



Spring 2022 Conference:
Taking Action in ELT:
Pedagogy for Social Justice & Inclusion

May 14, 2022

Acadia University, Wolfville, NS

Wi-Fi: Acadia Guest / Username: info@teslins.com / Password: 30qgTebN

Schedule at a Glance:

8:30-9:10	Registration Networking, Coffee & Muffins	Patterson Hall 1 st floor foyer & Common Room
9:10-9:20	Welcome and Announcements	Patterson Hall 1 st floor Common Room
9:30-10:15	Concurrent Session 1	Patterson Hall rooms 107, 206, 207, 213, 308
10:30-11:20	Keynote Speaker: Elisabeth Chan, TESOL International Association "Social Justice, Inclusion, and Radical Self Care: Reflections for English Language Educators"	Patterson Hall rooms 107, 206, 308 <i>This is a live virtual session broadcast for in-person attendees in multiple rooms.</i>
11:20-11:50	Post-Keynote Peer-Led Breakout Discussions	Patterson Hall rooms 107, 206, 308
12:00-1:00	Catered Box Lunch <i>Please bring the meal ticket you received at registration.</i>	K.C. Irving Centre Garden Room
1:15-2:00	Concurrent Session 2	Patterson Hall rooms 107, 206, 207, 213, 308
2:00-2:30	Energy Break: Coffee, tea, and sweets	Patterson Hall 1 st floor Common Room
2:30-3:15	Concurrent Session 3	Patterson Hall rooms 107, 206, 207, 213, 308
3:30-4:00	Facilitated Discussions	Patterson Hall rooms 107, 206, 207, 213, 308
4:10	Closing Remarks and Farewells	Patterson Hall 1 st floor Common Room

TESL Nova Scotia

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General Conference Information

Welcome! We are happy to be able to have our members come together in person again at Acadia -- for the first time since 2019. We hope you find the schedule has enough breaks to support impromptu hallway chats and coffee conversations; we know we've been missing these elements and suspect you have too.

Our conference theme is "Taking Action in ELT: Pedagogy for Social Justice & Inclusion." Our goal for this conference is to provide a space to share ideas, strategies, materials, and research related to social justice and equity, diversity, inclusion & belonging (EDIB). This work takes reflection, so we have built in opportunities to discuss ideas shared at the conference with other ELT professionals in small groups at various points throughout the day.

Below, you will find some additional general information. Additionally, there are details on each session throughout the program.

Parking. Acadia University now requires a parking pass 24/7. However, we have made arrangements for conference attendees to park in the Athletics lot without a permit, free of charge, without penalty. If you park elsewhere, you are responsible for any parking fees. If you need to park closer to the building, you may find metered parking nearby. Metered spots require payment and meters utilize the hotspot parking app. Details are posted on the meter. A campus map can be found at <https://www2.acadiau.ca/files/files/Files%20~%20Security/CampusMap.pdf>

Session Types. Some sessions feature an in-person presenter, while others will be delivered by a virtual presenter via Zoom. You will see the session type in the session description. For the virtual sessions, there will be an in-person moderator projecting and handling the Zoom call for the room. In-person sessions are not being streamed to virtual attendees.

Masks. We are asking all attendees to wear masks. Presenters are welcome to remove their mask while presenting at the front of the room.

Physical Distancing. As is practical, we encourage attendees to consider physical distancing. After the events of the past two years, we may be at different comfort levels in a group. We ask everyone to consider and respect this.

We also are asking attendees to keep session rooms at approximately 2/3 capacity. If a room is already at this capacity, please attend consider attending another session. The reduced capacity of each room is as follows:

- Room 107 – 46 attendees
- Room 206 - 40 attendees
- Room 207 – 24 attendees
- Room 213 – 30 attendees
- Room 308 – 39 attendees

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Other Considerations. As you'll notice, this conference is a little different. We are trying some new things, had COVID-related constraints to consider when planning, and had to re-learn a number of things after two years without a conference. We appreciate your understanding about any changes, as well as your grace about things that don't go as planned. Attendees will be sent an electronic conference evaluation following the conference, and we appreciate your feedback!

Note that because we couldn't guarantee an in-person event, we don't have publishers showcasing materials at this conference. We do hope to bring this back for the Fall Conference.

Speaking of the Fall Conference, we would like to have our Fall Conference in November in Halifax. We are looking for a host institution before we set the date. We invite HRM institutions to consider hosting and to be part of the local planning committee!

Get Involved. The TESL NS board invites members to express interest in joining the board – we have vacancies! We also invite members to reach out for other volunteer opportunities and encourage those in HRM to consider helping plan the Fall Conference. The heart of TESL NS is our members, and we need your engagement.

