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The humanistic values that traditionally justified world language education are in crisis, the dominance of English seems unstoppable, and according to the United Nations (2020) 3.5% of the world's population (approximately 272 million people) live in a country other than their original one, many of them leading multilingual lives by force as much as by choice. How are these world realities of the 21st century transforming disciplinary understandings of "good" language teaching and "successful" language learning? In this talk, I consider changes regarding four areas that have benefited from interdisciplinary knowledge garnered across the language sciences: the balance between form and meaning in instruction, the ambivalent role of authentic materials and native speaker models, new understandings of multilingual outcomes, and strategies that boost student motivation and linguistic confidence. Across the four areas, we must insist on understanding and justifying not only the how's of language teaching but the why's. I offer my own personal selection of broad principles for language teaching that I believe can improve how we teach languages and can also infuse renewed value to the teaching (and learning) of world languages in the 21st century.

Friday,
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3:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual Lecture

Free and open to the public

Registration required

For more information, contact
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