

BritInn Fellowship Report: Prof. Judit Kormos (Lancaster University, UK)

By Benjamin Kremmel
Language Testing Research Group Innsbruck
Department for Subject-specific Education

Prof. Judit Kormos, Professor in Second Language Acquisition and Director of Studies MA TESOL in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University, UK, visited the Language Testing Research Group Innsbruck at the Department for Subject-specific Education from April 8-12, 2019, as an incoming BritInn Fellow. Prof Kormos is an internationally renowned specialist in second language acquisition research, particularly in the areas of psycholinguistic aspects of second language acquisition, specific learning differences and cognitive factors in language learning, as well as the implications of such research for language teaching and assessment.

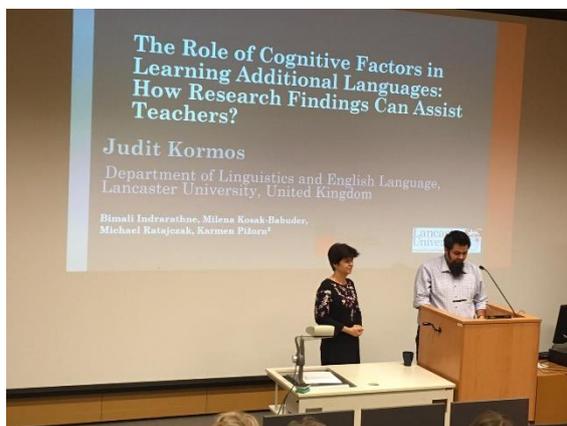


The visit by Prof Kormos through the BritInn Fellowship Program was invaluable to further strengthen the existing collaboration between the Language Testing Research Group Innsbruck and Lancaster University.

Various meetings allowed the group to take stock of the disorganized legal situation of how dyslexic language learners are catered for (or not) in teaching and assessment in Austria. A publication will be prepared on the basis

of these findings and discussions. Also, the meetings were used to set up two joint projects, one of which will be linked to a funding application for a research grant by Educational Testing Service (ETS) on accommodating learners with specific learning difficulties in listening assessment. Apart from these group meetings, Prof Kormos met with each group member individually to advise on ongoing and future projects and good use was made of Prof Kormos' expertise.

As an added bonus, Prof Kormos was kind enough to even extend the invitation to discuss research issues to other faculty members, such as a Lancaster student currently employed in the University of Innsbruck's Department of English who benefitted from an intensive session with Prof Kormos at a critical phase of his own PhD. Prof. Kormos also gave a short input in a seminar of the Head of Department for students of Spanish on inclusive practices for dyslexic learners. During her stay, LTRGI also arranged for a meeting between Prof. Kormos and Prof. Thomas Hoffmann, Professor for Inclusive Pedagogy at the Department of Teacher Education to discuss research ideas and potential collaborations.





Prof. Kormos' BritInn guest lecture on Thursday, April 11, was attended by about 50 people and was followed by a very lively discussion. Due to the great demand, the session had to be moved to a bigger lecture room at short notice. In her talk on "The role of cognitive factors in learning additional languages: How research findings can assist teachers?", Prof. Kormos demonstrated how guided discovery tasks and multi-modal presentation can be beneficial for all learners and can offset the

disadvantages caused by weaker cognitive skills.

Overall, the BritInn Fellow visit by Prof. Kormos was a great success and has substantially helped our group in setting up a highly productive, long-term partnership with a top UK research institution. We are incredibly grateful to the BritInn scheme, its academic director Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sibylle Baumbach, the BritInn coordinators, and the entire academic board of BritInn for making this possible through their generous funding and for supporting our group of emerging researchers this way.

