

Report on Pro.T in Argentina by Nella De La Fuente

The city of Cordova, Argentina, was the perfect venue for Pro.T's (Pro.T - Professional Development Conference for English Teachers) second edition: "21st century literacies: new paths to new destinations" which took place from 18-20 February 2010.

It started with a thought-provoking talk by Josefina Samillan, "Other literacies: from innovative listening to the decoding of silence" (Otras lecto-escrituras: desde la escucha innovadora hacia la decodificación de los silencios) in which she discussed the factors that affect the reading process as a whole and the theoretical principles that inform our current reading practices in ELT. It was a promising start for a 3-day conference in which participants had the opportunity to learn and discuss issues related to literacy (illiteracy/illiteracies, e-literacy, multiple literacies)

I had the opportunity to give a semi-plenary presentation on Critical Literacy (Education for Global Citizenship) to an audience of about 100 teachers. It proved a great opportunity to begin working together since –once more- we discovered we have common characteristics to our teaching realities throughout Latin-America, and we can work together to find creative solutions suitable to our teaching environments.

Claudia Ferradas' closing presentation: "Critical Technological Literacy in the Language Class" was great, she explored questions concerning the role of language educators in the development of critical technological literacy. She raised relevant issues: apart from ethical questions like plagiarism, flaming and blurring the limits between the private and the public, the new technologies raise issues of cultural and ideological manipulation which are often veiled behind attractive innovation and multiple paths. It left us all wanting to run back home to start investigating, and putting what we learned into practice.

I was impressed not only by the number (about 300!) of teachers from all over Argentina, and some from other countries (Canada, Peru, U.S.A) and their commitment and interest, but also because of the impeccable execution. Luciano Camio and his team did a brilliant work in terms of careful planning and extraordinary teamwork. I am sure the event wouldn't have been the same without him. Congratulations Luciano and to the Pro.T team!

It was mainly a superb opportunity to meet colleagues who are trying to implement (multiple/critical) literacies in their everyday lessons, to share experiences and knowledge, to identify common objectives and problems, and to team up to continue working together in the future.



Luciana Fernandez, Luciano Camio, Nella De La Fuente and Maria Bossa at Pro.T 2010