

Through a series of monthly online events, free and open to the public, the SQIP Virtual Salon brings together qualitative researchers from all over the world, to share ideas and enjoy community, collegiality and inspiration throughout the year. Each Salon features a series of presentations on a theme, plus opportunity for Q&A and discussion.

SQIP Virtual Salons will be hosted on Crowdcast.io, a program that runs in any current web browser (but best in Chrome). To register, go to <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/affinity-space>. There is no charge to attend, but you must register in advance.

## **SQIP Virtual Salon #8: March 18 7-8:30 PM ET**

### **Affinity Space Ethnography: Exploring Qualitative Methods for Studying Online Spaces**

Affinity spaces are sites of informal learning where groups — perhaps knitters and fiber artists, fans of a movie or game, or members of a writing circle — interact around a “common endeavor” (Gee, 2004, p. 85). They may be physical, virtual or blended spaces, and they are often spread across many “portals” of conversation and action, such as social media hashtags, face-to-face meetings, message boards, blogs, or web pages. Based on a decade of collaborative and individual research, the panelists have developed and continue to refine qualitative methods for tracing participation and understanding interaction in online spaces.

The panelists will begin by collectively introducing affinity space ethnography (Lammers, et al., 2012). Then each will share a snapshot of how they have implemented this methodology in various studies and what this work looks like. These snapshots explore questions about how to make initial research design decisions that guide the study of complex networked spaces, how participants traverse different tools or parts of online spaces, and how youth writers move between online and face-to-face spaces to develop their craft. Discussant Ashley Maynard, director of the Culture and Human Development Lab at the University of Hawai`i, will then provide comment, and audience members will have the opportunity for Q&A.

---

#### *PRESENTERS:*

Jayne C. Lammers, Ph.D. – *Associate Professor, University of Rochester*

Alecia M. Magnifico, Ph.D. – *Associate Professor, University of New Hampshire*

Jen Scott Curwood, Ph.D. – *Associate Professor, The University of Sydney, Australia*

Ashley Maynard, Ph.D. – *Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Hawai`i at Manoa*

---

#### **New Literacy Practices and Online Affinity Spaces: Implications for Research**

Alecia M. Magnifico, Ph.D.; Jayne C. Lammers, Ph.D.; and Jen Scott Curwood, Ph.D.

---

#### **Navigating Critical Junctures in the Design and Conduct of Affinity Space Research**

Jayne C. Lammers, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, University of Rochester, Teaching and Curriculum*

---

#### **The Contradictions of Multi-sited Context: Analyzing an Online Creative Writing Space**

Alecia M. Magnifico, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, University of New Hampshire, English Teaching*

---

#### **A Poet's Craft: Tracing Youth Poetry from Slams to Social Media Spaces**

Jen Scott Curwood, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor, The University of Sydney, English Education and Media Studies*