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CALL Me++: Evolving Spaces and the Multilingual, Networked Self

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Conference on Italian Language and Culture Gorgetown University

Innovative Approaches and Pedagogical Strategies

- Intercultural competence
- Computer mediated communication

Computer-mediated language instruction

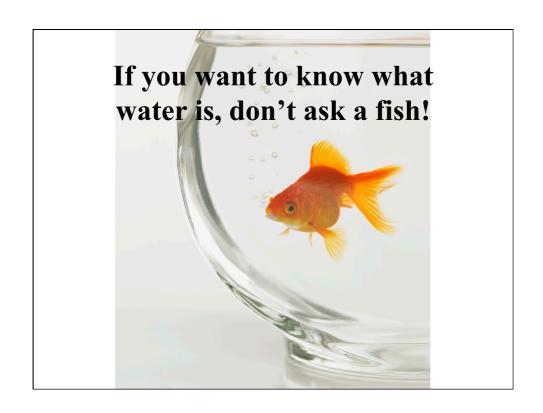
- CMC: Computer-Mediated Communication
- CALL: Computer-Assisted Language Learning
- WALL: Web-Assisted Language Learning
- MALL: Mobile-Assisted Language Learning

Raising New Questions

- 1. How can foreign language learners evolve and benefit from interacting with speakers of other languages and cultures within the contemporary global scenario?
- 2. How can the FL instructors intercept the learning potential of the "Networked Self" or Me++ (William J. Mitchell 2003) of the hyperconnected selfie-generation?

The Multilingual Subject

"People who use more than one language in everyday life, whether they are learning a foreign or second language in school, or speaking two or more languages in daily transactions, or writing and publishing in a language that is not the one they grew up with. [...] for all of them, living in more than one language opens the possibility of constructing for themselves imagined identities that are every bit as real as those imposed by society." (Claire Kramsch 2011)



Cosmopolitanism

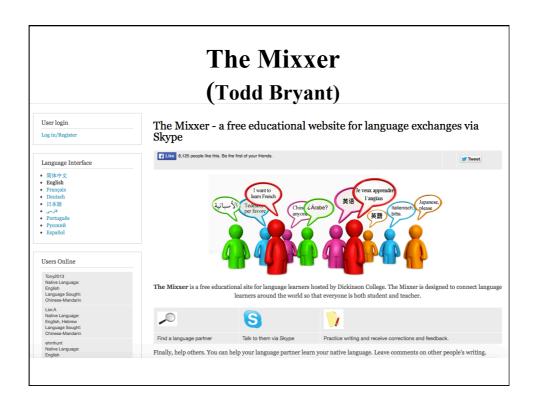
(Kuame Anthony Appiah 2006)

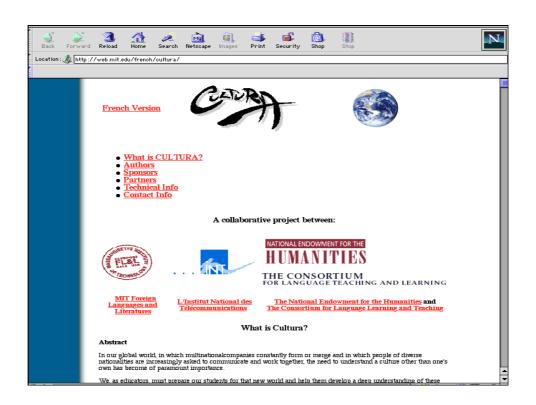
- To understand attitudes, beliefs, values held by members of another culture
- To understand in turn how one's own attitudes, etc. are shaped by one's own culture
- To arrive at a more general understanding of the nature of culture

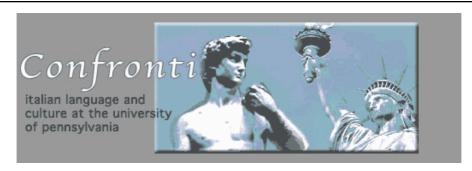
2007 MLA report

"Foreign Languages and Higher Education: New Structures for a Changed World,"

[Our culture] "must become less ethnocentric, less patronizing, less ignorant of others, less Manichaean in judging other cultures, and more at home with the rest of the world."

