

14<sup>TH</sup> ELT MALTA CONFERENCE

# ELT FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD: EMPOWERING LEARNERS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOLS



FRIDAY 24th & SATURDAY 25th  
OCTOBER 2025

UNIVERSITY OF MALTA – VALLETTA CAMPUS



GOVERNMENT OF MALTA  
MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION,  
SPORT, YOUTH, RESEARCH  
AND INNOVATION

# ELT FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD: EMPOWERING LEARNERS, TEACHERS, AND SCHOOLS

FRI 24 OCT

1330 - 1415 | Registration and Welcome Coffee

1415 - 1430 | Conference Opening

Opening by Professor Daniel Xerri, Chairperson - ELT Council

1430 - 1530 | Plenary 1 - Giulia Sulis

Aula Magna Level 1

## Breaking Language Boundaries: Multilingual Perspectives in the English Language Classroom

While the teaching of English as a second/foreign language has traditionally focused on practices that promote the isolation of English from the other languages in a learner's repertoire (Cenoz & Gorter, 2013), the 'multilingual turn' (May, 2014) in applied linguistics has made it clear that drawing on all learners' languages in the language classroom can improve their learning outcomes. In this session, I will draw on the construct of 'engagement with languages' (Sulis, 2023) to explore how learners' engagement with their whole language repertoire, both inside and outside the classroom, can support their learning in the English language classroom. In addition, I will discuss how EFL/ESL teachers can actively use learners' pre-existing resources and skills to realise the full potential of their multilingualism and improve their English learning outcomes.



### About Giulia Sulis

Giulia Sulis is a senior postdoctoral researcher at the University of Graz, Austria, and a Principal Investigator in a large-scale project funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) that explores learners' engagement in language learning. Her research interests lie at the intersection of psychology and language education, with a particular focus on multilingualism, engagement, and motivation.

1530 - 1630 | Plenary 2 - Thomas Farrell

Aula Magna Level 1

## Empowering Teachers through Reflective Practice

Gaining teaching experience as a language teacher is not enough to provide automatic professional development, for we do not learn much from experience as much as we learn from reflecting on that experience. Reflective practice generally means that language teachers take the responsibility of examining their professional practice, by systematically collecting evidence about their beliefs and practices both inside or outside the classroom so that they can not only improve the quality of their instruction but also provide better opportunities for their students to learn. Thus, experience combined with systematic reflection can lead to professional growth so that we can become more effective teachers. In this plenary I outline what reflective practice is and how teachers can engage in reflection throughout their careers so that they will be empowered throughout their teaching careers.



### About Thomas Farrell

Thomas S.C. Farrell is Professor of Applied Linguistics at Brock University, Canada. Professor Farrell's professional interests include Reflective Practice and Language Teacher Education. Professor Farrell has published widely and has presented at major conferences worldwide on these topics. A selection of his work can be found on his webpage: [www.reflectiveinquiry.ca](http://www.reflectiveinquiry.ca).

## 1645 – 1745 | Talks Group 1

### 1645 – 1715 | Talk 1A - Anna Machura



#### The Leader's Brain – Leveraging Neuroscience for Transformational Leadership

Transformational times need transformational leaders. Rapid changes, challenging decisions and multi-faceted communication are three key aspects of the 21st century leadership. Business as usual? Not any more. The leaders of tomorrow are navigating a much more dynamic and complex environment than ever before. This constant pressure often puts a strain on their brains, resulting in excessive stress and mental exertion. Luckily, by leveraging neuroscience, leaders can now significantly increase their mental sharpness and overall performance aimed at real, successful transformation. The talk will cover chosen neuroscience-backed strategies and practical techniques that are ideal for educational leaders, teacherpreneurs and visionary educators.



#### About Anna Machura

Anna Machura is a passionate and experienced university language teacher, linguist, lecturer, educational consultant, coach, therapist, course creator and author of many educational articles. She is also a UK Standards Office CPD accredited international speaker and certified teacher trainer, chair of TEFL Kuwait Neurolinguistics SIG and specialist in neurodiversity-informed practice.

### 1715 – 1745 | Talk 1B - Hannah Tucker-Bloom



#### Supporting Pre-University International Students: The Importance of Pre-Sessional Programmes

The cost of living, global political events, and misinformation have led to greater uncertainty for students, particularly those planning to study overseas. Not only will they need to learn and work in a second language, but also navigate new methods of learning, cultural understanding and disorientation. Our pre-university students require extended support within and beyond the traditional classroom setting. How can we empower them to become engaged, autonomous learners, eager to participate in global education? This talk will explore some of the wraparound scaffolded support that organised pre-university programmes provide learners preparing to start university in an English-speaking institution.

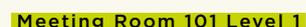


#### About Hannah Tucker-Bloom

Group Academic Manager (Pathways) at BSC Education, Hannah manages academic programmes including the International Foundation Year. She is involved with developing curriculum products, including incorporating the UN SDGs into Speaking and Listening and supporting the development of BSC's innovative English Skills for AI course.

## 1645 – 1745 | Talks Group 2

### 1645 – 1715 | Talk 2A - Andrea Conti



#### Formulaic Language in Action: Insights from a Local Corpus

Understanding how learners use English beyond the classroom remains an underexplored area. While multiple studies have investigated learners' use of formulaic sequences in speech (Biber & Gray, 2013; DeCock, 2004), these largely focused on monologic exam tasks. To date, few studies have examined how learners use formulaic sequences in naturally occurring, informal conversations using corpus-based methods. This talk presents findings from a dissertation study that addresses this gap by analysing learner speech in spontaneous interactions. The results reveal key differences between use of formulaic language by learners and native speakers, with important pedagogical implications for language teaching and learning.



#### About Andrea Conti

Andrea Conti is an ESL teacher at EF Malta. He is pursuing an M.A. in Applied Linguistics and TESOL. He holds a B.A. in Oriental Studies (Chinese) from the University of Malta and is interested in Corpus Linguistics, particularly data-driven learning, learner corpus research, phraseology, and collocation research.



