

FOREWORD

CLaSIC, the Centre for Language Studies International Conference, inaugurated in 2004, has grown to become a community of scholars, researchers and practitioners for an invigorating discourse on theoretical conceptions and approaches, research insights, and practical experiences in foreign language education.

This year's theme for the conference is: Motivation, Identity and Autonomy in Foreign Language Education. Motivation, identity and autonomy play important roles in the language learning process. Motivation can be of different types, nature, and levels, or strengths, some of which are more significant for effective language learning, than others. Identity refers to the dynamic representations of self that a language learner adopts, constructs, maintains or negotiates, in relation to his social, cultural and political contexts. Autonomy in learning is the active involvement in and willingness to take charge of one's learning as well as the capability to do so.

What are the interrelations between the motivation, identity and autonomy? What is the impact on motivation when language learners are encouraged to speak of themselves, and to express and engage their own identities through the language? At the same time, it is well established that motivation has an influence on the autonomy of language learners, but what is the nature of this influence and to what extent are these two notions linked? Next, how and to what extent does enabling foreign language learners to 'speak as themselves' in the target language with their own identities promote language learner autonomy? Or can identity be seen as a goal or product of autonomous learning?

CLaSIC 2018 Organising Committee encourages participants to actively contemplate and debate essential issues related to the conference theme and diverse sub-themes pertaining to motivation, identity and autonomy in foreign language teaching and learning. Some of the various sub-themes include:

- Theories of Language Learning Motivation
- Motivational Strategies for Teachers and Learners
- Culture, Self and Identity in Language Education
- Motivation and Identity in Second Language Acquisition
- Learner and Teacher Autonomy
- Learning Orientations and Learning Styles
- Self-regulation and Metacognition
- Technology in Support of Motivation and Autonomy
- Instructional Approaches and Methods
- Curriculum and Materials Development
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Teacher Education and Development
- Research Methods and Approaches

It is hoped that through scholarly and critical exchanges on this wide range of topics, participants will gain a deeper understanding of motivation, identity and autonomy in foreign

language education in their various forms and with their contributions to teaching and learning.

CLaSIC 2018 will also play host to the Sixth Asia-Pacific Symposium for the Teaching of Asian Languages or APSTAL. We are excited to welcome scholars from leading universities, mainly in the Asia-Pacific region, who have been our partners for the symposium, since the inaugural session in December 2008. In addition to our existing collaborators – Australian National University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Education University of Hong Kong, RMIT University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and University of British Columbia, we are pleased to welcome new partners in Jissen Women's University and Kobe University.

Additionally, CLaSIC 2018 will be hosting a symposium of the research network of International Association for Applied Linguistics (AILA ReN) on Intercultural Mediation. We are honored to welcome leading scholars from universities across the world including Daito Bunka University, Flinders University, Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Nanzan University, National Engineering School of Tunis, National University of Singapore, University of Bordeaux Languages, Université Bordeaux-Montaigne, University of Franche-Comté, Universität Koblenz-Landau, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of South Australia and University of Warwick.

On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank our four distinguished keynote speakers, Prof. Phil Benson, Prof. Kata Csizer, Prof. Kimberly Noels and Prof. Wen Xiaohong Sharon.

I also would like to thank all the contributors to this conference, including paper and poster presenters, symposium presenters and discussants, and all other participants attending and enriching this conference. Our sincere thanks go also to our sponsors who have generously helped to make CLaSIC 2018 a reality, namely the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of NUS, Char Yong (Dabu) Foundation Limited and the Chinese Language and Research Fund. We also are grateful to our partners for the APSTAL and AILA ReN symposiums. I also would like to extend my gratitude to our Director, Associate Professor Titima Suthiwan, and former Director, Associate Professor Chan Wai Meng, for their constant encouragement and guidance in the journey of preparing for this conference. My special thanks also go to the conference organising committee and the administrative team who have diligently and generously contributed time and effort to ensure the success of CLaSIC 2018.

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Chair, Organising Committee
CLaSIC 2018