



*a network for English language teaching professionals*

## **8th Annual Conference**

"A New Beginning?"

**#ELTi2022**

**ELT Ireland 8th Annual Conference**  
**On: A New Beginning?**  
**19th & 20th February 2022 | Griffith College, Dublin**

**FRIDAY 18TH - PRE-CONFERENCE SOCIAL GATHERING**

**DAY 1 – SATURDAY 19TH FEBRUARY**

<b>08.30 – 09.30</b>	Registration & Coffee (Sponsored by Pearson)   Exhibition Open		
<b>09.30 – 09.40</b>	Opening Address & Welcome		
<b>09.40 – 10.45</b>	Plenary: <b>New Beginnings: regulating the emotional fallout of starting again</b> by Michelle Hunter		
<b>10.45 – 13.00</b>	Concurrent Session 1		
	<b>Strand 1</b>	<b>Strand 2</b>	<b>Strand 3</b>
(a) 10.45 – 11.30	Alternative assessment before and after the emergency online instruction  <b>Iosif Gidiotis (1)</b>	Effective Feedback for Language Learners/Giving Effective Feedback <b>Dalia Ashraf (2)</b> NB: STREAMED TALK	Now ... where were we?: Notes from ELT Ireland's participation in the English Language Education External Advisory Group on the IEM in 2018. <b>Peter Lahiff (3)</b>
(b) 11.30 – 12.15	Becoming corpus literate: An EFL Practitioner's story  <b>Cathryn Bennett (4)</b>	The Power to Act  <b>Abeer Okaz (5)</b>	Voices and Connections  <b>Rory Ruddock (6)</b> <i>Sponsored speaker: NGL</i>
(c) 12.15 – 13.00	Creative and practical ideas for teaching culture in the EFL classroom  <b>Ivana Štiglec (7)</b>	A Critical Discourse Analysis of Self-Perceptions of English-Language Teachers in Ireland  <b>Deborah Tobin (8)</b>	How we can overcome native speakerism in ELT  <b>Meri Maroutian (9)</b>
<b>13.00 – 13.50</b>	Lunch Break   Exhibition		
<b>13.50 – 15.20</b>	Concurrent Sessions 2		
(a) 13.50 – 14.35	Rethinking your teaching practices  <b>Meritxell Blanco Colino (10)</b>	From Teaching to Publishing  <b>Ben Dobbs &amp; Mara Temi (11)</b>	The gap between exam perception and achievement  <b>Peter Lahiff (12)</b>
(b) 14.35 – 15.20	2022 - User friendly, tangible grammar?  <b>Mgr. Ilona Šostroneková (13)</b>	Planning for the perfect outcome  <b>Joe Brennan (14)</b>	New Beginnings or Back to the Same Old, Same Old?  <b>Joan McDermott &amp; Dr. Kerry Gallagher (15)</b> <i>Sponsored Speaker: GoMappEd</i>
<b>15.20 – 15.45</b>	Coffee Break (Sponsored by Pearson)   Exhibition		
<b>15.45 – 16.30</b>	Concurrent Sessions 3		
(a) 15.45 – 16.30	Revisiting Speaking Activities to encourage Students  <b>Debbie West (16)</b>	Effective Early Language Learning  <b>Sylvie Dolakova (17)</b>	Unite ELT - past, present and future  <b>Anne Dunne &amp; Colette Godkin (18)</b> <i>Sponsored Speaker: Unite</i>
<b>16.30 – 17.30</b>	Plenary Session: <b>My pandemic; a journey from flying airplanes to COVID testing</b> by Fiona Bonke		
<b>17.30 – 17.45</b>	Closing remarks		

## DAY 2 – SUNDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

<b>09.20 – 09.50</b>	Registration & Exhibition open		
<b>09.50 – 10.00</b>	Opening Address & Welcome		
<b>10.00 – 11.05</b>	Plenary Session: <b>The power of storytelling to understand ourselves and each other</b> by Debbie West		
<b>10.45 – 11.30</b>	Concurrent Sessions 4		
	<b>Strand 1</b>	<b>Strand 2</b>	<b>Strand 3</b>
(a) 11.05 – 11.50	Off script: helping students decode authentic speech  <b>Shaun Sweeney</b> (19)	Tools of the Trade: The development and evaluation of a bespoke work-related English language course  <b>Declan Flanagan</b> (20)	Assessment Today - The same, but different; helping teachers and learners in the new normal  <b>David Booth</b> (21) <i>Sponsored Speaker:</i> Pearson
<b>11.50 – 12.25</b>	Coffee Break (Sponsored by Pearson)		Exhibition
<b>12.25 – 14.40</b>	Concurrent Sessions 5		
(a) 12.25 – 13.10	Mental Health in the Teaching World  <b>Alan Hall</b> (22)	Teaching with the brain in mind  <b>Urszula Kropaczewska</b> (23) IATEFL Poland	Libraries Ireland: Access, Apps and Online Services  <b>Ian Aherne</b> (24)
(b) 13.10 – 13.55	Student-Created Topic Books – tools to keep, store and retrieve knowledge  <b>Sylvie Dolakova &amp; Ilona Šostroneková</b> (25)	<b>ELT Ireland AGM</b>	
<b>13.55 – 14.15</b>	Conference Closing		



**WELCOME TO OUR 8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE****Theme: A New Beginning?****ELT Ireland 2022**

The focus of the conference is to host practical and theoretical presentations which can help to enhance our classroom experiences and aid our understanding of new developments in ELT.



