

CRILLS REPORT: 22nd EUROCALL Conference, Padova, Italy, 26-29 August, 2015

Sandra Morales

IPhD in Educational and Applied Linguistics

School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences

I had the opportunity to attend and present my research study in the 22nd EUROCALL (European Association for Computer Assisted Language Learning) conference in Padova, Italy. The main theme for the conference was 'Critical CALL'. In this event, researchers and scholars in education, language learning and educational technology for languages gathered at the University of Padova, Italy.

In this conference, I presented the paper entitled: 'Online communities in L2 teacher education in CALL: Born or made? Reflections from an online tutor in a language teacher training and development e-course for CALL.' This paper dealt with one of the main findings of my thesis related to how online communities in teacher training for CALL develop and the important role that the online tutor plays as a 'guiding figure' in this process. The paper was well received by the audience as some of the attendees tweeted the information as I was giving the talk. This certainly promotes the dissemination of my work. Additionally, interesting questions were posed and discussed in the final part of the presentation.

The keynote speeches were the highlight of the conference as they dealt with issues such as practices in telecollaboration, automated teaching experiences and social aspects of CALL. They were extremely thought-provoking and suggested paths to develop in further studies in CALL. Particularly, issues on sustainability in CALL and transformation of CALL practices for educational equality.

I also participated in the teacher education SIG meeting during the conference. This was highly important for my area of research as I mainly work in teacher training and professional development. In this meeting issues such as organizing events in-between the conference were discussed and also how CALL studies could support primary and secondary language teachers.

My participation in the EUROCALL Conference 2015 was for sure a useful contribution for my academic life as an early career researcher. I believe the support of CRILLS for postgraduate students is crucial in order to help them to gain scholarly experience and achieve successful outcomes in academia.