The Emerging Professional Development Landscape for Foreign Language Instructors

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"Professional development is often perceived as a process done to the instructors, as opposed to being conducted for, with, and by them."

Part 1: Before the Storm

PD Pre-COVID: Pedagogy Workshops

- A pedagogical question, topic, or issue
- Discussion, framed by scholarly literature selected by the LRC.
- How can the pedagogical question at hand be addressed?
- Can we do it more effectively?
- **Challenges**

PD Pre-COVID: Instructional Technology Workshops

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- Complement the theory-focused pedagogy workshops
- Recorded and uploaded to [YouTube](#).
- **Challenges**

PD Pre-COVID: Instructional Innovation Grants

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- **Challenges**

- Designed to help instructors implement their ideas.
- Help instructors acquire grant-writing skills.
- Includes an abstract.
- Includes a final project presentation.
- Faculty Project Repository

PD Pre-COVID: Invited Guest Talks

Pedagogy Workshops

- Introduce pedagogical questions applicable to foreign language instruction.

Instructional Technology Workshops

- Demonstrate technological solutions to pedagogical questions and problems.

Instructional Innovation Grants

- Show how certain ideas may be developed beyond the initial stage of funding and presented in a formal setting..

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Navigating the Storm

"The Coyote Point": March - May, 2020

- COVID preparedness workshops in March 2020
- *Responding* to the circumstances, focus on the **essentials**.
- Daily drop-in hours and scheduled appointments
- Zoom Social Hour on Friday afternoons to provide the space needed for mutual support.
- Large turnout.

Readying the Ship: Summer, 2020

- Reactive → **Proactive**
- Pedagogical questions + Technological solutions = 3 Summer Sessions
- Motivations:
  - "The Coyote Moment"
  - Training for the incoming SCI instructors
- Instructional technology workshops offered in addition to the training sessions.

AY 2020-2021: Invited Guest Talks

- Continued online
- Online vs. Face-to-Face (F2F)
- No room for personal interactions.

AY 2020-2021: Instructional Innovation Workshops

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- Transplantable into the remote format, with tweaks.
- Analog → Digital
- Digital > Analog
- What technologies can we leverage?
- **Challenges**

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- **Reading Group**
  - Linked to the Invited Guest Talks
  - Retired in the Spring semester
- **Colloquium**
  - New format
  - Moderated discussion
  - Weekly-ish
  - Based on participants' experiences
  - **Successful!**

AY 2021 - 2022

- The Omicron surge
- Invited Guest Talks
- Pedagogy Workshops
  - Hosted online after all
  - The "colloquium" format
  - Classroom experience → SLA scholarship
- **No** Zoom Social Hour
- **No** Drop-in office hours

Looking ahead

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What we learned from experience

- **Guest Talks**
  - In-person when possible
  - Always available online
  - Sharing with partner institutions
- **Instructional Technology Workshops**
  - In-person (with a tutorial-esque recording available online)
  - Develop a tangible deliverable.
  - Fewer topics but more thoroughly covered
- **Pedagogy Workshops**
  - The colloquium formula
  - We still need to implement it in-person.
  - Focus on the deliverables.

What we learned from our instructors

- **More Sharing and Connecting!**
  - In person
  - Between instructors (professionally and personally)
  - Between language programs (internally and externally)
  - With other institutions
- **Workshops**
  - Support for empirical research (financial and statistical)
  - Assessments
  - Publishing
  - Analog → Digital
- **General**
  - TL-agnostic event of interest to everyone
  - Strong preference for in-person events
  - Much of what was developed during the pandemic is still in use.
  - Developing interdisciplinary relationships

Answers 1km →

Thank you!

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LRC on the web

YouTube

Twitter