

Special Sessions

Session 1

Timing: Friday, March 10, 2023, 1:00-2:00 PM

Location: Diamond 2

Positive Psychology in Language Teacher Professional Development: Principles, Opportunities, and Examples

Luis Javier Pentón Herrera

In this session, I offer a hands-on workshop for practitioners on the topic of positive psychology in language teaching and learning. Through this workshop, we will learn about the principles of positive psychology, the opportunities it offers in the classroom and beyond, as well as real-life examples and activities that teachers can use with their students.

Bio:

Luis Javier Pentón Herrera, Ph.D. 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. In addition, he serves as the Social Responsibility Interest Section (SRIS) Past Co-Chair (2022-2023) at TESOL International Association. Further, he is a Fulbright Specialist and an English Language Specialist with the U.S. Department of State. Two of his professional accolades include the '30 Up and Coming Emerging Leaders in TESOL,' awarded by TESOL International Association in 2016, and the J. Estill Alexander Future Leader in Literacy Award, awarded by the Association of Literacy Educators and Researchers (ALER) in 2018 when his dissertation was chosen as ALER's 2018 Outstanding Dissertation of the Year. Dr. Pentón Herrera's current research projects include topics of social-emotional learning (SEL), emotions, well-being, and identity in language and literacy education; and autoethnography and storytelling. His books can be found in Routledge, Springer, Brill/Sense, TESOL Press, and Rowman & Littlefield. Originally from La Habana, Cuba, Dr. Pentón Herrera enjoys creative writing, playing with his doggies Virgo and Maui, and running in his free time. To learn more about Dr. Pentón Herrera, please visit his website <https://luispenton.com/>

Session 2

Timing: Friday, March 10, 2023, 2:00-3:00 PM

Location: Diamond 2

Diversity and inclusion in ELT materials: Practical Ideas for Teachers

Amira Salama

The importance of diversity and inclusion in ELT materials permeates many publications and conference talks in the TESOL field today. Although there is research about diversity in our field, understanding inclusion and applying it in the language classroom is still a new area for research. Understanding how diversity and inclusion manifest in language learning and materials is another topic that needs much attention. The challenges of embracing these two approaches to teaching and learning are also different based on context, social awareness, and education policy. This session is an attempt to disentangle the meaning of diversity and inclusion in language teaching and material for classroom teachers. I will share some practical tools for teachers to assess their own understanding of these two concepts and offer some tips to successfully integrate them into their language teaching material and instruction.

Bio:

Amira Salama is an academic English instructor at Nile University, Egypt. She has an MA TESOL from the American University in Cairo with a research focus on teacher leadership and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. Amira is a Past President of NileTESOL in Egypt and the current President of Africa ELTA. Her publications focus on teacher burnout, leadership for teachers, equality and inclusion in education settings, and language materials' development and assessment. Amira has led and developed teacher mentoring programs and teacher training workshops in addition to presenting at several international conferences. She is the winner of the TESOL leadership development award in 2020 and the recipient of the Faculty Merit Award for excellence in teaching from the School of Continuing Education at the American University in Cairo in 2021. Her research and professional interests include teacher mentoring, ELT materials development, and teacher leadership.

Session 3

Timing: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 10:00 AM-11:00 PM

Location: Diamond 2

Teachers as Researchers in the Classrooms of Tomorrow

Andy Cirocki

As practitioner research is viewed as a bottom-up approach for making teaching more professional, teachers are encouraged to critically reflect on their practice and engage in action research. This session, intended for inexperienced teacher-researchers, explains what action research is (a systematic inquiry) and clarifies how to conduct it effectively (step-by-step procedure). At the end of this session, the participants will demonstrate an increased awareness of how action research helps practitioners develop new knowledge and understanding of their classrooms and contributes to improving school policies and/or culture.

Bio:

Andrzej (Andy) Cirocki, PhD, is an Associate Professor in English Language Education in the Department of Education at the University of York, UK. He is a Visiting Professor of TESOL at Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia, the President for the National Centre for ELT Materials Development in Indonesia, and a co-founder of TESOL Café Colombia. He teaches modules such as TESOL Methods, Teaching and Learning Language, Evaluating TESOL Classroom, Curriculum Design, and Methodology of Teaching English for Academic Purposes. His professional interests include English-as-an-additional-language teacher education and professional development, reflective teaching, teacher autonomy, teacher self-efficacy, and teaching English as an additional language. In addition to being author of numerous publications, being involved in international research projects (e.g., Indonesia, Japan, Ecuador) and delivering CPD courses for TESOL teachers worldwide, he is also editor-in-chief of The European Journal of Applied Linguistics and TEFL.

