ELT Ireland

REBOOT EVENT

at Teachers' Club | Club na Múinteoirí
36 Parnell Square W, Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 T6V6

Speaker	Talk
Welcome & Introductory Remarks from Gabi Widurek & Iryna Avalishvili 09:45-10:00	
1. Alevtina Popova 10:00-10:15	**"Meme-ingful education: How to teach languages with memes"**
2. Stephen Farren 10:15-10:30	**"You're safe! AI can't do it all!"**
3. Olga Devisheva 10:30-10:45	**"Why AI helps teachers prepare students for exams"**
4. Ram Subramanian 10:45-11:00	**"Philosophy of Language for English Teachers"**
5. Gabi Widurek 11:00-11:15	**"Authentic insights vs. generative creativity: corpora and AI in Business English Language instruction"**
Coffee break 11:15-11:45	
6. Oviya Venkatesan 11:45-12:00	**"Beyond Presentations: Novel ways of assessing students' speaking skills"**
7. Erin O'Byrne 12:00-12:15	**"Chat GPT: 3 Ways to Make Your Life Easier"**
8. Alexandra Dunaeva 12:15-12:30	**"Myths Connected with Neural Networks"**
9. Nikita Naz Siddique 12:30-12:45	**"AI in English Language Teaching"**

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Annual General Meeting 12:45-13:15	
Lunch break 13:15-14:15	
10. Joan McDermott and Yuxin Wang 14:15-14:30	"All the Classroom's a Stage: AI Merely the Supporting Agent"
11. George Palomino 14:30-14:45	"GenAI in EAP: International Foundation Programmes in Ireland"
12. Meg Killeen, Shane McElveen 15:45-15:00	"Pointless Creativity"
13. Alison Castle Kane 15:00-15:15	"Introducing Trinity's NoteLab English - A free-access lesson plan generator"
Coffee break 15:15-15:45	
14. Behzad Baghery 15:45-16:00	"AI-Powered Writing: A Toolkit for Teachers"
15. Peter Lahiff 16:00-16:15	"Is AI the Future Learning of English?"
Closing remarks from Behzad Baghery & Sérgio Da silva & Group picture 16:15-16:30	

**ELT Ireland Education & Development Talks -
Teachers' Club in Dublin 26th April 2025**

info.eltireland@gmail.com | X (formerly Twitter): @ELTIreland | Instagram: elt_ireland |
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Introducing ELT Ireland

ELT Ireland is a network for English language teaching professionals. It originated in discussions at the 2013 Digital ELT conference in Dublin about the need for such a group. Anyone who has worked abroad, especially in the UK, is struck by the lack of a body that facilitates sharing experiences and ideas among teachers, managers, and other English language teaching professionals.

The UK-based IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) and the US-based TESOL (Teachers of English as a Second or Other Language) International Association have provided a model for how such organisations can encourage the sort of continuing professional development that is needed to keep standards up and to retain the most able teachers in the profession. The sustainability of the significant and growing contribution that English language teaching makes to the Irish economy is dependent on the professionalism of our schools and our teachers. ELT Ireland aims to be a vital part of that by being a network of teachers, managers and administrators dedicated to spreading best practices in the industry.


Welcome to the 11th annual ELT Ireland event

Teachers' Club | Club na Múinteoirí

ELTed is a series of short education and development talks given by ELT professionals for ELT professionals. Language teachers, researchers and managers work on a daily basis to help students with the challenges of learning a new language. They are constantly developing activities, techniques and approaches to help them overcome the difficulties they encounter. The practical solutions they come up with often go unrecorded. ELTed is a showcase for these practical solutions. We plan to make this a regular forum where ELT professionals can share aspects of their educational practice with the English language teaching community throughout Ireland. If you would like to see an ELTed in your area, contact us; we will be

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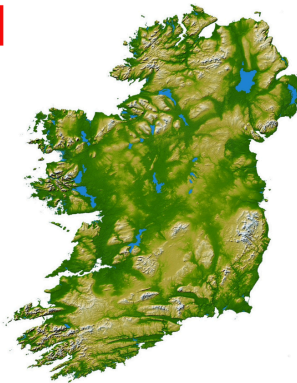
happy to help you make it happen.