*ELT Ireland is a support network that fosters professional development in English language teaching through regular events held all over Ireland, including education and development talks (by teachers, for teachers), article writing forums, and conferences as well as quarterly meet-up and occasional webinars.*

Online at: [www.elt-ireland.com](http://www.elt-ireland.com) - on FB/Instagram/LinkedIn @ELTiIreland - Email: [info.eltireland@gmail.com](mailto:info.eltireland@gmail.com)

**OPENING SATURDAY PLENARY at 09.40 – 10.45****Title: New Beginnings: regulating the emotional fallout of starting again****by: Michelle Hunter**

Description: In this talk, I consider how people tend to react when they experience a new beginning. Some relish stepping out of comfort zones and rising to new challenges; others prefer to conserve energies and build on what they know. Based on my research into affective strategies – how to regulate emotional responses – I discuss how ELT professionals can either leverage positive reactions, or overcome negativity experienced during a change. Following Hiver's (2015) model of self-organisation and Oxford & Gkonou's (2020) strategies for affect-regulation, we explore how language teachers and learners can manage their emotional reactions to new beginnings.

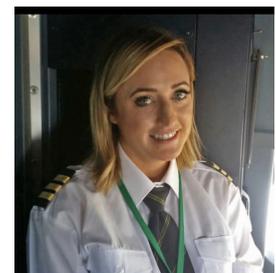


*Bio: Michelle is a freelance in-company business English trainer and university adjunct of 23 years' experience based in southern Germany. Currently she is a PhD student at the University of York researching affect (emotions, feelings and moods) in English Medium Instruction classes. She is a published author and frequent conference speaker.*

**CLOSING SATURDAY PLENARY at 16:30 – 17.30****Title: My pandemic; a journey from flying airplanes to COVID testing****by: Fiona Bonke**

Description: In 2019 I had been 20 years in what was still my dream job. Flying Jet planes across the Atlantic with the chance to spend time in amazing cities . My job was challenging, enjoyable, stable ,and well rewarded with lots of down time for my family. I never looked to doing anything else as I was one of the lucky individuals in life who had landed in the right career,

In 2020 Everything changed when the pandemic hit. Aviation was decimated especially in Ireland and I found myself on job seekers allowance for the first time in my life. I had always had ideas for business but never the need or background to do anything with them. Things were different now my wings were clipped and it was time to sink or swim.



*Bio: BSc. ( HONS) Biotechnology D.C.U. 1998. / LDA22 Laboratory 1996. / Oxford Air Academy A.T.P.L 1999. / Cadetship and Commercial airline pilot 1999-present / Executive Director V1MEDICAL 2020 -present.*

**OPENING SUNDAY PLENARY at 10.00 – 11.05**

**Title: The Power of Storytelling to understand ourselves, and each other in the English Language by: Debbie West**

Description: Storytelling is communication and all the Best include stories. As English teachers we bring our own stories to the classroom and learn about those of our students, helping them express theirs in a new language. Yet are we really open to knowing, hearing, communicating these stories or is our language teaching void of storytelling? Whether we realize it or not, our stories influence as well as limit the expression of others' stories. Being aware of our own stories and their limitations can help, not only to better understand ourselves and our students, but also to improve our teaching.



Bio: **Debbie West**, UC Berkeley grad, brought up in a military family, has done many things in education in California and teaches English to all levels and ages in France. She knows that language learning and teaching have cultural challenges. An educator at heart, she encourages people to get real life experience speaking the language they study. [westlanguage.com](http://westlanguage.com).

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At 1.45pm on Saturday 17th Mia Aghajari @Mia\_ELT will present on Student Podcasts and What You Can Learn from them. Mia works as a freelance English trainer, test author and digital materials developer in Cologne.

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## DAY 1

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- SATURDAY 10.45 — 11.30

**Title: Alternative assessment before and after the emergency online instruction by: Iosif Gidiotis**

Description: This presentation will include the results of a study conducted as part of the research that I carried out as part of my undergraduate dissertation, which revolved around the assessment techniques employed by Greek teachers of English as a foreign language in the Greek primary and secondary schools. The study focused on these teachers' attitudes towards implementing more alternative methods of assessment, especially as part of the general transition of teaching and learning to the online mode.

The majority of the teachers who participated in the study recognized the need for a more alternative way of assessment, especially during the emergency online instruction. However, they also expressed their concern, regarding factors that may impede the introduction and implementation of alternative assessment methods. These included lack of expertise and training on the part of the teachers, or reluctance on the part of students (and parents). Some suggestions for further research are also included in the presentation.

*Bio: Iosif Gidiotis recently graduated from the School of English of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in Greece (BA English Language and Literature, Honors) and was awarded a full scholarship for MPhil studies in Trinity College Dublin. His research has focused on alternative assessment, and he plans on focusing on alternative curriculum planning and implementation in the future.*

**Title: Effective Feedback for Language Learners/Giving Effective Feedback****by: Dalia Ashraf**

Description: Whether feedback is negative or positive, it influences the learning process. Most teachers focus on the corrective form of feedback aiming at improving accuracy, but they are oblivious to the fact that corrective feedback might demotivate the students if given insensitively. This session investigates the other interrelated purposes of feedback along with the correction purpose. Motivating learners, improving fluency and developing an autonomous learner should be objectives to consider achieving when giving feedback. It will also focus on when and how to give feedback to ensure its sufficiency and effectiveness. Participants will walk away with different types of feedback techniques suitable for varied teaching contexts.



