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Linguistic rewilding on a university
campus ?

ICE-5

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REAL WORLD ISSUES

Obligatory Private English Certification for all French higher education students

Digitalization of teaching and its environmental, health and social impacts

Linguistic and cultural diversity loss, biodiversity loss, climate change, and the role of education in that process



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ECOSOPHY

Linguistic and cultural diversity is important. All languages and cultures have inherent value. We need to look after them.

Enforced linguistic boundaries are expressions of ideologies of purity.
Diversity and hybridity might benefit from each other.

I can start a sentence in English et puis la terminer en français.
This is a natural way to speak pour beaucoup de gens.

Learning and teaching is an interactive and social activity.
Ideally, it takes place in real time and real space.



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ECOSOPHY

Climate change and biodiversity loss are important and urgent issues that we all need to address, no matter what our current positions. We must consider environmental impact in our instructional design and practice.

Stories are powerful.
"A tail is a bridge that leads to the truth"
(*The Arabian Nights* retold by Neil Philip)



How to apply ecosophy to practice?

What can I do as an English language teacher in France to help preserve linguistic and cultural diversity?

How can I bring other languages and cultures into my teaching and my management of the University Language Centre?

How can I ensure that students have the opportunity to learn together in holistic and socially responsible ways?

How can I ensure that my instructional design does not have a negative environmental impact? How can I bring the more than human into my practice in a way that is meaningful for me, my colleagues and our students?



Possible solutions

Introduce multilingualism, sustainability and the more than human world through awareness raising content and project-based learning.

For example, writing workshops to create multilingual books with sustainability and nature themes with students and migrant families: bookhoof.org and bhnetwork.hypotheses.org

For example, sustainable campus hunt group activity to get to know each other and the campus (task themes: stop plastic, transport, recycling, garden, student societies)

For example, physical language circuit group projects which connect language learning to place-based learning in a playful way



Possible solutions

Make informed decisions about the use of digital and electronic technology that take into account the environmental impact of producing the equipment and the energy required to use it.

Insist on environmental impact assessment for institutional policy and strategy.

Don't assume that the generalisation of online teaching is inevitable or that it is better for people and for the planet; apply current knowledge to inform decision making.



The Language Centre's Solution

Create a "third space" on campus where:

All languages are valued, they are visible and audible

Linguistic barriers are questioned through translingual practices

Language activities are tangible, manual, physical and creative

Language learning is experientiel, holistic and cooperative

Sustainability principles are applied to the creation of the space and the activities

Activities and participants are not constrained by the physical limits of the space

The more than human world is present and valued

Participants work together to find new sustainable and resilient ways of being in the world

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Silent Spring, Rachel Carson

Nature has introduced great variety into the landscape, but man has displayed a passion for simplifying it. (p.27)

Have we fallen into a mesmerised state that makes us accept as inevitable that which is inferior or detrimental, as though having lost the will or the vision to demand that which is good ? (p.28)

'School'
Catrin Bellay



'Teachers'
Catrin Bellay



Photos taken by students on the sustainable campus hunt



veg patch

student societies



water

recycling



transport

Physical language challenge made by students in the masters in sports management: leisure, tourism and innovation, Rennes 2 University



Learning together outdoors



A real-world encounter as an international student stops to ask for directions when he overhears the group talking English



Learning language with
the body





The French government made private English certification a requirement for getting a degree (marketisation of education)

« À terme, chaque étudiant [...] au plus tard en fin de licence aura passé un test de type Cambridge, IELTS, financé par l'État, et qui donnera donc un niveau reconnu partout à l'étranger. » — Édouard Philippe

Le gouvernement a annoncé le 20 septembre qu'à la fin de son parcours de 1^{er} cycle d'enseignement supérieur (licence, licence professionnelle, BTS, DUT) chaque étudiant devra avoir passé un test de certification, reconnu internationalement, en langue anglaise.



It is presented as beneficial for students

Dès la rentrée 2020, près de 38 000 étudiants bénéficieront de cette mesure intégralement financée par le MESRI pour un coût de 3,1 M€. Elle concernera les formations les plus exposées à des besoins de certification (licences langues étrangères et appliquées, DUT communication, licence professionnelle commerce international etc.)

Cette mesure gratuite pour les étudiants concernera à terme plus de 400 000 bénéficiaires ; son déploiement progressif s'étalera sur trois ans et concernera dans un premier temps les étudiants inscrits dans des formations préparant aux métiers liés au commerce extérieur ou ayant une dimension internationale. **Elle s'appliquera à l'ensemble des étudiants à la rentrée 2022-2023.**



The French government signed a contract with *Language Cert* to deliver an "internationally recognised certification" but nobody in France had ever heard of them...

