The Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Applied Linguistics, UC Santa Barbara

Professor Jozef Colpaert
University of Antwerp, Belgium

"Educational Engineering as Research Method: Epistemological and Methodological Considerations"

Thursday, October 23   4 – 5:30 pm   Education Room 1217

How do you define the goals of the course(s) you teach? How do you select content to be used in your class (authentic, open, commercial, self-made, co-constructed …)? Why are you trying out peer-, self- and/or co-evaluation? How do you come up with in- and out-of-classroom activities? Which tasks do you consider meaningful, useful and enjoyable? How do you determine the degree of autonomy and support the students need? How do you determine which technologies to use, when, where, how and why? In other words, how do you design your learning environment? You might do this instinctively, intuitively, out of interest or passion. Or you do it the way 'they' tell you to do so: your superiors, your peers, commercial vendors, … Or you try to apply a pedagogical theory: constructivism, connectivism, dynamic systems approach, task based learning…

In the first part of his presentation, Jozef Colpaert will present Educational Engineering (EE) as instructional design model. EE is a methodological, justifiable approach for creating real-world educational artefacts and learning environments. He will explain its tenets, the main features and how to apply it in practice. He will then explain how it turns teachers into designers and how they can consider themselves engineers of their own situation. At higher education level, EE releases teaching staff from the Sunday Evening Syndrome and shows them how to turn their daily work into research.

In the second part of this presentation, he will discuss Educational Engineering as Research. To what extent can we call EE research and why would we (have to) do this? How do educational engineers build or contribute to knowledge? What do they (try to) measure and how? He will then explain the difference with Action Research and Design-Based Research, and why he does not see any conflict with other educational research methods.

Finally, time permitting, he will discuss with participants what Educational Engineering can mean in their context. This way, they can contribute to its theoretical and empirical validation.

Prof. Dr. Jozef Colpaert teaches Instructional Design, Educational Technology and Computer Assisted Language Learning at the University of Antwerp, Belgium. He is editor of Computer Assisted Language Learning *(Taylor and Francis) and organizer of the biennial International CALL Research Conferences. He is currently working on the empirical and theoretical validation of Educational Engineering, a novel instructional design and research method. See* www.jozefcolpaert.net.