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Hong Kong Association for Self-Access Learning and Development

HONG KONG ASSOCIATION FOR SELF-ACCESS LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (HASALD) SEMINAR:

THE FUTURE OF LANGUAGE LEARNING IN A DIGITAL AND GLOBALIZED WORLD
REGINA BRAUTLACHT

As education increasingly integrates digital technologies, language learning is evolving through innovative approaches that combine virtual exchange (VE), interdisciplinary collaboration, and international partnerships. This transformation fosters linguistic proficiency, intercultural competence, and global citizenship. Virtual exchange plays a pivotal role in this shift by offering immersive, real-world language practice beyond traditional classroom settings. Programs such as ProGlobe, which received the EU Language Label for excellence in multilingual and intercultural education, exemplify how VE enhances linguistic skills through problem-based collaboration. By engaging students from diverse linguistic backgrounds in sustainability-focused discussions, ProGlobe demonstrates how global language learning can be deeply embedded in meaningful, real-world contexts. The Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences (H-BRS) leads this initiative, collaborating with the Polytechnic Institute of Viseu in Portugal, Fanshawe College in Canada, and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in the USA. In 2023, Shenzhen Technology University (SZTU) in China also joined this network of virtual exchange practitioners. These institutions are part of the Consortium of Virtual Exchange (CoVE), which supports the Virtual Exchange China Hub, further expanding access to digital and cross-cultural learning opportunities. This initiative builds on over ten years of collaboration and research in virtual exchange, multilingual education, and digital mobility. The longstanding partnerships between these universities have resulted in extensive research, joint publications, and international conferences that have contributed to shaping best practices in VE and online language learning. By continuously integrating research findings into their programs, these institutions ensure that virtual exchange remains at the forefront of digital education, providing students with cutting-edge learning experiences that prepare them for a globalized workforce. Looking ahead, the future of language learning will be hybrid, inclusive, and technology-driven, with VE serving as a bridge between formal education, digital innovation, and real-world communication needs. The integration of VE into language curricula will not only enhance linguistic proficiency but also empower learners to navigate diverse cultural landscapes—an essential skill in the 21st century.

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Date:
6 May 2025
18:30 - 19:30

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Department of English and Communication
PolyU Hung Hom Bay Campus

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