Thursday 4 June　　　***2:20pm - 3:00pm***　　　Room: Block Y, Room Y306

Presentation Title:　　　What is the Role of an Advisor for Independent
Learning?

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Yukiko Ishikawa, Soka University
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Theme:	Self-directed and self-access learning
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

Since being established in 2006, the English Consultation Room in Soka University, Japan, has seen an increase in its number of new and repeated users. Initially, the purpose of the self-study advising sessions at the consultation room were to assist students with their independent language learning by providing them with advice on a regular, but voluntary, basis rather than a "one-shot" advising session. In that sense, the initial purpose was reasonably achieved. It might be suggested that shifting from a strategy-based advising approach to a task-based advising approach played a major role in the increasing number of students who return for follow-up sessions. This presentation first introduces an overview of a self-study advising session, describes students' English learning needs in a Japanese university context, and examines the effects of utilizing different advising approaches. At the end of the presentation, the presenters would like to open a discussion with the audience on the effectiveness of giving specific tasks when advising students to support their development as independent learners.

Biodata

Yukiko Ishikawa is currently working as an advisor for independent language learning at Soka University, Japan. She has an MA degree in Second and Foreign Language Education from Soka University of America. Her research interests include learner autonomy, e-learning and Cooperative Learning.

Daniel Sasaki is currently a lecturer and coordinator of a self-access center at Soka University, Japan. He has an MA degree in Second and Foreign Language Education from Soka University of America. His research interests include children's education, self-access, Cooperative Learning, and methodology to maximize a student centered learning environment.