

9TH ELT MALTA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE



DATES: 8 - 10 OCTOBER 2020

TEACHING IN CHALLENGING TIMES



MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

THU/8
OCT

9TH ELT MALTA CONFERENCE TEACHING IN CHALLENGING TIMES

1300 - 1330

Conference Opening by Dr Daniel Xerri
ELT Council Chairperson

1400 - 1500

UNCOVERING THE READING PROCESS

Reading is a thinking process, effective readers know that when they read what they read is supposed to make sense. In order to do this effectively we employ sub-skills which go beyond simply skimming and scanning texts. This session explores what expert readers do when they read in L1 and challenges teachers to apply this in planning their own reading lessons for students who are reading in L2. Exploring what you as an expert reader does, perhaps unthinkingly, as well as how to decode a challenging reading text enables teachers to be better prepared to explicitly teach reading sub skills. The session also explores how we can design a lesson with the aim of explicitly modelling & teaching reading skills and strategies.



About Rebecca Portelli

Rebecca Portelli is Director of Studies at AClass Academy of English. She has taught English Language and English Literature in different countries and to different age groups for over 18 years and is particularly interested in using literature in the language classroom as authentic and untapped material. Rebecca lives in Malta with her family but has taught in Malta, Spain and Australia and the UK, where she developed materials for Teacher Training at the Homerton Training Campus. Rebecca is in possession of a DipTESOL and a CELTA, as well as a degree in English Literature from Reading University.

1530 - 1630

DEVELOPING AND STRENGTHENING TEACHERS' WELLBEING

Helping English language teachers to thrive in their profession is unfortunately neglected at times. More focus is centered around students needs and not on the teachers. However, in order to have successful students and academies, preference must be given in assisting language teachers to be better equipped with self-regulation strategies, which would better enable them to deal with their everyday stressors.

This 60mins workshop will not only introduce the importance of English Language Teachers' Wellbeing concept, but also, through hands-on activities, for teachers to learn how to adopt self-regulation strategies, as important tools which will assist them to grow and flourish in their profession.



About Louise Cortis

I have been in the EFL industry for the last 15 years and teacher trainer for about 6 years. I am also a qualified Life Coach. I run TEFL courses as well as non-profitable courses on teachers' development. Additionally, I am currently reading for a Masters in TESOL at the University of Malta. My future aim is to support English language teachers so as to be better able to look after themselves and thrive in their profession.

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT STREAM

1400 - 1500

GROW FROM COVID-19

A journey into understanding self and your reaction to stress and change. An opportunity to consider healthier ways to remain resilient in difficult times.



About Hazel Miller

Hazel has over 20 years' experience developing, delivering and facilitating personal growth and development programmes in the areas of stress management, emotional resilience and change management.

Passionate about people and their wellbeing, Hazel engages multi-dimensional techniques which greatly improve self-awareness, behavioural change and effective communication.

With a background in Education Management for the Health and Wellness Industry, Hazel has worked in both the public and private sectors. At national level, she has been instrumental in the development of National Occupational Standards and has successfully implemented rigorous quality systems for qualifications.

A specific interest in human behaviour, and a desire to gain insight into subconscious processing led Hazel to study as a Kinesiologist. When faced with change, resistance is often experienced and a greater understanding of the subconscious can reduce this resistance, an area often overlooked by many development programmes. Hazel has run a clinical practice specialising in self-awareness and performance management and is recognised at national and international level.

Combining all of her skills, within Mdina Hazel's focus is the design and delivery of tailored programmes for individuals and organisations to reduce stress and provide the platform to improve individual and organisational performance".

1500 - 1505



5 minute promotional slot.

English Consultancy offers quality teaching training online. Having lived and worked in Malta, Richard Twigg has first hand knowledge and experience of the EFL Malta industry. Now based in Turin, Italy he has expanded his experience of teaching training through delivering both face to face and online training for Italian state school teachers of English as well as a number of online courses in Malta.

FRI/9
OCT

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0900 - 1000

RECONNECTING WITH OUR VOCATION

This workshop is an invitation to practitioners to reflect on issues of professional integrity in a gathering that intentionally breaks the constraints of the “conference genre” – its discourse, space, and time. I invite practitioners into a circle of trust, based on the writings of educationalist Parker Palmer and the practices of the Centre for Courage & Renewal he has established. In the circle we will not be analyzing, fixing or saving, but “hearing each other into speech”. We will explore our experience of our working lives as perhaps “divided” from those core values which originally inspired our teaching vocation.



About Michèle Leroux

Michèle le Roux is a teacher, teacher trainer and learning designer. She has also trained in Catechesis and Spiritual Accompaniment and is developing her practice in the facilitation of Non-violent Communication and Circles of Trust. She seeks to position herself with integrity at the interface of these two professional identities and to build bridges, trust and community.

1030 - 1130

WRITING THROUGH SPEAKING

During the workshop you will:

- find out how to engage students in writing through speaking activities;
- learn how to reinforce the usage of newly taught language during the lesson;
- receive handy activities to make your lessons on productive skills more dynamic and effective.



About Natalya Zachynska

Natalia Zachynska is a founder of an A + language studio, a Cambridge English Language Assessment preparation centre.

Teaching EFL experience is more than 9 years, a 6-year specialization in preparation for A2 Key, B1 Preliminary, B2 First, IELTS GT and Academic. Certificates of CELTA, TKT. Language certificates of FCE (C1), IELTS (8.0). A teacher trainer and a speaker at IATEFL Poland. A member of IATEFL Ukraine. Professional credo: “I adhere to the idea, that we should teach students in a way we would like our own children to be taught in future. If you prepare students for exams, you have to pass them successfully as well. A teacher has to develop continuously as well as share the experience”.