### Unleash Their Voice: Empowering Students to Believe, Grow, and Succeed

Every student deserves to feel seen, heard, and valued. This talk highlights the importance of helping young people build confidence, embrace their strengths, and take ownership of their learning journey. Drawing from real classroom experiences and powerful student stories, this session explores how we can create environments where students are not just learners, but leaders of their own growth. It's a call to action; to support students in speaking up, believing in themselves, and unlocking their full potential.



#### About Katherine Reilley

Katherine Reilly is an ELT educator, author, and inclusion advocate. Known for her learner-centred approach, she creates accessible, engaging materials that support students from diverse backgrounds. With numerous publications and years of teaching experience, she promotes practical strategies that foster equity, empowerment, and success in language learning.



### Empowering Future Leaders through Business English and IDGs

This talk explores how the Inner Development Goals (IDGs) can enrich Business English teaching by integrating personal growth, ethical reflection, and global responsibility into language learning. Participants will discover how to align Business English activities with the five IDG dimensions "Being, Thinking, Relating, Collaborating, and Acting" through tasks such as sustainability dilemmas, intercultural communication, and collaborative problem-solving in professional scenarios. Embedding IDGs into communicative activities supports both language development and the inner skills needed to navigate complex global contexts. This session offers practical examples for helping learners use Business English to lead responsibly, think critically, and work effectively across cultures.



#### About Andreas Hövener

Andreas Hövener has been a senior lecturer in English and social sciences at two university departments for several years. He specialises in English for specific purposes, intercultural communication, sustainability, and the development of innovative teaching and learning formats. He is passionate about international collaborations and future-oriented education.



#### About Silke Riegler

Silke Riegler is a lecturer for business English and intercultural communication at a university in Germany. An eclectic mix of students gives her the possibility to draw on her business expertise and training, as well as on her passion for the English language and successful communication across cultural contexts.

### Sustaining Motivation in Crisis: Helping Us Engage Whilst Overshadowed by DOOM

According to Dr Tsiamo Matabane, in her work for UNICEF, one of our era's current imperatives needs to be to "Teach your child how to be okay in a world that often does not feel okay." Those students (and staff) displaying anxiety or apathy because of the perceived Sword of Damocles hanging over the world, in terms of climate, flux and the rapid changes globally, far from displaying indications of mental health issues, are showing an entirely reasonable response to clear problems facing the planet. But, on a Tuesday morning, with a reluctant group, or one apathetic/anxious element....what do we do to switch the focus to learning and motivation for....well, anything?! We'll look at ways of engaging students, lessons from history and concrete techniques to help them see the relevance of what we're doing in the classroom and why it matters for them and the planet. While this might sound grim, we'll look at it all in the light hearted way we have to, to make sure we all leave the room with a swagger and a laugh. Because....that's exactly the point!



#### About Thom Jones

Thom Jones has lived in more than a dozen countries and delivered training in over 70. He now runs his own company: Brock Solutions Agency. He presents regularly around the world on a range of topics and is a guest lecturer at four universities. Every summer he runs the Cambridge College project for SBC. He is a consultant and Ambassador of Buzz for Express Publishing. He is rubbish at maths. His mother thinks he is great.

## 1645 - 1715 | Talk 4A - Lou McLaughlin

Meeting Room 103 Level 1

**Building the Foundations for Sustainable ELT Development in Quality Institutions**

Quality standards form the bedrock from which academic excellence develops and is sustained. In today's competitive environment, accreditation is becoming the preferred form of quality standards assurance in the international education sector. This increased drive for accreditation raises questions in the area of quality standards: What do we mean by "quality"? What are the standards that underly quality? How do we know that our understanding of quality standards is understood externally? What underlying principles should inform the assessment of quality? What are the benefits, if any, to be gained from accreditation and quality assurance? This presentation will address these questions and highlight the tangible benefits that a quality assurance scheme can bring to institution as it builds strong quality foundations.

**About Lou McLaughlin**

Lou is the Executive Director of Equals (Evaluation & Accreditation of Quality Language Services). She is the Founder Chair of ELT Ireland and served on the IATEFL Board of Trustees for 6 years until 2021. Lou holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics, Masters in ELT, DELTA, TESOL Cert. in Leadership & Management and Trinity TESOL Cert. Lou was the co-editor of *Children Learning English: From Research to Practice* (2015).

## 1715 - 1745 | Talk 4B - Maria Kitsiou

Bsig Meeting Room 103 Level 1

**Biz-Wiz Teens: Turning Teens into Business English Experts**

This talk addresses the challenge of engaging teenage learners with traditional Business English curricula in today's dynamic digital and entrepreneurial landscape. It offers practical strategies for educators and curriculum developers to transform the subject into an empowering and relevant skillset. By leveraging gamification, real-world applications, and teenage interests, the presentation demonstrates methods to inject dynamism into the classroom. Participants will gain insights into tailoring content, fostering interactive learning, and emphasizing practical communication skills using relatable examples. Attendees will acquire actionable strategies to cultivate an engaging learning environment where Business English is embraced as a valuable tool for future success.

**About Maria Kitsiou**

Maria Kitsiou, a qualified English teacher holding Greek and US citizenship, currently resides in Naples, and has been teaching ESL, English Literature and Business English at the secondary level for approximately 15 years. Driven by a strong passion for education, she is dedicated to fostering engaging and effective learning environments.





**1645 - 1745 | Talks Group 5**

**1645 - 1715 | Talk 5A - Virginia Lopez Grisolia**

 **Library Level 1**

**Giving Feedback to BE Learners: To Correct or Not to Correct. That's the Big Question!**

Effective feedback is crucial in Business English (BE) learning, but opinions vary. In this talk, we will examine feedback preferences from multiple perspectives: BE teachers, adult learners of different ages, and HR professionals. Surveys reveal how these groups perceive error correction, highlighting potential mismatches between pedagogical practices and stakeholder expectations. The research also investigates the challenges of aligning workplace English standards with current linguistic realities. Ultimately, this talk argues for a more context-sensitive approach to feedback, informed by empirical data and a deeper understanding of stakeholder needs, to optimize BE learning outcomes. Furthermore, it will be suggested that there is an ongoing need to educate stakeholders on the evolving role of English in the workplace.



