

Friday 5 June

11:00am - 11:40am

Room: Block Y, Room Y403

Presentation Title:

A Narrative of Learning and Teaching EFL

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Theme:	Learner and teacher experiences
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

This paper arises from my PhD thesis in which I developed a pedagogically-motivated, self-reflexive way of doing research on learning and teaching, and counselling, in an autonomous language learning environment. I wrote the thesis in the form of a teacher-researcher's autobiographical experiential narrative. This type of writing provided a way of appreciating the lived experience which narrative inquiry arises from. As counsellor and researcher I listen to and try to "hear" the diverse personal and academic voices of the past as they are expressed in the autobiographical narratives of the participants.

The basic motivation was to describe how the past learning and teaching experiences of the participants organise themselves into texts and into talk, both in counselling and in research-interviews. I also wanted to describe how a teacher-researcher reads these texts and the talk and the significance of the research writing process itself for the outcome.

This kind of research gives insights into the subjective dimensions of EFL learning. It helps us appreciate that learners' emotionally-charged experiences are integral to their learner identities. I will discuss research as auto/biography: as a teacher-researcher I use my own life and EFL experience to understand and interpret the stories of the research participants.