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Reboot ELTed event • Dublin 26th April 2025
English language teaching education & development talks
from ELT Ireland

ELTed Dublin 26th April 2025
Speakers and talks

1.

"Meme-ingful education: How to teach languages with memes"

by Alevtina Popova

Description: To modernize and adapt educational content to resonate with today's learners' needs, teachers should rely on the tool provided by the digital world: memes. Educators have to evolve by transforming our teaching methods to make education engaging and relevant. Incorporating internet culture and memes into academic content, we can create a more dynamic and relatable learning experience for students. Then our classrooms will ensure they are worth the time for future generations. Memes can make learning fun and meaningful by integrating modern, media-based content into our teaching practices.


Bio: An entrepreneur, a third-generation language teacher, author and TEDx speaker. Alevtina has co-run a language school since 2001. In 2022 she came up with an idea of meme-ingful education and has written 2 books about it. Alevtina stands for making education more accessible for students. Mother to two bilinguals.

2.

"You're safe! AI can't do it all!

by Stephen Farren

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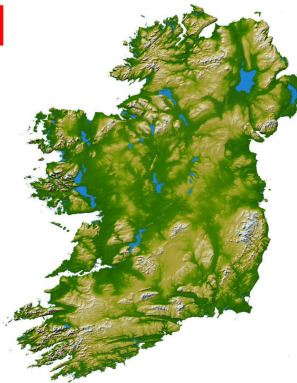
Description: Often, we are caught up with AI and what it brings to the table, but it's important to consider what it doesn't provide. I'd like to explore areas where AI falls short, like providing human connection and empathy, understanding students' emotions, struggles, and building trust.

Additionally, AI lacks cultural sensitivity and the ability to interpret nuanced language or expressions tied to specific cultures. It doesn't possess the ability to inspire or motivate in the way a passionate, dedicated teacher can. AI lacks any form of growth mindset.

Let's not lose sight of these things when using AI as a tool.

Bio: Stephen Farren has been working in the field of ELT for almost 20 years. He has spoken at various ELT conferences in the past about the use of authentic materials in the classroom.

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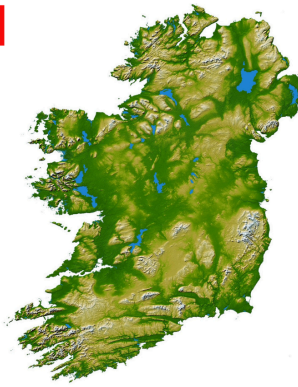
3.

"Why AI helps teachers prepare students for exams"

by Olga Devisheva

Description: Dr. House said that everybody lies, and I will say that everyone cheats. The amount of ready-made homework does not give students a chance to complete the exercise on their own and teachers kill their free time inventing something new, unusual, to which there are no answers on the Internet. This is especially important for those who are preparing for exams. The temptation to look at the keys is too great, but it may cost the exam points. I will share my experience in using different AI tools and let your students think but not cheat.

Bio: Olga is a teacher of English at Naro-fominsk secondary school with higher qualification category from 2018. In 2023 took a Celta-like course in Institute Higher school of linguistics. She prepares students for Russian State Exams and has spoken at a number of different conferences.

4.

"Philosophy of Language for English Teachers"

by Ram Subramanian

Description: A guided discussion on some of the big questions about what language is and how they can inform our teaching practice. We will focus on how language works, the relationship between language and thoughts, and why it is worthwhile to learn English in the age of digital translation tools. We will not have an answer for every question, but I hope you will leave with a few new ideas about what it is you are actually teaching and how you are teaching it.

Bio: Ram has been teaching since 2007, when he quit his band to move to Japan. He has since worked in five countries and taught such disparate subjects as English, music, science, philosophy, and Sanskrit. He has lived in Dublin for 13 years and works as a senior teacher at Atlas.

5.

