

Dr Clare Wright
President, EuroSLA

Dr Danijela Trenkic
Chair, EuroSLA DSA Panel

23 August 2021

Dear Clare, dear Danijela

Now that the summer rush has died down a little, I am writing to express my continuing sense of honour and gratitude on receiving a EuroSLA Distinguished Scholar Award. My only regret is that there was no opportunity to do this in person at the successful but virtual 2021 EuroSLA conference.

When I was a child in Ireland, only a minority of young people progressed even to secondary education. However, over a timespan when women's place in academia was still insecure, I was privileged to receive an excellent early education and the consistent support throughout my career of a series of inspiring mentors (my scientist father Frank Mitchell, the Irish writer Máirtín Ó Cadhain, teacher educator Donald MacIntyre, applied linguist Alan Davies, and of course my late husband Christopher Brumfit). Knowing how fortunate I have been, and how many obstacles in comparison that others have to overcome, I have always been anxious to work collegially and to support younger scholars. EuroSLA is clearly an association that has consistently supported these values, and I am especially proud that they are referenced in the commendation.

EuroSLA has been significant in promoting high academic standards and shaking up the field of SLA in stimulating and intellectually productive ways. My own intellectual journey and research activities have been greatly influenced by key ideas first encountered through EuroSLA – the complexity-accuracy-fluency nexus, multimodality, and multicompetence are some examples. Your commitment to open publishing has also been important for me personally, allowing an avenue for dissemination of important European research on linguistic aspects of study abroad.

And finally of course, I was really delighted to receive the award jointly with my longstanding research collaborator and friend Florence Myles. We have undertaken many empirical projects together over the years, centring on our corpus based work with early language learners, as well as collaborations around SLA theory. Of course, Flo has also played a leading role within EuroSLA, and in high profile language policy work. We both very much appreciated this recognition of our collaboration, and enjoyed being together for the occasion!

With grateful thanks to all the members of the DSA panel, and all best wishes for EuroSLA's continuing success

Yours sincerely

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