

(LANGUAGE) LEARNING SPACES

Felix Kronenberg, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Language Learning – Rhodes College

(LSC Braintrust)



The unifying theme of my research is: **(Language) Learning Spaces**. Those spaces can be physical, virtual, hybrid, or social. All of them are undergoing immense changes as technology rapidly advances and new forms and expectations of learning and teaching emerge.

This has led to a number of research questions that I am pursuing:

- How will physical learning spaces look in an increasingly digital future?
- Can digital spaces be as immersive as physical ones, or even more so?
- How do modes of communication change because of these developments?

Under this research theme, my interests include learning space design, language center design, digital storytelling, language learning and technology, portfolios, language learning and computer games, gamification, as well as alternate reality simulations and imagined communities.

My most recent publication (Summer 2017) is an edited volume entitled *From Language Lab to Language Center and Beyond: The Past, Present, and Future of the Language Center*. Its chapter authors create a mosaic of the many different avenues that language centers have taken in recent years. I argue in the conclusion that we need to think about such centers more holistically as language learning space.

My current monograph project with the working title of *Physical, digital, hybrid: New engaging spaces for language learning and teaching* deals with the intersection of physical and virtual learning spaces. From video games to alternate reality simulations, from residential spaces to active classrooms, from mobile community-based learning to hybrid makerspaces, language learners and educators have more choices than ever regarding their possible learning spaces.

Changing pedagogies and new technologies provide ever more alternatives to the normalized technology of the classroom. Some of these new spaces may turn out to be short-lived fads. But a growing body of research shows the great potential for diverse groups of learners, and newer theories such as constructionism, social learning, and play-based learning are moving from the fringe to the mainstream.

The book provides an overview of these new possible spaces, about which spaces have become normalized, are becoming normalized, and which are still experimental. It is aimed at language educators and researchers, at instructional technologists and learning space planners, at administrators and educational leaders.

Besides academic research, I have been a learning spaces and language center design consultant for over a decade, and have designed two language centers at my home institutions (Pomona College, Rhodes College). I am also currently the president of the *International Association for Language Learning Technology*, an organization that has a 50-year-plus history of language lab/center and learning space design.



RESEARCH & RESOURCES

- List of publications: <http://www.felixkronenberg.com/select-publications/>
- Consulting clients: <http://www.felixkronenberg.com/consulting/>
- International Association for Language Learning Technology : <http://iallt.org>

