Message to NCTEAR Community
As a literacy research community, we are navigating uncharted times. COVID-19 has prompted universities, colleges, career centers, and K-12 schools to close their doors and migrate to online learning platforms to provide remote instruction. Many of you reading this call may currently be under shelter-in-place guidelines and working to make sense of, as well as adjust to, changes occurring in your personal and professional life. The Executive Committee of NCTEAR deeply appreciates the patience and understanding you have extended to us as we work to plan the 2021 election and conference during this time of transition. In times like this we are reminded of our physical vulnerabilities, as well as our political ones. The 2021 conference provides us with an opportunity to think collectively about how to leverage our research to respond to inequities in literacy education and challenges that stem from those inequities that many communities are struggling with each day.

At this time, we are not certain if an in-person conference will be a possibility. Policies concerning COVID-19 are evolving on a regional basis and at this time are not thorough enough to inform our decision about the format of NCTEAR 2021. In the upcoming months, the Executive Committee will continue to meet and discuss information provided by the CDC and New York State regarding public gatherings and travel. We will keep you posted about how this information is guiding our decision for the 2021 conference.

Call for Proposals
Theme: Reimagining Literacy Research for Social Change

Alice Walker wrote, “Look closely at the present you are constructing. It should look like the future you are dreaming.” As we collectively try to make sense of the present, we invite you to submit proposals that envision a future in which literacy research is an impetus for social change that centers equity. Specifically, we envision NCTEAR 2021 as a space that could provide us with an opportunity to explore literacy and social change grounded in frameworks that foster criticality, divergent approaches to social justice, as well as humanizing methodologies and pedagogical practices. NCTEAR 2021 will occur eight days after the 46th President of the United State is sworn into office. Our research community has a unique opportunity to engage with policy makers and community advocates to reimagine how our research can inform changes to literacy curriculum, policy, funding, teaching and learning. So, what would it look like if we used this gathering to conceptualize new possibilities for literacy research that amplify civic literacies and world making as a catalyst for justice, equity, and social change?

NCTEAR’s Conference in January 2021 invites researchers to submit proposals for presentations and works-in-progress that feature cutting-edge multimodal methodologies, discourse analysis, participatory methodologies, visual and multimodal data, critical traditions (e.g., Critical Race, Queer, Indigenous, Dis/Ability, and Feminist Theories), and equity-oriented frameworks that reflect a commitment to disseminating humanizing research that generates civic engagement to improve literacy curriculum development, policy, teaching and learning.

As such, we invite papers addressing the following questions:
• What is the role of literacy research in a time of crisis? How can our work inform future pedagogical practices, curriculum development, and humanizing policies?
• How can we deploy multimodal tools and methodologies to document and share civic participation as a pathway for social change in literacy education?
• What do we know about the nature and consequences of digital civic engagement by young people as a conduit for social change?
• What methodologies do we use to document the affordances and barriers of engaging students, families, and communities in worldmaking to cultivate civic literacies for social change?
• How can literacy teacher education explicitly address the intersection of historical, economic, social, political, and cultural influences on K-12 education?
• What does literacy research teach us about the role of advocacy and civic participation for social change? How can these lessons offer a way forward in a time of crisis?
• What do we know about the nature and consequences of digital civic engagement by young people as a conduit for social change?

Presenters are encouraged to explore answers to these questions and others from multiple contexts of pre-K-16 English language arts education and literacy research, including after school and community settings, students whose first language is other than English, etc. Please consider submitting a proposal for NCTEAR 2021, attending the conference at Teachers College, Columbia University New York, NY on January 29-31, 2021, and contributing to these conversations. The planning committee welcomes proposals for individual papers, symposia, work-in-progress roundtables, and alternative format sessions. A description of each type of session can be found below. We welcome proposals representing a broad range of theoretical and methodological perspectives. We invite proposals that focus on empirical research as well as conceptual/theoretical work.

The submission system is being finalized and will be open starting on May 15, 2020. Proposals are due by July 1, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST. To submit your proposals, please go to Easy Chair (or use this direct URL: https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=nctear2021).

To submit via the Easy Chair system, you will need to do the following:
1. Create an account.
2. Log in
3. Once logged in, you’ll be able to see the NCTEAR 2021 page. Click the “enter as an author” link to submit your proposal.

Individual Papers
Proposals for the presentation of individual papers that report empirical research should include: a title, a 100-150 word abstract, research question(s)/purposes, theoretical framework, methodology, findings, and contribution to theory, research, and practice in the field. Proposals for the presentation of conceptual / theoretical work should include: title, a 100-150 word abstract, purpose and rationale, a clear description of the theoretical / conceptual argument being made and the basis / warrants for the argument, and the contribution of the theoretical /
conceptual argument to the field. Proposals should be clearly written and not more than 800 words in length (not including references). The review of proposals for the presentation of individual papers is a “masked” review and therefore no identifying information should be included in the proposal itself. You will include author and contact information via the Easy Chair system during the submission upload process.

**Symposia**
A symposium consists of a series of 3-4 presentations plus a chair and discussant if desired. The presentations must be clearly related (e.g., address a topic from different perspectives, report different aspects of a larger study, etc.). Proposals for a symposium should include: (a) an overview of the symposium including a 100-150 abstract of the symposium and the titles of the individual presentations, and (b) a maximum 800-word description of the symposium, including a brief description of each presentation. The review of proposals for the symposium is a “masked” review and therefore no identifying information should be included in the proposal itself. You will include author and contact information via the Easy Chair system for all participants during the submission upload process.

**Work-In-Progress Roundtables**
Works-in-progress roundtable sessions provide opportunities for presenters to share empirical works-in-progress (including qualitative, quantitative, narrative inquiry, ethnographic, practitioner research, etc.) with a small group of colleagues and to engage in extended discussion of their research. Proposals for a work-in-progress roundtable should include: a title, a 100-150 word abstract, research question(s)/purposes, theoretical framework, methodology, and a description of the corpus of data to be shared at the roundtable. Proposals for a work-in-progress roundtable should be a maximum of 800 words (not including references). The review of proposals for work-in-progress roundtables is a “masked” review and therefore no identifying information should be included in the proposal itself. You will include author and contact information via the Easy Chair system during the submission upload process.

**Alternative Format Sessions**
We invite proposals for sessions that employ formats other than those listed above (e.g., performances, visual or multimodal representations, immersive theatre, installations, etc.). Alternative format sessions should be designed for no longer than 90-minute sessions. Please describe space, time, and/or digital technology needs. Proposals for alternative format sessions should include: a cover sheet, a title, a 100-150 word abstract, a clear description of the session, and a list of participants including names, affiliations, and e-mail addresses. Proposals for alternative format sessions should be no longer than 800 words. The review of alternative format sessions is NOT a masked review and therefore, as appropriate, identifying information may be included in the proposal.