10fed Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu

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Panel and Discussion: Creative Modern Languages Assessment and Practice

Jennifer Wood, Alex Mangold and Guests

Ieithoedd Modern **|** Modern Languages

Creative assessment and practice in a Modern Languages context can be any artistically inspired exercise working with the second language (L2) and/or its cultural context. It can be aimed at L2 comprehension, L2 production, cultural engagement and/or be involved in the measuring of student performance, whether formative or summative. Creative in this sense means that the assessment or practice should encourage students to think and do things differently – that is, to engage with and explore the processes embedded within artistic practice itself, crossing borders (intermodal, interdisciplinary, interstitial or otherwise) and inviting ‘unfinished thinking’ (Borgdorff, 2010) and the exploration of states of ‘not-yet-knowing’ (Klein, 2017).

Colleagues in Modern Languages (and related disciplines) work across a whole range of topics and fields, embedding exercises in their practice ranging from translation and performance-related projects to short films, video presentations, creative writing, poetry, photography, art, music and other creative modes and formats.

This panel will explore and share examples of creative assessment and practice in Modern Languages, opening up a discussion around artistic research and creative practices at third level. As a starting point, Dr Alex Mangold will introduce the British Academy funded research project ‘Creative Modern Languages’, hosted at the Department of Modern Languages at Aberystwyth University, which will be followed by the sharing of inspiring examples of creative assessment practice from colleagues. This will lead on to a discussion of the value of and issues surrounding the development of creative assessment formats in Modern Languages’ learning and teaching practice.

