Title: From chalkboards to chatbots: will AI claim our language classrooms?

Bio:

Remy Decorte is a language teacher educator and PhD student at UCLouvain. He specializes in the research-practice gap in Instructed Second Language Acquisition (ISLA) with an emphasis on aligning research with L2 teaching practices. His expertise spans several areas, including Design-Based Research, metacognitive practices, differentiated instruction, and plurilingual CALL, alongside a more recent interest in Generative AI (GenAI) to enhance L2 education. His practical contributions include authoring and coordinating language learning textbooks, as well as aiding in the design of language teaching programs in French-speaking Belgium. He is an advocate of research initiatives anchored in teachers' reality that ecologically promote evidence-based practices.

Talk description:

As AI technologies like natural language processing and machine learning become increasingly sophisticated, they offer unprecedented opportunities for personalized, accessible, and engaging language learning/teaching experiences. From AI-driven platforms that adapt to each learner's unique pace to conversational agents that provide real-time practice and feedback, this talk will investigate the current state of AI applications in language education and their affordances for learners and teachers. It will then address the challenges and ethical considerations inherent in integrating AI technologies, such as data privacy, bias, and the essential role of human agency and supervision. Looking forward, the audience will be invited to speculate on future AI advancements. The talk will conclude with a discussion of collaborative research opportunities between teachers using AI and researchers, to empirically understand the adoption and impact of AI in language education.