

Invitation à la soutenance publique de thèse
Pour l'obtention du grade de Doctorat en Langues, lettres et traductologie

Madame Bailing HE

**EMBODIED AFFECTIVE RECONFIGURATION IN L2 SPEAKING FLUENCY:
A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF LEARNERS OF GERMAN AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
IN A VR GAME-BASED ENVIRONMENT**

Le 22 septembre 2026 à 16H00

Salle Polyvalente du Learning Center

Christine de Pizan

Place Cardinal Mercier 31

Louvain-la-Neuve

L'événement est accessible en [comodal](#)



Speaking another language requires learners to coordinate words, attention, emotions and interaction in real time. This dissertation explores how speaking fluency and learner experience unfold during repeated participation in TravelKit, a social virtual-reality environment for learning German. It combines a systematic review, the design and refinement of TravelKit, and a longitudinal mixed-methods study with 27 learners across seven sessions. Post-session speech samples, questionnaires and interviews revealed an increase in articulation rate, but no corresponding trend in overall speech rate including pauses. Individual trajectories varied, and similar performance patterns could accompany contrasting experiences of confidence, effort, disruption and support. Higher-than-usual cognitive load was associated with slower articulation within learners. These findings motivate speaking configuration: a way of examining how linguistic, cognitive, affective, social and material conditions work together during speaking. The dissertation offers a provisional lens for understanding changes in this organisation over time, alongside implications for designing and supporting language-learning activities.

Le jury est composé de Madame et Messieurs les Professeur-es :

Prof. Joachim SABEL (UCLouvain), Président et lecteur

Prof. Ferran SUÑER MUÑOZ (UCLouvain), Promoteur et Secrétaire

Prof. Serge BIBAUW (UCLouvain), Lecteur

Prof. Carlee ARNETT (UC Davis), Lectrice extérieure

Prof. Steven THORNE (Portland State University), Lecteur extérieur

Dr. Marjan ASGARI (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano), Lectrice extérieure