Session 4

Timing: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Location: Diamond 2

Well-being Reset

Heather Van Fleet

As educators and leaders, we are often told to "put on our oxygen mask first" to best serve others, however, this practice of self caring is often difficult considering the number of challenges we face on a daily basis. Join this workshop for a moment to reset; to pause, reflect, and reconnect to what matters, and to your capacities for well-being and resilience. By exploring practical and nourishing strategies that can be incorporated in your day to day, we will strengthen our ability to show up not only for ourselves, but also for others, including our loved ones, students, and communities.

Bio:

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. As a certified Mindfulness Teacher and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Facilitator, for the past 7 years she has taught Mindfulness and SEL competencies to students and teachers in El Salvador, Thailand, and the U.S. In addition, one of Heather's passions is coaching, and as a National Board Certified Health & Wellness Coach, Mental Health Coach, and Leadership and Resilience Coach, she enjoys supporting others in enhancing their well-being and emotional intelligence to make desired changes in their lives. She is also a Certified Nature and Forest Therapy guide. In her free time, Heather also enjoys being in nature, doing yoga, walking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Session 5

Timing: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 12:00-1:00 PM

Location: Diamond 2**English-medium instruction and Content and Language Integrated Learning***Joyce Kling*

The terms English-medium instruction (EMI) and content and language integrated learning (CLIL) are commonly used in reference to the implementation of English in non-English-dominant university contexts. In this workshop, the participants will have an opportunity to discuss the differences between EMI and CLIL from the standpoint of educational policy and strategy in internationalized higher education. Then, through consideration of the fundamental characteristics of EMI in their local context, the participants will generate ideas for development of strategies to support teaching and learning. The main goals of the workshop are: to relate contextual factors to local EMI characteristics; to raise awareness of linguistic, pedagogical, and cultural issues of students and teachers in EMI; and to use different CLIL models in order to provide sustainable support for teachers and students.

Bio:

Joyce Kling, PhD, is a Senior Lecturer at Lund University, 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. She received her PhD in Applied Linguistics, with a focus on English-medium instruction (EMI), from the University of Copenhagen. Her research interests include EMI, teacher cognition, the international classroom, and language testing and assessment. She is currently TESOL International Association president 2022-2023

Session 6**Timing: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 1:00-1:45 PM****Location: Diamond 2****Developing Teacher and School Leadership***Amira Salama*

Teacher leadership is regarded as an important practice for school reform. In many contexts, language teachers struggle to find their own voices and meet the challenges of the job inside and outside the classroom. Attempts at school and education reform often disregard teachers' understanding and effective application of new policies. This may result in the failure of these attempts since teachers are well-versed in the school complexities and have the tools to implement change on the ground. These challenging realities of teaching, however, make it imperative to develop leadership programs that address teachers in these particular contexts. The ELT leadership literature which exists has predominantly examined leadership either as practiced

in formal teacher leadership positions (Sams, 2010), or as challenged by differing contexts, mostly in the US (Christison & Murray, 2008). However, Underhill (2005) and Curtis (2013) affirm the need for more research and programs in this area. Oplatka and Arar (2017) assert the need for programs and studies on individual teacher leadership practices for Arab EFL teachers. Therefore, this presentation will introduce the recommendations of research conducted on teacher leadership in Egypt and present a scheme of a leadership program that takes into consideration the challenging realities of teaching in similar ELT contexts with the aim of supporting classroom teachers and school leaders to develop leadership skills.

Bio:

Amira Salama is an academic English instructor at Nile University, Egypt. She has an MA TESOL from the American University in Cairo with a research focus on teacher leadership and is currently pursuing her Ph.D. Amira is a Past President of NileTESOL in Egypt and the current President of Africa ELTA. Her publications focus on teacher burnout, leadership for teachers, equality and inclusion in education settings, and language materials' development and assessment. Amira has led and developed teacher mentoring programs and teacher training workshops in addition to presenting at several international conferences. She is the winner of the TESOL leadership development award in 2020 and the recipient of the Faculty Merit Award for excellence in teaching from the School of Continuing Education at the American University in Cairo in 2021. Her research and professional interests include teacher mentoring, ELT materials development, and teacher leadership.

