The Center for
Multilingual & Intercultural Communication

The MIC Distinguished Lecture Series

The role of technology in shaping multilingual language and literacy practices: Toward a relational pedagogy
Friday October 2, 2015, 2:00-3:00 pm
Place: Poetry Center, Humanities 2001

Since the origins of writing, technology has always given people new ways to use and learn languages. This talk will present examples of some ways that digital technologies are currently shaping language and literacy practices in multilingual contexts. These changes raise important educational questions about how to deal with new kinds of learners, new technologies, and new environments for language teaching. Rather than attempting to distinguish between "new" literacies and "old" literacies (linked to "new" and "old" technologies), I propose an approach that brings attention to relationships between current and past literacy practices in order to prepare learners for the future. This approach involves reflection on how technologies and media influence the design of communication and embody values and fundamental ideas about what communication is. The presentation will develop a set of principles and goals for this educational approach, then propose ways to achieve those goals through a "relational pedagogy" that focuses on how meanings emerge from interactions among material, social, and individual resources.

Richard Kern

Richard Kern is Professor of French and Director of the Berkeley Language Center at the University of California at Berkeley. He teaches courses in French linguistics, language, and foreign language pedagogy, and supervises graduate teaching assistants. His research interests include language acquisition, literacy, and relationships between language and technology. He is Associate Editor for Language Learning & Technology and Editor of the Teacher's Forum section of L2 Journal. He is the author of *Language, Literacy and Technology* (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

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The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication (MIC) is an interdisciplinary research center where applied linguists, linguists, psychologists, communication scholars, education specialists and scholars of allied disciplines explore multilingual repertoires as rich resources in the context of global mobility and technological advancement.
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