ReCALL **14** (2): 327–328. © 2002 Cambridge University Press
DOI: 10.1017/S0958344002000927 Printed in the United Kingdom

CONFERENCE REPORT

EUROCALL 2002

Jyväskylä, Finland, August 14-17

The EUROCALL 2002 conference with the title *Networked language learning – a link missing?* was hosted in Jyväskylä, a town girded by extensive forests and picturesque lakes, a place well-suited to rid body and soul of day-to-day strains and worries.

The organisation was outstanding. After an efficient registration the attendees had to keep to a busy schedule of academic events interspersed with highly entertaining and useful social programmes. The conference venue, the Jyväskylä Pavilijonki, was well equipped and situated within walking distance of all hotels. With the Conference Office and Information Desk, constant updates on last minute changes, informative leaflets, etc. the conference organiser, **Peppi Taalas**, and her assistants guaranteed that the conference participants would make the most of the event.

Academic events

Pre-conference workshops

The pre-conference workshops offered a variety of options including web-enabled databases, project based and multimedia enhanced language learning, XML technologies, natural language processing, the DIALANG project, and an introduction to Finnish.

The keynote speeches

Leo van Lier (Monterey Institute of International Studies, USA) in his speech entitled *Challenges and opportunities in CALL: a systems view*, described the PC as a liberator and a straight jacket and addressed questions concerning the effect of computers on language teaching and learning: teacher preparation, learner needs, equity, etc. At this stage it seems that the most well-prepared and active teachers are those who are self-taught, so there is a serious need for in-service and pre-service teacher training which understands primarily that the curriculum/pedagogy is to be enhanced and not overtaken by technology, that learners need extended support and flexibility, and that there is a 'digital divide' that interferes with the teaching and learning processes.

Kaisa Kautto-Koivula (Nokia Ventures Organisation) addressed the changes in knowledge management brought about by the new technologies and globalisation.

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0958344002000927 Published online by Cambridge University Press

Kautto-Koivula also emphasised that technology is not an answer to all the questions teachers have; that a balance is to be found between technology and the human approaches. She contended that with the application of the new technology in pedagogy a new learning type has started to emerge, outlined the potentials inherent in the new technologies and emphasised that it will take years for us to be able to fully exploit the power of e-learning.

Uschi Felix (Monash University, Australia) in her well-organised and informative speech entitled *Teaching language online: Deconstructing the myths*, approached and dismantled the myths surrounding online learning (online learning = saving costs, saving time, saving staff, something resented by students outright, inferior to the traditional classroom settings) from the perspective of administrators, teachers and students. One of her many practical pieces of advice that must be shared with classroom practitioners using new technologies is: "… do not use technology simply because you can."

Gilly Salmon (Open University Business School, UK) gave a creatively designed presentation entitled *Future Learning Encounters* in which she presented four strategic scenarios in online learning. The model she presented was set up on the basis of characteristic approaches to the new learning environment, using an entertaining metaphor of the Planets Contentious, Instantia, Nomadict, or Cafélattia.

Poster presentations

The posters included a variety of presentations on such topics as collaboration in virtual environments, the new role of writing as a tool for communication, on-line resources, and e-learning for spoken Japanese using Java.

Social programme

The social programme included a welcoming reception hosted by the City of Jyväskylä, a Concert Buffet with entertainment by a jocose local band, and the *Thousand Lakes Cruise*, an unforgettable boat trip on some of the lakes in the immediate vicinity of Jyväskylä. For photographs visit the conference website – http://www.solki.jyu.fi/eurocall2002/.

EUROCALL 2003

The next EUROCALL conference will be held in Limerick, Ireland, 3-6 September 2003. It is entitled *New Literacies in Language Learning and Teaching*.

GYULA TANKÓ
Eötvös University (ELTE), Budapest
Holder of the János Kohn Scholarship, 2002

https://doi.org/10.1017/S0958344002000927 Published online by Cambridge University Press