

Friday 5 June

12:00 - 12:40pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y403

Workshop Title: Whose story is it, anyway? Sharing histories of language learning

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Felicity Kjisik, Helsinki University Language Centre Leena Karlsson, Helsinki University Language Centre
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Theme:	Learner and teacher experiences
Presentation Type:	Workshop

Abstract

Asking learners to write about their language learning histories has become commonplace in autonomous learning contexts. But why do we ask our learners to do this and, even more importantly, how do we react and relate to their texts?

In this workshop we invite the participants to experience writing, reading and sharing autobiographical stories about learning languages. We will begin by briefly sharing a few theoretical and practical reflections on auto/biography in the service of foreign language education in autonomous learning environments. We will also briefly explain, with examples, our own approach to writing and sharing first-person texts with our own students in the context of language counselling for autonomy.

The workshop participants will then have the opportunity themselves to go through the process of writing, reading, reacting and sharing stories in small groups. Hopefully this will make us more aware of the implications of asking learners to share their stories with us.

Biodata

Felicity Kjisik, MA, teaches English and is co-administrator of the English unit of some 25 teachers at the Language Centre of Helsinki University, Finland. In 1993, she co-founded an autonomous learning programme (ALMS), which has also included continuous collaborative action research. Her special interests are learner histories and reflection, self-evaluation and counselling. She also develops blended courses for students of art and design, which make use of IT, for example Moodle, while striving to maintain the principles of autonomy.