

Reports on Past SIG Events

Last updated: 9 October, 2002

Index

an IATEFL Computer SIG / ESADE joint event

Summaries

- Presentations
- Practical vs. theory
- Plenaries
- Location and Accommodation
- Social Side
- Overall

CALL for the 21st Century

ESADE, Barcelona, Spain
June 30 - July 2, 2000

Feedback Report Summary

Written/compiled by [Tilly Warren](mailto:E.Warren@westminster.ac.uk) (E.Warren@westminster.ac.uk)
IATEFL Computer SIG Co-ordinator
Lecturer in English Language and Linguistics
University of Westminster

Comments

- Presentations
- Practical vs. Theory
- Plenaries
- Location and Accommodation
- Social side
- Overall



Summaries

40 forms were returned from the 140 participants. There was virtually unanimous satisfaction with the venue, the presentation of the rooms, meeting and networking places and the on-site catering (see table below). Although a few participants were less than satisfied with the pre-conference administration most were happy with it. Most were also satisfied with the ability to find and identify people and the value for money which the conference represented. Areas of dissatisfaction were the accommodation booking service and the social programme since neither of these services were actually officially offered. (The form used was the standard conference feedback form).

30 of the 40 respondents offered additional comments (some of them lengthy!).

Representative comments are listed below grouped into broad categories. To summarise:



Presentations

On the whole the standard of presentations was praised with Joan-Tomas Pujola getting a special mention more than once! Written support was obviously welcomed with suggestions for handouts to be given before the presentation and even an idea that written versions should be a requirement for presenters. There was some comment on the variation in standards and the difficulty in 'browsing' the 4 simultaneous sessions. More help for choosing sessions (by categorising and giving more accurate abstracts) was requested. The timing of the sessions (30 minutes) was questioned as too short, but only by one person. One presenter voiced their frustration with technical support problems.



Practical vs. Theory

A few people felt that there had not been enough emphasis on the practical aspects and more workshops and colloquia were requested. However others felt that there had been a good balance. (With simultaneous sessions it is inevitable that each participant will have a different experience overall)



Plenaries

Of the few who commented on the plenaries there were some who felt that they were not as 'cutting-edge' as they had hoped. Others were very satisfied. The problems with seeing the screens in the plenary venue were mentioned.



Location and Accommodation

Most of the problems in this area focussed on the lack of a map for getting to ESADE and the need to book accommodation privately which led to greater expense and worry. However the venue itself was highly praised.



Social Side

Many commented on the need for more information on conference badges (only names were given) to help network. A list of all participants with e-mail addresses collected before the conference was suggested. The lack of any organised social event was also lamented, especially for those who were on their own, or new to IATEFL or this kind of conference.



Overall

The vast majority of the general comments were to express thanks, satisfaction and pleasure with the conference (there was only one slightly negative comment), from which it can be assumed that the conference was a huge success!

	Not satisfied				Satisfied
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Pre conference administration	3	3	9	12	12
Accommodation booking service	8	4	4	2	5
Venue in General			1	8	30
Presentation of rooms		1	1	6	31
Meeting and networking places		1	5	12	21
On-site catering			4	16	19
Social programme	7	7	5	1	3
Finding and Identifying people	2	6	9	13	9
Value for money		2	7	18	12



Comments

Presentations

1. Giving handouts before the presentations start would be better, many presenters unfortunately left it late to hand out any papers.
2. It would help having all talks in a written format or CD ROM. One can't attend all simultaneous talks but once we are here we can learn four times more if we get that information by the end of the event and take our time to read it afterwards. THANKS. I think it shouldn't depend on the speaker's will to give it, but a requisite to give a talk: hand in the complete written version of it.
3. Big difference in level / deepness of papers.- Repetition of subjects of papers.
4. I wasn't sure that 30 minute sessions would work but (usually), they did.
5. The level of many of the presentations was very high.



Practical vs. Theory

1. Too much theory not enough practical info. More workshops would be helpful.
2. In some of the sessions speakers talked about theory but did not give many practical ideas. The session delivered by Joan-Tomas Pujola was an exception: good balance of theory and practical ideas & examples. Possibly more workshops should be offered in future.
3. More workshops / colloquia. There are a lot of people to say communicate – horizontal rather than just top-down – so I suggest more of these.
4. Professionally the conference was 100% up-to-date and thought provoking – very useful and practical (the right amount of academic research and practical applications). I am taking home a lot more than I came with.



Plenaries

1. Plenary room not appropriate with projector screens (more than 4 rows back couldn't see them) – but sound quality good.
2. Plenary speakers didn't really live up to their billing. Why not give a new, unknown exciting speaker a chance at the next conference? eg Joan-Tomas Pujola (best session, best ideas!)
3. Most of the sessions were extremely enjoyable although some of the plenary sessions I felt were stating the blindingly obvious dressed up in linguistic jargon.
4. The plenary sessions were of very high standard and I found them the most important for my work. Many thanks



Location and Accommodation

1. I was most disappointed by the pre-conference difficulties in getting accommodation. The recommended places (hostel and hotels) were NOT actually available. Hence I had to book accommodation in the end through a travel agent, which landed me in expenditure greater than originally envisaged – that is why I cannot award more than 2 for value for money: not a reflection on the conference itself, which was first class.
2. Not satisfied with accommodation booking service - I found a hotel on my own through the web. Venue in general – beautiful! ESADE though is isolated.
3. I hesitate to be critical because the event itself has been excellent. Problem: no campus accommodation – I ended up

very anxious and spending hours on Internet finding a place, which has cost a great deal of money.

4. I found the on-line registration extremely difficult as the information on the site was hard to find + inaccurate. Also directions to ESADE would have been useful. I loved the building!
5. Some useful advice on the web. The venue was wonderful.



Social Side

1. What social programme? However, I really enjoyed myself at the conference and in Barcelona, so I think it was a success.
2. Socially I felt it weak. I was anticipating meeting new colleagues (I'm new to the field) and creating a network of professionals to provide support and advice. This I got on my own initiative – only if I went up and introduced myself. The name tags gave only names and no other information (country of origin, academic institute, company). There were no organized social opportunities (though I admit, a program from 10 until 19.30 doesn't leave much time for socializing).
3. I do feel we have been 2 communities – the 'in' crowd and others
4. Could have had more creative informal opportunities for meeting people
5. Need name tags with schl / univs. people work in + blurb about all participants circulated beforehand to enable better 'networking' possibilities.



Overall

1. The conference and academic programme were excellent. There really was practically no social programme. But academically – yes!
2. I await the CD!
3. Conference itself was well-organised and very interesting.
4. This conference was great; unmissable.
5. This was a stimulating, thought-provoking conference – which gave me plenty of food for thought to continue in my work (EFL software [multimedia] development)



MENU

[Home page](#) | [CALL Review](#) | [Committee members](#) | [Discussion forum](#) | [Future events](#) | [Past events](#)
[Contact us](#) | [Search this site](#) | [Guest book](#) | [Web links](#) | [IATEFL home page](#)
[Top of page](#)

<http://www.paddocks64.freemove.co.uk/CompSIG2/callsig.htm>
Computer SIG Co-ordinator: tilly@southdene.freemove.co.uk
Computer SIG webmaster: gjtaylor@btinternet.com

CT5 2FL, UK.
Phone: +44(0)1227 276528. Fax: +44(0)1227 274415
IATEFL Home Page: <http://www.iatefl.org>
Email: generalenquiries@iatefl.org