

Foreword

Portugal was very glad to receive, for the first time, the annual conference of the European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning (EUROCALL). The University of Évora welcomed EUROCALL. The venue was the beautiful historic city of Évora, a UNESCO World Humanity heritage site. The conference took place in the Main Building of the University, Colégio do Espírito Santo (Holy Spirit College), with its charming rooms covered by old “azulejos” (white and blue tiles). In addition to Évora’s reputation for academic excellence, the city offers an outstanding beauty, embraced by its fortress walls, filled historic memories in each street, each home, each inhabitant. Its squares and monuments tell us national history, religion and culture episodes and its townsfolk are proud of both past and present times.

This year’s host comprised the University of Évora, the school of Social Sciences and the Department of Linguistics and Literatures (DLL). The School of Social Sciences is one of the largest units within the University of Évora. It is composed of eight departments of various sizes, five of which are situated in the Holy Spirit College building and three others in the Pedro da Fonseca College building. The DLL is a dynamic and proactive department, which takes account of the changing needs and trends of society and the increasingly competitive labour market while maintaining its vocation in the humanities. Offering courses at undergraduate level (1st cycle), Masters degrees (2nd cycle) and Doctorates (3rd cycle), predominantly in the areas of languages, linguistics, literatures and cultures for which it possesses highly qualified teachers, it seeks to satisfy the demands of a labour market where language and cultural skills have become increasingly indispensable.

EUROCALL 2013’s theme was *20 Years of EUROCALL: Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future*. The conference sought to establish an overview of EUROCALL’s twentieth anniversary. As a professional organization, EUROCALL has been aiming, along its 20 years of existence, to promote innovative research, development and practice in the area of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL) in education and training. During 20 years the organization has brought together educators, researchers, PhD students, administrators, designers of software and language learning systems, government representatives, equipment and software suppliers and other professionals involved in CALL and TELL. Some of the areas covered during the conference were:

- Recent developments in mobile learning;
- Language learning in virtual environments;
- Synchronous communication in language learning;

- European Language Portfolio, self assessment and ICT;
- Challenges of e-learning: the role of the institution;
- E-learning: student expectations and experience;
- Successes of e-learning through the eyes of the student;
- The use of new technologies for language teaching in schools;
- Promoting the use of new technologies amongst language teaching professionals;
- Developments in the pedagogy of online learning;
- Corpora and language learning;
- Courseware design;
- Cross-sector collaboration through e-learning;
- Supporting less widely taught languages through CALL;
- Improving intercultural competence through language learning;
- Managing multimedia environments;
- Distance and collaborative learning;
- Self access and learner autonomy.

Concerning the academic programme, many of the 150 delegates took the opportunity of attending one of the seven workshops offered. The workshops had the following titles: *Tools for CLIL Teachers*; *In search of L1-L2 equivalence with the help of comparable corpora*; *SIG workshop: Research and Publishing in CMC and Virtual Worlds*; *Integrating Telecollaborative Exchanges into Foreign Language Higher Education – INTENT*; *KungFu Writing – Commenting in the clouds*; *Virtual Worlds SIG Workshop*; *Using Pedagogic Corpora in ELT*.

From Wednesday afternoon until Saturday, there were nearly 80 individual presentations (45 minute presentations or 30 minute presentations), divided into Research, Research and development, and Reflective practice. There were also the SIG meetings, which had the following titles: *Mobile assisted language learning for professionals: integrating learning into the daily routine*; *CMC SIG Symposium: Forget the old, let's hear from the new!*; *Virtual world*; *Teacher Education*; *NLP*; *Corpus CALL*. This year there was a SIG meeting dedicated to the country which hosted the conference: *CALL in Portuguese speaking countries/Aprendizagem de línguas com o auxílio de computadores na Lusofonia*. This meeting joined investigators and teachers who work and study in Portuguese, allowing them to share experiences and knowledge.

EUROCALL 2013 followed EUROCALL 2012's newly founded tradition of awarding a poster. Posters presented at the conference were eligible for the EUROCALL "Award for the best poster" in two categories: post-graduate and non-postgraduate. Winners are named on the EUROCALL website and their poster is also published on the site. In addition, the authors received a certificate from EUROCALL, a free online membership for one year and a voucher.

The conference hosted three excellent keynote speakers who gave insightful presentations. Thierry Chanier gave a viewpoint on the place of CALL within the digital humanities, Christopher Jones spoke about Fulfilling the promise of the Web-delivered Language Instructions, and finally, Ana Gimeno gave a perspective of EUROCALL's twenty years, and future expectations in CALL. All the speeches have been archived in EUROCALL's member area: <https://educast.fccn.pt/vod/channels/1c2al6i8gm>.

The social programme allowed delegates to relax and enjoy the centre of Évora, with its beautiful and traditional housings and monuments. Delegates were also asked to join in in traditional singing and dancing with local students (*tunas*), and to listen to *cante alentejano*, men and women in traditional dress singing *a capela*.

EUROCALL 2013 continued the tradition of extending the conference experience to the virtual community. The keynote speeches were recorded and are now available to the virtual community. The VS also had a blog with delegates commenting on the parallel sessions they were attending, as well as plenty of tweets via EUROCALL's own Twitter account.

Authors of all accepted presentations (papers and posters) and present at the conference were able to send a 1500 word text (not including abstract and bibliography) for publication in the proceedings. All in all, 41 papers are included in these proceedings.

The local organising committee wishes to show our appreciation to the EUROCALL Executive Committee for all their help in making this year's celebration in Évora a reality. Thank you to those presenters who submitted their paper, and last but not least, to all the presenters and delegates for making EUROCALL 2013 the success it was.

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