**About Virginia Lopez Grisolia**

Virginia holds a BA in English Language and Linguistics and a graduate degree in TEFL. She has over 30 years' experience teaching English Grammar and Applied Linguistics at university. Founder of Interaction Language Studio, she trains in ESP and Business English in corporate settings. A former APIBA President, she's an active APIBA & IATEFL BESIG member.

**1715 - 1745 | Talk 5B - Richard Chinn**

**Library Level 1**

**Dialogic Reflection on Critical Moments**

Teachers are busy and often overworked and this can result in teachers lacking the time or inclination to get involved in continuing professional development (CPD) initiatives. This session explores critical friendships between teachers and investigates bottom up, teacher-led reflective practice. This session draws on data collected from a recent CPD initiative at IH London and aims to explore ways to stimulate a healthy culture of CPD within an institution.



**About Richard Chinn**

Richard is a teacher educator working at King's College London and International House London. His main professional interests are in emergent language, and teacher development. Another interest is in how teachers use materials in class. He is co-author of the book *Working with Emergent Language* published by Pavilion ELT, 2023.

**1745 - 1815 | Coffee Break**

## 1815 - 1900 | Workshop 1 - Patricia Ibiapina

Aula Magna Level 1

**From Isolation to Innovation: Empowering Educators for a More Equitable ELT World**

Based on experience training teachers in Ladakh's Himalayan region, this workshop presents a sustainable model for helping educators become trainers in low-resource contexts. Designed for remote settings with limited infrastructure, the approach focuses on practical strategies to cascade knowledge, foster peer mentoring, and create supportive learning communities. Participants will explore adaptable tools and training methods that promote autonomy, long-term impact, and local ownership of professional development. The session supports a vision of ELT that empowers educators to lead change within their communities—no matter how isolated or under-resourced their teaching environment may be.

**About Patricia Ibiapina**

Patricia Ibiapina is a teacher trainer and British Council examiner with over 15 years of ELT experience. She mentors educators in remote contexts, including Ladakh, India, focusing on sustainable development and peer-led training. Her work supports teacher autonomy, inclusive practices, and long-term impact in low-resource environments.

## 1815 - 1900 | Workshop 2 - Jon Hird

Meeting Room 102 Level 1

**What's it Mean, it's Different, Spoken Grammar?**

Spoken grammar can be defined as elements of natural spoken communication, but which have not yet become part of our everyday teaching syllabuses. This practical session, which follows on from my 2024 session, looks at some further key aspects of spoken grammar and explores how we can incorporate this into our teaching, and into our materials writing, to help our learners better understand and use it.

**About Jon Hird**

Jon Hird is a teacher, trainer and materials writer based in Oxford, UK. He teaches at the University of Oxford and has written or contributed to a number of course books, grammar and other ELT resource materials for a range of publishers. Among his recent publications is *Spoken Grammar* by Pavilion ELT.

## 1815 - 1900 | Workshop 3 - Khanh-Duc Kuttig

Meeting Room 103 Level 1

**Using Concept Maps for Assessment of Learning in Pre-Service Teacher Education**

Concept maps show how the different concepts within a particular field relate to each other and concept mapping in any stage of a course can give an indication of how much an individual knows about a particular topic. This workshop - part simulation, part discussion - will take participants through the steps of concept mapping for assessment in English language courses, explore rubrics for grading concept maps as well as discuss the types of courses for which this form of assessment is suitable. At the end of the session, participants may be inspired to try out this alternative assessment in their courses.

**About Khanh-Duc Kuttig**

Khanh-Duc has an MA in TESOL from Canterbury Christchurch University and has been teaching English since 1995. Currently in the Department of English at the University of Siegen, she teaches a range of language courses which she assesses creatively, often encouraging more learner autonomy, engagement and creativity at the same time.

## 1815 - 1900 | Workshop 4 - Adrian Webb

Library Level 1

**Mediation: An Authentic Approach to Language Teaching**

Mediation is one of four activities identified as essential for expediting real life communication. But what is meant by mediation and is it something that we can easily and effectively implement into our day-to-day teaching? This workshop will show how mediation skills can be used to help learners view language as an authentic whole rather than individual parts. It will demonstrate how speaking, listening, reading, and writing rarely occur independently but instead co-exist in meaningful communication. Participants will leave with a better understanding of how mediation skills can facilitate a more authentic approach to achieving communicative competence with their learners.

**About Adrian Webb**

Adrian Webb has been working in the ELT sector for almost 20 years as a teacher, teacher trainer and academic manager. He has worked in the UK, Malta and the MENA region for British Council, Stafford House and International House, and is currently Director of Studies at Easy School of Languages.

FRI 24 OCT

## BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT STREAM

For Heads of Schools, Directors of Studies, and senior management teams in ELT schools.



1430 - 1500 | Opening

Library Level 1

1500 - 1545 | Ruth Hughes

Library Level 1

### Empowering Leadership: Practical Strategies for a Changing ELT Landscape

Change is inevitable - but great leadership can turn challenge into an opportunity for growth. This interactive workshop is designed for ELT leaders who want to navigate change with confidence, empowering and motivating their teams. Participants will explore evidence-based leadership approaches applied to real-world language school case studies, offering insight into practical psychological tools that drive success. Delegates will then apply strength-based strategies to their own school situations, gaining actionable insights to envision clear objectives, build resilient teams, and create a positive, future-ready school culture. Expect a dynamic, hands-on session with ideas you can implement immediately.



#### About Ruth Hughes

Ruth Hughes (MSc Applied Positive Psychology & Coaching Psychology) is a trainer, educator, coach, consultant, and professional speaker in positive change, positive education, culture shock and wellbeing. As Adjunct Professor in The Science of Wellbeing at A.I.F.S. and former Course Director on the Coaching Certificate at Cambridge University (ICE), Ruth offers an evidence-based approach to real-world solutions.