*Bio: Dalia is an academic coordinator at Pharos University in Alexandria. She has experience teaching different age groups in schools. She is a graduate of the Faculty of Education, English Department, and she is a CELTA and a Delta holder. Dalia is also an active member of the Professional Development Unit at the university. Dalia has trained pre-service and in-service teachers in different contexts: language centers, schools and universities.*

**Title:** Now ... where were we?: Notes from ELT Ireland's participation in the English Language Education External Advisory Group on the IEM in 2018.

**By: Peter Lahiff**

Description: The much anticipated roll-out of the International Education Mark(IEM), which is due to replace the ACELS accreditation scheme, is expected to get underway in 2022 and will represent a major shift in the way language schools in Ireland are regulated. This talk will look back four years to 2018 to the contributions which ELT Ireland made to the External Advisory Group on the IEM set up by QQI. What were the main issues under discussion, which ones had been resolved and which were still open, when the work of the group was suspended in early December 2018. The aim is to give ELT Ireland members an insight into how the context they work in may change if the 2018 proposal are implemented over the coming year.



*Bio: Peter 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.*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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SATURDAY 11.30 – 12.15

**Title: Becoming corpus literate: An EFL Practitioner's story****by: Cathryn Bennett**

Description: For many years, applied linguists have highlighted the benefits of corpora in the language learning classroom (Boulton, 2010; Reppen, 2016) yet this has failed to materialise in mainstream teaching practice (Poole, 2020; Charles, 2020). I argue that this is due to insufficient pre-service corpus-training and the subsequent inflexibility of working conditions. This research focuses on training in-service EFL teachers to become corpus literate through a new training framework which encourages small corpus-based activities that can be incorporated into their syllabi.



*Bio: Cathryn is an EAP Tutor and PhD researcher at Trinity College Dublin. Her PhD topic centres on in-service EFL teacher education of corpus applications for the classroom. Other research interests include English for Specific Purposes, Exploratory Practice and Learner Autonomy. Outside of her research, she is an avid language learner of German, French and Korean.*

*Answer My Phd Questionnaire on [Investigating Knowledge and Use of Corpora by EFL Practitioners in Ireland](#)*

**Title: The Power to Act****by: Abeer Okaz**

Description: Undergraduates lack of motivation and engagement has always been a challenge. Asking teachers to plan fun class activities does not seem to be working because most students continue not to show up for class or be passive irrespective of the variety in delivering lessons. This session focuses on how teachers can nurture the students' ownership of and control over their own learning (learner agency); and the challenges that might face teachers in implementing that. The key word of this session is training students to foster 'The power to act'. Attendees will walk away with classroom activities and digital resources that promote agency.



*Bio: Abeer is an IH Cairo Training and Educational Development Consultant. She is a teacher, teacher trainer, CELTA tutor, DELTA TP tutor, and an academic consultant at PUA. She has 23 years of experience. She has published in international journals and done training in Ireland, the USA, Saudi Arabia, Kyiv, and South Africa.*

**Title: Voices and Connections****by: Rory Ruddock**  
Sponsored speaker  
NGL

Description: Language learning is all about connections. To be effective it needs to be both comprehensible and meaningful for the learners – they need to be able to connect it to their prior learning, to themselves and to the real world. But they also need to make connections with each other in the classroom environment, be that in a physical or virtual space. In this webinar we'll explore how, using the Voices series, teachers can be more effective in facilitating learning and help students make the connections they need to be successful language learners.



*Bio: Rory is a fully qualified teacher, with a MA in Education, and has taught in schools in the UK and around the world, including Vietnam and South Korea. He has many years of experience as an Academic Director and has been the Deputy of a Bilingual International School.*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- SATURDAY 12.15 – 13.00

**Title: Creative and practical ideas for teaching culture in the EFL classroom** by: **Ivana Štiglec**

Description: In order to develop our students' intercultural communication competence and to make sure that one day they will be able to interact with people from other cultures and act as global citizens we need to design meaningful, engaging and interactive lessons that will motivate students and develop a sense of wonder for both other cultures and their own culture. EFL classrooms are an ideal place to do so and this presentation will demonstrate how using various activity types, web tools and different information sources can help create cultural lessons that will exude enthusiasm and engagement among your students( a range of learning scenarios will be presented and shared with participants to be reused).



*Bio: Ivana is an English and German high school teacher who works in I.gimnazija Osijek. She is a Europeana DSI-4 Teacher Ambassador for Croatia. In the past two years, she has moderated the “Europeana in your classroom: building 21st-century competences with digital cultural heritage” MOOC for European Schoolnet Academy. Moreover, she is actively involved in several international projects. Her interests and work relate to professional development of teachers interested in integrating technology into their teaching.*

**Title: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Self-Perceptions of English-Language Teachers in Ireland** by: **Deborah Tobin**

Description: The Irish private ELT sector has been historically lucrative, yet precarious work conditions for teachers including low pay, job insecurity and lack of benefits have been identified. Despite its pre-pandemic value of €2.1 billion to the Irish economy, teachers have not reaped financial rewards on an equitable scale. The government-enforced COVID-19 closure of all ELT schools led to the furloughing of hundreds of teachers, further highlighting the precarity of this industry in Ireland. An online questionnaire provided quantitative and qualitative data collection of ELT teacher attitudes and work conditions. Preliminary findings reflected a highly-skilled, highly-qualified and highly-motivated ELT teacher cohort with a strong sense of their own professionalism. However, in many cases this was not reflected in their work conditions.



