

FULBRIGHT EXPERIENCES

CAMILLA VÁSQUEZ is an Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of South Florida, where she teaches courses such as Language and Technology, Discourse Analysis, and Cross-Cultural Issues in Language Teaching. Camilla has carried out discourse analytic research on teacher mentoring, teacher narratives, and talk in the language classroom. More recently, she has turned her attention to computer-mediated texts, specifically the language of online reviews. Her articles on the language of TripAdvisor reviews have appeared in *Journal of Pragmatics* and *Narrative Inquiry*, and a forthcoming book *The Discourse of Online Reviews* is under contract with Bloomsbury Press. She was a Fulbright Specialist at City University of Hong Kong in 2013.

As a recipient of a Fulbright Specialist Award, I recently had the privilege of spending a very productive six weeks from April to May 2013 at the City University of Hong Kong. During this period, I was completing my first book titled *The Discourse of Online Reviews*, and I was lucky enough to be immersed in a setting where a number of faculty happen to share my interests in online language and digital literacies. While at City University, I met with colleagues, visited classes, and guest-lectured. I also delivered seminars about my research for the faculty both at City University, and at the Hong Kong Institute of Education.

The highlight of my visit was participating in this year's International Roundtable on Discourse Analysis. Every two years, the Department of English at City University organizes and hosts a Roundtable on Discourse Analysis, bringing together a small group of international scholars in the field of discourse studies, to engage with, reflect upon and discuss a particular theme. I knew about City University's Roundtable because some of my own distinguished professors had been invited speakers there in the past. This year's theme – fortunately for me – happened to be "Discourse and Digital Practices." As an invited participant, I joined the select group of 14 international scholars from Hong Kong, Australia, the U.K. and the U.S. for an exciting three-day conference dedicated to discussing key issues related to digital texts and digital practices. I had the opportunity to engage with colleagues in productive conversations about overlapping research interests, and I delivered a paper on "Forms of Intertextuality in Online Reviews".

I benefitted from all of these experiences. Being able to have stimulating discussions about topics directly related to my book with colleagues who are experts in the field has enriched my research in immeasurable ways. Beyond this, I consider myself fortunate to have landed in an academic environment that was so positive, supportive, and congenial. At City University, I made a number of important professional contacts; I formed a few new friendships; and I am happy to report that my first research collaboration with a colleague from City University's English department is already underway! I look forward to a time in the future when I will have another opportunity to return to Hong Kong ... I can't wait to go back!

