



Language Learning and Culture through Intergenerational CEL (Community Engaged Learning) Programs

Innovation in Language Learning Conference

11-12 November 2021

Ana García-Allén

Western University, Canadá



- Why seniors? Why CEL? Why Spanish as a FL and CEL together?
- **Key notions**
- **Program inception and implementation**
 - Introducing (I)CEL into university
 - Spanish as FL courses
 - CEL - Spanish FL learners & Spanish L1/ESL seniors in Canada
 - ICEL – Spanish FL learners & seniors in Cuba
- **Conclusions**
 - Reciprocity in practice
- **Next steps**

Overview

Making the links



Canada: 1/8 of the population in 2016
1/4 by 2030

The West: 1/4 by 2035 (Mulholland, 2015)

United States: 2000-2013

- **Latino** population grew by 43%
 - **Asian** population grew by 46%
- Includes growing numbers of seniors (Ross, 2015)

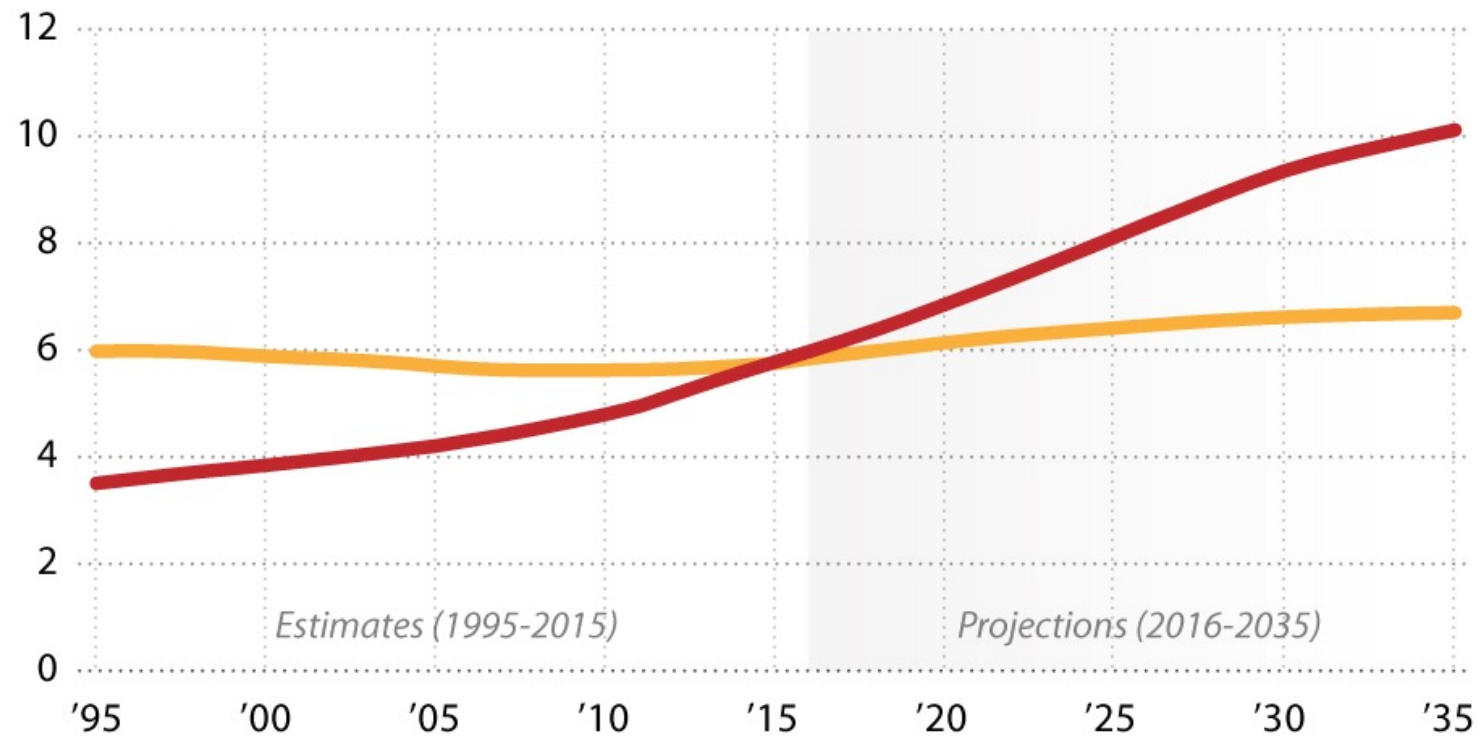
Why seniors?

Numbers & Needs



CANADIAN SENIORS OUTNUMBER KIDS

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP (IN MILLIONS) — 0-14 — 65+



SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA

THE CANADIAN PRESS

<http://thecanadianpress-a.akamaihd.net/graphics/2015/static/cp-cda-pop-seniors-vs-kids.png>



CEL Principles

academic
engaged
activities

educationally
meaningful

valuable to
the
community

structured
reflection

civic
responsibility



Institutional & student demand for international experiences

Cultural competence

Intercultural sensitivity

Linguistic flexibility

Multicultural society

Globalized employment





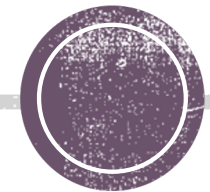
WHY CEL?



