

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### **STEVEN MURRAY**

Senior Training Consultant of English for Education Systems, British Council Taiwan



**Steven Murray** has more than 25 years' experience in the field of education working as a project manager, researcher, author, teacher trainer and teacher. My love for education stems from the fact that I have seen time and time again how effective teachers can really open up a whole new world of possibilities for their students... In the 21<sup>st</sup> century more than ever before, I believe it is important for training and teaching activities to be interactive, authentic and motivating. I also believe that it's important for trainers and teachers to enhance their students' abilities to think critically and deeply as well as to learn how to solve problems for themselves. The information is out there... There are numerous policies, approaches, strategies and perspectives that successful policy makers, trainers and teachers have applied that have made a really positive difference for their students. Let us share, discuss and critique these ideas with a view to ensuring that we are giving our students the best possible learning experiences that they can have.

### **DR ANTONELLA SORACE**

Professor of Developmental Linguistics, University of Edinburgh



**Antonella Sorace** is a world leading authority and has published widely in the field of bilingual language development, where she brings together methods from linguistics, experimental psychology, and cognitive science. She is also committed to disseminating the findings of research on bilingualism in different sectors of society. She is the founding director of the information and public engagement centre *Bilingualism Matters*, which currently has 30 branches in three continents.

**DR Martin Lamb**

**Director of International Education and Senior Lecturer in TESOL at the School of Education, University of Leeds**



**Martin Lamb** is Director of International Education and Senior Lecturer in TESOL at the School of Education, University of Leeds, UK. He previously worked as a teacher and trainer in Sweden, Bulgaria and for 9 years in various parts of Indonesia. His main research interests are in learner and teacher motivation and how this interacts with classroom methodology and other contextual factors. He was recently chief editor of *The Palgrave Handbook of Motivation for Language Learning* (2020) and has also published articles in international journals such as *Language Teaching*, *TESOL Quarterly*, *Language Learning*, *System* and *ELT Journal*.

**DR. BENJAMIN BEAUMONT**

**Head of Teacher Education, Trinity College London**



**Ben Beaumont** is Head of Teacher Education at Trinity College London and has an interest in developing pre and in-service support for teachers to help promote effective learning and teaching. Having moved between ELT and state sector teacher education roles, Ben has developed an interest in sharing best practice between sectors to help teachers maximise opportunities for learning. As well as facilitating Trinity's cross curricular teacher education work, Ben's research interests include teacher professional development and developing support for those working in English Medium of Instruction contexts.

**ROBIN SKIPSEY**  
**Academic Manager, British Council Japan**



**Robin Skipsey** comes from Gillingham, in the south east of England. He studied French Language and European History at the University of East Anglia and lived and worked in the UK and France before moving to Japan in 2005, where he has been based ever since. He holds Cambridge CELTA and Cambridge DELTA teaching qualifications.

At the British Council, Robin has taught young learner and adult courses, including IELTS and Cambridge exam preparation classes, as well as teaching large classes at public Elementary and Junior High schools on a long-running team-teaching programme in Tokyo. He started his current role as Academic Manager in April 2013, and from April 2014 to March 2019 oversaw the design, development and delivery of the *Leaders of English Education Project (LEEP)*, a 5-year national teacher training initiative commissioned by the Japanese Ministry of Education which trained over 80,000 Elementary, Junior and Senior High School teachers across the country.

Currently Robin and his team are working on a collaboration with a major domestic publishing company to produce new ministry-approved English textbooks for upper secondary students.

**Eric Baber**  
**Director of Professional Learning and Development, Cambridge University Press and Assessment**



**Eric Baber** is Director of Professional Learning and Development for Cambridge University Press and Assessment. He oversees the products and services aimed at teachers, institutions and larger educational systems. These include an award-winning range of methodology titles; over seventy online teacher development courses; and online and face-to-face training delivered to individual teachers, institutions and school systems by a network of trainers in key markets.

Eric's experience includes delivering training around the world in the use of ICT for teaching and learning, being a tutor for the UK Open University, and setting up an online-only language school. He is Past President of IATEFL, the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language.

**SESHNI JACOBS**

**Director of Professional & Development, Pearson**



**Seshni Jacobs** is the Director of Global Professional Learning and Development for Pearson English & Global Schools. As part of this role Seshni is also the Director of Pearson's Teacher Education & Learning Academy- the umbrella body of all Pearson professional learning and development across the globe. In this position, Seshni works across 52 Pearson geographies across the globe to develop certified online learning programmes to foster teacher professional development. Seshni's career in Education, which began as a K-12 teacher, spans over 23 years. Seshni is described as a pragmatic individual who is passionate about education. She joined Pearson in 2011 and sees her role as providing her with the perfect opportunity to combine her educational expertise with an understanding of the teaching fraternity to empower and support teachers to make a positive impact on the lives of their learners. Seshni lives up to Pearson's motto of 'Always learning' and her academic career has spanned both undergraduate and honours degrees in Education as well as post graduate Executive Education diplomas in Leadership, Business Administration and most recently Product Management through University of California, Berkeley – Haas School of Business.

**THOM KIDDLE**

**Director, Norwich Institute for Language Education (NILE)**



**Thom Kiddle** is Director of Norwich Institute for Language Education. He has worked at NILE since 2011, after moving back to the UK from Chile where he was head of academic research and educational technology at the Chilean-British University. He has previously worked in Portugal, the UK, Australia and Thailand in language teaching, teacher training and language assessment.

He has a Master's degree in Language Testing from Lancaster University and the Cambridge Delta, and his role at NILE involves strategic and organisational management, and training and consultancy in a range of areas including testing and assessment, learning technologies, materials development and language teaching methodology.

Thom is also Chair of the Equals Board of Trustees; treasurer and a founding director of AQUEDUTO – the Association for Quality Education and Training Online; and webmaster for the Testing, Evaluation and Assessment Special Interest Group of IATEFL.

He has published in Applied Linguistics, Language Assessment Quarterly, System, and in 2019, two chapters in Routledge Handbooks of Language Teacher Education. Thom was also a plenary speaker at IATEFL 2021.