“Practical Classroom Language Assessment”

In this workshop, we will discuss how to design classroom language assessments that are practical, but which also give good evidence of validity. We will approach this through “test specifications” or “specs”. A test spec is a blueprint or plan for testing. From a well-written spec, you can produce many equivalent classroom language assessments. In particular, we will build specs which recognize and which embrace the reality of classroom problems — like class size: for example, an assessment that works for ten or fifteen students may not work for thirty-five. In addition to some concrete examples of test specs, you will exit with the skills to build test specs in general, for many language test settings.

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