Welcome

Dear SIG21 colleagues:

Sarah, Charles and I would like to welcome you to our 8th Newsletter for SIG21. We were, about two months ago, in Limassol, Cyprus to join the 16th EARLI Conference on the theme Towards a reflective society: synergies between learning, teaching and research, held on from the 25th to the 29th August.

In this newsletter, you will find some SIG 21 news and some notes about the conference.

Best wishes

Your JURE coordinator, Giulia Messina Dahlberg

News and Events

EARLI Conference – Limassol 25 – 29 August 2015

The 16th EARLI conference was held at the Cyprus University of Technology in Limassol, on August 25th -29th 2015. The conference report (including some pictures taken during a range of conference-related events) is now available here:

The conference theme, Towards a reflective society: synergies between learning, teaching and research helped build up the ethos of the occasion, not least during the symposium organised by Erik De Corte, the first day of the conference. Here, a group of former EARLI officers (Heinz Mandl, Filip Dochy, Roger Säljö, Lucia Mason and Andreas Demetriuio) shared their thoughts and reflections about the future of research in learning and instruction and expressed their concerns about the links between research and the practice of learning and instruction. One more specific concern expressed by Roger Säljö related for example to the understanding and research of practices in which diversity and multilingualism are on the agenda on a daily basis. This seems very relevant and a crucial direction for educational research and is in line with SIG 21 research agenda and areas of interests. Pedagogical innovation, in relation to
particular groups in society and linked to specific opportunities of learning and development was also on the agenda during e.g. Yrjö Engeström’s keynote. Europe is facing times in which issues of innovation, migration, change and mobility must be addressed and educational research has to make its contribution in this direction. The SIG 21 invited symposium provides example of the ways in which such issues can be addressed, from a range of different perspectives, both empirical and epistemological.

**SIG 21 symposium**

The symposium, organised by Alessio Surian and Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta, with the title *The Boundary Turn: challenges in researching and theorizing learning and diversity from a decolonial perspectives*, included four paper presentations by Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta, Örebro University, Sweden, Elina Tapio, Jyväskylä University, Finland, Giulia Messina Dahlberg, Dalarna University, Sweden and Alessio Surian, University of Padova, Italy. All the four presentations offered renewed positions to discuss what is glossed as (super)diversity, multiculturalism and multilingualism in learning and instruction. We would like to thank Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta and Alessio Surian for their great job as symposium organisers! Thank you also to the presenters as well as all the conference delegates that attended the symposium and who contributed in making it a relevant and important contribution to the EARLI conference with their interesting questions and issues that will be taken into consideration in the planning of SIG 21 future activities and events. A special thanks is due to the symposium discussant, Colette Daiute, who, in spite of health issues in connection to the conference that prevented her from being physically present, could send her important feedback to the symposium participants. Alessio was able to share Colette’s comments with the audience during the symposium. Thank you!
In the pictures above: the SIG21 symposium, Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta, Alessio Surian, Elina Tapio, Giulia Messina Dahlberg, Crossroads in Limassol.

Executive Committee Policy meeting

There have been some changes to staff within the EARLI office. The EARLI office welcomed Patrick Belpaire as the new Managing Director, as Filip Dochy steps down after many years on the Executive Committee. Patrick already has connections with EAPRIL so this will strengthen those ties. More importantly for our SIG, the Executive Committee (EC) has made some changes to the EARLI Articles. Whilst members’ rights remain unchanged, the EC will become more accountable and transparent about its decision making for the members. Their aim is to put more control for decision making into the hands of the SIGs. They seek to become a more open and transparent body in the future - this appears to include, for example, greater shared information regarding committee discussions and budgets.

EARLI strategy for 2015-2017: EARLI 30+

EARLI will place particular emphasis on innovation. The overall themes that follow this move are: innovation follows consolidation, facilitate participation, quality management through transparency. They see it as necessary to implement a new form of interdisciplinary, multi-methodological groups exploring risky research areas. Those groups are called “Emerging Field Groups” (EFG). The members of the Policy Council are welcome to contribute with their ideas to the development of EFGs. The EC aims to facilitate participation within EARLI and to foster bottom-up interactions. We hope to provide you with more information about EFGs in the future.

SIG 21 business meeting

During the SIG 21 meeting, Alessio Surian stepped down as coordinator and SIG 21 has now a new coordinator, Charles Max. Claudia Ventura, SIG JURE coordinator also stepped down and Giulia Messina Dahlberg is the new JURE coordinator (see more information below). The discussions with which a lot of us engaged during the EARLI conference, not least during the SIG 21 symposium, will continue during the next SIG 21 event, which will be held in Tartu, Estonia, at the next EARLI SIG 10, 21 and 25 conference, in the summer 2016. More information about the conference below.
Your SIG coordinators are Sarah Crafter and Charles Max

Sarah Crafter is a Senior Research Officer at UCL Institute of Education (UCL IOE) and works in the Thomas Coram Research Unit. She is also Postgraduate Research Tutor for the Department of Social Science. She is a cultural psychologist interested in children and young people's development. Her broad areas of research interest are:

- Children's learning in culturally diverse settings (mathematics learning, parental involvement, minority ethnic identities)
- Constructions of childhood (including children who work, young carers, language brokers (young interpreters) and concepts of money).
- Theoretical interests include sociocultural theory, conceptual issues around transitions, past experience and cultural identity development.