1545 - 1630 | Patrick Farrugia

Library Level 1

### ELT & Employment Law: Hot Topics for HR

Dr Patrick Farrugia, a lawyer experienced in the ins and outs of employment regulations, will lead you through an insightful presentation tailored specifically for English language schools in Malta: most particularly, their human resources functions. This session will provide a concise yet comprehensive update on recent and upcoming changes in employment law, with a particular focus on areas relevant to the education sector. Key topics will include the evolving role of AI under the new EU AI Act, new developments under pay transparency regulations, safeguarding responsibilities with an emphasis on the protection of minors, and best practices for compliance.



#### About Patrick Farrugia

Dr Patrick Farrugia is an experienced employment lawyer handling a vast array of both employer and employee clients. He mainly deals with Industrial Tribunal cases, advising and negotiating on behalf of clients, and assisting in the drafting of contracts, policies and the like. Patrick also currently practices with Ten Yards Legal's sister firm, The Family Law Practice, where he deals with family law-related matters. Patrick is also keen on organising training on employment-related subjects, and is passionate about meeting trainees, involving them in his deliberations, and providing them with practical tips through his training.



**0800 - 0900** | Registration & Welcome Coffee

**0900 - 0945** | Workshops 5 - 8

**0900 - 0945** | Workshop 5 - Erika Galea

**Aula Magna Level 1**

### Generation Alpha in the ELT Classroom: Neuroscience-Informed Approaches to Learning

This workshop explores how neuroscience informs English language teaching for Generation Alpha. With growing concerns about attention, emotional regulation, and digital distractions, understanding how young learners acquire and process language is essential. Educators will examine key neuroscientific principles related to attention, memory, and executive functioning, translating them into practical classroom strategies. Interactive discussions and hands-on activities will equip teachers with evidence-based strategies to enhance language learning, engagement, and emotional resilience. By the end, participants will have a neuroscience-informed toolkit to create more effective, student-centred ELT environments.



#### About Erika Galea

Erika Galea, educator, researcher, and consultant, specializes in educational neuroscience, emotion regulation, and mental health. She founded the Educational Neuroscience Hub Europe, promoting evidence-based teaching and social-emotional learning. Her work bridges cognitive science and classroom practice, equipping educators with research-informed strategies to enhance student learning, engagement, and well-being.

**0900 - 0945** | Workshop 6 - Alex Warren

**SPONSOR Meeting Room 101 Level 1**

### Inspiring Global Citizens Through Role Models

With the world rapidly changing, our role as educators is to help ensure our learners have the skills, knowledge and values to take responsibility and make an impact in this every changing world. But how? One way in which we can achieve this is by inspiring them with role models and giving them the confidence to make a difference. In this session we'll start by exploring the concept of role model education before looking at how we can use the work of National Geographic Explorers and TED speakers to inspire the next generation, while simultaneously developing their English skills.



#### About Alex Warren

Alex is a teacher trainer with over 20 years' experience of working in ELT as a teacher, teacher trainer and academic director. He has presented in over 50 countries throughout Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. Alex is currently the Academic Training and Development Manager for National Geographic Learning.

### From Small Steps to Giant Leaps in International Business Communication

How can we help clients to become more effective international communicators? We will look at how focusing on “micro skills” can lead to significant improvements in communicative effectiveness. This might involve incremental steps in developing listening skills — for example, allowing business partners more time to develop their arguments or asking more clarification questions — or small improvements in the way we structure and present information. We will brainstorm a range of key micro-skills and discussed ways in which these can be practised in the classroom. Participants will be encouraged to share their tips for improving communication through small changes in behaviour.



#### About Ian McMaster

Ian McMaster is a business communication consultant and author. He was editor-in-chief of *Business Spotlight* magazine from 2001 to 2021. Ian is a former coordinator of the IATEFL-BESIG. His latest book with Bob Dignen (in English despite the title) is *Trainingsbuch Business English - Kommunikation und Zusammenarbeit in internationalen Teams*; Haufe.

### Restorying the Self: Stereotype Literacy for Socially Sustainable Societies

The social dimension of sustainability is often overshadowed by environmental concerns, despite its critical role in building inclusive societies, irrespective of age, gender, or race. This workshop introduces a three-stage approach to stereotype literacy - the ability to identify and challenge stereotypes for greater social equity. Drawing on principles of critical literacy and identity-based habits, participants will explore interactive classroom-tested activities designed to empower students to move beyond language learning and become agents of social change. The session aims to inspire transformative learning practices, providing practical strategies for educators to guide students in reshaping narratives that silence or exclude.



#### About Josianne Block

Josianne has been involved in ELT for over 12 years. She has presented at conferences and published on topics including professional learning and multilingualism. She teaches at the Centre for Academic Literacies and English Communication Skills and also co-edits the IATEFL Research SIG newsletter. [www.josianneblock.com](http://www.josianneblock.com).



#### About Armanda Stroia

Armanda holds a Ph.D. in Philology and she actively contributes to ELT through action research, teacher training, and materials development. Her research interests include critical media literacy, collaborative multimodal composing, eco-media pedagogy, and the neuroscience of reading habits. She has presented internationally and authored several publications, including a book titled *Linguistic Clichés in Romanian Media Discourse*.

### Analogue Stage, Digital Cage: The Power of Presence in Classrooms

In this workshop you will explore activities and strategies which will help reduce the time students spend in class looking at screens and books and increase the time they spend participating, interacting and connecting with each other and with their teacher. We will also consider how a more analogue approach to the craft of language teaching can create better value and more enjoyment for both students and teachers.



#### About Duncan Foord

Duncan Foord is the Director of OxfordTEFL, Barcelona. He has 35 years' experience in language teaching, teacher training and school leadership and management. He is lead trainer on the OxfordTEFL Leadership in ELT course and the author of *The Developing Teacher* (Delta Publishing, 2009).



