Toward useful program evaluation in college foreign language education
Norris, John M., Davis, John McE., Sinicrope, Castle, & Watanabe, Yukiko (Eds.)
This volume reports on innovative, useful evaluation work conducted within U.S. college foreign language programs. Each case is reported by program-internal educators, who walk readers through critical steps, from identifying evaluation uses, users, and questions, to designing methods, interpreting findings, and taking actions.
Aloha and welcome to the second Cultura Conference. The first one took place at MIT in October 2007 and brought together 35 language educators from different areas of the country and abroad.

Started in 1997 by three members of the French Department at MIT - Gilberte Furstenberg, Sabine Levet and Shoggy Waryn (now at Brown University) - thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Cultura (see http://cultura.mit.edu) is a web-based intercultural exchange designed to help language students in the US and abroad understand the values, attitudes, beliefs and concepts inherent in each other’s culture.

Originally created for use by students at MIT and students at a French university, Cultura has now been adopted by about 20 institutions and adapted to several other languages and cultures, with web-based exchanges taking place between the US and such countries as China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Samoa and Spain.

You may have just heard about this project and want to find out more, or you may already be involved in a similar one. Either way, we hope that the series of panels we have organized this year will help all of you get a deeper understanding of the issues involved when designing an intercultural exchange.

The Conference will start with an overall presentation of the Cultura project by its original creators that will include goals, approach, content, design and methodology, as well as a demonstration of the Cultura Tool.

Different panelists - each focusing on a specific topic - will then present their own version and adaptation of Cultura to other languages and cultures. They will share their experience - some dating back a few years, some started just last year, such as the University of Hawai’i “on line café projects.”

The main goal of this Conference is to generate discussions among all of us, so that we can benefit from each other’s experiences. We expect it to be very informal. We also hope that the conversations will go beyond this Conference and continue in the Faculty Forum that is provided in the Cultura Community Site: http://cultura.mit.edu/facultyforum

Please feel free to explore the whole Cultura site, which - among other features - details the many key aspects of the project, provides a Teacher’s Guide as well as access to the Cultura Tool and the Faculty Forum.

Mahalo nui loa!
- Gilberte Furstenberg (gfursten@mit.edu) and Sabine Levet (slevet@mit.edu)
The organizers of Cultura: Web-based Intercultural Exchanges would like to thank our generous sponsors:

The MIT Contemporary French Studies Fund
UH National Foreign Language Resource Center (NFLRC)
UH National Resource Center East Asia (NRCEA)
UH Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS)
UH Center for Pacific Island Studies (CPIS)
UH Language Learning Center (LLC)

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Conference shuttle service
For the convenience of our conference attendees staying at the Ocean Resort (OR) and Queen Kapiolani (QK) Hotels, we will be providing shuttle service as follows:

SATURDAY (10/10)
11:30 am pick-up (OR-->QK-->Imin Center)
4:45 pm pick-up (Imin Center-->OR-->QK)

SUNDAY (10/11)
7:30 am pick-up (OR-->QK-->Imin Center)
6:30 pm pick-up (Moore Hall-->OR-->QK)

Look for the white Superstar Motorcoach (chartered by Royal Star Hawai‘i).

Wailana Room (downstairs – garden level)
Boxed lunches will be available for those who have pre-paid for the Sunday lunch option here between 12:30 and 1:30. Please present your ticket to receive your lunch. Outside of lunchtime, the Wailana Room will used as a lounge room (Sun, 8:30-4:30) for those who wish to chat, relax, or check email on their laptops.

Wireless
Wifi is available throughout the Imin Center during conference hours. Connect to EWC-Guest1 SSID. (NOTE: the EWC-Guest1 SSID is NOT encrypted. Communications on this WiFi network are open and as with any open network, can be eavesdropped upon by others in the physical vicinity.)
Username – nflrc1010 Password – 1010nflrc

Restrooms
Restrooms are located on the 2nd floor near the corner presentation rooms and on the garden level (downstairs) near the staircase area. Pay phones are located near the men’s bathroom in these areas.

Before you leave . . .
Don’t forget to drop off your completed evaluation form at the registration desk and please help us be green by returning and recycling your name badge.
PROGRAM
SECOND CULTURA CONFERENCE
on Web-based Intercultural Exchanges
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NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE RESOURCE CENTER
The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
October 10 and 11, 2009

All events are in the Keoni Auditorium unless otherwise indicated

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

12:00-1:00 Registration check-in (Imin Center lanai)

1:00-1:30 Introductory remarks
David Hiple, NFLRC, U. of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

1:30-3:00 A tour of Cultura and of the Cultura Community Site
Gilberte Furstenberg & Sabine Levet, M.I.T., Cambridge [USA-FRANCE]

3:00-3:15 Break / Afternoon refreshments (Imin Center lanai)

3:15-3:45 Presentation of the Cultura Exchange Tool
Sabine Levet

3:45-4:30 Panel 1: Designing a web-based intercultural exchange: challenges and pitfalls
Panelists:
  • Dorothy Chun, U. of California, Santa Barbara [USA GERMANY]
  • Yoichi Tsuji, Tezukayama Gakuin Izumigaoka High School, Japan & Cindy Wong, Moanalua High School, Honolulu [JAPAN-USA]
Moderator: Stephen Tschudi, NFLRC, U. of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30-9:00 Registration check-in / Coffee service (Imin Center lanai)

9:00-9:45 Panel 2: What language to use for communication (native vs. target)?
Panelists:
  • David Hiple [HAWAI‘I-FRANCE]
  • Imelda Gasmen & Lilibeth Robotham, U. of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Nenita Domingo, U. of California at Los Angeles [HAWAI‘I-CALIFORNIA]
9:45-10:30  **Panel 3: What makes for a “successful” intercultural forum?**
Panelists:
- Guy Kellogg, *Kapi'olani Community College, Honolulu* [HAWAI'I-FRANCE]
- Gilberte Furstenberg [USA-FRANCE]
Moderator: David Hiple

10:30-10:45  Break / Coffee service (Imin Center lanai)

10:45-11:15  **Panel 4: The tools: which seem most appropriate for intercultural exchanges? Do different tools lead to different types of interactions?**
Panelist:
- Sarah Guth, *U. of Padova, Italy* via Skype videoconference from Italy [ITALY-USA]
Moderators: Gilberte Furstenberg & Stephen Tschudi

11:15-12:30  **Panel 5: What happens in the classroom? = the roles of teachers and learners**
Panelists:
- Jim Crapotta, *Barnard College. New York City* via Skype videoconference from New York [USA-SPAIN]
- Denise Ah Sue, *Farrington High School/UH Mānoa, Toso Fo'ifua, Farrington High School, Honolulu, Chrissy Lam Yuen, U. of Hawai'i at Mānoa, & Evile Feleti, American Samoa Community College, Pago Pago* [HAWAI'I-AMERICAN SAMOA]
- Evelyn Wade, *U. of California, Santa Barbara* [USA-GERMANY]
Moderator: Sabine Levet & Stephen Tschudi

12:30-1:30  Lunch (Wailana Room – garden level downstairs)

1:30-2:15  **Panel 6: Evaluating online intercultural understanding: the different modes**
Panelists:
- Stephen Tschudi & Song Jiang, *U. of Hawai'i at Mānoa* [HAWAI'I-CHINA]
- Sabine Levet [USA-FRANCE]
Moderator: Dorothy Chun

2:15-3:00  **Final discussions/wrap up**
Dorothy Chun, Gilberte Furstenberg, Sabine Levet, & Stephen Tschudi
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