

# Foreword

Only through research can a field be established as an academic discipline. Computer-assisted language learning (CALL) has come of age and nobody will now disagree that the field has become, in its own right, a very significant area within applied linguistics. As pointed out in the 2010 version of [EUROCALL's\\* Research Policy Statement](#), “[r]esearch in CALL has been carried out for more than thirty years, and has now reached a significant level of volume and maturity. It is a truly international discipline and has led to notable improvements in the teaching and learning of languages in secondary and higher education institutions worldwide”. This eBook is certainly an extremely good example of international research in CALL as all of its authors cover an impressive number of countries worldwide. And this, I think, is one of the most important attributes of CALL, the fact that research is conducted in a truly international fashion where researchers and practitioners alike collaborate incessantly to keep up with the constantly evolving technologies or, should we say, to ensure that these endlessly evolving technologies are exploited to the utmost advantage of language learning and teaching and to introduce improvements in language acquisition.

The scope of the research issues dealt with in the papers included in this eBook is also an illustrative sample of how CALL is evolving and a good example of the paths that the field is now taking. From well-established web-based learning environments to mobile learning, through current web 2.0 applications such as blogs, which foster intercultural contexts and/or diverse means of computer-mediated interaction. Although the authors are all emergent researchers, the maturity of their work is a mirror of the maturity of the field and an illustration of the ongoing development that CALL is experiencing. All of the papers have something in common: the research is intended so that others may gain understanding and also to broaden the insights in order to improve the language learning experience.

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\*European Association for Computer-Assisted Language Learning (EUROCALL)

One of the major achievements of this eBook is precisely the fact that it has emerged to give light to research in CALL that has stemmed from emergent researchers; that is, keen and devoted scholars whose work and know-how are undeniably necessary for the field to continue progressing and, very especially for it to nurture the very essence that sustains it, i.e., language learning and teaching and its many pedagogical practices.

I'd sincerely like to congratulate the editors of this eBook, Linda Bradley and Sylvie Thouësny for their resolution in undertaking this endeavour which will no doubt be an example of good practice for the CALL community at large.

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## Reference

EUROCALL Research Policy Statement. (2010). Retrieved from [http://www.eurocall-languages.org/research/research\\_policy.html](http://www.eurocall-languages.org/research/research_policy.html)



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Edited by Sylvie Thouësnay and Linda Bradley

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