

# Private Language Schools & Intensive English Programs 2017 Conference

November 11, 2017  
CELOP, Boston University



The MATSOL Private Language Schools Special Interest Group would like to thank the following sponsors:

## **Boston University CELOP**

for generously hosting this conference for another year!

*Thank you to the CELOP staff for all your help behind the scenes.*

## **Lunch Sponsor**



## **Breakfast Sponsor**





## Schedule

8:15-9:00 AM Breakfast  
 9:00-9:50 AM Session 1  
 10:00-10:50 AM Session 2  
 11:00-11:50 AM Session 3  
 11:50-1:00 PM Lunch  
 1:00-1:50 PM Session 4  
 2:00-2:50 PM Session 5  
 3:00-3:50 PM Session 6

## Exhibitors

*Thank you for supporting the conference!*

Baystate Interpreters, Inc Oxford University Press  
 Cambridge University Press Pearson ELT  
 ETS SIT Graduate Institute  
 IELTS USA The U.S. Department of State  
 ISX World English Language Fellow Program  
 National Geographic Learning Townsend Press  
 Your Agora

	ROOM 258	ROOM 260
<b>Breakfast</b> 8:30-9:00 AM	<b>BREAKFAST sponsored by</b>  <b>OXFORD</b> UNIVERSITY PRESS	
<b>Session 1</b> 9:00-9:50 AM	<i>IELTS</i> <i>Exhibitor Session</i> <b>Teacher's Guide to IELTS Prep</b> Donna Cameron	<i>US Department of State English Language Fellows Programs</i> <i>Exhibitor Session</i> <b>Teach Abroad with the English Language Fellow Program</b> Kristina Lykke & Thomas Santos
<b>Session 2</b> 10:00-10:50 AM	<i>Pearson ELT</i> <i>Exhibitor Session</i> <b>Introduction to Global Scale of English</b> Sara Davila & Shawn Wolfe	<b>Compliance is NOT a Dirty Word</b> Haviva Parnes
<b>Session 3</b> 11:00-11:50 AM	<b>Private Schools vs. Private Language Schools: What's the Difference</b> Allison Rainville	<i>National Geographic Learning</i> <i>Exhibitor Session</i> <b>Your Pathway to Academic Readiness!</b> Dawn Blodgett & Laura LeDrean
<b>Lunch</b> 11:50-1:00 PM	<b>LUNCH sponsored by</b>  <b>NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING</b>	
<b>Session 4</b> 1:00-1:50 PM	<i>ETS</i> <i>Exhibitor Session</i> <b>Helping English-Language Learners Cope with Test Anxiety</b> Marian Crandall	<b>Tips, Techniques &amp; Ideas for Teaching Beginners</b> Noga La'Or
<b>Session 5</b> 2:00-2:50 PM	<i>Cambridge University Press</i> <i>Exhibitor Session</i> <b>Ensuring Success: Teaching the Language of Higher Order Thinking Skills</b> Regina Snyder	<b>It's all Geek to Me: Using Popular Culture in the Classroom</b> Caroline McKinnon
<b>Session 6</b> 3:00-3:50 PM	<i>SIT Graduate Institute</i> <i>Exhibitor Session</i> <b>Hybrid Masters Degrees at SIT Graduate Institute</b> Joan Perreault	<b>Academic Writing: Making Principled Choices for Classroom Activities</b> Doug Willcox

**9:00 AM - SESSION 1**

**IELTS**

**Teacher's Guide to IELTS Prep**

Donna Cameron

Learn about the value of the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), and discuss tips for creating an IELTS prep course. The presenter will provide examples of the IELTS face-to-face speaking test, and the variety of task types used throughout the test. She will also lead an interactive group activity to explore best practices for creating an IELTS prep course.



**US Department of State English Language Fellows Programs**

**Teach Abroad with the English Language Fellow Program**

Kristina Lykke and Thomas Santos

Learn how you can enhance English language teaching capacity abroad through 10-month paid teaching fellowships designed by U.S. Embassies for experienced U.S. TESOL professionals. As an English Language Fellow, you can provide English language instruction, conduct teacher training, and develop resources. Join us to hear from program staff and alumni.