TESL Nova Scotia Affiliations. We are proud affiliates of TESL Canada and TESOL International. For more information, see <https://www.tesl.ca/> & <https://www.tesol.org/>.



TESL Canada Anti-Racism Statement. TESL Canada is comprised of, and supports the active expression of, different voices, identities, cultures and worldviews. This is part of our identity as an organization. The TESL Canada National Board knows that Black Lives Matter and Indigenous Lives Matter. We stand against racism, discrimination and injustice in all their forms, and commit to reviewing our policies and practices with an anti-racist lens and to promoting anti-racist pedagogies. We ask that our members continue to hold us accountable in this commitment.

We are all treaty people. It is important that we acknowledge that Acadia University & TESL Nova Scotia are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq who have been living on these lands since time immemorial. We acknowledge the treaties of peace and friendship, and we thank the Mi'kmaq people for their generosity in sharing their homeland with us. We recognize this is a small, but meaningful step in reconciliation.

Concurrent Sessions 1 9:30-10:15am Patterson Hall (1st, 2nd, & 3rd floors) Session Descriptions:	
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Resources on Tutela Diane Ramanathan, Tutela Room 207	Virtual Session. Are you looking to include more content on diversity, equity, and inclusion in your classes? Not sure how to access these resources on Tutela? Join us for a Tutela orientation on what resources are available and how to access them.
Teaching Prepositions in a Modern Grammatical Context Brett Reynolds, Humber College Room 213	Virtual Session. The 2nd ed. of A Student’s Introduction to English Grammar presents a comprehensive overview of English grammar in a rigorously consistent yet informal way, correcting and simplifying many mistaken ideas that still plague our grammar books and lessons. Today, I’ll show you a much simpler way to think about prepositions.
Adapting to the 'New Normal': Considerations for EAP Teachers in a Post-COVID-19 Environment Daniel Shaw, Dalhousie University Room 107	In-Person Session. Many EAP educators struggled to adapt to online delivery and learners struggled to keep up with sudden changes in assessment and curriculum. This session includes steps EAP instructors can follow to better support learners, expanding discussion and suggestions for delivery, and improving outcomes for students in a post-COVID-19 EAP context.
Implementing Online Classes for EAL Learners in Rural Communities in Nova Scotia: Challenges and Triumphs Lisa Hammett Vaughan & Elyana Matos, VCLA Room 206	In-Person Session. In March 2020, VCLA switched classes to virtual learning. This session will outline the challenges and successes we faced serving learners with low digital literacy in rural communities, and the benefits gained by learners and instructors. Participants will reflect on, then share their own experiences teaching during the pandemic.
An EAL Perspective on Job Readiness Bana Al-Shaghay & James Robertson, NSCC Room 308	In-Person Session. This presentation will illustrate NSCC’s Job Readiness Series. Through an EAL lens, this series identifies common language challenges and cultural variances in the workplace as well as necessary soft skills for successfully obtaining employment in Canada. Attendees will walk away with materials aligned with PBLA competency areas and sample tasks, suitable for use in Stage II assessments.

Keynote & Post-Keynote Discussion 10:30-11:50am Patterson Hall (1st, 2nd, & 3rd Floors)

Social Justice, Inclusion, and Radical Self Care: Reflections for English Language Educators

Elisabeth Chan, Associate Professor,
Northern Virginia Community College, &
TESOL International Association Board Member

Rooms: 107, 206, & 308

Note: The keynote will be broadcast in multiple rooms simultaneously.

Virtual Presentation. Issues of social justice are not a concern for English language educators, but within the context of recent global events, our students' and colleagues' lives are being tried through war, COVID-19, heightened awareness and bold acts of racial injustice, hastening climate change, and other concerns globally and locally. Sometimes it is hard to know where to begin. Let us reflect together on what social justice and inclusion mean for our contexts, what is within our spheres of influence, and how to care for our communities and ourselves as we engage critically with these issues.

Elisabeth Chan has over 15 years of experience as an English language educator, working with adult English learners in post-secondary institutes. She has presented, researched, and published on social justice work in TESOL, where she draws upon her lived experiences as a second/fourth-generation Chinese American from the U.S. south. In the past two years, she has also presented frequently on understanding the roots of anti-Asian violence and how to challenge it.

A special thanks to TESOL International Association for supporting our conference by providing the keynote speaker.



Post-Keynote Peer Facilitated Discussion

Rooms: 107, 206, & 308

Note: This discussion will take place in multiple rooms simultaneously.

Immediately following the keynote presentation by Elisabeth Chan, we invite attendees to breakout into groups of 3-5 people to discuss you reaction to and thoughts on the talk.