*Bio: Deborah Tobin is a senior ELT teacher at Limerick Language Centre and a PhD candidate of Applied Linguistics at MIC, Limerick. She has been involved in ELT for thirty years. Her research areas of interest include Critical Discourse Analysis and Metaphor. Her PhD is funded by an MIC Departmental Assistant Scholarship.*

**Title: How we can overcome native speakerism in ELT**by: **Meri Maroutian**

Description: I will draw mainly on my personal experience, as well as research papers and articles, to provide evidence of the biased reception of non-native English speakers in the ELT field. I will reflect on the state of equality and social justice in recruitment malpractices based on criteria such as origin and place of birth.

Finally, I will illustrate how the definition of “native speaker” is outdated and has a negative impact for anyone who seeks to achieve a dignifying career as an English language teacher. The NNEST category is in need of a New Beginning, today.



*Bio: Meri Maroutian is a Delta qualified teacher based in Parma, Italy. Having lived and studied mostly in Malaysia, America and Italy, she has become aware of the social injustices reserved for those who are forever perceived as foreigners or “non-native” speakers of any given language.*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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SATURDAY 13.50 – 14.35

**Title: Rethinking your teaching practices****by: Meritxell Blanco Colino**

Description: The pandemic has turned our teaching methods upside down. Teachers had to adapt their classes to an online setting while making sure they made the learning process accessible to all their students. However, this has made us rethink our teaching practices and brought us new ways to help students develop their linguistic skills. In this presentation, I would like to show different activities we can carry out to help our students improve their oral skills. Some activities can be carried out in an online setting. These activities are thought for primary learners, although can be adapted to other target groups.



*Bio: Meritxell graduated in Primary Education with the specialisation in English (EFL) at UAB in 2017. Since 2017, she is working in a semi-private school in Barcelona teaching English to students from 6 to 12 years old. She is now doing a master's degree in Language Teaching and Learning using Technology at UOC.*

**Title: From Teaching to Publishing****by: Ben Dobbs & Mara Temi**

Description: Many teachers have ideas for businesses they would like to establish in associated fields – these may range from consulting to schools or more. This has been catalysed by the experience of teachers during the pandemic. This talk will examine the transition made by the speakers from the world of teaching to the establishment of a new publishing start-up New Way Press Publishing. Together, we will look at the challenges faced by teacher-entrepreneurs in Ireland ranging from archaic systems of company registration to bureaucracy, dealing with state agencies and more as well as common business issues such as tax and marketing.



*Bio: Ben Dobbs, also a managing partner of NWPP, is an in-company leadership trainer and coach. He has delivered intensive training in Ireland, the UK, the GCC, China, Russia and elsewhere. Ben is author of over 30 articles on teaching, training and coaching and is an accredited Cert IBET teacher trainer.*

*Mara Temi, a managing partner of NWPP, has been an ELT educator for over ten years in Argentina and Ireland. She has also worked as a teacher trainer. Her main interest areas are SpLD, feedback delivery, literature and skills development. Mara is Editor-in-Chief of NWPP's digital publication, The ELT Mag.*

**Title: The gap between exam perception and achievement****by: Peter Lahiff**

Description: There are always some students who, in advance of their end of course exam and straight after doing it, express a high level of confidence which is not reflected in their final result. Teachers find it difficult in advance to persuade students like this to put the work in and help them find the motivation afterwards to make another attempt. This talk is based on surveys of students preparing for their end of course exam which aimed to investigate this phenomenon and identify strategies for supporting those students who went on to underperform in their achievement exam.



*Bio: Angelos Bolas is a teacher and teacher trainer working primarily on international certificate and diploma level training courses.*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- SATURDAY 14.35 – 15.20

**Title: 2022 - User friendly, tangible grammar?****by: Mgr. Ilona Šostroneková**

Description: Experiencing grammar with all senses? Can we MOVE the grammar, or TOUCH it? SURE, for GEN ALPHA, digital natives, making grammar tangible may seem a bit more of a challenge than before. Let's explore together and share our expertise – how to make the grammar most user-friendly for 2022 😊. Language accuracy has become a vital component when dealing with factual information, comprehension as well as production; well, In the workshop, we will FEEL the grammar and dig in some ways how to bring the accuracy closer to students.



*Bio: I am loving what I am doing, I am grateful for every new challenge, experience, and sharing with others. Exchanging expertise is a vital part of professional development. I have been doing it for over two decades /Czech Rep, Slovakia, The Netherlands/ now, and I have not stopped learning.*

**Title: Planning for the perfect outcome****by: Joe Brennan**

Description: With an overabundance of materials and lesson activities to choose from and the ever-evolving live/online/hybrid learning landscape to be navigated, is there a simple way we can ensure that learners can see every lesson as valuable and motivating? In this workshop, Joe draws on Silvana Richardson's approach to visible learning and Deci and Ryan's theory of learner motivation to create a simple planning framework that can be used with any materials for students of any level. This framework motivates learners by allowing them to see the rationale behind our lesson planning decisions. By the end of this talk, participants should have a clear idea of how to imbed explicit, relevant communicative/collaborative outcomes into every lesson and understand why this is so important for engaging learners.