**Linguistic Relativity and Cultural Miscommunication**

Eden Kaiser

We will first explore and debunk the myth of linguistic determinism (as it relates to cultural miscommunication), looking into what helpful nuggets of truth we can salvage from linguistic relativity. Then we will explore classroom practices that turn linguistic relativity on its head, affirming students' linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

**Timid to Tenacious**

Katherine Heithmar

Have you ever failed to motivate someone? In this session, we will learn to identify the patterns that foster success within individuals, organizations, and interpersonal relationships as well as the common pitfalls on the road to realizing our own and other people's potential.

**One Punch Man Saves the ESL Class!**

Jon-Peter Sit

What better way to end the school year than with a class play? (cue the crickets...) Just the thought of motivating weary students to create and perform a theatrical piece may seem like punishment, but knowing students' interests and allowing for creative freedom can make for a most memorable experience.

ROOM 262	ROOM 264	ROOM 266
<b>BREAKFAST sponsored by</b>		
Linguistic Relativity and Cultural Miscommunication Eden Kaiser	Timid to Tenacious Katherine Heithmar	One Punch Man Saves the ESL Class! Jon-Peter Sit
Context-Based Lesson Plans for Teaching the New SAT Eileen Kramer, Amelia Onorato & Nora Smith	Creating High-Energy Classrooms and Self-Motivating Students David Green	Sustaining Dialogues through Project-Based and Self-Directed Learning Katja Davidoff & Carol Pineiro
Forging the Path of Least Resistance: Change Management of Administrators and Teachers Sarah Gliniski	Using Reading Responses in the IEP Classroom Catherine Mazur-Jeffries	Integrating the Development of Intercultural Communication into Language Lessons Bruce Rindler
<b>LUNCH sponsored by</b>		
Zero-prep Pronunciation Activities for Any Level Ksenia Ducey	Technology Themed Techniques for Timely Testing Testers Through Google Kevin Thai	Gonna, Wanna: Revealing the Secrets of Spoken Language to ELLs Donna Brown
Arrested Development: Professional Development and Alternate Career Paths in the ESL World Jenna Collins	English for STEM Programs Carol Pineiro & Katja Davidoff	Research as Context for Language Learning Heather Casteel & Mariusz Bojarczuk
Rapport-The Pillar of Education Anna Topalidou	A Guide to Developing Blended Courses Margo Miller & Olivia Szabo	Do You See What I See? Collaborating to Resolve Pain Points in IEPs Sasha Bogdanovskaya, Katherine Heithmar & Alan Broomhead

## 10:00 AM - SESSION 2

### *Pearson ELT*

#### **Introduction to Global Scale of English**

Sara Davila & Shawn Wolfe

Language educators are familiar with the benefits and challenges of the CEFR. The Global Scale of English (GSE) works to negate the challenges of CEFR by filling in the gaps with granular descriptors. In this workshop, learn how to harness descriptors to improve course outcomes and improve graduation and retention.



#### **Compliance is NOT a Dirty Word**

Haviva Parnes

Compliance can feel like a cringeworthy word to a lot of people, but it does not have to be! This session will talk about how to take the cringe out of compliance, get buy in from your team to keep quality high and help to make compliance work for you!

#### **Context-Based Lesson Plans for Teaching the New SAT**

Eileen Kramer, Amelia Onorato & Nora Smith

International students often skip SAT reading sections with unfamiliar subject matter. How can we facilitate our students' ability to work with authentic texts on topics they perceive as irrelevant to their majors and/or lives? The presenters will share context-based lesson plans for SAT subjects in literature, science, and social studies.

#### **Creating High-Energy Classrooms and Self-Motivating Students**

David Green

Good teachers need to connect with students in a way that makes students want to take charge of their own learning and learn independently outside of school. We will cover activities that make students look forward to coming to class, and view themselves as capable co-teachers for their own lessons.