"Authentic insights vs. generative creativity: corpora and AI in Business English Language instruction"

by Gabi Widurek

Description: This talk is an exploration of both themes: authentic insights from corpora and the creative potential of generative AI. It will provide a framework for discussing practical applications in the classroom. This approach underscores current trends in language education, where both authenticity and innovation are valued. By contrasting the use of authentic language data (corpora) with AI-generated content in teaching Business English, the talk will highlight a dual focus on "traditional", data-driven approaches, and innovative methods. This makes it appealing to educators interested in modern teaching strategies while also encouraging a critical stance on both.

Bio: Gabi is a PhD language researcher, content creator, and corpus linguistics enthusiast. She holds an MA in TESOL from University College Dublin, and she is pursuing a PhD in Linguistics at the same institution. With a background in sales, content creation, and brand management, she is dedicated to empowering multilingual users of English in business settings, as well as helping Business English teachers feel confident in reaching for authentic materials in their teaching practices.

6.

"Beyond Presentations: Novel ways of assessing students' speaking skills"

by Oviya Venkatesan

Description: Presentations are often considered a valuable tool for assessing students' speaking skills. They are widely used in classrooms to test a range of criteria, such as, lexis, grammatical accuracy, task achievement, etc. However, while they are good indicators of one's ability to comprehend a topic, present their ideas & opinions on it, presentations mostly turn into a monologue with very little scope of it building into a productive discussion between students. Changes in the task itself along with modifications in the assessment rubric can possibly provide us with a novel and more useful way to evaluate the students' communication skills.

Bio: I completed the CELTA in 2016 in New Delhi and then moved to Dublin to pursue a Master's in TESOL. I graduated from UCD in 2020 and have worked in various schools and universities since, most recently managing the Evening Courses at Atlas Language School. In my spare time, I love to do yoga and read.
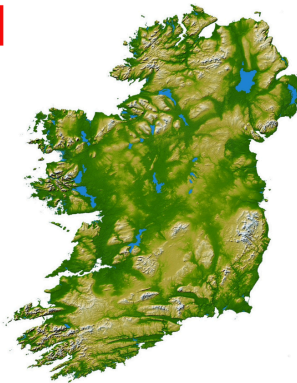
7.

"Chat GPT: 3 Ways to Make Your Life Easier"

by Erin O'Byrne

Description: I will give some golden rules for using Chat GPT properly and then show 3 easy ways to get the best out of it. These include: complex

texts, choosing relatable examples for your students and using real-world examples.

Bio: Erin O'Byrne is a teacher trainer and host of Everything EFL Podcast. Her passion is serving teachers, making their lives easier and reminding them that they rock.

8.

"Myths Connected with Neural Networks"   by Alexandra Dunaeva

Description: II will explore common misconceptions associated with neural networks. By dissecting fears related to complexity, job displacement, and ethical concerns, I aim to demystify AI tools. Participants will gain insights into how neural networks can enhance teaching practices and improve student engagement.

Attendees will manage to understand and embrace technology rather than fear it. My presentation will include a mix of research findings, real-world examples, and interactive discussions.

By the end of the session, participants will debunk prevalent myths about AI, learn how to effectively integrate it into life and education, develop a more positive perspective on AI.

Bio: Delta-qualified EFL teacher with more than 19 years of experience, Neurolanguage Coach®. Delta M2/M3, CAE, CPE, IELTS certificates holder. Specializes in teaching adults and exam preparation. Author of professional development courses for English teachers. Passionate about using AI to make educators' lives easier.

9.

AI in English Language Teaching   by Nikita Naz Siddique

Description: A changing society demands forward-looking responses to problems around engagement, personalization, and feedback in English language instruction. This presentation focuses on how AI and traditional approaches can work together to enhance lesson planning, student assessment, and adaptive learning paths for improving the learning experience. In an educational context, when technology and traditional methods combine, AI is treated as a complement to face-to-face human instruction, offering immense opportunities while emphasizing the effective use of human resources. This combination will empower teachers to design more inclusive, engaging, and effective learning experiences that will ultimately enhance student achievement across the globe.

