

IPCC 2010: Enschede

On 6 July 2010, CPTSC, along with the Association of Teachers of Technical Writing (ATTW), sponsored the fifth in its series of international roundtables for technical communication educators. Organized alongside the IEEE International Professional Communication Conference (IPCC) held at the University of Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands, this year's roundtable drew technical communication educators from four countries, including one never before represented: Uruguay. The other countries represented were Canada, France, and the USA. The roundtable series began in 2000 in London, followed by ones in 2003 in Milan, Italy; 2005 in Limerick, Ireland; and 2008 in Montréal, Canada. Altogether, the series has attracted participants from 15 nations.

The Roundtable featured two presentations by participants from Canada. Saul Carliner from Concordia University in Montréal, Québec, site of the previous Roundtable, presented "Instructional Design and Technical Communication: A Match Made in Heaven or More Like George and Martha?" From farther west, Brian Traynor from Mount Royal University in Calgary, Alberta, presented "Information Design @ MRU – Two Years In."

As is common at CPTSC's annual meetings, the bulk of the Roundtable was devoted to discussion. The participant from Uruguay, Alina Alvarez, was especially excited to hear about the ways in which academic programs have been designed and developed, as she is now launching a program at the University of Montevideo.

With just six participants, the 2010 Roundtable was by far the smallest held so far. The global economic downturn and cuts in travel budgets clearly affected attendance. However, this Roundtable was also the most enthusiastically received. When asked if the Roundtable fulfilled their needs and was worth offering again in the future, the participants answered with a full-throated "Yes!"