Following the Contour of Concepts in Qualitative Inquiry
Featured Scholar:
Dr. Lisa A. Mazzei | Associate Professor
Department of Education Studies | University of Oregon

In this talk, I situate inquiry as a process of thinking with concepts. This work, what I have named thinking with theory in my collaborations with Alecia Jackson, is not a method with a script, but is instead a new analytic for qualitative inquiry. Thinking with theory in qualitative inquiry eschews a use of concepts for what they mean and instead puts to use concepts to show how they work, what they do, what they allow, and perhaps what they hide. Mapping enactments from my ongoing work with white teachers and troubled by the problem of voice, I will provide examples of how I have followed the contour of concepts to consider silence as data. I will conclude with implications for teaching and doing work in this new analytic.

Lisa A. Mazzei is Associate Professor in the Department of Education Studies, Affiliated Faculty in the Department of Philosophy, and director of the Critical and Sociocultural Studies in Education Doctoral Program at the University of Oregon. Her research with white teachers and engagement with philosophical concepts has resulted in a body of work that considers inhabited silence in qualitative inquiry and a mapping of inquiry as a process methodology. She is the author of Inhabited Silence in Qualitative Research, co-editor of Voice in Qualitative Inquiry, and co-author of Thinking with Theory in Qualitative Research.

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