*Bio: Joe Brennan has been an EFL teacher for 16 years and is currently a DOS at Waterford English Language Centres. He has been a DELTA tutor and has an MSc in Education Management(eLearning) from DCU. His key professional interest is in creating supportive learning environments. When not in the classroom, he is usually in, or near, the sea.*

**Title: New Beginnings or Back to the Same Old, Same Old?****by: Joan McDermott & Dr. Kerry Gallagher**  
Sponsored Speakers:  
GoMappEd

Description: This year's theme is New Beginnings? The question mark at the end of that begs many questions which this presentation will strive to answer:

- What real change has taken place in the attitudes to the use of technology in education in the past two years?
- Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) are bringing about major changes in all areas of our lives, but are stakeholders in education willing to embrace it as a teaching/learning medium in the classroom?
- How can the gap between traditional views of education and the future of digital education be bridged so that teachers can help students prepare for a future where the economy and job-market will surely be different from what it is today?



*Bio: Joan McDermott is Director of Academic Affairs at online school and EdTech company GoMappED. She has a B.Mod. in French and Irish from Trinity College Dublin and a master's in educational leadership from the University of Roehampton, London. Joan spent seven years teaching English at Shandong University of Technology in Zibo city in China. She received many awards during her time there including the Excellence in Teaching Award from Shandong Department of Education and the Ambassador of Friendship Award from the Shandong Provincial Government. She joined the GoMappED team in September 2019.*

**Dr. Kerry Gallagher** from Donegal has worked with GoMappED for the past year and a half. She is a native Irish speaker and heads up the Irish Language Department at GoMappED. Prior to moving back to her native Donegal, Kerry lectured in Sociology at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Her areas of research include Sociology of religion, migration studies, and transnational studies. Kerry has extensive publications and was awarded the Pat Hume Scholarship to pursue her PhD.

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS****SATURDAY 15.45 – 16.30****Title: Revisiting Speaking Activities to Encourage Students****By: Debbie West**

Description: In the steps of language acquisition, speaking can happen at an early stage but it seems that the reality in our classes is not the case. Face to face, there are many ways to encourage and motivate our students to have confidence in the verbal production of their new language. I suggest that we revisit some of the tried and true ways as well as some possible new ways to get our students of all levels speaking. We will have the opportunity to share ideas, develop new ideas and put a new twist on all of our ideas.



**Bio: Debbie West**, UC Berkeley grad, brought up in a military family, has done many things in education in California and teaches English to all levels and ages in France. She knows that language learning and teaching have cultural challenges. An educator at heart, she encourages people to get real life experience speaking the language they study. [westlanguage.com](http://westlanguage.com).

**Title: Effective Early Language Learning****by: Sylvie Dolakova**

Description: Do you know how to step in teaching English to (very) young learners from the first moment? You don't want to or can't translate every word, but will they understand English-only approach? And how can they learn about their progress? In this practical workshop you'll see a few tips for working with young beginners the way they will enjoy (and you too).

I would like to present a technique of teaching English without translating or interfering with the mother tongue from their very first lesson. Full immersion into English-only environment proves to help children acquire the language in a natural and effective way. I'll speak about the approach that uses activities composed and interlinked profoundly in the first three lessons in the lives of young beginners.



**Bio: Sylvie** has been a teacher trainer focusing on teaching English to children aged 4 – 15, for 25 years. She specialises in teaching English through art and stories, publishes story-based teaching sets for children (Pearson ELT Teachers' Award for best innovation). She presents at webinars, and works as an ELT consultant (NILE, Norwich, British Council).

**Title: Unite ELT - past, present and future**

**by: Anne Dunne & Colette Godkin**  
Sponsored Speaker:  
Unite

Description: We review the 5-year history of the English Language Teachers' branch of Unite the Union as well as our plans and expectations for the future. We explain how a trade union works and the benefits of union membership. Through the personal narratives of union members, we illustrate lay member involvement in the union. We also look at the relationship of the ELT industry worldwide with trade unions. In particular, we examine how change can be effected by acting as a group, improving not only the working lives of individual teachers, but also the ELT industry in Ireland as a whole.



**Bio: Anne and Colette** have worked in numerous English Language schools in Ireland as teachers, teacher trainers and materials developers. They have been members of Unite ELT since its inception - Anne is currently the branch Chair and Colette the branch Secretary.

## DAY 2

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

- SUNDAY 11.05 – 11.50

**Title: Off script: helping students decode authentic speech**by: **Shaun Sweeney**

Description: What does it mean to 'do a listening'? Experience teaching online might mean more use of authentic video and audio - surely a good thing to take forward whether back face-to-face or not. However, the old approach of answering questions then moving on to the grammar/vocab 'meat' of lessons stays strong. Problems students have decoding unscripted speech can remain untouched. Reassurance and further practice are often suggested as the only remedies, so in this talk, we'll explore a variety of other possibilities that can support our learners better. We'll share material, techniques and successes teachers have made through online collaboration.



*Bio: **Shaun Sweeney** is a teacher and trainer based in Dublin. His key interests include listening skills, motivation and TBLT. He has worked in various ELT contexts over the last 20 years, with his longest spells being in Italy, Spain, the UK and Japan. In 2020 he co-founded Dublin TEFL, providing online teacher development and qualifications such as the Trinity Dip TESOL.*

**Title: Tools of the Trade: The development and evaluation of a bespoke work-related English language course**By: **Declan Flanagan**

Description: IA pilot English language trades (plumbing and electricity) pre-entry course was designed and delivered between January-April 2019, placing emphasis on both English for General Purposes (EGP) and English for Special Purposes (ESP) used in City & Guilds Level 1 certificate in 'Access in Building Services Engineering' for (male) English language learners from the refugee community. This study was two-fold and evaluated the extent to which all the materials delivered in this course were effective in motivating and preparing learners for the practical phase of this course. In addition, it evaluated learners and subject-tutors' perceptions of the ESP materials used on this course with a particular focus on effectiveness and suitability. I would like to discuss this pilot programme and how this programme reflects the current ESOL landscape in Northern Ireland (policy, ESOL provision, ESOL barriers) especially for Adult ESOL learners.



