

Slavic Language Pedagogy Forum



Faculty Communities for Inclusive Teaching, 2019

Project Overview

A series of meetings for faculty teaching the five different Slavic languages to share teaching experiences, strategies and activities, specifically focused on less commonly taught topics around religion, sexuality, gender, race, and poverty.

Our goal was to directly benefit language learners with revised and enhanced Slavic language program curriculum focused on race, gender, and sexuality through the creative use of digital resources, active and/or experiential learning methods, and instructional technologies.

Conversation

Facilitating an inclusive teaching environment in the classroom is crucial to maintaining the learner's positive self-perception of their performance, more so with regards to language learning than other subjects. Currently, there are 163 students enrolled in Czech, Russian, BCS, Polish, and Ukrainian language courses and a team of six Slavic language faculty and graduate student instructors focused on implementation of affective inclusion of all students into active language learning through modernized course contents, assessment, and innovative pedagogy.

Instructors participated in at least 5 meetings of the Slavic Language Pedagogy Forum where they were able to discuss and share their effective teaching experiences in Less Commonly Taught Slavic language classrooms.

Participants



Eugene Bondarenko

Social Justice in Multicultural Ukrainian Society: Blended Learning Initiative



Ewa Pasek

Teaching to Diverse Polish Learners: Reading Material Development



Alina Makin

Social Issues in Contemporary Russia: On-line Multi-level Listening Activities



Svitlana Rogovyk

Ukrainian for Speakers of Russian: New Course Design and Development



Marija Rosic

Life in Former Yugoslavia: Video Interviews of Immigrants from Former Yugoslavia



Nina Shkolnik

Russian for Heritage Speakers: Cultural Materials for Reading Comprehension



Piotr Westwalewicz

Self-paced online reading materials with focus on ethnic minorities in Poland

Outcomes

Creating language course curricula that incorporates diverse approaches in both, course content and teaching methods has become invaluable part of The Forum discussions.

The Forum helped to create an environment of Slavic language faculty community connected by common interests and objectives

Activities and material development was actively discussed during individual and group presentations

Program curriculum modification has had a direct impact on student enrollment increase this academic year

Resources

- Many thanks to CRLT for their on-line published resources and presentations.
- Language Resource Center specialists provided invaluable help with instructional technologies.
- LSA New Instructional/New Initiatives resources to foster student success through inclusive teaching practices and innovative teaching methods.

Next Steps

- To continue Slavic Language Pedagogy Forum meetings and to present effective methodologies and approaches at national conferences
- To incorporate multi-media platform into showcasing the projects for future discussions
- To involve graduate student instructors to actively participate in the Forum
- To use ongoing informal and formal assessment tools to monitor students' progress throughout the academic year