You might consider the following questions as a jumping off point: What do you consider to be your sphere of influence? Do you sometimes find yourself overwhelmed by the social justice issues at hand in these times? How does that impact you? What self-care strategies do you already employ? What part of the talk resonated with you the most? What ideas from Chan's talk do you think you may be able to implement in your life and work?

Lunch 12:00-1:00 K.C. Irving Centre Garden

Location:
K.C. Irving Centre,
Garden Room

We are offering a catered box lunch this year. This allows those who wish to mingle and eat together to do so, while still giving others the flexibility to find a less crowded space to eat if they prefer. We've chosen a Local Box Lunch that features food items sourced from the Annapolis Valley including a [Flowercart](#) kaiser, a [Stirling Farm](#) apple, [local Lay's](#) chips, & a [Made with Local](#) bar. (Learn more about the organizations behind these items by clicking the embedded links.) **Bring the ticket that lists the meal you selected to the KC Irving Centre Garden Room to pick up your boxed lunch.** Then, you can choose to stay in the Garden Room or find another spot to enjoy your lunch. In addition to outdoor spaces (weather permitting), the Patterson Building will remain open and session rooms or the lobby can be used as alternate dining spaces. *NOTE: If you did not request a lunch, a lunch was not ordered for you. There are many places to eat in downtown Wolfville, but reservations are strongly recommended for sit-down restaurants. Additionally, at the Wolfville Farmer's Market, some vendors offer take away lunch items.*

Concurrent Sessions 2 1:15-2:00 pm Patterson Hall (1st, 2nd, & 3rd floors)	
Session Descriptions:	
Using Interactive Digital Activities with LINC Learners Jeremy Wilson & Donna Clarke, TIES Room 207	Virtual Session. Would you like to learn more about utilizing engaging, interactive, digital activities and materials in your classroom? This presentation will look at the benefits of using these activities in online, hybrid and in-person LINC classes, while also considering principles of effective design and potential tools for creating your own. Presenters are from The Literacy Centre of Expertise at The Immigrant Education Society (TIES).
Approaches to Accessibility in Language Education: Featuring Highlights from TESOL International 2022 Sharon Churchill Roe, Acadia University Room 213	Pre-Recorded Virtual Session. In this presentation, we will look at various barriers to accessibility, and approaches that are being taken by the province of Nova Scotia to eliminate these barriers. I will focus on accessibility standards that are being proposed for language schools, and drawing from highlights from the TESOL International Convention, I will suggest ways that these standards may be achieved.
The Ratio Rule: A Syntacto-Semantic Explanation for Common Sentence Structures Kris Mitchell, Dalhousie University Room 107	In-Person Session. This presentation will explore syntacto-semantics as it relates to raising a student's awareness of the grammatical features in language that encapsulate meaning. In addition, we will discuss The Ratio Rule and work through some example activities that highlight its usefulness for students with a focus on reading and writing.
Career Advancement Tips for Shy & Introverted TESL Professionals Heather Donnelly, Fanshawe College Room 206	In-Person Session. This session has two objectives. Firstly, I will explain the differences between shyness and introversion. Secondly, I will provide strategies to help shy and introverted TESL professionals navigate tasks that likely cause trepidation: interviewing, networking, gaining visibility, and finding mentors/sponsors.
Perspectives on Diversifying "Canadian" Culture & Identity Content in ELT Krista Royal & Eun Suk Han, Acadia University Room 308	In-Person Session. In this session, an English language teacher and an English language learner share their respective experiences with teaching and learning about the many diverse dimensions of "Canadian" culture. Their course aimed to move beyond the expected content on politeness and hockey, and covered topics from Mi'kmaq traditions to gender identity.

