

Special Sessions

Day 1: Thursday March 12, 1:30-2:15p.m.

Session: TESOL Arabia Debates- Humanizing practices in TESOL: Meaning of Inclusion

Moderator: Sahbi Hidri

Room: Roma Majlis

Bios:

Deborah Short

Deborah J. Short, Ph.D., directs Academic Language Research & Training, LLC and provides professional development on academic literacy, content-based ESL, and sheltered instruction worldwide. Formerly she was a Division Director at the Center for Applied Linguistics where she co-developed the research-validated SIOP Model for sheltered instruction. She has directed research and program evaluations on English learners for the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Rockefeller Foundation, U.S. Department of Education, and U.S. Department of Justice, among others. Publications include the SIOP Model books, ESL textbooks for National Geographic Learning/Cengage, and numerous professional journal articles. She has presented at conferences around the U.S. and in Canada, Europe, South America, the Middle East, and New Zealand. She has taught ESL and EFL, in New York, California, Virginia, and the DR Congo. She led The 6 Principles writing team for TESOL and is the President-Elect for 2019-2020.

Sufian Abu-Rmaileh

Dr. Sufian Abu-Rmaileh is the United Arab Emirates University and Zayed Military College Academic Coordinator. He was the External Projects Coordinator for four years. He was also the Professional Development Coordinator for The University General Requirements Unit. For the past thirty-two years, he has been teaching English at various levels, skills and institutions in the United States and the Middle East. He has been an administrator and a team leader for over ten years in the United States, and the UAE. He has an MA in Linguistics and received both his TESL Certificate and his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Brigham Young University, USA. Dr. Abu-Rmaileh has also won many awards for his work as a leader, researcher and classroom teacher. He is a frequent presenter, invited and plenary speaker at local, national and international conferences. Dr. Abu-Rmaileh has written on culture, classroom technology, motivation, burnout, communication, business writing, critical and creative thinking, emotional and social intelligences, team building, problem solving, coaching and mentoring and leadership. He is TESOL Arabia past-president, past conference co-chair, 25 years as TA conference planner and other local, regional and international conference planner, and 2017 TA conference co-chair. Dr. Abu-Rmaileh is also a Toastmasters International member, Division Director and Past-President of TA Toastmasters.

Melanie Gobert

Dr. Melanie Gobert, EdD, is a Past-President of TESOL Arabia and Conference Co-Chair for the TESOL Arabia Conference in 2015, 2019, and 2020. She also co-chaired the Third World Congress on Extensive Reading in 2015. She served as the Conference Book Editor for TESOL Arabia from 2009-2014. She has presented and published extensively on vocabulary learning, extensive reading, professional development, assessment, educational technology, and leadership. Her latest publications are "Conference Organization as a Path to Professional Development" (Springer, in press) and "Transformation in English Language Education in the United Arab Emirates" (Springer, 2019). She is currently the General Studies Program Coordinator at Abu Dhabi Men's College, Higher Colleges of Technology, United Arab Emirates, and System-wide Course Team Leader for Life and Study Skills, a cross-listed course with 2000+ students concurrently enrolled per semester.

Day 1: Thursday March 12, 11:45-12:30

Session: "25 years of TESOL Arabia: Trends and Innovations" 20x20 Powered by Pechakucha

Room: Roma Majlis

Moderators: Amjad Taha and Racquel Warner

At the annual TESOL Arabia conference this year we will be hosting a few 20x20 powered by Pechakucha sessions. PechaKucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and you talk along to the images. Total time per presenter will be 7 minutes. We have a handshake agreement with PechaKucha and this event held annually at TESOL Arabia. This is a fun way and unconventional way to share experiences at TACON. Dubai is one of the 1200 cities where PechaKucha is hosted annually. The theme this year is "25 years of TESOL Arabia: Trends and Innovations". The session will run for 60 minutes with 7 presenters in each session.

Presenters and Bios:

Sally Kondos

Topic: The impact of acquiring academic collocation on increasing the vocabulary size of intermediate level students.