Session 7

Timing: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 2:00 -2:45 PM

Location: Diamond 2

Using TESOL Methods to Teach Math

Ahlem Ben-Othman

This featured session describes the personal experience of Ms. Ahlem Ben Othman in teaching mathematics to non-English speaking students in an American classroom in the city of Columbus, Ohio.

Bio:

Ahlem Ben-Othman is a Business owner and a consultant, with an engineering and mathematics background, a 17 year career in IT project management and 25 years in Coaching, Training & Human Resource Development. She enjoys helping organizations create an automated way of operating that streamlines the management process and allows for expanded productivity and efficiency. She is an executive coach and trainer with a proven track record of success. She has delivered keynote speeches at conferences for entrepreneurs, business women, and young people. She participated in world conferences such as the US White House Conference on Countering Violent Extremism, the US Institute for Peace and in TEDx Talks. She holds a Civil

Engineering Degree (1989) and a Masters in Mathematics Education (1993) from The Ohio State University, USA. A detailed resume is listed on [www.linkedin.com/in/ahlembenothman-](http://www.linkedin.com/in/ahlembenothman)

Session 8

Timing: Saturday, March 11, 2023, 3:00 -3:45 PM

Location: Diamond 2

Teaching Students to Think Like Scientists Enhances English Language Learning

Tom Gantt

Egg drop and more! Learn how to take this activity, and other projects to the next level with SEPs and phenomenal problem-based learning. Teachers engage in student-driven Engineering Internships that incorporate all aspects of the new Science & Engineering Practices from the NGSS standards as well as Disciplinary Core Ideas from the domains of earth, life and physical sciences.

Working as students to construct an understanding of science ideas from investigation and text and apply those science ideas in designing solutions to an engineering problem. Participants then test and/or evaluate their solutions to see how well they meet a set of design criteria.

This exciting session will inspire educators with hands-on activities (real egg drop), using digital tools, active reading, dynamic discussion, and reflection on their own teaching practices. Teachers will leave armed with the ability to integrate phenomena-based science instruction around real-world problem solving into their classrooms.

Bio: Manager, STEM Product Specialist at Amplify

Session 9

Timing: Sunday, March 12, 2023, 10:00 -11:00 AM

Location: Diamond 2

Teacher Mojo: Gaining and Sustaining it in the Classrooms of Tomorrow

Christine Coombe and Lana Hiasat

Teacher “mojo” is defined as a teacher’s personal power or influence over others and it is a key characteristic of success. It is also central to future foresight in that it enables teachers to pull themselves into their preferred futures. Getting and sustaining teacher mojo is a critical element for teachers in the classrooms of tomorrow. Inspired by the work of Goldsmith (2014), this session will focus on an innovative and expanded framework consisting of five essential

elements that are critical in today's classrooms and the classrooms of tomorrow. Come prepared to reflect, share and engage in our interactive mojo activities.

Bios:

Christine Coombe has a PhD 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 has published over 50 books in various aspects of TESOL/ELT. Dr Coombe serves as the editor of *Language Teaching Research Quarterly* (2017 to present) and as the Editor of the scopus-indexed Q1 Brief Reports section of the *Asia TEFL Journal* (2016 to present). Dr Coombe served as President of the TESOL International Association (2011-2012) and was a member of the TESOL Board of Directors (2005 – 2008; 2010-2013). In 2017 Christine was 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. Her most recent honor was being named to the US Department of State's 30@30 English language specialists in 2021. This list recognizes English language specialists who have made an impact on the teaching and training of English language teachers around the world in the last 30 years.

Lana Hiasat is a senior lecturer and has a doctoral degree in educational leadership with the specialization in educational technology. She is currently the program team leader of the General Studies department at Dubai Men's College. She also is a Senior Fellow HEA (SFHEA) and certified trainer in future foresight, practitioner in intercultural intelligence, emotional intelligence, and Kaizen Creativity. Lana has published in areas of future foresight, emotional intelligence, artificial intelligence, smart learning, blended learning, educational leadership, intercultural intelligence, and online teaching and learning. Lana has served as the co-chair for several international conferences. She is on the task force to develop the social sciences curriculum in the UAE and has developed a certified leadership course on emotional intelligence for educational leaders. She is a proud Toastmasters communicator and leader.