

BAAL LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING SIG

6th ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

‘Cognitive-interactional and socio-cultural perspectives on L2 learning, teaching, and assessment: Compatible, complementary, or incommensurable?’

8-9 JULY 2010

KING’S COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

PLENARY SPEAKERS:

David Block (University of London Institute of Education)

Lourdes Ortega (University of Hawaii)

Peter Skehan (University of London Birkbeck College)

In recent years, researchers and practitioners of L2 learning, teaching, and assessment have become increasingly concerned with questions about the nature and the conceptualization of L2 learning and teaching. For some, L2 learning is predominantly a matter of understanding how the mind processes language data, an essentially cognitive perspective which has been hugely influential in shaping proposals for form-focused instruction and task-based language teaching. For others, understanding L2 learning and teaching means understanding how language learners and teachers are situated in social contexts, a perspective which highlights such matters as learner identities and human agency, and the roles played in the L2 classroom by culture and social relationships.

Our intention is that the conference, to some extent at least, will explore how far these differing perspectives are compatible. The kind of discussion we seek to encourage is integrative in nature, inviting potential contributors to situate their own research on a methodological, epistemological and ontological continuum, and to explore the potential and possible limitations of their own perspective on L2 learning and teaching. Overall the conference theme allows us to seek greater understanding of how social contexts and affordances on the one hand, and cognitive conditions and constraints on the other, necessarily work together in the creation of opportunities for learning.

Conference Website: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/sspp/education/events/baal/>

The conference will be held in the Franklin-Wilkins Building of the Waterloo Campus of King’s College London. <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/campuses/waterloo.html>

Registration (including lunch on both days):

BAAL members: £80

Non-members: £100

Student rate: £65

Conference Dinner on Thursday 8th July to be paid for separately on the day

Accommodation can be booked directly with University of London International Hall at <http://www.halls.london.ac.uk/visitor/international/Default.aspx>

Or King’s College London residences at:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/structure/admin/facser/conbro/accom/>

A list of hotels is available on request from nick.andon@kcl.ac.uk