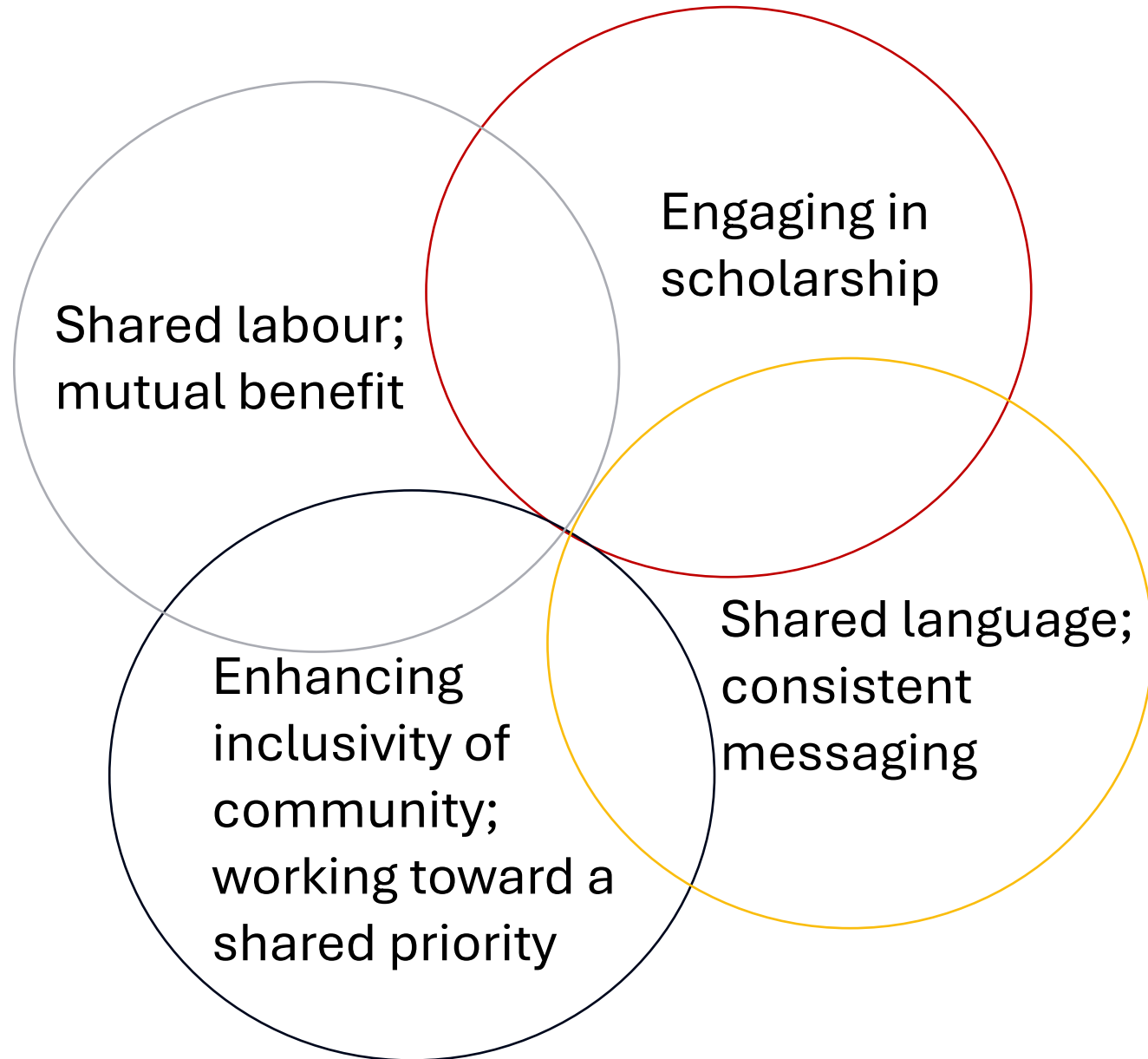
Communication Resource

- Strategies to support listening and speaking in academic contexts (lecture, group, 1:1)
- Designed for globalized learning environments where varieties of English and accented speech are common

Website/Resource Hub on Linguistic Justice

- Introduction to linguistic justice in higher education
- Linguistic justice in assessment
- Linguistic justice in the age of AI
- Accent discrimination in higher education
- Challenges in writing across borders

Impacts



Collaboration continues...

- Finalize the website/resource hub on linguistic justice
- Host visiting scholars to expand the conversation and explore issues from additional perspectives
- Explore new opportunities/topics for collaboration between our two units (e.g., GenAI)
- Broaden collaborations with other units and colleagues



And now, you!

- 1 Where do you see opportunities for cross-unit collaboration in your work?
- 2 What is your shared concern? What can bring you together?
- 3 Who can be your partners?