

Carnegie Mellon University
Department of Modern Languages

October 31, 2017
3:30 – 5:00pm
Wean Hall 4625



Treading on “lawyers’ land”? Second language legal literacy and concept-based instruction

Alissa J. Hartig
Portland State University

This presentation considers the role of disciplinary concepts in the L2 legal writing classroom, offering a model for connecting language and disciplinary knowledge through concept-based instruction. Drawing on evidence from learners’ written drafts, in-class interactions with peers, and individual tutoring sessions, the presentation follows the trajectories of two international lawyers as they learn to read and write new genres in a second language and legal culture. Learners’ success with these genres depends not only on their language proficiency and orientation to tasks, but also on their internalization of fundamental disciplinary concepts that shape genre conventions.