You can follow Sarah on Twitter at either @SarahCrafter or @langbrokering

We are now pleased to have Charles Max as the new SIG coordinator. Charles is holding a professor position at the University of Luxembourg in educational sciences since 2003. His research is focusing on processes of learning and interaction at individual and collective levels. Together with his research team of the Activity Research Group he is conducting socio-cultural and activity-theoretical research on learning and development in socio-digital activity systems such as school, work, daily life or community contexts. Central interests lie on digital technologies mediating interaction, human activity and competence development in culturally diverse contexts.

Charles Max has taken the place of Alessio Surian who came to the end of his four year period as SIG 21 Coordinator this year. We all thank Alessio Surian for his kind collaboration.

New JURE coordinator

Giulia Messina Dahlberg is the new EARLI SIG 21 JURE coordinator. Giulia is senior lecturer in Education at the School of Learning and Communication, Jönköping University, Sweden. Her research interests deal with language learning and multilingualism as well as issues of diversity and inclusion in online education. She is involved in the Swedish national teacher training program and coordinates the international networked-based research group Communication, Culture and Diversity (CCD).
SIG 21 at Facebook

You can join the Facebook group for SIG 21 members. It is called Teaching and Learning in Culturally Diverse Settings SIG21 and it has already 38 members. This is one way of exchanging information between SIG 21 members. Please join us and help us making this an even more dynamic group!

EARLI SIG Conference – 2016

The next EARLI SIG 21 conference will be held at the University of Tartu on the 28-29th August 2015, Estonia, together with SIG 10 and 25. More information about the conference will be shared later this year.

Publications
Theorizing and Analyzing Agency in Second Language Learning. Interdisciplinary Approaches
2014 Edited by: Ping Deters, Xuesong Gao, Elizabeth R. Miller, Gergana Vitanova

Summary
This book showcases how language learner agency can be understood and researched from varying perspectives by providing, for the first time, a collection of diverse approaches in one volume. The volume is organised into three main sections: the first section offers an introduction to varying theoretical approaches to agency; the second section presents analyses of agency in a variety of empirical studies; and the third section focuses on the pedagogical implications of data-based studies of agency. The volume includes the work of researchers working in languages including English (ESL and EFL), Greek, Spanish, Swedish, Italian, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati and Truku (an indigenous language in Taiwan) and with both child and adult language learners. This collection will serve as a key reference for researchers of

Language and Superdiversity
2016 Edited by: Karel Arnaut, Jan Blommaert, Ben Rampton, Massimiliano Spotti

About the Book
A first synthesis of work done in sociolinguistic superdiversity, this volume offers a substantial introduction to the field and the issues and state-of-the-art research papers organized around three themes: Sketching the paradigm, Sociolinguistic complexity, Policing complexity. The focus is to show how complexity rather than plurality can serve as a lens through which an equally vast range of topics, sites and issues can be tied together.

Superdiversity captures the acceleration and intensification of processes of social ‘mixing’ and ‘fragmentation’ since the early 1990s, as an outcome of two different but related processes: new post-Cold War migration flows, and the advent and spread of the Internet and mobile technologies. The confluence of these forces have created entirely new sociolinguistic environments, leading to research in the past decade that has brought a mixture of new empirical terrain–extreme diversity in language and literacy resources, complex repertoires and practices of participants in interaction–and conceptual challenges.

Language and Superdiversity is a landmark volume bringing together the work of the scholars and researchers who spearhead the development of the sociolinguistics of superdiversity.

https://www.routledge.com/products/978138844582
language learning and teaching, sociolinguistics and language and identity.

Review:
This edited volume fills a large gap in second language learning research by focusing on the critical construct of agency and provides novel ways of both theoretically and methodologically exploring how this construct is conceptualized, used and studied. Kudos to the editors and the contributors for such a fascinating and thought-provoking book.
Manka Varghese, University of Washington, USA

In an educational environment increasingly driven by market-place concerns and forms of hyper-regulation, careful assessment of the potential for teacher and student agency is a most timely and welcome development. This is an outstanding collection of theoretical and pedagogical perspectives – the 'go to' book on agency in second language education.
Brian Morgan, Glendon College/York University, Canada

This wide-ranging anthology is the first ever collection of the diverse theoretical, analytical and pedagogical approaches to the study of language learner agency. Reflecting a broad spectrum of research conducted by leading figures in the field, this book not only makes an excellent reader for any course on second language learning, but also a handy research reference, due to the breadth and depth of the information it conveys.
Mingyue (Michelle) Gu, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Author Biography:
Ping Deters is a Professor in the English Language Institute of Seneca College in Toronto, Canada.; Xuesong (Andy) Gao is an Associate Professor in the Division of English Language Education, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong.; Elizabeth R. Miller is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA.; Gergana Vitanova is an Associate Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the University of Central Florida, USA.


In our newsletter we always publish references to new publications of our members. In this way, we hope to make publications more easily accessible and to support the exchange of research results among our members. Send the references of your latest publications to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next issue!

Conference Events

The 2015 edition of the annual EAPRL conference takes place in Luxembourg from November 23 to 27.
http://eaprilconference.org/
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