

Friday 5 June

3:20pm - 4:00pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y301

Presentation Title: Uncovering SAC managers' attitudes and approaches to autonomous language learning

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Lindsay Miller, City University of Hong Kong David Gardner, University of Hong Kong
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Theme:	Managing independent learning centres
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

In this session we present an analysis of qualitative data from a research project which looked at the management of self-access language learning from the perspective of the managers of seven self-access centres. The goal of the project was to see how, and to what extent, there is a match between a theoretical perspective of learner autonomy and the practice of managing self access facilities. There were three stages to the project: First, the seven SAC managers completed a detailed questionnaire about their attitudes and approaches to self access learning and learner autonomy; secondly, based on their replies to the questionnaire, each manager was interviewed to provide a deeper understanding of their views and practices; and finally, we brought the managers together for a focus group discussion about some of the main issues which emerged from the data. Our interpretation of 'theory versus practice' is discussed in this session.

Biodata

Dr Lindsay Miller is an Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics in the English Department at City University of Hong Kong. He mostly teaches on BA and MA courses in English for Specific Purposes. His research interests are in learner autonomy and academic listening. He is co-author of *Establishing Self Access: From theory to practice* (with D Gardner), and *Second Language Listening* (with J. Flowerdew), both published by Cambridge University Press.

David Gardner teaches ESP in the Centre for Applied English Studies at the University of Hong Kong.