To fulfil
institutional &
student goals
for
internationali-
zation

Key Notions

Meeting seniors' ESL needs through
developing Intercultural Competence &
“Languaging”



Principle of Reciprocity



Need to understand, empathize with, & advocate for community partner (Eyler & Giles, 1999; Tiley-Lubbs, 2004)

Language departments relatively new to (I)SL for L2/FL learning & (inter-) cultural understanding (Barreneche, 2011)

Reciprocal relationship enhances interpersonal & cognitive skills (Eyler & Giles, 1999; Milofsky & Flack, 2005; Rhoads, 1997)



Linguistic Competences

FL classroom-based learning vs FL learning in (I)CEL contexts:

- Self-confidence
- Willingness to communicate in naturalistic settings
- Desire to forge relationships (Barrenche, 2011; Bittencourt, 2015; Zapata, 2011)



“languaging”
(Swain, 2013)



Languageing

(Swain & Lapkin, 2016, p. 4)

Using language as:

- a cognitive tool
- to enhance thinking + emotional health



Seniors' *Languating* Needs

Cognitive impairment (Swain, 2013) & Social isolation (Swain & Lapkin, 2016).

Need for relationships that enhance their interpersonal & cognitive skills.

Need for **reciprocal** (I)CEL relationships.

Need for innovative adult education programs that take their *languating needs & strengths* into consideration.





Intercultural Competences

- **appreciation for diversity** (Tilley-Lubbs, 2004; Parys, 2009)
- **empathy & cultural understanding**
- **reduced negative stereotypes** (Pak, 2013)
- ***quality contact* → shift prejudicial mindsets due to quality contact** (Leets & Giles, 1991)



Why an Intergenerational Program?





Potential to meet both groups' needs

1. Authentic language learning opportunities
2. Draw on strengths
3. Reciprocal gains





Language and culture

'Language is the principal means whereby we conduct our social lives. When it is used in context of communication, it is bound up with culture in multiple and complex ways',

Claire Krasmsch.





Program inception & implementation





Spanish Seniors' needs



Students' needs





Local & International





Objectives





<http://www.simplebites.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/apple-squash-soup.jpg>
<http://www.triumphedining.com/blog/2012/12/11/bring-on-those-black-beans-getting-the-gluten-out-and-fiber-in-to-your->

FREE PROGRAM / PROGRAMA GRATUITO

BOYLE SENIORS SATELLITE MEMBERS

COOKING CLASSES!

¡CLASES DE COCINA!

Enjoy cooking while learning and practicing your English. Plus you will help Spanish students with their Spanish skills.

Disfrute cocinando mientras aprende y practica su inglés. Además ayudará a estudiantes de Western a participar su español.

WHERE / DÓNDE: Boyle Memorial Community Center
530 Charlotte Street

WHEN / CUÁNDO: Mondays from 1:00pm - 2:00pm

❖ February 8th / 8 de febrero

February 29th / 29 de febrero

❖ February 22nd / 22 de febrero

March 7th / 7 de marzo

ORGANIZED BY / **organizado por:** Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Students - Western University



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FREE PROGRAM / PROGRAMA GRATUITO

¡Conversemos juntos!

Let's get together!



WHERE / DÓNDE:
Kiwanis Seniors' Community Center
78 Riverside Dr



WHEN / CUÁNDO:
Fridays 1:00pm to 3:00pm
From February 26th until April 1st

Grupo de conversación intergeneracional **CONVERSATION GROUP**

Practique su inglés, ayúdenos con nuestro español. Hablemos, juguemos y hagamos otras actividades juntos. Café, té, refrescos y galletitas para compartir. Le esperamos.

Practice your English, help us with our Spanish. Let's talk, play and do other activities together. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served. We are looking forward to see you.

CAFÉ Y GALLETITAS GRATIS
FREE COFFEE AND COOKIES

 **Western**
Arts & Humanities


London
CANADA

FREE PROGRAM / PROGRAMA GRATUITO

BOYLE SENIORS SATELLITE MEMBERS



http://www.seeknewyorktours.com/shopping_tours/arts_culture/arts_crafts/files/artsandcraftstour2.jpg

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLASSES / CLASES DE ARTES Y ARTESANÍAS

Enjoy an arts and crafts workshop while learning and practicing your English. You will also help Spanish students practice their Spanish. A different craft each week!
Disfrute una clase de artes y artesanías mientras aprendiendo y practicando su inglés.
También, ayudará los estudiantes de español a practicar su español.
¡Una diferente artesanía cada semana!