*Bio: **Declan Flanagan** has taught EFL/ESOL/EAP in Spain, Lithuania, Germany, Tajikistan and Ireland. He is an education coordinator for the Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast. He teaches and lectures within community and further education sectors in Northern Ireland and lectures English for Academic Purposes at INTO – Queen's University Belfast. He specialises in materials development and delivery of bespoke courses within ESOL ESP, EAP contexts. His publication and research interests relate to English language teaching and learning and the development of community-based approaches to English Language learning for refugee families.*

**Title: Assessment Today - The same, but different; helping teachers and learners in the new normal****by: David Booth**  
*Sponsored Speaker:*  
*Pearson*

Description: This talk will focus on recent developments in assessment which have brought the assessment experience closer to the learner both physically and psychologically. We will look at remote assessment capabilities for both high-stakes and mid-stakes assessment and see how these approaches can help meet the challenges of accessibility in the changing world of assessment and learning. However, the fact remains that the teacher is still the critical agent in the teaching and learning context. We will look at how we can empower more teachers with rich and actionable feedback, making the classroom a deeper place which fosters language learning in a more meaningful and motivational way.



*Bio: **David Booth** is the Director of Test Development for Pearson Language Testing. He is responsible for the development of specific Pearson tests ensuring that all test development processes are executed to the highest standards and that test material is of the highest quality and fit for purpose. David works closely with other staff at Pearson to develop assessment and learning solutions to meet specific customer requirements. David's main expertise is in the development and revision of tests, and he has given presentations at major conferences on this theme. David has developed a number of digital tests which used advanced technology in test delivery, scoring and the presentation of results.*

*Before joining Pearson, David worked at Cambridge ESOL, a part of Cambridge Assessment. David also has extensive academic management, teaching and teacher training experience, working for the British Council in South Korea, Hong Kong and Malaysia.*

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## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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SUNDAY 12.25 – 13.10

**Title: Mental Health in the Teaching World****by: Alan Hall**

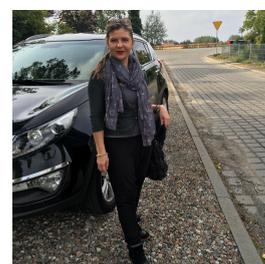
Description: We've gone through a lot in the past few years, but also so have our students, directors, heads, and support staff, but have we taken on board what we're doing and the effects that might be having on ourselves and others? This interactive presentation would like to address some of the issues we face as educators linked to mental health and present research showing how changing a little, can change a lot in the classroom.



*Bio: Alan holds two Masters in Teaching and has worked across Ireland, Spain and Italy for the last 10 years, with an interest in mental and emotional health in teaching, as well as being a storyteller of Irish Folklore.*

**Title: Teaching with the brain in mind****By: Urszula Kropaczewska**

Description: Teachers should bear in mind individual cognitive differences their students present. During the presentation I will try to explain why it is easier for some people to learn words/ structures/ functions while others have problems with doing so.



*Bio: Urszula Kropaczewska (PHD) is a coordinator of YL SIG for IATEFL Poland; a coach, a teacher trainer, provides lectures and workshops for students and teachers; is interested in teaching English to Young Learners and Special Need Students*

**Title: Libraries Ireland: Access, Apps and Online Services****by: Ian Aherne**

Description: In 2020, Libraries Ireland adapted their system allowing students to join online and immediately access a suite of apps and other services.

In my experience, students and educators are often unaware of the online facilities available to them. My presentation aims to illustrate the importance of reading outside the classroom, introduce a range of apps that are free to access upon joining Libraries Ireland, then walk attendees through the application process which, while short and simple, contains some elements that could trip students up.

By presentation's end, you should have access to free ebooks, audio books, magazines, and international newspapers.



*Bio: Ian has over 10 years of TESOL experience. He has been a teacher with SEDA College for the last 6 years. In 2021, he received a Master's degree in TESOL from University College Dublin with a dissertation focused on the testing of reading and passive vocabulary.*

## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

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SUNDAY 13.10 – 13.55

**Title: Student-Created Topic Books – tools to keep, store and retrieve knowledge****by: Sylvie Dolakova & Ilona Šostroneková**

Description: Topic (project) books enormously increase learner's interest in working with (not only) foreign language and facts. It is a powerful way of attracting students for new forms of work with information, facts, knowledge, and manual skills. Any theme or learning area can be covered in topic books, which suits further development, core principles of CLIL, and ideas and fact found in science, history, literature, storytelling etc.

