

Language learning for and through residence abroad: The intentional and the accidental

This talk will survey recent research on language learning during residence/study abroad. Distinctions will be drawn between different RA models and their associated research traditions. The first major distinction to be discussed will be that between language students whose main goal is L2 development, traditionally the main focus of RA research but now a minority of mobile students, and students in other disciplines, for whom L2 is a needed tool but not a main goal. The second major distinction will be that between learners of English, and learners of other languages. For English, growing research into the use of English as medium of instruction in lingua franca settings will be distinguished from research into English learning in English-dominant settings. Social factors supporting and hindering L2 development in these varied settings will be discussed, including issues of (un)equal access and diversity. In conclusion future research directions will be discussed, appropriate for an age where RA is complemented increasingly by digital access to multiple languages and educational settings, and including recognition that the social and linguistic impact of RA can be lifelong.