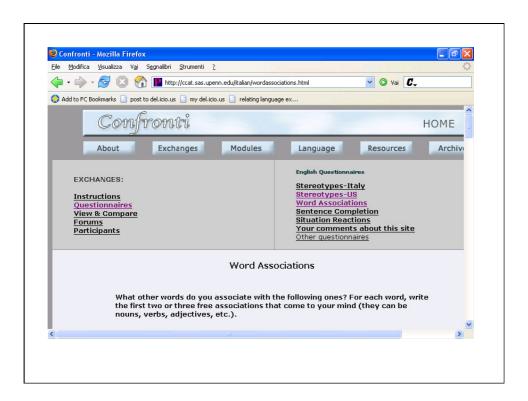


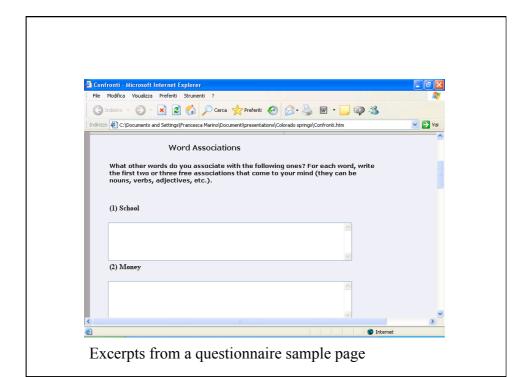




Confronti Home

Confronti is a cross-cultural curriculum for the teaching of Italian and English developed at the University of Pennsylvania. It involves students of Italian at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and students of English in Italy (currently at the University of Padua, the Bocconi University in Milan, and at various secondary schools in Perugia, Milan and Torino). The students are involved in computer-mediated communication through a variety of on-line tools described below. The project was directly inspired by the Cultura project in French and English developed at MIT.







· Word Associations

What other words do you associate with the following ones? For each word, write the first two or three free associations that come to your mind (they can be nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.).

(5) individualism

· Associazioni di parole

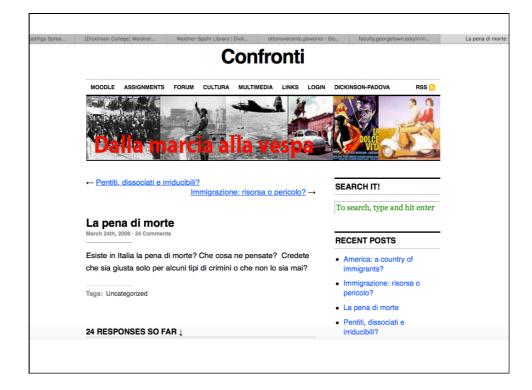
Per ogni parola, scrivi le prime due o tre libere associazioni che ti vengono in mente (possono essere nomi, verbi, aggettivi, ecc.)

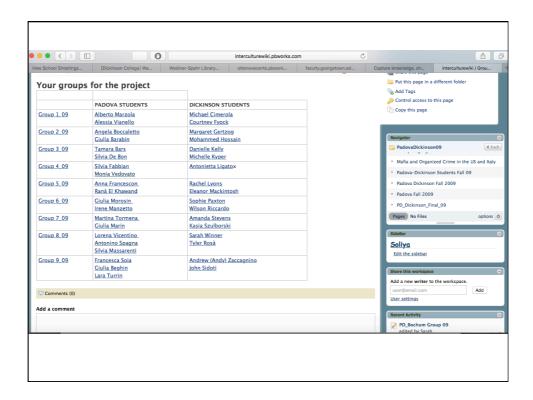
• (5) individualismo

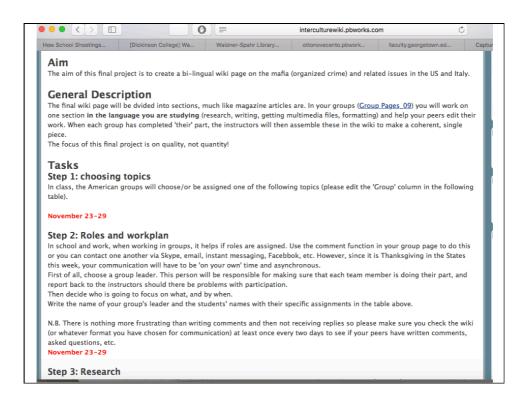
View Compare Answers (gruppo solare)

- Part I Word Associations. / Parte I Associazioni di parole.
- Individualism / Individualismo
- Total answers: 10.
- (1) unique, proud
- (2) great, to a certain point
- (3) rainbow, creativity
- (4) Freedom of expression, standing
- (5) expression, good taste, freedom
- (6) democracy, freedom
- (7) extremely important; my goal in life; not enough intelligent people can develop this
- (8) me, doing what i want, individuality
- (9) Being yourself, doing what you want to do, having your own ideas and opinions
- (10) independence, different, character

- Total answers: 8.
- (1) egoismo, protagonismo, autostima
- (2) protagonismo, egoismo
- (3) superbia egoismo competizione
- (4) CARATTERE, PARTICOLARITà
- (5) sport
- (6) Pessimo,
- (7) solitudine, personalismo, ambizione
- (8) egoismo,stima







Confronti Website

- Questionnaires provide the data which the students analyze, interpret
- Side by side comparisons
- Class discussion
- · Asynchronous Forums
- Students as cross-cultural explorers
- Teacher as cross-cultural mediator

Wiki

- No questionnaires
- Organization of groups and calendar of Skype meetings
- · Negotiation of topic to discuss
- Collaborative design of research and writing team projects
- Synchronous exchanges via Skype
- Students as cross-cultural explorers
- Teacher as cross-cultural mediator

The 4 Properties of the Web

- procedural authority
- distributed authorship
- spatial agency
- encyclopedic search

(Claire Kramsch 2009, 159)