Sally Kondos has expertise in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She is writing her doctoral dissertation, which discusses the impact of acquiring academic collocation on increasing the vocabulary size and improving the writing skills of ESL students.

Afnan Shmasnah

Topic: Flipped learning effectiveness in the EFL classroom

Ms. Afnan Shmasnah works as an EFL teacher at the Palestinian Ministry of Education. She is interested in integrating technology in teaching. She likes to take the initiatives to explore new ideas with people and networking with them .

Fatmah Ali**Topic: Teaching To Lead: Teaching Leadership**

Ms. Ali is the Vice-President, Master Trainer & Program Director of ELTAD-MA in Education program. She won many awards in the field of education. She was the conference co-chair of KSAALT TESOL in 2018, Saudi Arabia and is currently the Jeddah Chapter Rep of KSAALT TESOL.

Richard Roshay**Topic: Soft Skills in the ESL Classroom**

With a wealth of international experience (Tunisia, France, The Ivory Coast, Saudi Arabia, the USA, the United Arab Emirates, Taiwan) in ESL, ESP, ESL Teaching Training, Richard presents a personal and insightful, teacher-oriented optic to his workshops and presentations.

Yasmine Soheim**Topic: Assessing the effectiveness of PechaKucha in an ESL context**

Yasmine Soheim is an instructor at the Rhetoric and Composition Department at the American University in Cairo. Soheim teaches research writing and business communication courses using innovative methods. She is interested in pragmatics and discourse analysis.

Colin Hoy**Topic: Developing future skills: digital making and basic coding using Microbit**

Colin Hoy is Digital Coordinator at the British Council UAE. He trains teachers to integrate ed-tech into English lessons. Colin's success developing 21st Century skills has been recognised as an example of teaching excellence across the British Council's global network.

Day 2: Friday March 13, 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Session: TESOL Arabia Debates: Emotional Intelligence vs Artificial Intelligence

Room: Roma Majlis

Moderator: Racquel Warner

Bios:**James Buckingham**

Buckingham holds Masters degrees in TESL, Online, Distance, and Adult Learning. A longtime proponent of evidence-based PD recognized through digital badges, he also continues to explore best practices in formative assessment and 21st C skill development in the classroom.

Christine Coombes

Christine Coombe has a Ph.D in Foreign/Second Language Education from The Ohio State University. She is currently an Associate Professor of General Studies at Dubai Men's College. Christine is co-editor and co-author of numerous volumes on F/SL assessment, leadership, research methods, teacher effectiveness and TBLT. Her most recent publications include *The Cambridge Guide to Research in Language Teaching and Learning* (Cambridge University Press, 2015), Volume 8 of the *TESOL Encyclopedia of ELT* (Wiley Blackwell, 2018), and *The Role of Language Teacher Associations in Professional Development* (2018, Springer) and *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching: The Case of the Middle East and North Africa* (2019, Palgrave Macmillan). Christine's forthcoming books are on research questions in TESOL and Applied Linguistics and professionalism in TESOL.

Christine has lived and worked in the Gulf for the past 28 years. In this capacity, she has served as the President and Conference Chair of one of the largest TESOL affiliates in the world and is the founder and co-chair of its Testing Special Interest Group. She served as TESOL President (2011-2012) and was a member of the TESOL Board of Directors (2005-2007; 2010-2013). Christine received the British Council's International Assessment Award for 2013. Her most recent honors were being named to TESOL's 50@50 which "recognizes professionals who have made significant contributions to the TESOL profession within the past 50 years." Dr Coombe is the 2018 recipient of the James E. Alatis Award which recognizes exemplary service to TESOL

Samantha McDonald Amara

Samantha McDonald Amara has Master of Applied Linguistics from the University of Southern Queensland, a Cambridge DELTA, a Master of Education in Educational Technology from Memorial University and is an HEA Senior Fellow. After a number of years coordinating and managing federally-funded, computer-based learning programs for adult immigrants in Canada, Samantha moved to the UAE to join the Higher Colleges of Technology as part of the Foundations faculty at Ras al Khaimah Women's College. After five years in that role, she transferred to the Educational Technology department where she is a Senior Specialist on the Teaching with Technology team, tasked with course design and training aimed at supporting faculty in the pedagogically-sound integration of technology into teaching. In addition to training in educational technology, Samantha earned certification as a Microsoft Distinguished Faculty Fellow/Trainer, has developed and delivered educational technology PD training at several international conferences and co-developed the PeLCoT Model of Software Evaluation, which has been presented to ICT educators and stakeholders at conferences in Dubai and Karachi. Her foci include Instructional Design, ICT Development, Technology Integration, Course Development, Teacher Training, Professional Development and Online and Blended Learning.

