

University of Toronto Mississauga, the Department of Language Studies,
in collaboration with The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC),
invites you to an Active Learning Workshop:



Teaching Languages in a Changing World: From Passive to Active Learners

Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts, PhD
Wilfrid Laurier University

Wednesday, April 9, 2014, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
UTM, Instructional Building, lecture hall 260

Active learning activities in higher education, be tailored according to students' needs, cultural backgrounds and ability; the instructor may find that these are actually one of the most gratifying teaching and learning experiences for both: instructor and students. Research has proven that active learning improves students' retention while getting to know their peers (Davis, 1993).

The goals and objectives for an activity need to be clearly stated in order for them to take the task seriously (McClanahan and McClanahan, 2002). The guideline for each activity has to be included in the syllabus and the task at hand has to be clearly explained, with enough time allowed for questions and answers. During this presentation a wide variety of active learning activities for the language and literature class will be presented. Handouts will be provided. Course outlines for introductory and fourth year seminars, together with the presentation and bibliography will also be included.

“When faculty adopt active-learning pedagogies, students are more likely to engage in deep-learning approaches, leading to improve mastery and retention of knowledge and skills, and more sophisticated learning approaches.”
Christensen Hughes and Mighty
(*A Call to Action*, 2010)



Dr. Mercedes Rowinsky-Geurts is an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts and a professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures at Wilfrid Laurier University. Though she had a Teaching Degree from Uruguay, she decided to pursue further studies doing her undergraduate education at University of Toronto Mississauga and pursuing her graduate studies at U of T, St. George Campus.

She started teaching at Laurier in 1994 and since then she has obtained the 2000 Wilfrid Laurier Outstanding Teaching Award, the 2005 Faculty Mentoring Award, the 2008 3M National Teaching Fellowship, the 2012 Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Award for Teaching Excellence, the 2012 Residence Partnership Award at Laurier and the 2013 Inaugural Laurier Teaching Fellowship.

Her research focuses on issues of exile, diaspora, Latin American women writers and teaching pedagogy and methodology. She has published in national and international journals and her work has been recognized by national and international awards.