Bio: I am an English language educator in Dublin, Ireland, with experience in teaching and research communication. I hold an MSc in Science and Health Communication and a BA (Hons) from Dublin City University. My work focuses on integrating unique ideas in education to enhance language learning and student engagement.

10.

"All the Classroom's a Stage: AI Merely the Supporting Agent"

by Joan McDermott & Yuxin Wang

Description: In this presentation, we explore the transformative role of AI in education while emphasising the irreplaceable value of teachers as the primary agents in the classroom. AI, as a powerful tool, enhances teaching by personalising learning, streamlining administrative tasks, and providing data-driven insights, but it should never overshadow the human touch. Drawing on the successful implementation of this model in China by GoMappEd, we demonstrate how AI can empower educators, not replace them. This balanced approach fosters innovation, engagement, and effective learning while keeping teachers and students at the heart of education.

Bio: Yuxin Wang is CEO and Co-founder of EdTech company GoMappED. She is also a qualified lawyer Joan McDermott is Head of Academic Research at GoMappED and has a wealth of experience in teaching.

![ELT Ireland](ELT Ireland logo with map of Ireland)

11

"GenAI in EAP: International Foundation Programmes in Ireland"

by George Palomino

Description: This presentation will investigate the role of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in English for Academic Purposes (EAP), particularly within International Foundation Programmes (IFPs). It will examine the competencies that lecturers may require in relation to GenAI and consider relevant frameworks, such as those proposed by UNESCO (2024), which explore its potential role in pedagogy and professional development. The presentation will also reflect on the context of the Irish higher education system, highlighting key initiatives and challenges in teaching and learning. Finally, it will propose areas for further research into the pedagogical and practical implications of GenAI in EAP education.

Bio:George is a Lecturer in English for Academic Purposes (EAP) with experience across several higher education institutions. He has designed and delivered various language programmes, including Foundation, Pre-sessional, In-sessional, and bespoke courses. He is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Education (EdD) in Digital Technologies at the University of Strathclyde.

12.

"To AI or Not to AI: The role of Immediacy-based Teaching strategies in Balancing High-Tech and Low-Tech ELT"

by Rashid Mehmood, Saqib Hussain

Description: The presentation explores the role of verbal and nonverbal immediacy teaching strategies in balancing low-tech and high-tech approaches for effective English Language Teaching (ELT). It highlights how engagement differs in low-tech (e.g., teacher gestures, warm tones) and high-tech (e.g., AI chatbots, personalized feedback) environments but emphasizes that immediacy bridges the gap, fostering connection and participation. By combining strategies from both settings, such as a teacher's encouraging tone in virtual classrooms or AI tools with friendly interactions, educators can create engaging, inclusive learning experiences. The call to action urges prioritizing immediacy to ensure every learner feels connected and supported, regardless of the tools used.
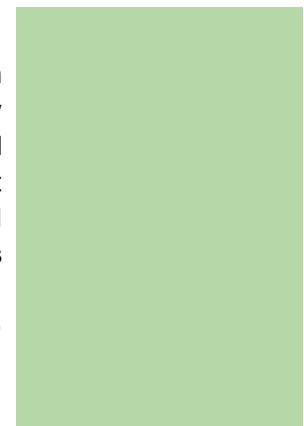
Bio: Saqib Hussain is a PhD candidate at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, researching the impact of immediacy strategies on pre-service teachers' engagement with diverse learners. With an M.Phil in Education, M.Ed, and expertise in English Linguistics, TEFL, and content creation, Mr. Hussain is passionate about fostering inclusive, engaging learning environments through innovative teaching practices

13.

"Pointless Creativity"

by Meg Kileen & Shane McElveen

Description: Pointless Creativity is a low-tech, high-energy game-show-style workshop designed to unlock students' creative and critical thinking skills. Developed for ESL learners, the game challenges students to embrace absurdity, think divergently, and collaborate under playful pressure. In a fast-changing, tech-driven world, this workshop offers a refreshing reminder that sometimes, the most "pointless" ideas can lead to the most powerful learning.