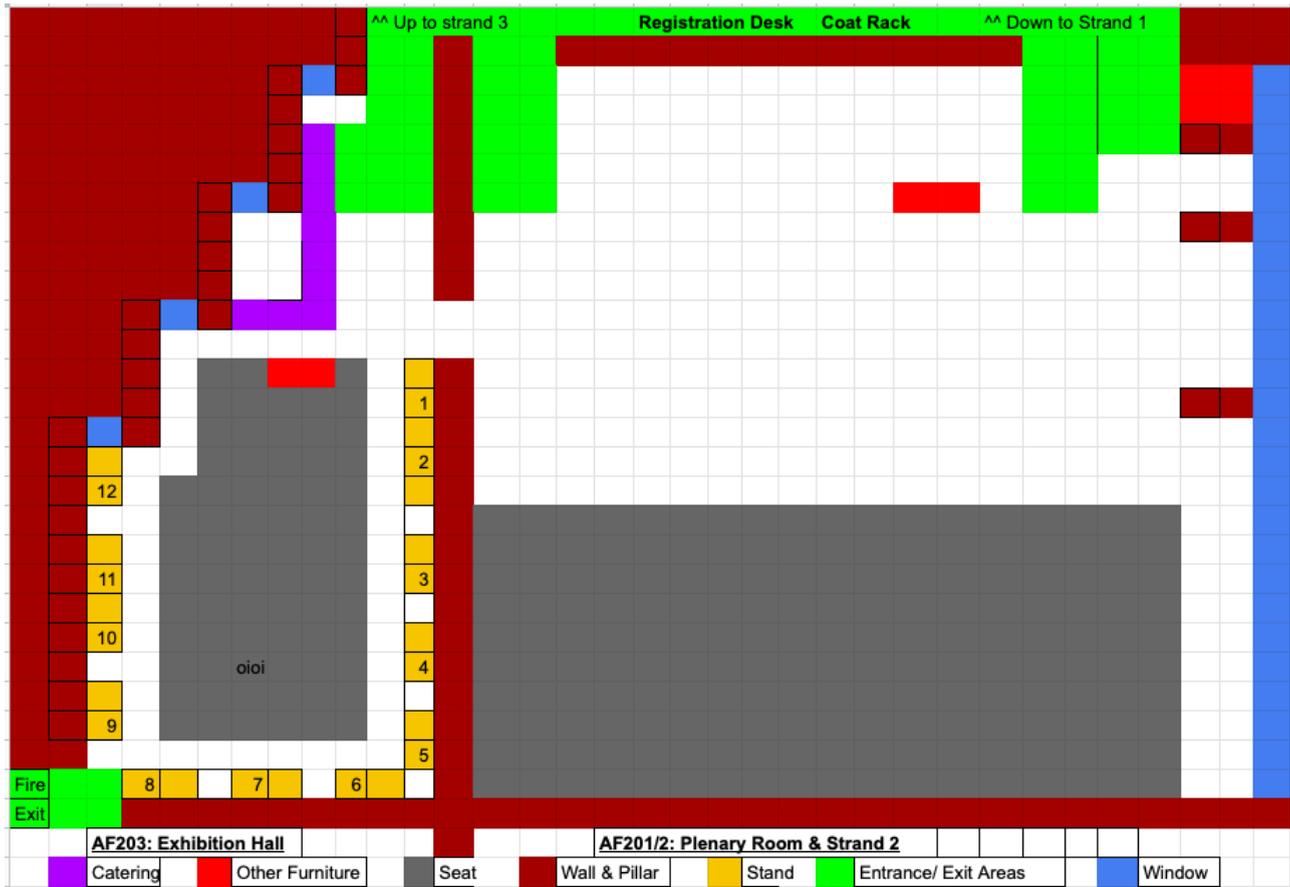
Applied art techniques enable learners to deal with vocabulary, sentence structures, grammar drills and facts files together with attributes such as co-operation, organization, multiple intelligences, presentation skills, and many others. Participants will see a few inspiring examples of those project books and learn a few formats to enrich their lessons.



*Bio: Sylvie has been a teacher trainer focusing on teaching English to children aged 4 – 15, for 25 years. She specialises in teaching English through art and stories, publishes story-based teaching sets for children (Pearson ELT Teachers' Award for best innovation). She presents at webinars, and works as an ELT consultant (NILE, Norwich, British Council).*

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**VENUE MAP & DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS**



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

**STAND**

**EXHIBITOR**

**On Twitter**

1 & 2

EXPRESS PUBLISHING

@ExpressELT

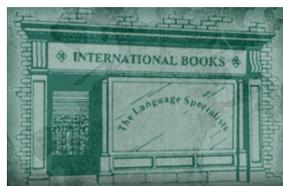


**Express Publishing**

3

INTERNATIONAL BOOKS

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4

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5

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6	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LEARNING		<p>@NGLearningUK  <a href="https://eltngl.com/">https://eltngl.com/</a></p>
7	OUP		<p>@OUPELTGlobal</p>
8	Pearson		<p>@Pearson_ELt</p>
9	Pronunciation Club / TEFL Resources Ireland		<p>@pronunciationcl</p>
10 & 11	Trinity College London		<p>@TrinityC_L</p>
12	Unite ELT Branch		<p>@UniteunionROI</p>
Video Interview	Mary Immaculate College M.A/PhD Applied Linguistics		<p>@MICLimerick</p>

## ELT Ireland Annual Conference 2022 - Safety Guidelines

**Type of event:** This is an indoor business event with both a professional conference and a trade exhibition element to it. There have been no government mandated capacity limits applying to such events in 2022, but a voluntary capacity limit of 80-85% is in place. It is a two-day weekend event with timings as follows; Friday: Set-up with exhibitors putting up their stands from 6pm

Saturday: 8:30 am - 6:00pm

Sunday: 9:00 am - 3:00pm

**Structure of event:** We expect that we will have around 100 people at this event each day in a venue that has a capacity of up to 250 (using all tiered seating and chairs on the floor up to the podium). We will cap attendance at 200, or 80% of the max. The event will consist of;

**3 Plenary Sessions in AF201/202 with between 100 and 200 people attending.**

**10 Concurrent Sessions in 3 strands at a max of 85% of capacity with ventilation**

Strand 1 in AF104: Breakout room: Classroom seating for 25 - 50 people

Strand 2 in AF201/202: Plenary Room: Tiered seating for 55 - 110 people

Strand 3 in AF301: Breakout room: Theatre-style seating 20 - 40 people

NB: We ask participants to use the space available for maximum distancing in sessions from people you did not travel together with.