### One Small Step for a Man, One Giant Leap for Mankind

This interactive workshop explores how English language teaching (ELT) can support education for sustainable development. Participants will discover practical ways to embed environmental, social, and economic sustainability themes into language lessons, fostering global awareness and critical thinking. We will examine adaptable classroom activities, authentic materials, and project-based learning strategies that engage learners while developing their English skills. Whether you teach young learners, teens, or adults, this session will provide ideas to inspire action and reflection—equipping students not only with language proficiency but also with the mindset to contribute positively to a sustainable future.



#### About Jean Sciberras & Louis Grech

Jean Sciberras and Louis Grech are synonymous with ELT in Malta. They have taught and teacher-trained thousands of students and teachers. Despite their careers spanning over 40 years (each), they are still passionate about and very much involved in Teacher Training, locally and abroad, face-to-face and online.



### Journey to Wellbeing

In today's fast-paced world, rising expectations have led to unprecedented stress levels, taking a toll on overall wellbeing. This interactive workshop will begin by inviting participants to reflect on and share their personal stressors. From there, we will explore key pillars of maintaining and restoring health, focusing on practical strategies. Participants will leave equipped with effective wellbeing tools to regulate stress in specific situations, helping them build resilience and navigate daily challenges more effectively.



#### About Alexandra Bianco

Alexandra has been working in the ELT industry for the past 20 years and has been running TEFL courses in Malta and CPD both in Malta and abroad for the past 16 years. She holds a DELTA and also a Functional Nutrition Coaching Certificate.

### Growth Mindset and Resilience for a Sustainable Future

In today's world, empowering students to think sustainably requires more than just knowledge—it demands a growth mindset. This interactive workshop will guide educators and administrators in developing their own growth-oriented approaches to teaching sustainability, while discovering their own fixed mindset. Participants will explore how mindset shapes students' resilience, inspiration, innovation, and belief in their ability to impact the planet. Through hands-on activities, real-world scenario challenges, and collaborative lesson redesign, attendees will learn to model sustainable thinking and foster it in their classrooms and schools. By the end of the session, educators will leave with practical strategies, reflection tools, and an action plan for cultivating future-ready, sustainable learners.



#### About Timothy Graf

Tim is an American Expat who has lived in Finland, Sweden, Belgium and Hungary. He holds a BA Elementary Education and Special Education. He is trained in Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA). In his current position he is the Dean of Students and Year 8 English Teacher. Tim presented at the TESOL Spark Winter Warmer Conference in Budapest.

**Getting Creative with Grammar: Making Grammar Teaching Enjoyable and Memorable**

Learners (and sometimes teachers) often link the teaching and learning of grammar with words such as 'boring' and 'difficult' and they tend to associate grammar with a heavy focus on memorisation of 'rules'. This session looks at ways of making the presentation and practice of grammar more engaging, enjoyable and memorable for learners, using (slightly) creative techniques which also contribute towards 'noticing' and remembering what otherwise may pass them by and in some cases to 'deeper processing' and therefore internalisation of challenging grammatical concepts. Oh yes, we might have some fun, too!

**About Alan Marsh**

Alan has worked for many years in teacher education with language teachers from all over the world. He is an international conference speaker, Cambridge CELTA and DELTA teacher trainer and is a co-author of *The Creative Teacher's Compendium* (Pavilion ELT). He is particularly interested in fostering creativity in teachers and learners.

**1045 - 1115 | Coffee Break**

Aula Magna Level 1

**1115 - 1130 | Presentation of 12th Inspiring ELT Professional & 4th Career Service Awards by Leslie Vella, Deputy CEO, Malta Tourism Authority, and Prof. Odette Vassallo, ELT Council Member**
**1130 - 1230 | Plenary 3 - Christopher Graham**

Aula Magna Level 1

**(What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding?**

This session will explore the idea that the combination of ELT and sustainability education can be a true force for good globally, as international communities unite to confront the challenges that face our planet. Improved intercultural communication, problem-solving across borders, widening skills and knowledge bases and, research suggests, better mental health. These are some of the benefits we can reap as by-products of our engagement with sustainability issues, as well as the benefits from the sustainability engagement itself. The talk will consider what learners need to do to engage with sustainability across borders, how we can provide them with the support they need, and what the challenges might be.

**About Christopher Graham**

Christopher Graham is a freelance ELT consultant and author based in the UK. He has worked on projects in over 30 countries for the British Council, ministries of education and international publishers. He has a specific interest in teaching contexts in fragile and fractured societies, in the design and delivery of train-the-trainer courses, and in the role that ELT has in engaging with the climate crisis. He is the President and Chair of the Trustees of IATEFL. He is a judge for the British Council's ELTons awards.

**1245 - 1330 | Workshops 14 - 18****1245 - 1330 | Workshop 14 - Marjorie Rosenberg**

 Aula Magna Level 1
**Using the Disney Creativity Strategy in a Business English Context**

Walt Disney's success was partially based on his ability to look at ideas from different perspectives and create a system of checks and balances for them. Today this concept forms the basis of a creative strategy that can be used in business English classes to teach a vital skill. Participants will gain knowledge of the overall goal of this technique and work through the steps in groups in order to understand how the strategy works and consider how they can adapt it to their own teaching situations.

**About Marjorie Rosenberg**

Marjorie Rosenberg is a corporate trainer, teacher trainer, NLP trainer and author living in Graz, Austria. Some of her publications include *Communicative Business Activities* (Express), *Business Partner* and *Step Up* (Pearson). Marjorie is currently a joint coordinator of IATEFL BESIG and a past IATEFL President.

### Queering the ELT Curriculum: Teaching for a More Inclusive World

This workshop explores the social responsibility of language educators to address inequity and foster inclusive classrooms. Despite advances in other areas of education for sustainable development, LGBTQIA+ identities remain underrepresented in ELT materials. Through a combination of discussion, critical materials analysis, and collaborative materials adaptation, participants will explore strategies for creating inclusive content and developing classroom practices that promote diversity, equity, and belonging. Whether new to these conversations or seeking practical solutions, attendees will be better equipped to create learning spaces and materials that make all students feel represented, valued, and prepared for global citizenship.