Bio: Meg is an experienced Educator with over 6 years experience working internationally in Italy, Vietnam and Ireland. With a particular interest in project-based learning and creating opportunities for students to develop their creative and critical thinking skills. I also have a background of 5 years experience in Photography and digital media, which informs my teaching style—bringing a visual, storytelling-focused approach that helps students engage more deeply and express themselves in unique and meaningful ways.
 Shane is a UX/UI designer with 20+ years' experience leading teams, driving design thinking, and crafting digital experiences across web, apps, and interactive media.

14.

"Introducing Trinity's NoteLab English - A free-access lesson plan generator"

Sponsored Speaker

by Alison Castle Kane

Head of Business Development, UK & Ireland at Trinity College London

15.

"AI-Powered Writing: A Toolkit for Teachers"

by Behzad Baghery

Description: With the advent of easily-accessible generative AI, we are increasingly handing over the responsibility of writing to AI. AI is taking care of many time-consuming tasks, making for more efficient and effective communication. But as teachers, we still need to teach writing! So the question is: should we throw in the towel and leave the writing to the AI? Or can we bring it into our classrooms in a way that complements what we do? In this short talk, I will explore a few practical strategies and approaches on what courses of actions we can take when it comes to teaching writing with the use of AI.

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Bio: Behzad Baghery is an English for Academic Purposes instructor. He has a wide range of experience in teaching Business English, working with university students, and running CPD sessions for in-service teachers. With an M.Ed. from Trinity College Dublin and a professional diploma in digital learning design, Behzad's primary interests are critical thinking, instructional designing, and use of technology in the classroom.

16.

"Is AI the Future Learning of English?"   **by Peter Lahiff**

Description: For a school that makes the effective use of technology in the classroom core to its brand, the incorporation of AI into educational technology is not something we could ignore. The question for us is how to implement it in a way that actually enhances learning, and that means thinking about those activities where the use of AI powered tools can actually do harm, as well as the potential for completely new types of educational engagement that would have been impossible without it. This talk will describe the work we have put into a framework learner and teacher training which goes to the fundamentals of the issues raised by AI while enabling us to deal with whatever the latest development may be.

Bio: Peter Lahiff works on the development and management of project-based and technology enhanced language courses for young learners and adults at Future Learning where he is the Academic Director. He is a founding committee member and former president of ELT Ireland.

Thanks to the ELT Ireland Event Team who make all this possible

Adriana Amadio on Exhibitor Liaison & Invoicing

Alvaro Ruiz on Social Media & Event Promotion

Cristina Diamant on Website, Talk Recording & MC

Behzad Baghery on Individual Member & Speaker Liaison

Gabi Widurek on Call for Speakers, Programme & Ticketing

Iryna Avalishvili on DoS Liason & CPD Events

Sergio da Silva on Institutional Member Liaison

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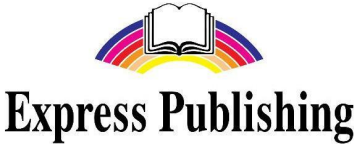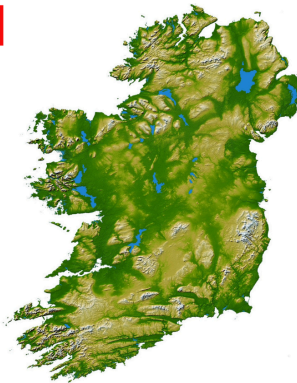# ELT Ireland