Day 2: Friday March 13, 11:45-12:30**Session: 20x20 Powered by Pechakucha****Room: Roma Majlis**

At the annual TESOL Arabia conference this year we will be hosting a few 20x20 powered by Pechakucha sessions. PechaKucha 20x20 is a simple presentation format where you show 20 images, each for 20 seconds. The images advance automatically and you talk along to the images. Total time per presenter will be 7 minutes. We have a handshake agreement with PechaKucha and this event held annually at TESOL Arabia. This is a fun way and unconventional way to share experiences at TACON. Dubai is one of the 1200 cities where PechaKucha is hosted annually. The theme this year is "25 years of TESOL Arabia: Trends and Innovations". The session will run for 60 minutes with 7 presenters in each session.

Presenters and Bios:**Irfan Ahmed****Topic: Using Print Media with Students**

Mr Irfan Ahmed has worked in reputed universities like King AbdulAziz University, Jeddah and Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat in the past. Currently he works with British Council, London. He has over 22 years teaching experience.

Ameeah Ghanan Alotaibi**Topic: RLA (Independent Reading Level Assessment Framework used in U.S.A. schools**

English Supervisor who holds a Bachelor degree in (Education in English Literature) She is an accredited trainer in Coaching from American Productivity and holds Certificate of (BLCTSI) Building Leadership for Change Through School Immersion program.

Michael Andy Bowen**Topic: Harnessing Musical Intelligence in ELT**

A California (U.S.A.) native, Michael "Andy" VB Bowen holds degrees in linguistics and music from San Diego State University. His Saudi teaching adventure has led him to Ha'il, Ta'if and Jeddah, where he teaches and performs.

Fatimah Almuzaini**Topic: A Practical Approach to Incorporating Professional Learning into the Teaching Practice**

A general supervisor at (NIEPD). MA in linguistics and a certified trainer in professional development by the ministry of education. Mahmuda Al-Johani has been teaching English for 19 years in K.S.A, one of participates in the project Building leadership.

Hind Elyas

Topic: Diversity in the ESL classroom

Hind is an English Instructor at Niagara College in KSA. She is heavily involved in professional development where she assumes many roles including the Acting VP of TESOL Sudan, and other major roles at KSAALT TESOL, Africa TESOL ,TESOL International and IATEFL.

Nazeera Moideen Koya**Topic: English Language Trends in Kindergarten**

Nazira has an extensive career as a Kindergarten teacher in American Curriculum School. Has diploma in Early Childhood Education. Working in Al Adhwa Private School (Band A) in Al Ain. Presently serves as Team Leader for KG Department.

Day 2: Friday March 13, 10:15-11:30**Session: Relaunch of SIGS****Moderator: Amjad Taha**

SIGs are a vital part of the TESOL Arabia community because they bring together members who share a common interest and who wish to enhance their skills within a particular area or specialization of TESOL. Their purpose and function is to afford TESOL Arabia members specific opportunities to share information, offer professional development or undertake research in specialized fields. After a season or dormancy SIGS will be relaunched at TESOL Arabia 2020. If you have an interest in chairing one of these SIGS please come to the Roma Majlis and pitch your SIG proposal. The TESOL Arabia conference committee will review the proposals submitted and select the SIGS which will announced at the conference. Volunteers for SIG Chairs will be selected.

