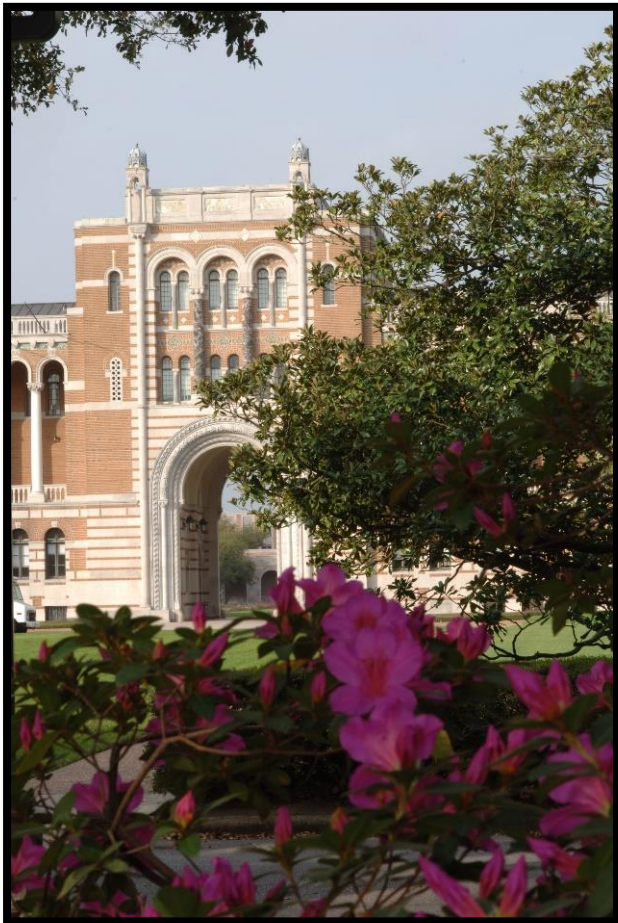


# CLIC Symposia and Conferences

Language instructors and linguistics scholars will gather on the Rice campus for three events this spring and summer, highlighting important research taking place at Rice's Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication (CLIC). The first, the Symposium on the Teaching and Testing of L2 Interactional Competence, will be held April 29-March 1. The 2nd International Conference on Spoken Chinese Corpora will be held August 10-11, and the CLIC Summer Workshops for L2 Teachers will take place August 12-13.



**The conferences will take place on the Rice Campus**

## *Symposium on the Teaching and Testing of L2 Interactional Competence*

CLIC will hold the Symposium on the Teaching and Testing of L2 Interactional Competence from April 29-May 1 at Rice University. Interactional Competence (IC) refers to the set of competencies required to interact effectively with a variety of speakers in a variety of settings. It encompasses the ability to carry out (and respond to) recognizable social actions that are linguistically and pragmatically fitted to the local interactional context. IC is a key linguistic competence that leads to effective communication in a second language (L2) and active participation in the community where that language is spoken.



**Dr. Silvia Kunitz (L) and Dr. Kate White (R) review plans for the Symposium on the Teaching and Testing of L2 Interactional Competence**

“This symposium is special because it is the first attempt to bring researchers and educators together to talk about IC,” said Dr. Silvia Kunitz, a post-doctoral fellow at CLIC and an expert on the research topic of IC. The symposium will provide a forum to illustrate the most recent developments in IC research and to discuss possible ways to design research-based pedagogical activities that have IC as the focus of instruction. The invited speakers are international and domestic experts on IC research, who will discuss the pedagogical implications of their studies.

CLIC faculty will present concrete examples of pedagogical materials developed at Rice. “Our focus is bridging research and pedagogy in order to study IC, which is a topic that brings together many fields of linguistic inquiry,” explained Dr. Kate White, also a CLIC post-doctoral fellow and who specializes on the use of IC in a study abroad context of interaction. All the attendees will be invited to participate in the roundtable discussions which will follow each session of the Symposium. The main focus of the Symposium is on the teaching and testing of IC in the first two years of college instruction. Dr. Kunitz and Dr. White, along with CLIC director Dr. Rafael Salaberry, are organizing the symposium. They will also put together a volume that will gather the important contributions of this symposium.

L2 instructors are encouraged to attend. Early bird registration ends February 29. Information about registration can be found at [clc.rice.edu](http://clc.rice.edu).

### *The 2nd International Conference on Spoken Chinese Corpora*



**Dr. Meng Yeh, who will speak at the Chinese Corpora Conference, discusses plans with Prof. Liang Fu**

CLIC will host the second International Conference on Spoken Chinese Corpora August 10 and 11. The theme of this year’s conference is “From Theory to Pedagogical Applications.” The conference aims to critically evaluate the potential of current databases and research on Chinese spoken corpora for the development of second language pedagogical applications, with special emphasis on the development of interlanguage learner corpora. Twenty scholars from China, Taiwan, Macao, the United States, and El Salvador, in the field of corpora of Chinese spoken language will present their recent research and teaching applications. CLIC faculty members will showcase the

corpus of medical conversation used to design the course ‘Chinese for Medical Professions,’ as well as present a research project revealing how the natural language data in corpora help develop beginning students’ interactional competence.



**A group photo from last summer’s International Conference on Spoken Chinese Corpora held at Nanjing University**

“Corpora of natural spoken language provide rich resources and material for language teaching and learning. However, most language teachers are not familiar with corpora or do not know how to use the data effectively in classroom teaching. The goal of this Conference is to provide a platform where researchers can demonstrate the construction of corpora and teachers share the pedagogical approaches of using the corpora data in teaching,” explained Dr. Yeh, Associate Director of CLIC. “This conference,” she added, “is another endeavor of CLIC to bridge theory and practice in language teaching.”

This conference is co-sponsored by Nanjing University and Beijing Language and Culture University, two of the leading research universities in China. Plenary speakers include Dr. Meng Yeh (Rice University), Dr. Xianwen Cao (Nanjing University), Dr. Hongyin Tao (UCLA), and Dr. Baolin Zhang (Beijing Language and Culture University).

All teachers of Mandarin Chinese are encouraged to attend. Early bird registration ends June 10. Information about registration can be found at [clc.rice.edu](http://clc.rice.edu).

### *CLIC Summer Workshops for L2 Teachers*

Second language instructors at both the college/university and K-12 levels will spend two days at Rice learning from Rice faculty. CLIC will hold the CLIC Summer Workshops for L2 Teachers August 12-13. The workshops will include modules on assessment, guided induction, interactional competence, language analysis, pragmatics, and study abroad. The workshops will

include hands-on sessions to encourage active participation. Part of CLIC's mission is to design and implement a program of educational outreach. These workshops help to fulfill that goal.



**Dr. Luziris Turi and Prof. Victoria Abad prepare for the Summer Workshops for L2 Teachers**

“We are filling a gap in second language teaching workshops,” said Dr. Luziris Tui, Associate Director of CLIC. “We are bridging second language acquisition theory through presentations that demonstrate application through lesson plans and assessment tools,” she added.

Early bird registration ends June 11. All second language instructors are encouraged to attend. Registration and program information can be found at [clc.rice.edu](http://clc.rice.edu).