Thanks to our exhibitors, whose support is vital to the success of this event
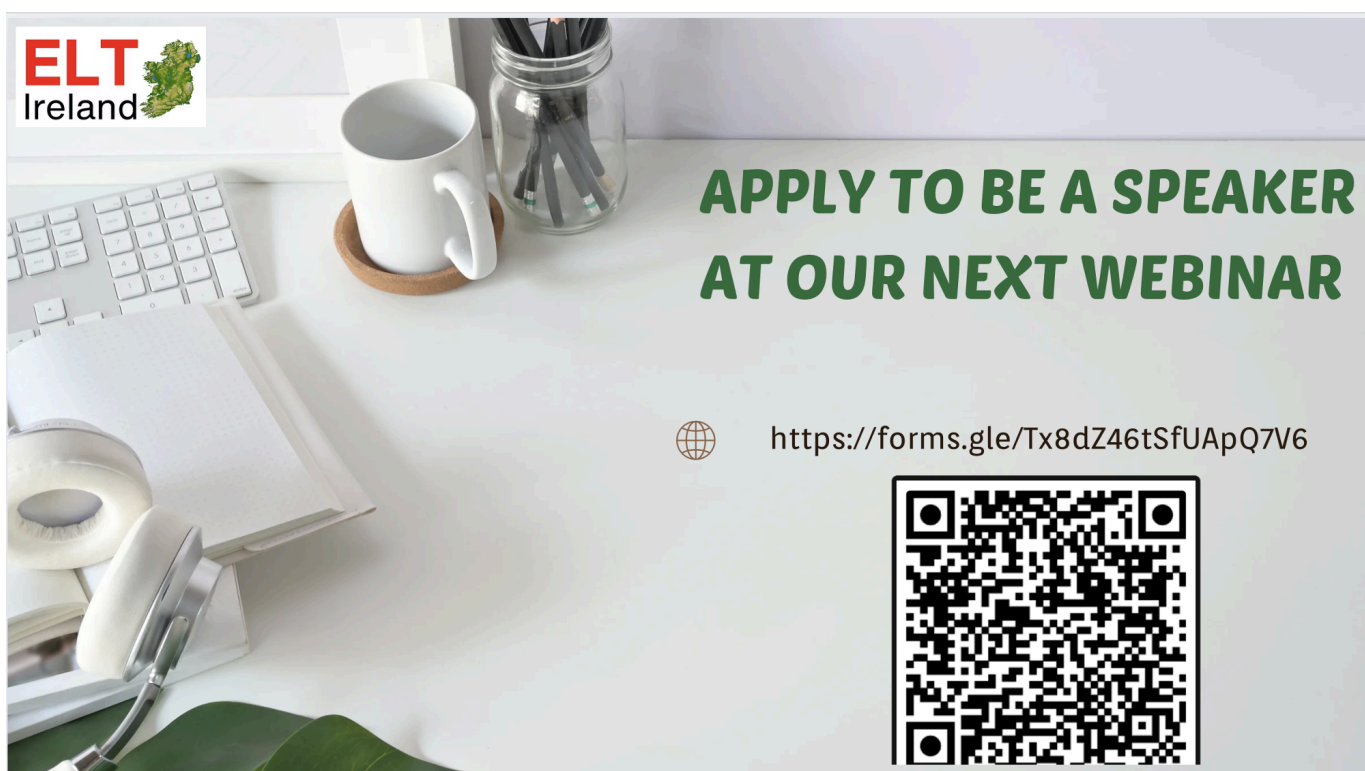
Exhibitors

Stand	Exhibitor		On X (Twitter)
1	International Books		@StoreyBooksie
2	Macmillan		@MacmillianELT
3	Pearson		@Pearson_ELT
4	Trinity College London		@TrinityC_L
5	EXPRESS PUBLISHING		@ExpressELT
6	OUP		@OUPELTGlobal
7	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING		@NGLearningUK https://eltngl.com/

ELT Ireland

Be Part of Our Webinar Series

📢 **Call for Proposals – May ELT Ireland Webinar**

We're excited to announce a call for proposals for our upcoming **ELT Ireland CPD webinar in May**!

We're looking for engaging, practical sessions that support English language teachers in their **continuing professional development**.

Here are a few general topic ideas to inspire you:

- Strategies that have helped you grow as a teacher
- A lesson idea or activities that works really well
- Tools or techniques that support student engagement
- Reflections on challenges you've faced and how you've overcome them
- Ideas for building learner autonomy or classroom confidence
- Methods and approaches in ELT

📩 **Interested in speaking?**

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Send your proposal using this link https://forms.gle/WDNgFBUvvP69UMmk6, or by scanning the QR code above, and we'll get back to you with more information.

Let's keep the CPD conversation going!