Welcome to the Fall issue of the AMLF Newsletter which highlights our language lab's new developments, informs the McGill community of recent events, and provides you with information on new publications in the field of computer-assisted language learning, future conferences, and professional development opportunities.

NEW RESOURCES

CAN-8 Update

External learning tools on myCourses

Did you know that you can request to add tools such as PeerGrade (for peer assessment), VoiceThread (for interactive online discussions), and Bongo (for video assignments, interactive videos, and virtual classrooms) to your course on myCourses? Email TLS with your course name and the tool you would like to have added.

CAN-8 version 2019-07-15 is now available: please download the newest version (the previous version will not work). Unlike before, there are currently no limitations as to when or where you can access CAN-8. However, CAN-8 is only accessible from PCs.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennica Grimshaw.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Student Workshop Series: The Autonomous Language Learner

Want to boost your language learning outside of class? In this workshop series, we will share tips, strategies, apps, and other resources to get you started.

Workshop #1 - Phonetics for Language Learning

Our lab attendant Emma Gibson will show students how to apply the key concepts of phonetics (the study of speech sounds) to language learning to help them master the sound system of their target language.

Date & Time: Wednesday, Oct. 2nd from 6-7PM
Location: MS-10C

Two other workshops and an evening of board games are also on the program. More information to come. Stay tuned!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Professional Development Series

Student Response Systems (SRS) - October 24th, 2019 at 4:30PM

Prof. Kevin Papin, Faculty Lecturer with the French Language Centre, will present an overview of different student response systems (PollEv, Socrative, etc.) and will include a hands-on activity in small groups. The presentation will conclude by discussing the benefits and limitations of such tools, based on the hands-on activity.

Suggestions on using grammar checkers in the L2 classroom - November 20th, 2019 at 4:30PM

Dr. Paul John of l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières will present on how to use grammar checkers to provide automatic feedback on L2 writing errors. Results of a research project (John & Woll, 2019) that assesses the extent to which three grammar checking tools (Grammarly, Virtual Writing Tutor and MS Word): i) actually flag all errors; ii) provide accurate replacement forms; and iii) avoid 'false alarms' (forms mistakenly flagged as errors) will be presented, followed by hands-on activities that can be easily adapted for use in the language classroom.

Please contact Jennica Grimshaw for more information.

Language Teaching and Technology Discussion Group

Our Discussion Group meets twice a semester to share tools, resources, and practices in using technology for language teaching, and include hands-on demonstrations.

The first meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year will be held in early October (date TBA). This will be a Meet & Greet for new and returning members. We will also take time to look at PlayPosit, an online application which allows you to create interactive video activities, and other similar tools.
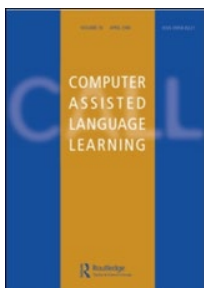
If you would like more information, contact Jennica Grimshaw. You can also contact Jennica if you have a tool that you would be interested in sharing with us in future meetings.

Learning Branch Workshop

If you are interested in learning more about Learning Branch, a web-based learning management system that targets oral production, listening, and pronunciation through tasks and assessments, please email Jennica for a demo and consultation. We have received positive feedback from the instructors who are currently using this tool, and we hope to encourage more classes to use it.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Computer Assisted Language Learning
Vol. 23, Issue 5-6, 2019

Click here to view the latest issue of Computer Assisted Language Learning. Articles include Using google translate in EFL drafts: a preliminary investigation (Tsai), Moving literature circles into wiki-based environment: the role of online self-regulation in EFL learners' attitude toward collaborative learning (Liang & Tsai), and The effects of symmetric and asymmetric social networks on second language communication (Paul & Friginal), among others.

Language Learning and Technology

Visit Language Learning and Technology's June 2019 issue to view recent publications, such as Collaborative writing and text quality in Google Docs (Abrams) Effect of using texting on vocabulary instruction for English learners (Li & Cummins), The effect of two forms of computer-automated metalinguistic corrective feedback (Gao & Ma), and Does a 3D immersive experience

enhance Mandarin writing by CSL students? (Lan, Lyu, & Chin), among others.

Here, you can also read Jack Burston's review of Learning Branch, a platform the AMLF is currently piloting.

CONFERENCES

Call for Papers

CCERBAL: Bilingualism and Beyond: Advancing the thinking on pedagogies and practices
April 30 - May 2, 2020
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
Submission deadline: December 1, 2019
For more information, click here.

9th International Conference on Second Language Pedagogies (SLPC9): *Innovating or (re)enhancing our approaches to teaching and learning languages*
May 8-9, 2020
Concordia University, Montreal, QC
Submission deadline: October 31, 2019
For more information, click here.

CALICO 2020: Global Realities
May 26-29, 2020
Seattle, WA, USA
Submission deadline: October 25th, 2019
For more information, click here.

9th Meeting on Language Teaching (ReEL 2020)
May 28-29, 2020
Université de Québec à Montréal, Montréal, QC
For more information, click here.

21st International CALL Research Conference: Smart CALL
July 9-10, 2020

Universidad de La Sabana, Bogotá, Colombia
Website coming soon.

Conferences to attend

EducLang 2019: Taking stock of the issues related to language teaching and learning
September 26-28, 2019
University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON
For more information, click here.

NERALLT 2019 Conference
October 18-19, 2019
Yale University, New Haven, CT
For more information, click here.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Our Facebook page and Twitter account (@AMLF_LLMFA) have up-to-date information about events and workshops at the AMLF, and AMLF updates, and share posts related to language learning and technology.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to welcome our new lab attendant, Sami Ait Ouahmane, and welcome back Emma Gibson, Alex Karaliuk, Humayun Khan, Brian Kirotich, Reem Madkour, Isaac Testa, and Mohammad Yaseen.

Our lab attendants work hard to help our labs run smoothly, and are here to answer your questions. Here's to another great semester!