

2015 FAAPI Conference: 'EFL Classrooms in the New Millennium: Local Developments and Global Concerns'. A.C.P.I, Córdoba, 2015.

Conference Report: 'EFL Classrooms in the New Millennium: Local Developments and Global Concerns'.

María Alejandrina Neirotti.

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Conference Report

2015 FAAPI Conference: 'EFL Classrooms in the New Millennium: Local Developments and Global Concerns'

Córdoba, September 24th-26th

Organised by A.C.P.I.

Official website <http://www.acpi.org.ar/programme>

By María Alejandrina Neirotti¹

On September 24th, 25th and 26th hundreds of teachers from all over the country travelled to Córdoba to attend the **40th FAAPI Conference 'EFL Classrooms in the New Millennium: Local Developments and Global Concerns'**. The ideas presented by local and international educators in the different plenaries, workshops and papers seemed quite interesting and worth being shared with the APRIR community.

In her plenary '**Future Present? EFL Classrooms in the New Millennium**' **Nicky Hockly** made reference to the quotation by Michael Gibson, a Sci-Fi writer, "the future is now" to explain how different technologies have taken an important role in the classroom. Some examples are **avatars**, which teachers can use to create their own space to teach (sites such as 'Second Life' and the game 'Minecraft' can be used as well); **wearable technology**, such as smart watches and google glasses; and **robots**, which have already replaced teachers in South Korea.

She finished her presentation by mentioning the four visions of the future defined by the University of Hawaii, which are: grow, collapse, discipline and transform. At the same time, she pointed out that to determine what the future of schools will be like, we first need to determine the possible future scenarios.

In '**Reading with Screenagers**', **Claudia Ferradas** stressed the fact that we live screen-mediated lives and when we read, we read hypertext, which is text that is linked electronically. First, she stated that hyperfiction became hypermedia and then transmedia - one media that takes you to all the other media (something similar to 'The Matrix'). She proposed different sites to use with our learners such as:

* www.telescopic.org/text (electronic poetry)

* www.commafilm.co.uk (video poems)

* www.pottermore.com (playing in Harry Potter's world)

¹ APRIR member María Alejandrina Neirotti was the winner of the draw for a Free Pass for this Conference.

During **Jane Cadwallader**'s semi-plenary, she outlined that we are living a digital revolution and, as a consequence, the new technologies have brought a new mindset. Moreover, she listed the 21st century skills which are the 3Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) and the 4Cs (creative thinking, critical thinking, communication and collaboration). Taking these skills into consideration the principles for teaching should be:

- *giving students time to think,
- *encouraging students to put themselves in other shoes,
- *encouraging global awareness,
- *encouraging students to take risks,
- *valuing the process even if the outcome is not what we had expected.

These were just some of the topics discussed during the conference. Needless to say that there were many other useful ideas, but I wanted to share those that I thought were the most innovative. Finally, I did not want to finish my review without thanking APRIIR for giving me the opportunity to be part of the FAAPI Conference.