Who we are

LanguageCert is an Ofqual recognised Awarding Organisation dedicated to language skills assessment and certification, aiming to provide exceptional language qualifications. It is a UK-based company of PeopleCert Group.

We develop and deliver English language exams that are both reliable and accessible. Our candidates are individuals from around the world who need to certify their English language skills for education, immigration or professional purposes. We also serve those who support them and who rely on test scores to make important informed decisions. Using our expertise in exam development and delivery, our aim is to best meet our candidates' needs in a rapidly evolving world.



As director of the University Language Centre, I am regularly bombarded with commercial offers like this one (marketisation of education + online technology = increased consumption)



Fulfilling
University digital
strategic vision

- ✓ Create a personal program for each university and adapt to the main program
- ✓ Create additional programs to support and motivate employees to learn the language
- ✓ Support the implementation of strategic initiatives of the university

Skyles, the digital ready-to-use solution for teaching English at higher education institutions





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The marketing pitch tells teachers what to focus on

For teachers — focus on what's really important

All the teaching tools in one place

- ✓ Combine content for homework
- ✓ Track each student's performance on specific skills
- ✓ Create customized learning patterns based on each student's progress
- ✓ Assign assignments to the whole group or personally to each student



Skyles, the digital ready-to-use solution for teaching English at higher education institutions that sends universities a ready-to-use commercial brochure...oops!

- ✔ Create additional programs to support and motivate employees to learn the language



The University's strategic goals assume that increasing digitalisation of teaching is inevitable and the agent is missing from the sentence. This implies that the university and the staff are not the ones who are creating the situation. So who is?

Orientations stratégiques de l'offre de formation 2022-2026

1.6 Usage du numérique et hybridation des formations

“La place des outils numériques dans les formations est de plus en plus importante. Elle correspond sans doute à une modification subie des usages et ne peut constituer une fin en soi. Mais, l'usage maîtrisé des outils numériques peut également répondre à des besoins divers et constituer un instrument d'amélioration globale de nos formations.”



Languages are identified as being particularly appropriate for online teaching, but with no justification for this assumption.

Orientations stratégiques de l'offre de formation 2022-2026

“...les enseignements de langue (UEL) semblent particulièrement appropriés pour développer des enseignements hybrides comportant une part de distanciel plus importante.”

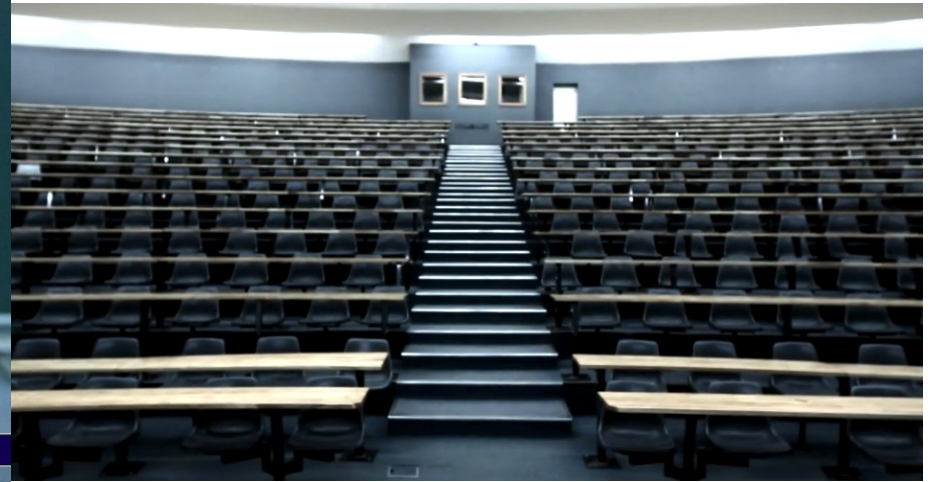


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Teaching to a camera in an empty room: What does it look like?



***As It Used To Be* Clement Gonzalez on Vimeo :**
<https://vimeo.com/57814889>



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Teaching to a lot of black screens. How does it feel?



Five tips on how to reinvent remote teaching
<https://theconversation.com/five-tips-on-how-to-reinvent-remote-teaching-155389>



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En vous remerciant !

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