

TESOL Arabia 2023 Panel Discussions

Panel Discussion Day 1

Title: ESL Teacher Mental Health and Well-Being

Timing: Friday, March 10, 2023, 3:00-4:00 PM

Location: Crystal Ballroom B

The days of teaching small classes and having fewer teaching hours so you can plan and adapt your lessons, as well as contribute to assessment and curriculum development are over. ESL teachers find themselves teaching large classes, sometime upwards of 70 students, teaching an average of 20-25 contact hours per week, and having to work at multiple institutions as an adjunct to make ends meet. This causes a lot of stress and burn out in the profession. What are the solutions to this burn out? Who is taking care of ESL teachers' mental health and well-being? What are the possible solutions to this phenomenon? Join us for a lively panel discussion where you can share your own stories of burn out and job stress.

Moderator: Nouredine Cherif

Panel Guests: Luis Javier Pentón Herrera, Heather Van Fleet, and Andrzej (Andy) Cirocki

Bios:

Nouredine Cherif is a Fulbright Scholar, Linguistics & Communications Expert, ESL Specialist, Curriculum developer, Language Program Coordinator with 12 years of experience in Language Teaching in the MENA and North America.

Luis Javier Pentón Herrera, PhD, served as the 38th President of Maryland TESOL from 2018 to 2019. He currently serves as Assistant Professor at the University of Warsaw in the Faculty of Modern Languages and The Institute of Applied Linguistics, and as the Coordinator of the Graduate TESOL Certificate at The George Washington University.

Heather Van Fleet is from New Jersey, U.S., and has worked in the field of education for almost 20 years in a variety of countries and roles, such as the U.S., Spain, and Mexico as an ESL teacher, Director of Studies, and Teacher Trainer.

Andrzej (Andy) Cirocki, PhD, is an Associate Professor in English Language Education in the Department of Education at the University of York, UK.

Panel Discussion Day 2

Title: ChatGPT: Implications of Student Use

Timing: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 3:00-4:00 PM

Location: Crystal Ballroom B

What is ChatGPT and what are the implications of student use? Why is everyone afraid of the dangers of wrong use by students when contract cheating is nothing new. How can teachers use it positively in the classroom? Have you used ChatGPT with students yet? What was your experience? Please join us for a lively discussion of this new technology that went viral. We'd love to hear your thoughts and applications of this new artificial intelligence tool.

Moderator: Melanie Gobert

Panel Guests: Antony Kunnan, Joyce Kling, Silvia Vaccino-Salvadore

Bios:

Melanie Gobert, EdD, is a past president of TESOL Arabia (2015) and the TESOL Arabia conference chair in 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023. She was the editor of Perspectives, an English-Language Teaching peer-reviewed journal from 2009-2014.

Antony John Kunnan, PhD, is a language assessment specialist currently with Duolingo as a Principal Assessment Scientist and with Carnegie Mellon University as a Senior Research Fellow.

Joyce Kling, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer at Lund University, Denmark, where she teaches second language teacher education courses to pre-service and in-service teachers. Over the course of her career, she has worked as an ESL & EFL teacher, program director and administrator, teacher trainer, researcher, materials developer, author, and consultant.

Silvia Vaccino-Salvadore is a senior lecturer in the English Department at Khalifa University. Her research interests include L2 writing, academic integrity, translanguaging, and language teacher identity formation.

Hannah Haase (M.Ed. in History and ESL), former professor and teacher of history and German, works as a curriculum developer and pedagogical mentor for Robotel's SmartClass Content (English, German, Spanish).

Panel Discussion Day 3

Title: Navigating the Classrooms of Tomorrow

Timing: Sunday, March 12, 2023, 3:00-4:00 PM

Location: Crystal Ballroom B

What will tomorrow's classrooms look like? Will they be mostly online or mostly face to face? Will they be in K-12 classrooms all over the world or will they be online and in adult language learning institutions? What will be the role of artificial intelligence in teaching? Will teachers' jobs become harder or easier? Will we see the end of English Language Teaching and support at the university level as English pushes deeper into the K-12 curriculum? What will the physical classroom of tomorrow look like? Will students become more independent as learners? What will the role of the teacher be? Join us for this lively discussion where we devise a picture of what the classroom of tomorrow will look like!

Moderator: Fathi Ben Mohamed

Panel Guests: Anna Hearrell, Eli Ghazel, Lana Hiasat

Bios:

Fathi Ben Mohamed is a TESOL Arabia 2023 Conference Co-Chair and Specialist, Learning & Development, at ADNOC Technical Academy, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

Anna Hearrell is Bridge's Director of Operations. She has developed innovative online programs designed to meet the needs of English language teachers around the world, including a Micro-credential course dedicated to Teaching English as a Global Language.

Eli Ghazel has followed a career of innovation from the beginning seeking to improve on the status quo. He is a renowned text book author and editor in subjects ranging from Science and Health to English as a Second Language working with publishers and Ministries of Education.

Lana Hiasat is a senior lecturer and program team leader at the Higher Colleges of Technology, with a doctoral degree in educational leadership with a specialization in educational technology. Her research areas are in future foresight, emotional intelligence, artificial intelligence.