

20 OCTOBER
4PM SATURDAY.2012

PUBLIC LECTURE

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO // ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES: EV3 1408
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW IN ATRIUM OF EV3 // FREE PARKING IN H-LOT



SYMBOLIC COMPETENCE:

NEW GOAL *for* GLOBAL TIMES

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SYMBOLIC COMPETENCE HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO SUPPLEMENT THE
TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATIVE GOALS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEARNING

(KRAMSCH & WHITESIDE 2008, KRAMSCH 2008, 2009)

What is meant by symbolic? And what does symbolic competence have to do with globalization?

Given the increasing importance of language in the global economy both as a mode of communication and as the power to make and impose meaning on others, foreign language learners need the ability not just to express conventional meanings and solve communicative tasks but to interpret what is meant by what is said, to understand how people use symbolic systems to construct new meanings, and to imagine how the other languages they know might influence the way they think, speak and write. This talk will explore the concept of symbolic competence both in the theory and the practice of foreign language teaching and learning.