

On the Mutually Constitutive Nature of Language Teaching and Learning with Implications for SLA Theory and Practice

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3:30-5:00 p.m.
5312 Phelps Hall

Final Applied Linguistics
lecture of the year!

Over the last several years, SLA has been undergoing a transformation in terms of how it conceptualizes learning. The aim of this presentation is to demonstrate how current understandings of language and learning necessarily lead to a reconceptualization of teaching. I begin by tracing the lineage of current views of language and learning. Then, drawing on several bodies of research, I argue for a view of language teaching as a locally situated, cultural-historical activity that, to paraphrase Vygotsky, is “simultaneously prerequisite and product, the tool and the result” (1978, p. 65) of language learning.

I conclude with a discussion of some theoretical and practical implications.