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Front Matter

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Mission

We understand “community literacy” as the domain for literacy work that exists outside of mainstream educational and work institutions. It can be found in programs devoted to adult education, early childhood education, reading initiatives, lifelong learning, workplace literacy, or work with marginalized populations, but it can also be found in more informal, ad hoc projects.

For us, literacy is defined as the realm where attention is paid not just to content or to knowledge but to the symbolic means by which it is represented and used. Thus, literacy makes reference not just to letters and to text but to other multimodal and technological representations as well. We publish work that contributes to the field’s emerging methodologies and research agendas.

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Cover Art

Photograph: “Silence/Spaces,” by Filippo Minelli. Artist info: www.filippominelli.com

Filippo Minelli started the ongoing series “Silence/Shapes” in 2009 to give a physical shape to silence. As medium to realize his idea he chose chemicals used to create smokebombs and to juxtapose them with the romantic idea of beauty of the natural landscapes.

The use of smoke bomb arose from social and political issues: often used in protests, they generally refer to the imagery of the mass, of bustle, shouting and noise, maybe even violence. But of all this, only one single element remains in the photographs of Minelli, an element that escapes the primary scope of common experience and of its “utilitarian function” to enter the ranks and the modality of what Nathalie Heinich defines in her essay *The Sociology of Art* as ‘objects de regard’ or — translated somewhat summary — “objects of the gaze” (a gaze aesthetically addressed, of course). The result is alienating, both at the level of pure visual perception and on the semantic level; Russian formalists would have spoken about disorientation or de-familiarization.

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The peer-reviewed *Community Literacy Journal* seeks contributions for upcoming issues. We welcome submissions that address social, cultural, rhetorical, or institutional aspects of community literacy; we particularly welcome pieces authored in collaboration with community partners.

Manuscripts should be submitted according to the standards of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th ed. (New York: MLA).

Shorter and longer pieces are acceptable (8–25 manuscript pages) depending on authors' approaches. Case studies, reflective pieces, scholarly articles, etc., are all welcome.

To submit manuscripts, visit our site—communityliteracy.org—and register as an author. Send queries to Michael Moore: mmoore46@depaul.edu.

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Volume 9 Issue 2

Table of Contents

Articles

- Collaborative Complexities: Co-Authorship, Voice, and African American Rhetoric in Oral History Community Literacy Projects.....1
Laurie Grobman, Meeghan Orr, Chris Meagher, Cassandra Yatron, and Jonathan Shelton
- Digital Literacy in Rural Women's Lives.....26
Jennie Vaughn, Allen Harrell, and Amy E. Dayton
- Transformative Learning, Affect, and Reciprocal Care in Community Engagement.....48
Ashley J. Holmes
- Translingual Communities: Teaching and Learning Where You Don't Know the Language..... 68
Elizabeth Kimball

Book & New Media Reviews

From the Book & New Media Review Editor's Desk	83
Jessica Shumake	
Anthony D. Boynton, II and Saul Hernandez, Interns	
Keyword Essay: "Ecology".....	85
Janine Morris	
<i>After the Public Turn: Composition, Counterpublics, and the Citizen Bricoleur</i>	
By Frank Farmer.....	92
Reviewed by Jason Luther	
<i>Phd to Ph.D.: How Education Saved My Life</i>	
By Elaine B. Richardson.....	96
Reviewed by Cynthia Delaney	
<i>Del Otro Lado: Literacy and Migration across the U.S.-Mexico Border</i>	
By Susan V. Meyers.....	99
Reviewed by Anne-Marie Hall	
<i>New Media Literacies and Participatory Popular Culture Across Borders</i>	
By Bronwyn T. Williams and Amy A. Zenger, eds.....	104
Reviewed by Jessica E. Slentz	
<i>Street Sex Workers' Discourse: Realizing Material Change through Agential Choice</i>	
By Jill McCracken.....	108
Reviewed by Angela Clark-Oates	