



Language Centre English Seminar

Experiences With and Perceptions Of English Language MOOCs

Presented by

Sean McMinn (Center for Language Education, HKUST)

Date: 22 January 2018 (Monday)

Time: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Venue: OEM906, 9/F, OEN Hall Building (Main),
Ho Sin Hang Campus,
Hong Kong Baptist University

Abstract

The subject of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) has gained considerable attention in higher education over the past few years. While most MOOC courses tend to be content based and are mainly related to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) domains, various institutions have offered English language learning MOOCs with the possibility of more to come. However, there appears to be little guidance on the design of MOOCs for learning languages (LMOOCs). There is even less information on whether participating in these types of MOOCs can be effective for language learners. This seminar will take a look at MOOCs offered by the Center for Language Education, HKUST, focusing on: the ongoing relationships among participants, learning strategies, types of engagement and assessment design. Examples of best practices for LMOOC design will be reviewed and how this experience can inform blended learning for language courses. Additionally, this seminar aims to initiate discussion on how these MOOC experiences might assist researchers, instructors and course designers with understanding student engagement in online language learning.

Bio-data

Sean McMinn is a Senior Lecturer in the Center for Language Education at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He has designed and delivered English MOOCs on two major platforms, Coursera and edX, and teaches Information Technology in Language Teaching, which is part of a Master of Arts in International Language Education (MA-ILE) program. He is currently working on a UGC-funded project that aims to create opportunities and resources for both teachers and learners of English to develop digital literacy skills. Projects in the past include embedding social networks, wikis, blogs and podcasts into various language courses. He won the 2016 SHSS Teaching Excellence Award and the Teaching Innovation Award for his work with podcasts and education at HKUST in 2007.

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