

TESOL Arabia Plenary and Invited Speakers

Friday: October 2, 2020

Opening Plenary Day 1: 8:30-9:00 AM

TESOL Arabia YouTube Channel

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Making the Most of Pandemic Teaching
Justin Shewell, Arizona State University

During this unprecedented time of remote teaching and online learning, students and teachers struggle to adapt and find success in their teaching and learning experiences. Dr. Justin Shewell will discuss several significant aspects of teaching during this pandemic and share some ideas that will help you prioritize your curriculum and plan for learning in a variety of circumstances, and help you engage your learners no matter where they are.

Bio:

Justin Shewell has a Ph.D. in Educational Technology from Arizona State University and an M.A. in TESOL from Brigham Young University. He is the co-designer of the award-winning Teach English Now! (<https://teachenglish.asu.edu/>), the world's largest online TESOL certificate program, and co-designer of the popular Learning How to Learn a Language MOOC (<https://language-warriors.com>). He is the author of several books and book chapters, including 50 Ways to Teach Online (<https://jshewell.com>) and 50 Ways to Learn a Language (<https://jshewell.com>). He is the creator of the Perception of Spoken English (POSE) Test (<https://posetest.com>) and ESL Activities (<https://eslactivities.com>). He is a member of the Board of Directors for the TESOL International Association (<https://tesol.org>), the premiere international association for teachers of English to speakers of other languages. He has lived and worked in the UAE, Korea, and Utah, and Hawaii in the United States. He currently lives in Arizona with his wife and their 5 children.

Featured Speaker Day 1: 12:00-12:45 PM

Zoom Room 3 Meeting ID: 343 108 4571 Passcode: 633263

Designing Classroom-based Tasks for Business Learners
Catherine Nickerson, Zayed University, UAE

One of the consequences of the digital era has been the undeniable rise in the use of English in business. Studies have shown that large numbers of people in the business community now rely on English in order to get their work done, and at the same time, that many business transactions now take place through digital technologies in the form of computer mediated communication (CMC). In my presentation, I will be talking about how to design relevant classroom-based tasks for learners of business English, who have a limited knowledge of business. I will draw upon our experience with a project carried out with our high-proficiency learners located in Abu Dhabi, which aimed to help them develop the CMC skills that they will need to succeed in the

contemporary U.A.E. workplace, with specific reference to email. In doing so, I will discuss the importance of going beyond what is normally included within the textbook and drawing upon recent research findings to place our learners in a writing space more similar to that of the modern business context.

Bio:

Catherine Nickerson is a Professor in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates. In 2008 she received the Association for Business Communication's Distinguished Publication Award, in 2009 the Association's Outstanding Researcher Award and in 2017 the Outstanding Article in the Business and Professional Communication Quarterly Award. Dr Nickerson's work has been published widely and her latest book (*Teaching Business Discourse*) appeared with Palgrave Macmillan in 2019. Her current research interests include the use of business English as a lingua franca, the integration of mobile learning into the business English classroom, and the communication of Corporate Social Responsibility.

Closing Plenary Day 1: 3:00-3:45 PM

Zoom Room 1 Meeting ID: 792 093 2038 Passcode: 987678

Invigorate ELT with The 6 Principles®

**Deborah Short, Academic Language Research & Training, LLC;
TESOL International Association President-Elect (2019-2020)**

This plenary presents TESOL's *The 6 Principles for Exemplary Teaching of English Learners*® and their application to EFL, EMI, and CLIL settings. It describes the vision for ELT education in the 21st century, explains optimal conditions for second language learning, showcases effective instructional and assessment practices, and discusses how to use the 6 Principles for teacher development and program improvement. By implementing the 6 Principles in strategic ways, English language teachers can invigorate their lessons and promote multilingual learner success.

Bio:

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.

Friday: October 3, 2020

Opening Plenary Day 2: 8:45-9:30 AM

Zoom Room 2 Meeting ID: 232 983 2669 Passcode: 542793

Do You Blend?

Sufian Abu-Rmaileh, United Arab Emirates University

With the introduction of technology and the various digital and smart devices in people's lives over the past decade, education was bound to be affected. Classrooms were destined to also include such technology. Traditional classrooms were no longer an option. The old way of teaching and lecturing in the classroom where the students were passive recipients of information needed to change. Although many teachers and schools were unenthusiastic and reluctant to adopt new technologies for a number of reasons, some were brave enough to demand change by introducing the latest technologies and methods of learning. Blended learning is one way where educators are able to use traditional and new learning technologies. In this plenary, we will define blended learning and show how it is carried out in the most conducive way possible. We will also look at some tools to use in blended learning and discuss some challenges that teachers face in applying Blended Learning in their classrooms.

Bio:

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.

Featured Speaker Day 2: 12:00-12:45 PM

Zoom Room 2 Meeting ID: 232 983 2669 Passcode: 542793

Current Trends in Language Assessment

Peter Davidson, Zayed University, UAE

As a busy teacher, it can be difficult to keep up to date with all the latest research and developments in our field. In this talk I will update teachers on the seven latest and most

significant trends in language assessment that they need to be aware of. Specifically, I will discuss: Multiple Measures Assessment; Authentic Assessment; Integrated-Skills Assessment; Rater Bias; Computerized Testing; Automated Essay Scoring and Feedback; and Learning-Oriented Assessment.

Bio:

Peter Davidson currently teaches Business Communication at Zayed University in Dubai, having previously taught in New Zealand, Japan, the UK and Turkey. He has co-edited a number of books on testing and evaluation including: Language Assessment in the Middle East and North Africa (2017, TESOL Arabia); The Cambridge Guide to Second Language Assessment (2012, Cambridge University Press); The Fundamentals of Language Assessment (2009, TESOL Arabia); and Evaluating Teaching Effectiveness in ESL/EFL Contexts (2007, University of Michigan Press). Peter was recently made a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK).

Closing Plenary Day 2: 3:00-3:45 PM

Zoom Room 1 Meeting ID: 792 093 2038 Passcode: 987678

How to grow our teaching, research and service impact

Dr Willy A Renandya

National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University

Work in academia is increasingly assessed in terms of whether and to what extent it has important impact on three areas: teaching, research and service. Our teaching is considered impactful when for example it results in deep and durable learning and helps students apply what they have learned in their future work. On the research front, our research is considered to have impact when for example it provides new insights and perspectives and when our research findings find application in and outside the classroom. In the same vein, our service is impactful when for example we reach out to teachers and support them in their professional development efforts through in-service workshops. In this presentation, I first define what impact is and what it means for early career teacher-researchers. I will then offer tips and suggestions on how they can increase the impact of their work, make their teaching research and service impacts more visible at the institutional, national and international levels.

Bio:

Prof. Willy A Renandya, PhD, is a language teacher educator with extensive teaching experience in Asia. He currently teaches applied linguistics courses at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He has given more than 100 presentations at regional and international ELT conferences and published extensively in the area of second language education. He maintains a large language teacher professional development forum called Teacher Voices: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/teachervoices/>