

Living Languages: Second Language Acquisition Research, Ancient Texts, and the Latin Classroom

In recent years, pedagogical techniques informed by second language acquisition research, such as TPR, TPRS, and spoken language exercises, have become increasingly common, though by no means prevalent, in the Latin and Greek classroom. Textbooks such as Orberg's *Lingua Latina per se illustrata* introduce students to the Latin language without the mediation of English translation and offer beginning language-learners large amounts of simple Latin extensive reading, an exercise that is crucial to foreign language-learning according to comprehensible input theories.

Though such resources and techniques have the potential to transform the learning of classical languages, the goal of most Latin and Greek teachers at both the high school and college level is to produce students who can read authentic Latin and Greek texts fluently. Indeed many high school Latin sequences, especially those tailored to the AP or IB test, require students to read linguistically complex Latin texts after a few years of language instruction.

This workshop will address the question of how to draw on and adapt pedagogical techniques informed by second language acquisition research to meet the unique goals and needs of the Latin and Greek classroom. The workshop will thus not only treat issues of second language acquisition, but also sight-reading, recitation and performance, and strategies for creating opportunities for comprehensible input while incorporating Latin texts into the curriculum at an early stage, both through identifying simple ancient, medieval, or Renaissance texts and through utilizing Latin summaries and adaptations of more complex works.

In particular, the workshop will focus on methods developed within the Paideia Institute for Humanistic Study's independent language courses, Living Latin in Rome, Living Latin in

Rome (High School), Living Greek in Greece, and Living Latin in Paris. Paideia's "living language" approach encapsulates the activities listed above and more. The Paideia Institute's programs have two goals: to provide rigorous and intensive periods of study of Latin and Greek from all periods and to inspire participants to form a close personal relationship with the classics through extraordinary learning experiences. Two cornerstones of Paideia's methods are engaging with texts in *in situ* (*loci in locis*) and doing so without prior preparation (reading "at sight on site"). The former enables students to develop lasting connections with ancient languages through experiencing them in meaningful and memorable contexts and the latter encourages students to understand Latin and Greek as vibrant and approachable languages rather than complex puzzles solvable only with the aid of dictionary and commentary.

The workshop facilitator will discuss the philosophy underpinning these methods, offer demonstrations of how the methods work in practice, and suggest ways in which they can be adapted to create meaningful learning experiences not only at sites abroad but also at museums and sites in the states and in the traditional classroom. Active participation, questions, and open discussion will be encouraged throughout.