METHODAL 2016

CALL FOR PAPERS

Language Acquisition Methodology
Innovation: why and how?

Organisers: The Department of French and European Studies at the University of Cyprus (Nicosia, Cyprus) and the Department of French Language and Literature at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)

Hilton Cyprus Hotel – Nicosia, Cyprus
23-24 September 2016

http://methodal.net

The idea for this conference came about following the Colloquium organised in Thessaloniki on 17 October 2014 by the French Institute of Greece in Thessaloniki ("Learning and teaching French in the digital age: for innovative language education in Southeast Europe"). It was observed by many people involved in language learning in countries of South Eastern Europe that many difficulties persist regarding the implementation of current methodological guidelines found in programs and in official curricula, most often following the publications of the Council of Europe.

Over the past decades we have seen the implementation of new teaching and learning methods and approaches (communicative, social constructivist, task-based, etc.) supported by instructional technology.

New needs in language teaching related to globalization, as well as new potentials offered by information and communication technology, have led to the reform of education policies ("federalisation" of language policies, redesign of national language teaching curricula, modernisation of language certification procedures) as well as to the introduction of innovative learning material.

In schools or language learning centres, however, the implementation of novel methods frequently fails to reach the expected levels of usage and the expected quality and pace of instruction. Could this be due to a lack of necessary human and/or material resources? Could it be due to the conservatism of teachers and students? Or could it be due to the failure to adapt the changes to existing institutional circumstances?

It is the concept of innovation and the reasons for, and ways to, implement it which will be the focus of this conference: "Should we innovate? Yes! But when, why, and especially how?"

With the exception of the already scheduled plenary sessions, scholars are invited to present a 20 minute paper (+ 10 minutes for discussion) reporting on research results related to the

- necessity,
- feasibility,
- efficiency,
- added value,
- degree of excellence,
- implementation methods and/or
- evaluation

of methodological trends or language teaching/learning practices deemed innovative.

These questions will be addressed in relation to school education (public or private), vocational training, higher education and/or lifelong learning.

It is expected that the theoretical frameworks of the presentations will derive from the following disciplines:

- psychopedagogical and education sciences,
- linguistics,
- translation studies,
- philology,
- language policy,
- language teaching and learning

Presentations will be delivered in English or French to an audience of researchers from the above disciplines and to people involved in language teaching: education policy makers, program or curriculum designers, language teachers, examination writers, etc.

Submission of abstracts

Abstracts (max. 3000 characters) can be submitted before 30 April 2016 via the conference website (http://methodal.net). All abstracts will be anonymously peer reviewed. Submissions must include the problem to be addressed, the research hypotheses, the methodology used, the theoretical framework, and some indicative references. Abstracts based research in progress may also be proposed. Authors must make sure that their research results are related to the theme of the conference.

Conference fee

The conference fee of 140 euros includes registration, access to plenary and parallel sessions, and to various documents, coffee breaks and lunches.

Publication

It is intended to publish the conference proceedings will online in December 2016. Selected papers will also be published in a collective printed volume.