#### About Savannah Davis

Savannah Davis is an Assistant Director of Studies, international conference speaker, and published writer. With seven years of ELT experience, her research interests include the intersection between language and cognition, digital literacies, and generative AI. Passionate about innovation, she advocates for elevating academic standards through creative, technology-enhanced, and evidence-based practices.



#### About Kirsten Borg Cardona

Kirsten Borg Cardona is an English language teacher passionate about creating inclusive, student-centred learning environments. She enjoys helping learners build confidence and communication skills and employs innovative strategies in her pedagogy to engage and support diverse learners.

### The Diary of a Green Leader

Step into The Diary of a Green Leader and discover how gamification can turn sustainability into a joyful journey. Through real-life stories and playful strategies, this session explores how educators and leaders can inspire eco-consciousness across classrooms and teams. From small classroom missions to school-wide green quests, learn how to embed sustainability through games, challenges, and storytelling. Leave with practical ideas and a renewed belief that playful leadership can create powerful, lasting change for a better future.



#### About Georgia Papamichailidou

Georgia K. Papamichailidou is Principal at Kaplan Cambridge and a Trustee for IATEFL. With over a decade in ELT, she designs impactful programmes blending neuroscience, coaching, and leadership. A passionate speaker and trainer, she champions sustainable, learner-centered education and fosters meaningful change through reflection, connection, and cultural transformation.

### Making it Count! Assessment in Global Issues Projects Through Technology

This session explores how summative assessment can be enriched through Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focuses on the outcomes of two three-month student-led projects in an Athenian school, designed to engage Greek teenagers in global citizenship. By involving students and external “judges,” the projects aim to inspire long-term commitment and change. The session examines how such projects can assess both content and language skills, integrate technology effectively, and ensure learners acquire the competencies needed to contribute to a better world—bridging SEL, SDGs, and meaningful assessment practices.



#### About Eftychis Kantarakis

Eftychis Kantarakis is a teacher trainer based in Greece. He is the current event coordinator for IATEFL LTSIG.



#### About Ruby Polygenis

Ruby Polygenis is an ELT Teacher, Teacher Trainer and DoS for his Private Language School, Faros, in Athens Greece.

### The Climate Game: Let's Make Sustainability Fun

Sustainability, motivation, and classroom engagement. After a short introduction on motivation theories and how they can enhance classroom engagement, we'll have a look at some materials on global issues that aren't as inspiring as they could be. How can we make them, and the topic of sustainability more fun? In groups we'll work on either provided materials or you bring your own, and we'll turn them into games or motivating assignments.

**Withdrawn**



#### About Anca de Vreis

Anca is a university lecturer and freelance writer based in The Netherlands. With degrees in communication, languages, and education she is always looking for the intersection between all three. Aside from teaching she's active in several charities and has been nominated Sustainable Teacher of the Year twice.

### 1345 - 1445 | Lunch at the Malta Chamber of Commerce



### 1500 - 1545 | Workshops 19 - 23

#### 1500 - 1545 | Workshop 19 - Stefania Ballotto

**Aula Magna Level 1**

#### How to Make the World a Better Place

21st Century Skills promotes the integration of skills which are seen as key elements in teaching and learning core academic subjects. Our goal is to support learners to engage with concepts at a deeper level and connect them to the real world, to face challenges and improve. We'll focus on several creative ideas related to the SDG's, getting both theoretical input and hands-on experience and look at how to integrate them to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. To make a positive change we need to go beyond language and become responsible for a wider world.



#### About Stefania Ballotto

Stefania Ballotto, a teacher, teacher trainer and a lecturer at the University of Udine, Italy, and a trainer for Pilgrims Teacher Training. She has been in the profession for over four decades and is highly experienced. She has given talks and workshops at conferences worldwide. Stefania is a South-African born Italian.

#### 1500 - 1545 | Workshop 20 - Karen McDonald

**Meeting Room 101 Level 1**

#### The Trip of a Lifetime

"Travel broadens the mind", so let's go on this short trip to explore a journey of language learning and teaching of English. Since many students consider one of the main reasons for learning English is to communicate with people worldwide, this session will provide the audience with some activities that can be used in the classroom with students of a variety of ages and levels (YLS, teens and adults/ B1, B2 and beyond) with the backdrop of travel.



#### About Karen McDonald

Passionate about ELT, Karen started teaching English 30+ years ago. She has taught students from kindergarten to University. She currently teaches at a language school in Spain. Outside the classroom much of her spare time is dedicated to TESOL-SPAIN, having been a board member for the last 12 years.

**'Think about it!' Thinking Skills for the English Classroom**

A common issue encountered in many language classrooms is the generation of ideas, a transversal skill which namely feeds into the productive skills. The purpose of this workshop is to discuss several ideas proposed by Edward De Bono, a prominent and oft-controversial figure in discussions on thinking skills, and propose them as solutions to idea-generating barriers. The workshop will delve into thinking techniques such as PMI (Plus, Minus, Interesting), APC (Alternatives, Possibilities, Choices), CAF (Consider All Factors), OPV (Other People's Views), and more, linking them to common situations encountered in various English Language Teaching contexts.

**About Terry Zammit**

Terry holds a B.A. (Hons.) and M.T.L. (Master's in Teaching and Learning) in English, along with a P.G. Cert in Developing the Educator. His main interests are assessment issues and the implementation of thinking skills, creativity, and collaborative learning within ELT. He currently teaches English at Secondary School level.

**The Guardians of the Big Blue**

Are you eager to embark on an interdisciplinary journey to promote the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its rich biodiversity while engaging in thought-provoking activities? This immersive, story-wrapped, game-based workshop takes participants on a quest where they save the endangered animal species by completing five practical sustainability-related language-focused communicative challenges. The narrative framework serves to seamlessly connect language learning with the holistic approach to sustainability issues in the marine environment of Malta and the broader Mediterranean region, while fostering the development of critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. Become a Guardian today, educate the next generation of Guardians tomorrow!

