

What Algorithms Can't Hear: Humanizing Language Education by Listening to Teachers

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At a time when algorithms increasingly shape teaching and learning, what can they *not* hear — and what do we risk losing when we don't listen to teachers' voices? In this plenary, I take up the conference call that "it is through human connection that meaning, understanding, and belonging are created" — and explore what that means for humanizing language education. Drawing on ten years of collaborative research with multilingual educators, I share how centering and listening to teacher voices transformed my practice-based research and led to more humanizing learning opportunities for multilingual students. I present six core practices born from dialogic, humanizing spaces where teachers became a genuine, supportive community of researchers and knowledge-makers— and I close by asking what role, if any, AI can play in creating that kind of community