#### **Sustaining Dialogues through Project-Based and Self-Directed Learning**

Katja Davidoff & Carol Pineiro

Utilizing project-based and self-directed learning with ESL students presents a challenge to teachers who are not sure how to define and create parameters that incite rigor and growth. The presenters will outline how they led their classes to do this through shared inquiry and engaging hands-on activities.

## 11:00 AM - SESSION 3

#### **Private Schools vs. Private Language Schools: What's the Difference**

Allison Rainville

Private (independent) K-12 schools are very different from private language schools, but there are some similarities. What are these similarities? A long-time independent school ESL teacher will compare the two types of schools and lead a discussion about what both types of schools can learn from each other.

#### **National Geographic Learning**

##### **Your Pathway to Academic Readiness!**

Dawn Blodgett & Laura LeDrean

Pathways is an academic English program that helps students develop the language skills, critical thinking, and learning strategies they need to succeed academically. Now in a new edition, Pathways incorporates authentic and relevant content from National Geographic, into carefully developed lessons that teach listening, speaking, reading, writing, grammar and vocabulary.



#### **Forging the Path of Least Resistance: Change Management of Administrators and Teachers**

Sarah Glinski

"The proprietary IEP industry is continually needing to respond and adapt to external factors: new research, innovations in technology, geopolitical situations, just to name a few. How can we as managers and teachers manage these positive and negative changes responsibly and effectively?"

#### **Using Reading Responses in the IEP Classroom**

Catherine Mazur-Jeffries

Our students can answer comprehension questions, but can they communicate the overall meaning of a text? Reading responses can help to evaluate comprehension, increase content retention, and improve summarizing and critical thinking skills. These responses provide a systematic approach for students to connect with readings through writing.

#### **Integrating the Development of Intercultural Communication into Language Lessons**

Bruce Rindler

Building intercultural communicative competence (ICC) helps students work together and make sense of their encounters outside the classroom. This workshop style presentation will introduce teachers to a framework for conceptualizing and writing student learning outcomes that focus on developing ICC while also working on developing language skills.

## 1:00 PM - SESSION 4

ETS

### Helping English-Language Learners Cope with Test Anxiety

Marian Crandall

Taking a standardized test is a requirement for many English-language learners in order to go to university, get a job or obtain a professional license. In this session, we'll discuss how teachers can help students deal with the anxiety that high-stakes ESL testing often induces in otherwise well-prepared test takers.



### Tips, Techniques & Ideas for Teaching Beginners

Noga La'Or

In this session, participants will experience a lesson in a foreign language that will help put them "in their (beginner) students' shoes"! After processing this lesson, the presenter will share tips and techniques for how to best help beginning level ESL students succeed in class.

### Zero-prep Pronunciation Activities for Any Level

Ksenia Ducey

These activities will keep your students busy and, even more importantly, will help them become more aware of the importance of correct pronunciation. This workshop is fast-paced, so be ready to work with a peer, brainstorm and create!

### Technology Themed Techniques for Timely Testing Testers Through Google

Kevin Thai

Organized around my 10+ years experience teaching TOEFL, but these techniques can be absolutely applied to any class. We'll be using Google Drive applications including the Google Drive phone app, Documents, Slides, Sheets, and Forms (and one more secret). *Optional: download Drive and Documents on phone and sign in before arrival; bring laptop.*

### Gonna, Wanna: Revealing the Secrets of Spoken Language to ELLs

Donna Brown

Many students learning English struggle with understanding spoken English in real time. A technique will be presented that utilizes the neutral schwa vowel to "write connected speech" on the board, allowing students to visualize actual speech and pronunciation in action. Many examples, hands-on practice, and handouts will be provided.

## 2:00 PM - SESSION 5

Cambridge University Press

### Ensuring Success: Teaching the language of higher order thinking skills

Regina Snyder

The presenter will demonstrate an approach that uses teaching the language of higher order thinking skills as the foundation for academic success. Today's students need a wide range of academic skills in order to analyze data, formulate their own opinions, and express themselves clearly. By using a topic-based approach, higher order thinking can be accessible to all. The presenter will demonstrate a systematic approach to critical thinking, covering the full pyramid of Bloom's taxonomy. By using a corpus-based approach, it is possible to expose students to the vocabulary and collocations that are both high "frequency of encounter" and "utility of use" in academic discourse. The presenter will demonstrate how video can be used to introduce the topics and create a powerful context for the lessons.