Also note that it may be cooler as windows and Doors will be kept open as much as possible and CO2 levels monitored during sessions by the session chairs.

**Exhibition:** The space in AF203 can take up 21 stands of 1.2m wide and 1m deep, for publishers and other service providers to the English language teaching sector. We will limit the number of exhibitors to half that maximum to allow for greater spacing. The commercial talks which would have taken place in this exhibition area will not run this year

**Catering:** In order to make the exhibition more accessible we serve teas and coffees at the entrance to AF203. It will be set up to facilitate ease of queuing and a member of the committee will be on hand to encourage people to take a seat in the central seating areas, which will be organised to allow spacing between small groups. There will be an open panel in the wall to allow access to additional seating in the plenary room AF201/202.

The requirement for physical distancing with hospitality has been removed, masks do not need to be worn when seated and Covid certificates no longer need to be shown for in-person dining.

NB: Eating and drinking while standing / mingling will not be possible.

**Hygiene:** The venue has an enhanced cleaning regime in place and we encourage all conference participants to wash their hands thoroughly and / or use the sanitisers in place throughout buildings.

**Mask Wearing:** A well-fitted 3 ply mask (disposable or a clean reusable face covering) worn over the nose and mouth is required at all times when moving around the conference venue, queuing, or in crowded spaces. FFP2 respiratory masks should be worn if you feel safer and more comfortable wearing this type of mask or if advised to do so by the HSE.

Once at the podium, speakers are only required to wear a mask in situations where 2 metre distance from the nearest audience member cannot be maintained.

**NB: Mask wearing is still required in Ireland in the following settings:**

public transport, taxis and at stations/airports/ports  
retail premises (including shopping centres, libraries, cinemas, theatres, museums, post offices, banks, credit unions), public offices and at premises providing specified services (incl. salons, hairdressers, travel agents, laundries, dry cleaners, bookmakers)  
workers in customer facing and food preparation roles in premises where food and beverages are sold for consumption on the premises  
healthcare settings

**Avoid crowding:** The venue asks that attendees do not congregate in common areas or crowd the access to the toilets. You are welcome to use the conference rooms or seating in the exhibition areas to sit down and chat when the session are not on.

**International travel to the conference:** The measures in place regarding international travel, include the requirement for a Digital COVID Certificate. See [gov.ie/travel](https://gov.ie/travel) for more details.

From 1 February, for travel purposes, a DCC based on primary vaccination only will expire after 270 days (9 months). An updated DCC can be obtained for those who have received a booster dose. Updated DCCs are currently being issued.

**Isolation & Testing Guidelines:** All measures around the management of symptomatic cases and close contact remain in places and we ask you to observe the following when attending the conference.

- If you have any symptoms – stay at home or in your accommodation and get a test. Antigen tests are recommended for those aged 13 - 39 and everyone else should [book a PCR test](#).
- If you are a close contact follow the guidance on the [HSE website](#).
- According to the HSE, the best way to keep yourself safe is to ensure you are fully vaccinated and have your booster, this will reduce the requirement to isolate if you are a close contact.

We will send you a questionnaire where we ask you for a phone number which can be used for contact tracing and to answer the following health questions;

Do you have any symptoms of COVID-19?

Are you a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?

Have you been advised to isolate or restrict your movements at this time for public health reasons?

If you answer yes to any of these health questions you should not attend the conference and can request a refund of your eventbrite ticket for the portion of the conference you miss, on presentation of a public health notification confirming your situation.

## BE PART OF OUR NEXT EVENT



### ELT Ireland Education & Development Events

## ELT ed Dublin- Call for Speakers

The next ELT ed - English language teacher education and development talks - will be held on the **26th March** and ELT Ireland are putting out a call for anyone interested in speaking to contact us on [info.eltireland@gmail.com](mailto:info.eltireland@gmail.com) .

**ELT Ireland** is an association for Irish-based English language teaching professionals, which was founded to promote learning, development and best practice through shared knowledge and experiences.

Language teachers, managers and administrators work on a daily basis to help their students wrestle with the challenges of learning a new language. They are constantly developing activities, techniques and approaches to help their students overcome the difficulties they encounter. These practical solutions often go unrecognised and ELT ed aims to provide a forum where best practices can be shared.

The event presents a series of twelve-minute talks on a range of ELT-related topics and provides a forum for the recognition of creativity, enables unexpected connections to be made, lays the ground for productive collaborations and inspires others to try things out and get creative themselves.

The sort of topics that might be covered at ELT ed include:

- A classroom management technique that keeps young learners on task;
- A method of helping students with their pronunciation problems;
- A way of motivating and monitoring self-study;
- Or any practical solutions to the many challenges of teaching a language.

& academic management topics such as:

- Running an educational technology project;
- Interesting recruitment and interviewing techniques;
- Techniques for motivating staff;
- Or any other practical solutions to the many challenges of ELT management.



Anyone who is interested in speaking at ELT ed should contact [info.eltireland@gmail.com](mailto:info.eltireland@gmail.com)  
Send us an email indicating your interest before **12th March** and we will send you further information.