

ÖGSD Young Researchers' Conference with BritInn Fellow Jean-Marc Dewaele

The 11th ÖGSD Young Researchers' Conference took place at the University of Innsbruck for the very first time. On May 24th and 25th, 25 young researchers participated in this event to either present their MA theses or dissertation projects. The two days were especially enriched by the attendance of BritInn fellow Jean-Marc Dewaele.

Over the course of two days young researchers with a language didactics background had the chance to discuss their research projects. The conference commenced with a PhD workshop by BritInn guest professor Jean-Marc Dewaele (Birkbeck, University of London) where a variety of different questions and topics was discussed.



PhD workshop with Jean-Marc Dewaele



Hiking with the PhD students

The attendants talked about what characteristics a good researcher should have, but also tried to spot unique features or aims each of the PhD project possesses. Prof Dewaele had collected key questions from the group prior to his arrival and therefore had a chance to adapt perfectly to the group's needs. Later, the participants had a chance to intensify their interesting discussions on the way to the Umbrüggler Alm.

The main day of the conference started with a plenary lecture by Prof Dewaele dealing with the topic of "Learner and teacher emotions in the language classroom". The speaker caught the audience's attention with a both very informative and entertaining talk. He presented a large variety of his previous studies and therefore gave a comprehensive overview of the status quo of emotion research in the context of second language acquisition and teaching. After this successful start to the day, 18 presentations and 7 poster presentations were given over the course of the day. All in all, the presentations as well as the discussions that emerged from the interesting input were thought-provoking and inspiring.



Plenary lecture by Prof Dewaele

At the end of his stay, Prof Dewaele was able to continue to work with Andrea Bicsar, a PhD student who is being supervised by him and Prof Hinger (University of Innsbruck).

This joint project shows how valuable international connections are, especially in the context of working with young researchers.

We are thankful for the four days, where we were able to host Prof Dewaele and we are very much looking forward to many more joint projects over the next years. All people involved highly benefited from Prof Dewaele's input and therefore we would especially like to thank BritInn and their whole team for making his visit possible.

Report by Benjamin Fliri & Katrin Schmiderer, Department for Subject-specific Education (IMoF) – Picture credits: Katrin Schmiderer