

Review of Julie Wallis' "Humanism in Online Learning"
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Julie Wallis is a teacher, teacher-trainer, author, and the director of the London School in Italy. At the EAQUALS Online Conference, she gave a presentation on how and why online teaching/learning should be humanistic. She started her presentation by sharing her initial reluctance towards online, blended, and/or hybrid teaching (a)synchronously over the past two years, and then how her feelings had changed in time, believing that online classes can be as effective as face-to-face ones. In order to make this possible, she emphasized humanistic language teaching and valuing affective factors, empathy, unconditional regard, a safe and secure learning environment, learner choice, and engagement. In doing that, she suggested eliminating the obstacles to learning, such as avoiding anxiety and lack of self-esteem. She continued her presentation with a very interesting perspective purporting a focus on learning-centeredness rather than teacher-or-learner-centeredness, which requires excessive monitoring or noticing in an online class. According to her, teachers should have eyes in the back of their heads in face-to-face classes; whereas teachers online should have eyes and ears everywhere, since they should monitor how students are generally getting on, what they do in breakout rooms or what they share in their individual messages. She concluded that there are certain activities that can(not) be conducted successfully online, exemplifying some good teaching techniques in an online context such as: sharing and agreeing on goals, being flexible, timing the lessons wisely, setting the task with clear instruction, scaffolding, and checking, being aware of online opportunities (that is knowing the tools such as Zoom, Teams, Google well and keeping them as simple and user-friendly as possible), monitoring effectively, giving and sharing useful and timely feedback, recording, using the real objects/ materials around students' and teachers' rooms, etc. Her final remarks were on the fact that classes/ lessons should not necessarily be "fancy", but they need to be "engaging". Overall, Wallis presented a quite positive perspective of online teaching by highlighting the continuous need to change our approaches to teaching/learning in line with the necessities of the time.