



VORTRAGSREIHE Didaktik am Abend (DiA)  
Sommersemester 2025

## How language teachers benefit from using can-do-based self-assessments to measure proficiency

Paula Winke (Michigan State University)

Zeit: *Montag, 19. Mai 2025, 17:15 Uhr*

Ort: *Hörsaal 3, Geiwi, EG (Campus Innrain)*

Der Vortrag findet im Rahmen der LFUI-Guestprofessorships statt.



In this presentation, I discuss how language teachers can create sets of Likert-scale, Can-do-based statements outlining tasks in their language programs and that can be used as self-assessments to monitor proficiency growth over time. I showcase how teachers can use the Can-do statements to have students self-assess their language proficiency and their task-based gains before and after learning, especially if the Can-do statements are associated, through teacher expert judgement, to proficiency levels on a national or international standardized scale of language proficiency (e.g., CEFR). I review important studies that have demonstrated the power of Can-do-based self-assessments for language programs. And I present a direction sheet and worksheets teachers can use to guide their creation of Can-do-based self-assessments for their classes. I provide as examples sets of Can-do statements created by teachers of Russian, Chinese, and Hindi that were based on their local curricula and that they are actively using to track growth in a cost-effective and low-anxiety manner. We end by discussing how self-assessments are suggested to promote agency and positive identity development in learners, and how teachers can use data from Can-do-based self-assessments to improve the tasks that they teach in their language classrooms.

Prior to attending, if you have time, please read or skim the following paper, which is open-access:

Winke, P., Zhang, X., & Pierce, S. J. (2023). A closer look at a marginalized test method: Self-assessment as a measure of speaking proficiency. *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, 45(2), 416-441. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0272263122000079>

**Paula Winke** is a Professor at Michigan State University, USA, where she teaches and researches language assessment. She is the treasurer for the American Association of Applied Linguistics (AAAL) and is the 2025 recipient of the Best Article Award from the International Language Testing Association (ILTA). During the 2024-2025 academic year, she is a Leopold-Franzens-Universität Innsbruck (LFUI) Guest Professor, with her guest-residence hosted by the Institut für Fachdidaktik and the Language Testing Research Group Innsbruck (LTRGI).