

The Post Pandemic Educator: In-Conference Course Development Course

Location: Jawhar 2

Session 1

Friday, March 11, 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Recruiting the Ideal TESOL Teacher X.0

Mick King

The post-pandemic world may not yet have arrived but we are already changing our perspectives on what the ideal TESOL teacher should be, given our experiences in the last 2 years. We are not looking for Version 2.0, but maybe 3.0? 4.0? Let's call it X.0, as our changing times keep changing the requirements. Certainly, we are looking for someone with the X factor. Arguably, this quest for the ideal teacher is nothing new. How many times have you been irritated by colleagues who, despite their having exemplary credentials, you see as lazy, unprofessional, selfish, or unsuited to your teaching environment? How did they get employed? Who made that decision, and why?

This workshop, which is aimed at both administrators and teachers, considers a rethink on the tried and tested (or should that be tired and untested?) reliance on experience and qualifications as the key markers for employment decisions in TESOL. Using 'strategic fit' as a guiding principle, attendees will first brainstorm a generic list of key skills and attributes needed, before formulating their own checklist of key traits needed to survive and thrive in their own working context. The hope is that this list will work its way into each attendee's HR policy, so we can ensure our teaching teams are optimal for our personal post-pandemic environments.

Session 2

Friday, March 11, 1:00-2:00 pm

Happiness and Frustration in Language Teaching Practice

Christina Gkonou

Emotions are at the center of all human behavior, and teaching and learning are no exception. Teaching is in fact an emotionally laden experience, with teachers often feeling a range of emotions in their everyday teaching practice. In this session, I will discuss in detail two specific emotions commonly felt by language teachers: happiness and frustration. I will show how happiness is likely to be experienced after moments of frustration – and how learning to manage frustration can generate happiness. Participants will work on interactive and self-reflective activities to better understand the nature of these two emotions and their impact on teaching.

Session 3

Saturday, March 12, 1:00-2:00 pm

Instructor Engagement and Presence in an Online Course

Jacqueline S. Stephen

This session will explore the different types of instructor presence necessary in an online course. Instructor presence in an online course is critical to student success because it impacts a student's learning, level of satisfaction with the course and instructor, and a student's sense of belonging (Akyol & Garrison, 2008; Arbaugh, 2008; Richardson et al., 2017). Different strategies will be presented, aimed at helping instructors to more effectively demonstrate their presence in an online course. Best practices will be shared on how to design, develop, and deliver engaging online courses. Specific strategies will be provided to support instructors in developing and strengthening their cognitive, social, and teaching presence in an online course.

Session 3

Saturday, March 12, 3:00-3:50 pm

Regaining Your Teacher Mojo: Strategies for Work Life Balance

Christine Coombe & Lana Hiasat

Work life balance has always been problematic for teachers because of the many hats we wear, roles we play, and the sheer workload of being a teacher. In recent times, with the shift to work from home, online teaching, increased administrative workload that has resulted from new forms of online, hybrid, blended learning, teacher productivity, self/time management, and organizational skills have suffered. Even the most productive teachers are finding it difficult to cope in these challenging times. In this session, we will offer strategies designed to help teachers get back in the groove and cope with varying teacher environments (traditional, face to face, blended/hybrid learning, fully online or a combination of teaching online and face to face). Our personal teacher work life balance will be shared.