

CIFLTE, TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

# MOBILE LANGUAGE LEARNING AND TEACHING: KNOW-HOW FOR A 'SMART' CLASSROOM

## Abstract:

This workshop is intended for language teachers who are intrigued by the potential of new technologies but are hesitant to fully embrace such potential for various reasons. The morning session will start with participants sharing their successes and failures with technology in the classroom. We'll role-play scenarios and brainstorm solutions in line with a 'mindfulness' approach that will help relieve technology-induced anxieties. This will lead to a discussion about the pro and cons of a digital 'smart' classroom, how the pros outweigh the cons but also how the cons cannot be ignored. The morning session will end by reviewing examples of 'smart' language classrooms. The afternoon session will build upon the morning session and focus on how to set up a digital language classroom. The session will open with a quick overview of the impact that technology has always had on language learning and teaching, but most importantly how current technological advancements have affected the way languages are learnt and taught. We'll look at research showing how technology can be used to motivate students to speak and interact in the target language, but also to acquire more metalinguistic awareness and cultural sensitivity. We'll also look at ACTFL/CEFR standards to see where technology fits with their implementation. Finally, a variety of resources will be proposed and participants will be asked to work in twos or threes to create a task that can be completed with or without making use of technology - the way 'with' will be compared to the way 'without' in terms of impact on learning outcomes. The workshop will end with a recap of the main points of the day as well as indications and recommendations for a 'smart' language classroom. Participants are required to bring their own device (tablet/laptop/smartphone) together with their willingness to be actively engaged.

## Instructor: Dr. Sonia Rocca

Sonia Rocca has been a foreign language educator for over a quarter of a century in three different countries. In her native country, Italy, she taught French and English; in Britain, she taught French and Italian and currently she is teaching Italian at the Lycée Français de New York. She obtained a PhD in Applied Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh, specializing in the acquisition of a second language during childhood. Her research has expanded into Mobile Language Learning. Recently, she co-edited the special issue *MOBILizing Language Learning in the 21st Century* and she also chaired the international conference *MOBILLE*.



Center for International Foreign Language Teacher Education (CIFLTE)

Email: [ciflte@tc.columbia.edu](mailto:ciflte@tc.columbia.edu) | Phone: 212.678.8378

WeChat: TCSOL\_Columbia | Facebook: TCSOL\_CU

Twitter: CIFLTE\_CU | Instagram: CIFLTE-CU

Website: <https://www.tc.columbia.edu/tcsol>

