

Barcelona

Annual Convention

2015

English Skills at Work

MLA Convention
15 November 2015
Catalunya Hall
Hotel Princesa Sofia

Programme

17.00

Welcome

Prof.ssa Anna Santorsola
Teacher Trainer

17.15 / 18.00

Teaching Reading

Dr. Peter Watkins

18.00 / 18.45

Performance Skills in the Language Classroom

Dr. Mark Almond

Abstracts

Peter Watkins is an ELT teacher, teacher-educator and materials writer. He currently runs an MA in Applied Linguistics and TESOL programme at the University of Portsmouth, UK. His publications include *Learning to Teach English* (Delta Publishing, second edition 2014, first edition 2005), *Cambridge English Teacher: Vocabulary and Pronunciation* (Cambridge University Press, 2012), *The CELTA Course Trainee Book* and *The CELTA Course Trainer's Manual* (both co-authored with Scott Thornbury, Cambridge University Press, 2007). His research interests include ELT methodology, how teachers learn, and materials design.

Workshop: Teaching Reading

Reading and writing are fantastic human achievements, allowing us to communicate across space and time. Reading allows us to access new information and pursue independent learning and so is a vital skill for our learners to master. This talk focuses on how we can teach reading effectively. It argues that too often in ELT reading is not actually taught at all, but instead relies on the testing of learners' comprehension. This will be a very practical talk with lots of reading activities that participants can take away and use in their own classrooms.

Mark Almond is a Senior Lecturer in the School of Language Studies and Applied Linguistics at Christ Church University, Canterbury, UK where he directs their CELTA courses and teaches on various under-graduate and post-graduate Diploma and MA TESOL programmes. He is frequently asked to design and deliver practical training workshops with teachers and trainers around the world. He also runs a week-long course on Drama in ELT and Group Dynamics for Pilgrims, Canterbury. His main areas of interest are in teacher identity, the use of drama in the language classroom and performance skills for effective and affective teaching. His book, 'Teaching English with Drama', was published in 2005 by Keyways Publishing.

Workshop: Performance Skills in the Language Classroom

Actors have to make every performance as fresh, enthusiastic and energetic as the first time they play a particular character; actors also have to maximise the use of space and movement on stage to establish relationships with other characters and to manage audience attention; actors have to use their voices and bodies creatively to convey meaning and maintain audience attention and they use both pathos and humour to provoke a human reaction. In this talk, I will explore the common ground shared by actors and teachers and it will be suggested that a teacher's use of certain acting techniques can: reduce anxiety and tension in the classroom; help cope with the frequent need to improvise and be spontaneous; help convey enthusiasm and energy; maintain discipline; make lessons enjoyable and memorable; develop productive rapport with and be viewed positively by learners and enhance classroom dynamics ... while still keeping it natural! We will look at the practical application of some of these principles that you can try out in your own classes.