

Kimberly Helmer
Second Language Acquisition and Teaching GIDP

My time in Montreal was very productive and enlightening. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to attend. My presentation, "Year One at City High School," was well received; in fact, an editor of the journal *Language Policy*, asked me to submit a paper. Kendal King explained that the journal was looking for classroom-based policy research. I had never thought of my work in terms of policy so this request is challenging me to think outside the box. I am thinking that I might write about language policy implications in the conclusion of my dissertation, with the idea of submitting it for publication in *Language Policy*.

I attended many interesting presentations. The most striking was a talk about Brazilian indigenous people's resistance to government encouragement to document their history in their native language. Instead, they said they preferred to document their history in Portuguese. The presenter's explanation for this decision was placed within a post-colonial theoretical framework. This kind of framing might also be appropriate for describing the larger context of my ethnographic study as it also involves resistance to institutional "good" intentions within a post-colonial historical context.

I also listened to several presentations concerning issues of language socialization, ideology, and identity formation surrounding second language learners and heritage language learners. I am presently working with these concepts in my own data analysis. These frameworks may be sufficient without going into the post-colonial literature described above.

At the conference I networked with several people who approached me after my presentation who took a great interest in my findings and wanted to stay in touch. In addition, a colleague from the SLAT program introduced me to one of her current colleagues who is on the hiring committee at their university. They urged me to apply for an applied linguistics position in their English department.

I hope you can see that my attendance at the conference was very productive intellectually and socially. Thank you again!