Symposium
Writing Matters
Distinguished Professor Emerita Lynn Bloom, University of Connecticut, USA.

PROGRAMME

9.30 - 10.30pm - Lynn Bloom

1984 Revisited - The current assault on the English language and why truth and trust matter now more than ever in the age of the internet.

American presidents weigh in: “I cannot tell a lie” (George Washington). “I cannot tell the truth” (Richard Nixon). “I cannot tell the difference” (Donald Trump). This symposium is designed to define truth, to explain why truth is fundamental to human relationships, to the effective functioning of everyday life, and is the essential basis of a democracy. We’ll use George Orwell’s critique of political language, “designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable,” to examine his dystopian novel 1984 as evidence of how language is manipulated and degraded for political purposes. We’ll then turn to contemporary language abuse in Fake News and related Orwellian linguistic corruptions, and conclude with suggestions on how teachers can help their students to detect and combat fake news and other media manipulations.

10.30 - 10.50 Group discussion

10.50 - 11.10 Refreshments

11.10 - 12.50 Reflective comments from colleagues

Terry Locke - WMIER
Gail Pittaway - Wintec
Tracey Slaughter - (Writer, FASS)

12.50 - 1.10 Summary comments from Lynn

This symposium is sponsored by the Wilf Malcolm Institute of Educational Research

DATE
Friday 23 February 2018

TIME
9.30am - 1.10pm

VENUE
Management School, Room MSB 4.02, University of Waikato, Hillcrest Road, Hamilton

RSVP BY: FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2018
To: http://bit.ly/2EYClJh