Concurrent Sessions 3 2:30-3:15 pm Patterson Hall (1st, 2nd, & 3rd floors)	
Session Descriptions:	
Module Planning: Planning with the End in Mind * Rana Ashkar, Kathy Hughes, and Lisa Herrera, CCLB Room 207	Virtual Presentation & Workshop/Discussion. This Professional Learning Session focuses on how to plan a module using a backward planning approach. The intent of this session is to use real-world task goals as the organizing principles of a module, use needs assessments for longer term planning, and use the elements of the module for creating classroom activities *Note: This is an extended session that include both this 45-minute presentation block and a subsequent 30-minute workshop/discussion block.
Soar with Our Strengths Susan Ziemba, ABCs of the Mind Room 213	Virtual Session. Help students marginalized by race, gender or cultural demographics to soar with their strengths using a “toolbox” of positive strategies that lead to personal, workplace, and community success. Enjoy Susan's fast-paced explanations, then request free handouts including strategy descriptions, self-assessments, activity templates, and more by emailing Susan at abcsofthemind1@gmail.com Note: Samples and hard-copies of handouts are available in the session room for in-person attendees.
Anti-Racism Work in the ESL Classroom Lauren McKenzie, St. Mary's University Room 107	In-Person Session. This presentation will provide an overview of research and emerging teaching practices that explore decolonization of materials and classroom dynamics. Decolonization identifies the existence of power imbalances; the process of questioning and dismantling existing institutional and interpersonal power dynamics; and recognizing the political and historical forces that sustain these imbalances.
Jamboard & Canva as Digital Whiteboards in Class Thura Aljubury, Sheridan College & PDSB Room 206	In-Person Session. Are you struggling with finding new digital tools to use in your virtual classroom? Would you like to use user-friendly, free, and engaging tools and whiteboards? Join us and get to know Jamboard & Canva and see their various uses in the classroom.
Squirrel! Strategies for Dealing with Distractible Clients* Jessica Leslie, ISANS Room 308	In-Person Presentation & Discussion Session. Do you have a student who is constantly late? Binder a disaster? Asks what to do when you just finished explaining? Gets distracted by the...squirrel!!!! Did you know there might be a cause? This session will explore the why and the how of supporting students with ADHD, daydreamers, and tornadoes that blow through your class. *Note: This is an extended session that include both this 45-minute presentation block and the subsequent 30-minute discussion block.

Facilitated Discussions 3:30-4:00 pm Patterson Hall (1st, 2nd, & 3rd floors) Session Descriptions:	
Workshop & Discussion for Module Planning: Planning with the End in Mind * Room 207	<p>*Note: This is an extended virtual session that includes both this 30-minute discussion block and the preceding presentation block. Attendees should have attended the presentation to join this workshop.</p> <p>See the previous page for the presentation description.</p>
TESOL International Association - Member Benefits and Q&A Krista Royal Room 213	<p>In-Person Discussion.</p> <p>Come to this informal session to hear about the benefits of a TESOL International Association Membership, learn about the 2023 Call for Proposals, and several free resources available to non-members. We will also discuss how to navigate the various TESOL websites and the role of each.</p>
Putting Social Justice Ideas into Action: Post-Conference Reflection Marianne Stante & Sandra Powell Rooms 107 (EAL) & 206 (EAP)	<p>In-Person Discussion.</p> <p>This facilitated discussion is an opportunity to discuss, with other attendees, how we all can “put ideas into action.” Be prepared to look back on the sessions throughout the day and to think about what ideas were sparked, what you still want to learn about, and what you plan to do next. Discussion questions will be provided by the facilitators.</p> <p>While we know it doesn’t cover everyone, we are suggesting that those who generally work in more community-based/EAL contexts attend in room 107 with Marianne, and that those who tend to work in more international student/EAP contexts attend in room 206 with Sandra.</p>
Discussion for Squirrel! Strategies for Dealing with Distractible Clients* Room 308	<p>*Note: This is an extended in-person session that includes both this 30-minute discussion block and the preceding presentation block. Attendees should have attended the presentation to join this discussion.</p> <p>See the previous page for the presentation description.</p>

Presenter Contact Information (In order of program)

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Thank you!

The logistics of this conference were made possible by the staff at Acadia, especially Sharon Churchill Roe.

The TESL NS Board, especially the conference committee, was instrumental in pulling the pieces together and inspiring it to be better. Special thanks to Lauren McKenzie, Mayur Agravat, Sandra Powell, Marianne Stante, Krista Royal, and Benjamin MacLeod for the support.

We also need to thank our virtual moderators: David Caldwell, Cong Chen, and Najla Bahri, without whom the virtual aspect of the conference simply could not have happened.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped out today on site: Richard Herbert, Susanne Campbell, Akane Tamoto, Kanta Mihari, Ayano Yamaji, Natsuki Yamamoto, & Daniel Saunite Filho.
Your help is very much appreciated!

Of course, we couldn't have a conference without our presenters! Thank you to all our presenters for your time and energy and dedication to the professional development of the field.

Thanks to Acadia Catering and Event Services for being so accommodating and helpful.

Thanks to TESOL International and TESL Canada for the support and promotion of our event.

Lastly, thank you to all of our attendees! We appreciate your participation and engagement today. We couldn't have done it without you here!

Stay Tuned!

Watch your email inbox for the conference evaluation. We look forward to hearing your feedback.

We will also be posting presenter materials on the website in the coming days.

Keep an eye out for our forthcoming Spring Newsletter as well.

Please subscribe to TESL NS communications, join our facebook group, and watch our website.

We are working on some exciting things and want you to be the first to hear about it!

<https://teslns.com/>

