

Conference Trip Report
GLoCALL 2018 Conference & 15th ChinaCALL Conference,
Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University

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The GLoCALL (Globalization and Localization in Computer Assisted Language Learning) 2018 Conference & 15th ChinaCALL Conference was held at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University, Suzou from 16 to 18 August, 2018. It was jointly sponsored by the China Computer-Assisted Language Learning Association, the Pacific Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning (PacCALL) and hosted by both Beijing Foreign Studies University and Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University. This conference aimed to share research and experience on how to use technology to make language learning more effective and to explore how technology can be adapted to meet the local needs of learners and teachers. It also provided global perspectives on computer-assisted language learning and aided the professional development of local professional working with CALL.

There were three pre-conference workshops on basic aspects of CALL pedagogy and five plenary speeches. Additionally, there were five symposiums and more than 150 academic paper presentations within following sub-themes such as New Technology and Foreign Language Education, CALL Environments, CALL & L2 Teacher Education, CALL Learners, Mobile Language Learning and Emerging Technologies and so on. Prof. Hubbard, who has been a professional in computer-assisted language learning for over 30 years, presented a workshop introducing the promise and limitations of CALL theory and research. Workshops conducted by Prof. Regine Hampel and Prof. Thomas Robb focused on Information and communication technologies (ICT) and mobile APPs respectively.

The plenary speech given by Prof. Thomas Robb reminded us that one important issue in CALL studies is the lack of a tracking mechanism. Tracking is important for two reasons. (1) Without it, most students will not do the work! (2) Without it, many teachers will not know whether their students are using the assigned software or not.

One of the symposiums was about publishing in CALL journal. The presenters, making use of their extensive experience in publishing and editing CALL journals, pointed out how researchers could lead their research projects toward successful published works in CALL journals. In addition, they stressed that young scholars should exercise agency in order to fully participate in the learning processes of writing-for-publication in CALL journals and should be brave in handling the difficulties of the process.

The brilliant ideas and marvelous work presented in this conference helped me in fostering my research, updating my knowledge and sharpening my research skills. More specifically, it provided me with some ideas on how to conduct CALL research more effectively.