### It's all Geek to Me: Using Popular Culture in the Classroom

Caroline McKinnon

Quite often our first exposure to a language comes in the form of popular culture, films, comic books, songs. So why do we then push them aside when teaching? This workshop will look at ways to use popular culture in the class, engaging students through wider interests and themes.

### Arrested Development: Professional Development and Alternate Career Paths in the ESL World

Jenna Collins

This session will address the options for career growth and development for ESL teachers, with the goal of expanding attendees' conception of what is possible both within and outside of the private language school world. Areas considered include: higher ed, K-12, non-profits, administration and more!

### English for STEM Programs

Carol Pineiro & Katja Davidoff

Teaching English for STEM to students in preparing for college presents a challenge to teachers who are unfamiliar with this subject area. The presenters will outline how they learned and subsequently taught a group of EFL teachers to do this through project-based learning and engaging hands-on activities.

### Research as Context for Language Learning

Heather Casteel & Mariusz Bojarczuk

This presentation will illustrate how second language learners transform their academic and language learner identity in the process of completing a research paper by becoming aware of linguistic, cognitive, and sociocultural demands of a new discourse community. The intended audience is instructors of academic writing courses or similar courses. Format - presentation.

**SIT Graduate Institute**

**Hybrid Masters Degrees at SIT Graduate Institute**

Joan Perreault



For more than 50 years, SIT Graduate Institute has been known for its experiential approach to teaching. SIT has developed hybrid master's degree programs (online with short residencies) that successfully utilize our focus on experiential learning in an online format. Participants will learn more about SIT's hybrid master's degrees in TESOL, International Education, and others, and how these programs take online learning to a new level through short-term seminars on campus, cohort-based learning, and a supervised internship.

**Academic Writing: Making Principled Choices for Classroom Activities**

Doug Willcox

This workshop examines the criteria by which L2 writing instructors make principled choices for classroom activities involving Academic Writing (AW). Strategies will be provided for assessing, choosing, and sequencing AW classroom activities. Attendees will analyze four classroom techniques in light of pedagogical theories such as CLT, SCT, and scaffolding.

**Rapport — The Pillar of Education**

Anna Topalidou

In this session the presenter will discuss rapport and its pillars. The goal is to enhance the educators' ability to connect with students on a deeper level, thus delivering meaningful and purposeful lessons. Attendees will learn how to incentivize even the hardest to reach students with every day warmers and morning rituals so as to create a warm and brave classroom environment. Educators will be presented with tools, language tips, gestures, ways of memorizing and creating connections to inspire and motivate. In this session we will discuss the power of self acceptance and watch teacher testimonials of what it means to overcome insurmountable obstacles in learning with genuine, authentic connections. The teachers will leave the session with activities on how to nurture rapport in the diverse ESL world.

**A Guide to Developing Blended Courses**

Margo Miller & Olivia Szabo

Are you considering incorporating blended courses into your program? This session describes the steps we've taken to develop two blended courses from conception through implementation. Come and find out how you can create a course that engages your students both online and in the classroom to maximize their learning.

**Do you See What I See? Collaborating to Resolve Pain Points in IEPs**

Sasha Bogdanovskaya, Katherine Heithmar & Alan Broomhead

Complaints from students. Hour reduction at short notice. Negative observation feedback. These are the types of challenges that both academic staff and teachers regularly face in IEPs. Resolving these problems successfully requires academic staff and teachers to acknowledge each other's point of view. Administrators and teachers, join the conversation!

**Conference Steering Committee**

**MATSOL Private Language Schools Special Interest Group**

Joy MacFarland

joy@fls.net

Joshua Stone

juastone05@gmail.com

Rachel Kadish

bostonad@fls.net

Sarah de Pina

sdepina10@gmail.com

*Promoting excellence and equity in the education of English language learners.*



[www.matsol.org](http://www.matsol.org)