InnoConf17

Innovative Language Teaching and Learning at University

Keynote Speakers

Keynote 1:

Dr Shannon Sauro: The Innovative and Creative Informal Language Learning of Fans

Shannon Sauro is an Associate Professor in the Department of Culture, Languages and Media at Malmö University. She trains pre-service English teachers in both the primary and secondary school teacher education programs.

Her areas of research include computer-mediated second language acquisition, task-based language teaching in online environments, and the intersection of online media fandoms and language learning. Her current line of research explores the use of collaborative fanfiction writing to bridge language and literary learning for advanced L2 learners of English. She is the current president of the Computer-Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO), co-editor with Carol Chapelle of the forthcoming Handbook of Technology in Second Language Teaching and Learning (Wiley Blackwell), and an avid podcaster in the Sherlock Holmes fandom.

The talk begins by exploring research in online media fandom which has examined how second language learners and users engage in fan practices such as fan fiction writing and fansubbing or scanlation (amateur subtitling and translation) for informal language learning. It then takes an in depth look at the informal L2 language and digital literacy development of a Sherlock fan who joined social media-based fan communities for the purpose of developing her English. It then concludes with an introduction to research that has begun to investigate the integration of fan practices into the university classroom to support language and literary learning.

Keynote 2:

Anna Comas-Quinn in conversation with Richard Simcott

Richard Simmcott is one of the most multilingual people from the U.K. A hyperpolyglot, language consultant and life-long language lover, Richard is a key player in the international polyglot movement, and one of the organisers of the Polyglot Conference.

Anna Comas-Quinn is a Senior Lecturer in Spanish at The Open University, where she is currently working on an innovative MA in Translation. Anna's research interests include Open educational resources and practices, open online communities, technology-enhanced language learning and professional development for language teachers. Anna is interested in how technology can improve and enable professional development for language teachers, and how open spaces and communities can be harnessed for educational purposes.

Anna and Richard will discuss language teaching and learning in the context of the changing technological landscape and the development of new communities and networks to support learning 'in the wild'.