

**Graduate Student
SYMPOSIUM**

Selected Papers*

Vol. 5

2009 – 2010

**Queen's University
Faculty of Education**



Marcea Ingersoll Editor

PREFACE

I'm very pleased to present the Graduate Student Symposium Papers, Volume 5. This edition of the biennial collection of symposium papers marks a decade of tradition that began in 2000-2001. Since its inception, the annual symposium has been an important venue for students at the Faculty to present their work. Over the years, participation from other faculties and universities has grown, and the 5th Volume of selected papers reflects how the symposium now extends far beyond the walls of West Campus. Papers from students at Queen's, Ottawa, and York universities are featured, and graduate students from across Canada have served as peer reviewers. Another step has been the move to an online version of the proceedings; now these papers can be accessed from around the world.

This volume marks the successful collaboration of many people in the Faculty of Education at Queen's and beyond. Thank you to the reviewers for their valuable feedback and insights, and to the support of Marlene Sayers, Cory Laverty, and Sam Kalb. A special thank you to Vicky Arnold who has done a wonderful job of collating and formatting the papers, and to Associate Dean Rebecca Luce-Kapler who has supported and guided this edition from start to finish.

Finally, congratulations to the authors! Your papers represent a range of ideas and approaches, and reflect different stages of graduate student development. It was my hope that this edition would feature pieces that would both encourage students who are just beginning graduate work as well as inform those who are further along in their scholarship. May there be something for everyone.

Marcea Ingersoll, Editor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

King Luu	1
A Phenomenographic Approach to Students' Alternative Conceptions of Electrical Circuits	
Megan Cotnam	23
School Choice Connections around the Globe and in Francophone Minority Communities in Canada: A Critical Reading of School Choice Literature	
Youyi Sun	44
Grading in Language Assessment: A Literature Review	
Gillian Kajganich	66
Current Status of Vocational Education in Ontario: The Exclusionary Outcomes of Marrying Vocational and Special Education	
Yina Wang	87
Exploring Chinese International Students' Understanding of and Attitudes to "Career" and Career Counselling Services	
Maria Lucia Di Placito	108
A Review of the Literature: The Impacts of Parental Illness on Adolescent Schooling	