Where/Dónde: Boyle Memorial Community Center, 530 Charlotte St.
When/Cuándo: Mondays 1-2pm/los lunes a las 1-2pm
March 21st/21 de marzo (decorating flowerpots/decorando las tiestos)
April 4th/4 de abril (abstract painting/pintura abstracta)

organized by/organizado por: Department of Modern Languages, Western University



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To speak a
language is to
take on a world, a
culture.

Frantz Fanon



International CEL



Farm





School for blind children





Nursing home





Dancing





What Spanish Seniors say



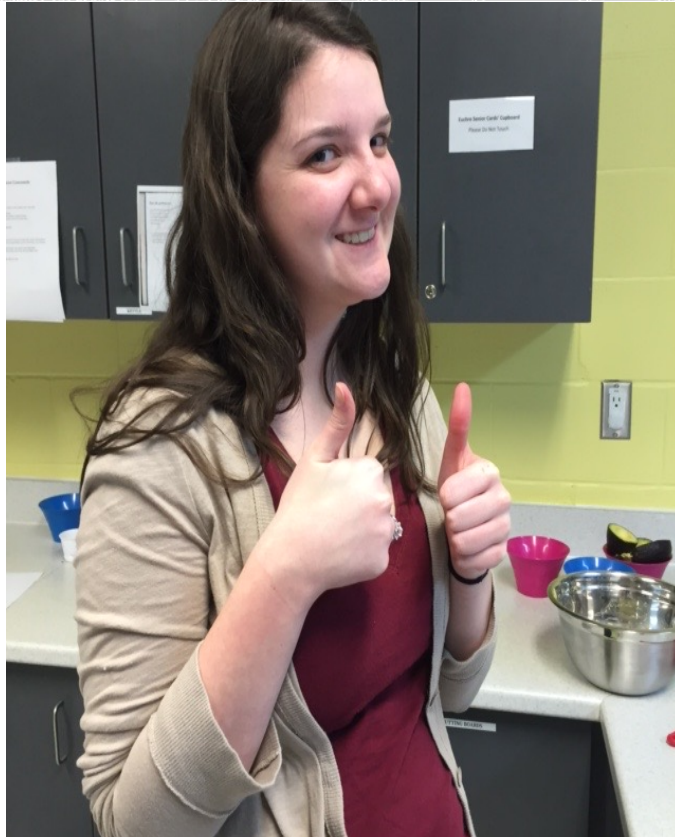
“It’s fantastic to have the opportunity to talk with young people and learn about the way they live nowadays”

“I’m very excited about this program but it was very short”

“I love talking about my personal history and learning about the students’ lives”

Quotes - Seniors





**What
Spanish
Students
say**



Quotes - Students

“This was a relaxing and fun experience. I got to practice my Spanish and converse. They were really happy to correct us and help us with our grammar.”

“Practical experience to benefit our learning. It was good to learn while feeling that we were giving the seniors an enjoyable experience.”

“CEL with the seniors was wonderful. It made me aware of some of the difficulties that seniors with limited English go through and makes me think of how we could help this community.”





CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Positions seniors as **learners & knowers** with **needs & strengths**

Makes space for *linguaging*

Meets institutional & student goals for **internationalization**

Reciprocal FL Learning Experiences





Experience cultural awareness and appreciation for diversity.



Offered a deeply rewarding and personally transformative student learning experience.



Opportunity for building relationships and to network.



Unique opportunity to use what it was learnt in class in a real-world setting.

Benefits for students



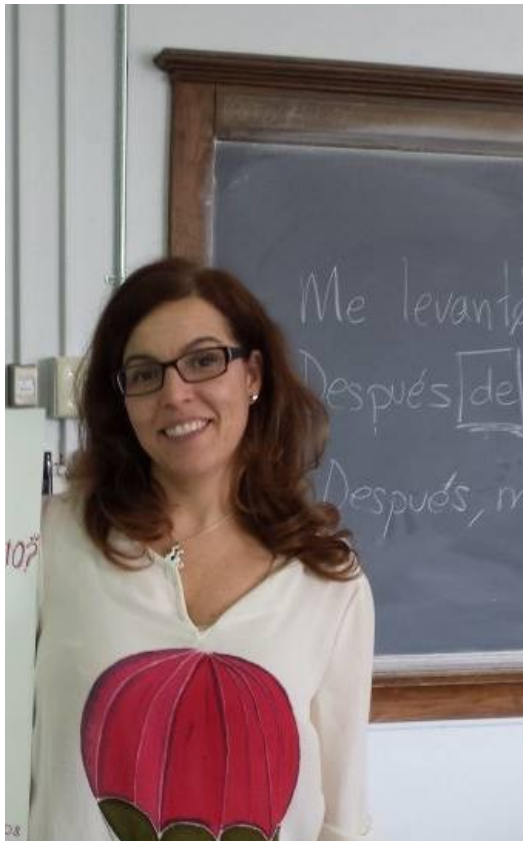


Next Steps

Interviews:

- Senior
- Student
- Family member perspectives





THANK YOU

Any questions?

You can find me at agarcia@uwo.ca