**About Eva Bogdanović and Ivana Burić Kurtović**

Ivana Burić Kurtović, M.A. and Eva Bogdanović, M.A. are experienced English teachers, teacher trainers, school managers and owners, members of IATEFL and HUPE, conference speakers, and founders of EVIVA Learning Mobility Association promoting global issues in ELT. They prepare students for international exams, and Eva is a certified Cambridge ESOL examiner.

**What Do You Do When AI Does Everything?**

As AI tools increasingly handle tasks like content generation, grading and even personalized feedback, teachers face a fundamental question: What is our role when AI does everything? This interactive workshop explores how teachers can redefine their professional identity in the age of AI. Rather than competing with technology, we will examine ways to leverage AI to enhance critical thinking, creativity and human connection in the classroom. Participants will reflect on their core teaching values, share challenges and strategies, and co-develop practical approaches for integrating AI while maintaining pedagogical integrity. The session aims to empower teachers to remain relevant—not by doing what AI does, but by focusing on what only humans can: mentoring, inspiring and fostering meaningful learning experiences.

**About Ridha Mejri**

Ridha Mejri, raised in a bilingual Arabic-French environment, is a Business Communication & Intercultural Management lecturer at Worms University, Germany. With experience as a trainer and consultant, he conducts seminars and workshops for executives and expats to enhance their intercultural skills and management competence. He has lived, studied, and worked in several countries.



**1600 - 1645** | Workshops 24 - 27

**1600 - 1645** | Workshop 24 - Christopher Graham

**Aula Magna Level 1**

### Roll Your Sleeves Up and Engage!

This workshop will develop the ideas in the plenary session (What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace, Love, and Understanding? Participants will have the opportunity to work with some ELT coursebooks (provided) or online resources (bring a device) or just their creativity, to develop some activities or outline lesson plans that encourage learners to engage with sustainability but also develop other skills or knowledge bases. A collaborative approach will be taken and there will be opportunities to discuss the outputs.



#### About Christopher Graham

Christopher Graham is a freelance ELT consultant and author based in the UK. He has worked on projects in over 30 countries for the British Council, ministries of education and international publishers. He has a specific interest in teaching contexts in fragile and fractured societies, in the design and delivery of train-the-trainer courses, and in the role that ELT has in engaging with the climate crisis. He is the President and Chair of the Trustees of IATEFL. He is a judge for the British Council's ELTons awards.

**1600 - 1645** | Workshop 25 - Mariana Ramirez

**Meeting Room 101 Level 1**

### Building Resilient Classrooms Through Self-Paced Learning

Sustainable education means more than just environmental awareness—it's about building adaptable, enduring learning systems. In this workshop, participants will experience a classroom model where students progress based on demonstrated understanding rather than time constraints. By shifting direct instruction to video, teachers are freed from front-of-room teaching, allowing time for individualized support and collaborative application. You'll step into a self-paced "classroom", choosing from activities that model how students could engage with language tasks. Working through these options, you'll reflect on this experience and discuss the practicalities of supporting student agency. Leave with strategies for creating inclusive environments where diverse learners develop autonomy.



#### About Mariana Ramirez

Mariana Ramírez teaches at HWR Berlin's Language Centre. With a background in Learning, Media & Technology, she specializes in educational technology and thoughtful AI integration. Currently, Mariana is developing self-paced, student-centered Business English courses, creating enriching experiences for learners while supporting teachers in implementing innovative digital approaches.

**1600 - 1645** | Workshop 26 - Sanja Raskovic

**Meeting Room 102 Level 1**

### Engaging and Teaching Generation Alpha Without Relying on Technology

Teaching Generation Alpha presents unique challenges due to their distinct learning styles and needs. This practical workshop offers educators actionable strategies, engaging activities, and targeted tasks designed to foster the development of Future Skills among Gen Alpha students. Emphasis will be placed on effective, motivating, and interesting teaching methods that can be implemented even in environments with limited technological resources. Participants will leave equipped with practical tools and ideas to enhance their teaching practice and better connect with today's youngest learners.



#### About Sanja Raskovic

Sanja Rašković, M.A., is an experienced English teacher and trainer with 29 years in ELT. She holds certifications including CELTA, NLP Trainer, NeuroLanguage Coach, CertIBET, and Teaching Excellence. Sanja has delivered workshops at over 20 international conferences and provided teacher training for Pearson and the Goethe Institute.

### The Balanced Teacher: A Path to Personal and Professional Wellbeing

In building a more sustainable ELT world, supporting teacher wellbeing is essential. This is not just a personal concern but a professional one, as wellbeing directly impacts classroom dynamics (Mercer & Gregersen, 2020). Yet stress remains a widespread challenge, with few practical solutions in education. This workshop invites participants to reflect on their core values and reconnect with what truly matters. We will also explore practical strategies to manage stress, including meditation, which has been proven to support mental health (Schneider et al., 2012). Participants will leave with simple, sustainable tools to enhance their wellbeing in and beyond the classroom.



#### About Aurore Trouvé

Aurore, a teacher trainer at Easy School of Languages in Malta, is a certified DELTA teacher with experience as an ESL teacher and Academic Manager. She specialises in teacher wellbeing and helps educators create engaging, tech-enhanced lessons that motivate students while supporting their professional growth.

## 1700 - 1745 | Workshops 28 - 31

### 1700 - 1745 | Workshop 28 - Peter Holly

Aula Magna Level 1

#### How to Save the World, One Lesson at a Time

This interactive workshop will focus on 'green' issues, why they are critical for our learners today, and how we can incorporate language activities on sustainability easily into our teaching - regardless of age or language level. With an environmental crisis affecting almost everything we do, and increasing governmental and corporate pushback against SDG targets, there is no time like the present to focus on this topic in ELT. But what can we do specifically? What can we do right now with our learners? What should be our objective? This session aims to provide answers to these critical questions.