Day 3: Saturday March 14, 9:30-10:15**Session: TESOL Arabia Panel Discussion: 25 years of Creativity and Innovation in English Language Teaching****Room: Roma Majlis****Moderator: Fatmah Azam Ali**

Innovation and creativity are defined as 21st century skills that will make people stand out in the crowd. An esteemed panel of TESOL Arabia speakers will respond to the following questions and more Are these new competences in the field of TESOL? Are they competences that have defined the practice of TESOL for more than 25 years in the region. What are some of the best practice stories of innovation and creativity in TESOL Arabia? What are the future forecasts for innovation and creativity in TESOL?

Bios**Rosa Aronson**

Rosa Aronson works as an English Language Specialist with the U.S. Department of State. Her assignment have included working with teachers and leaders in Central Asia (2019) and in Vietnam (2018). Between 2010 and 2017, Aronson served as executive director of TESOL International Association, where she launched several successful strategic initiatives, including a global Summit on the Future of the TESOL Profession, an expansion of the TESOL Affiliate network, multiple international conferences and events in collaboration with ELT organizations around the world, and the development of a book series, the 6 Principles of Exemplary Teaching of English Learners.

Her career in Education began as an EFL teacher in France and continued in the USA in professional educational organizations. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education, a Master's degree in Education, and a Master's degree in English Linguistics. In 2015 she was named Fellow of the American Society of Association Executives (FASAE) in recognition of her service and leadership in association management. She is a certified Association Executive (CAE), a title given to professionals who demonstrate the knowledge required to be successful in association management. She has lived on three continents and is bilingual (French).

Lana Hiasat

Lana Hiasat has a doctoral degree in educational leadership with specialization in educational technology. She is currently the Program Coordinator of the General Studies department at Dubai Men's college in addition to being English faculty. Lana is a Senior Fellow HEA (SFHEA) and is certified in intercultural intelligence, emotional intelligence, and Kaizen Creativity to name a few. Lana has published in areas of emotional intelligence, smart learning, blended learning, educational leadership, intercultural intelligence, and online teaching and learning. Lana has co-chaired the first general academic requirement (GARD) conference and is currently on the advisory board for TESOL Arabia in addition to chairing the research committee for her division across all 16 campuses. Lana is also a proud Toastmasters competent communicator and leader. Her research interests are in smart learning, blended learning, education 4.0, e-learning, educational leadership, and voluntary teaching and learning communities.

Day 2 and 3: Friday and Saturday March 13 and 14, 10:45 -11:30 a.m.

Session: TeachMeet

Room: Roma Majlis

Moderators: Racquel Warner and Amjad Taha

TESOL Arabia will host two TeachMeet sessions on Day 2 and 3 of the conference this year. TeachMeets are informal and intentionally collaborative sessions where practitioners share best practices, ideas and experiences and support each other in our professional growth. The sessions will provide an opportunity of 4 teachers each day, to engage the audience in a highly interactive and participatory presentation about an effective or impactful experience they had in their practice of teaching.

Sign up for these sessions will be on Day 1 of the conference. Look for the TeachMeet signup desk.

Sign-ups at the conference on Day 1 in the Roma Majlis

Day 1, 2: Thursday and Friday March 12 and 13 at 2:30 -3:15 and Day 3: Saturday March 14 at 10:15- 11:30

Session: Researchers' Hub

Room: Roma Majlis

Each year TESOL Arabia has the honor of hosting many eminent scholars at our conference. We are also privileged to have among our membership a number of practitioners who are aspiring to become researchers. This year TESOL Arabia is pleased to create a space during the special sessions for researchers at all levels of their career to network and participate in the researchers' hub. Over the three days of the conference we will host focus groups, reviewers boot camp and publishing advisory sessions. These 60 minutes pop up events are not to be missed.

Day 1, 2 and 3: Thursday, Friday and Saturday March 12, 13 and 14, 1:00-1:30p.m.

Place: Ritz Carlton Garden (Listen for announcements from the main stage)

Session: Reflections at TESOL Arabia

Attending conferences like TESOL Arabia can be busy and overwhelming. We want to create a space for our delegates to relax in the beautiful surroundings at the Ritz Carlton Abu Dhabi. Each day we will host a Mindfulness session to allow participants to pause and reflect. This will be a quiet outdoor space for reflection and meditation. A schedule of sessions will be posted daily.