

Wednesday 3 June

2:20pm - 3:00pm

Room: Block Y, Room Y304

Presentation Title: Fostering learner autonomy through a short-term study abroad program

Presenter / Co-presenters:	Izumi Kanzaka, Soka University World Language Center
Presenter's Email:	izumi@soka.ac.jp
Theme:	Learner and teacher experiences
Presentation Type:	Paper presentation

Abstract

This paper will discuss how learner autonomy can be fostered in the study-abroad context. Many students view that study abroad is the optimal way to learn a language because it gives them an environment for being immersed in the target language, and they believe language learning can be achieved most quickly in such an environment. For this reason, a number of students choose to participate in short-term study abroad programs organized by their university. However, there is much more than learning a language in the study abroad experience, even in a short-term study abroad program. The presenter escorted 21 Japanese students on a 3-week English program in the Philippines and guided them in their group activities prior to and after the program. The paper will first describe how the program was designed, and then report on how students responded to activities intended to promote autonomy based on the students' response to questionnaires as well as what was observed during the pre-departure study sessions, during the study abroad program, and during the post-tour briefing sessions.

Biodata

Izumi Kanzaka, a lecturer at the World Language Center, Soka University, Japan, has been teaching English at secondary and tertiary institutions in Japan since 1992. She is currently teaching academic foundation courses in the International Program of the Economics Department at Soka University. Her research interests include learner autonomy, learner development, and various aspects of psychology in foreign language education.