#### About Peter Holly

Peter Holly has over 40 years of ELT experience around the world with the British Council, Ministries of Education, and several publishers. Now working as a freelance trainer based in Hungary, he is passionate about including environmental issues in ELT, and has delivered workshops and plenaries in over 20 countries.

### 1700 - 1745 | Workshop 29 - Michele Ben

Meeting Room 101 Level 1

#### Engaging Ways to Enhance Writing Instruction

Songs, poems and pictures can all be used to engage learners in lessons that focus on writing. Come and experience ways to get your students writing more energetically! Participants will be exposed to various activities that encourage writing in the classroom, try some themselves, and come up with writing lesson ideas of their own.



#### About Michele Ben

Michele Ben (M.A) teaches EFL, mainly in JHS. She has also taught many in-service training courses and worked as a national counsellor in the Ministry of Education in Israel, responsible for ELT books and material approval. She is currently serving as the chairperson of ETAI for the second time.

### 1700 - 1745 | Workshop 30 - Fannie Daou

SPONSOR Library Level 1

#### From Fluency to Agency: Empowering Learners through Values-Based Tasks

This session presents a task-based approach to English Language Teaching that promotes learner agency through meaningful, values-driven activities. Centered on principles such as justice, kindness, and sustainability, the approach encourages students to use English to explore ethical dilemmas, advocate for causes, and design projects with social impact. Participants will discover how to use engaging, language-rich tasks that foster both fluency and a sense of purpose. By integrating real-world values into classroom practice, educators can inspire students to use language not only to communicate, but also to take informed, compassionate action in their communities and beyond.



#### About Fannie Daou

Fannie Daou has over 20 years of experience in the EFL field as a teacher, teacher trainer, and editor. She has a strong interest in digital education and has worked on all stages of creating primary education materials. As a teacher trainer, she has traveled extensively, delivering seminars and workshops worldwide.

### Diversity and Useful Disagreement: The Art of Conversation

This talk will entail an examination of how best to navigate more culturally or historically sensitive topics through the use of rhetorical devices and communicative strategies drawn from psychology, sociology and philosophy, expanding the theme of sustainability to include the questions of global cooperation and collaboration through sustained dialogue. The talk can serve as an ESL-centric examination of how to teach language points (discourse markers, qualifiers, hedging) as well as a general overview of the means by which complex or nuanced topics can be fruitfully discussed across cultural and sociological lines. Applicable for teachers who work with B1+ and above level students.



#### About Michael Beirne

Michael Beirne is an ESL teacher from Ireland who has been working in the Maltese ESL industry for over 10 years.

### Lend Me Your Ears! Fostering Active and Empathetic Listening

This workshop equips ELT professionals with strategies to enhance students' listening skills through empathy and active engagement. Participants will explore practical techniques for deepening comprehension, emotional intelligence, and cultural sensitivity. Special attention will be given to integrating mindfulness approaches that reduce listening anxiety and enhance focus, enabling learners to become more attuned listeners. Participants will leave with adaptable tools and lesson ideas that can be seamlessly incorporated into diverse classroom settings, enabling students to navigate complex, real-world communication scenarios with authenticity and respect.



#### About Julia Aliverti

Julia Aliverti is an experienced EFL Educator (MEd in TESOL, MA in Philosophy and the Arts) working in Greece and abroad.



#### About Vicky Chionopoulou

Vicky Chionopoulou is an ELT practitioner with professional experience in Greece and the UK teaching young learners, teenagers and adults.



### Empowering Change Agents: ELT's Role for a Sustainable Future

This workshop explores how neuroscience informs English language teaching for Generation Alpha. With growing concerns about attention, emotional regulation, and digital distractions, understanding how young learners acquire and process language is essential. Educators will examine key neuroscientific principles related to attention, memory, and executive functioning, translating them into practical classroom strategies. Interactive discussions and hands-on activities will equip teachers with evidence-based strategies to enhance language learning, engagement, and emotional resilience. By the end, participants will have a neuroscience-informed toolkit to create more effective, student-centred ELT environments.



#### About Varinder Unlu

Varinder Unlu is a highly experienced English Language Teaching professional with over 33 years of expertise across diverse educational settings, including private language schools, Further Education, and Higher Education. A passionate advocate for inclusivity in education, she co-founded and served as the first Coordinator of IATEFL's Inclusive Practices & SENs (SIG). She is now the Coordinator of Global Issues SIG, championing discussions on social responsibility, diversity, and equity in ELT.

### Towards Better Community through Forum Theatre

This workshop will outline the key features of the forum theatre, a drama technique which encourages non-violent communication and searches for positive outcomes of conflicts. Participants will have the opportunity to play ice-breaking and theatre games, to experiment with frozen images and emotions and to learn how to facilitate their own forum theatre with their students, which is all very applicable in our language classrooms.



#### About Anica Đokić and Jovana Ivanović

Anica Đokić is an EFL teacher and teacher trainer and Jovana Ivanović is a German teacher. They both work in an elementary school in Serbia. They are both interested in professional development, innovative teaching methods and creative activities with their students, such as drama or using AI.



### Unlocking the Power of Visuals: Teaching With Music Videos

This session explores how music videos can be powerful tools for language learning with teenagers, using the “3 Ms” approach: Mindfulness, Multimodality, and Meaning. We will examine strategies to foster personal connections, analyse multimodal elements, and interpret artist intent. By integrating these techniques, teachers can create structured, culturally relevant lessons that enhance language comprehension, engagement, and communication skills. Participants will gain practical ideas to make learning more dynamic and reflective, helping students connect with language on a deeper level while developing critical thinking and creative expression.



#### About Anna Pires

Anna Pires, a DELTA-qualified teacher from Canada based in Portugal, has nearly 30 years of experience. She is a teacher trainer and author, having written several coursebooks and resource books for Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Cabo Verde, and East Timor. She is co-coordinator of the APPI Mindful EFL SIG and serves on APPI’s General Assembly.

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