1400 - 1500

ESP TRAINING AND TEACHER DEVELOPMENT: CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Although ESP and EGP are highly interrelated, teaching the former is frequently believed more challenging. As ESP instruction primarily aims to prepare learners to communicate in the tasks prescribed by their field of study or work, teaching in this area frequently includes a range of tasks which require additional knowledge and skills. Apart from classroom instruction, it involves analysing learner needs, investigating specialist discourse and writing materials. The aim of this talk is to identify and address the challenges that teachers may encounter in the process of delivering ESP instruction and developing in teaching English for Specific Purposes.



About Agnieszka Dudzik & Agnieszka Dzieciol-Pedich

Agnieszka Dudzik, PhD, is an EFL teacher at the Medical University of Bialystok, Poland. Her main fields of interest include ESP and communicative language teaching. Agnieszka Dzieciol-Pedich, PhD, is a lecturer at the University of Bialystok. She is interested in the communicative approach and intercultural competence in foreign language teaching.



1530 - 1630

ZEN...& THE ART OF USING SONGS/SONG LYRICS IN ELT

Deep breath in... hold...exhale slowly...say 'om'

Songs are a great ELT tool with a zen-like ability to not only transform classroom atmosphere but also to get students learning an array of new language. In addition they also offer a great way in discuss all sorts of topics.

This session will offer attendees:

- a reminder as to why they should use this resource
- ideas for practical, non-formulaic, innovative uses
- guidance for how to construct unique and original song-based materials.

Participants, both novice and experienced, will leave this session not only chilled but also fired up to use this resource anew. Namasté.



About Chris Walklett

I am an EFL/EAP teacher/teacher trainer and university lecturer whose passion is using songs and song lyrics in the classroom. I am convinced of the learning potential inherent in songs, be it language or otherwise. I am also the author of the Teaching Tracks series of books.

SAT/10
OCT

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0900 - 1000

EMPOWERING LEARNERS BY GENERATING CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING “GOOD WRITING”

I will propose a theoretical and practical framework for how to train ourselves (and our students) to read critically in a way that generates criteria and heuristics for what constitutes “good writing” and which can then be used to assess and evaluate our own writing, thus empowering learners (both teachers and students) with the ability to reliably measure the progress and improvement in their communication skills in the absence of feedback from others. Participants will then workshop an article from which they will generate criteria and heuristics for the writing of their own original essay that can be self-assessed.



About Michael Beirne

I've been an ELT teacher for 7 years, freelancing as of January 2020. My intention is to develop theoretical and practical frameworks for self-evaluation and self-assessment of one's own communication skills. I'm studying concepts of “successful communication,” heuristics and auto-didactic-ism in order to develop writing practices for myself and students.

1030 - 1130

THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF WORDLESS PICTURE BOOKS AND ANIMATIONS

Wordless picture books and animations are an excellent resource for the teachers of young children. For centuries people have conveyed meaning through images, without the help of words. Through wordless picture books and animations, teachers can make students more active and engaged, encouraging them to tell stories or make stories of their own. Thus, wordless books and animations can promote language development and critical thinking. In this talk, we will examine why wordless picture books and animations should be used in the class and how we can use them to help children develop their language skills, as well as their creativity.



About Eva Buyuksimkesyan

Eva Buyuksimkesyan has worked in ELT for more than 30 years. She has taught English to children, teenagers and adults. She founded Dream2Edu in 2015. She has been delivering workshops to teachers and running creative writing and reading courses for children and teenagers. Currently she is working at Bilgi University. She also blogs at evasimkesyan.com and tweets as [@dream2edu](https://twitter.com/dream2edu)

1400 - 1500

BE A FLAMINGO IN A FLOCK OF PIGEONS

Our desire as teachers to be creative and to encourage our learners' creativity are prime motivating factors in our own professional self-development and self-renewal. Yet there is often a tension perceived between 'being creative' in our lessons and the demands of standardised curricula and testing. In this interactive talk, Antonia and Alan will explore reasons why they believe it is so important to resolve that tension – to teach the syllabus in creative ways. They will also offer practical ideas from the new Creative Teacher's Compendium to help you become that flamingo in your teaching.



About Alan Marsh & Antonia Clare

Alan has worked for many years in teacher training and teacher development with language teachers from all over the world. He is an international conference speaker and an ELT author. He is particularly interested in fostering creativity in teachers and learners. He is a co-author of The Creative Teacher's Compendium. Antonia Clare is a teacher, trainer, conference speaker, author. Her special interests include creativity and the psychology of language learning. She has taught and trained around the world, co-authored bestselling coursebooks Total English and Speakout, and is a consultant trainer with NILE. Her latest publication is The Creative Teacher's Compendium.



1530 - 1630

YOUBOOK FOR NON-EXPERTS FROM SCRATCH

21st-century teachers do not only teach the subject of their expertise but also train the students for employability skills. However, in the research literature, these skills are mostly presented theoretically. Based on personal experience of creating a practical public speaking course, this talk outlines the obstacles and accomplishments encountered along the way. It also explains the role of the 80/20 principle in designing such a course. The ideas presented in the session will be useful for ELT professionals who are either writing their own materials or adapting theory to be more engaging for their students.



About Yulia Zaleskova

Yulia is an experienced EFL teacher who has been working for the Russian Boarding School "Malta Crown" for seven years. Being a dedicated person who always willing to study and grow professionally, she first completed TEFL, and CELTA a few years after. In her work she successfully combines Russian methodology of teaching English and CELTA approach. Apart from teaching Yulia, together with her students, is interested in mastering public speaking skills and taking part in various creative and challenging competitions.

1700 - 1730

Launching of the 2020 ELT Awards,
7th ELT Inspiring Award and
2nd ELT Career Service Award.

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