

The 2020 International Symposium on Quality Assurance of English Medium Higher Education

Speaker Profiles

October 2020

Symposium Chairperson and Moderator

Danny Whitehead



Mr. Danny Whitehead is the Deputy Country Director of the British Council in China. He has worked for over 20 years in Asia and Africa, the last six years of which he has spent as the British Council's Country Director in Iran and Vietnam. Danny's academic research interests and publications are in the fields of language and development and sociolinguistics. He is also a theatre professional and playwright.

Symposium Speakers

Alison Barrett



Ms. Alison Barrett MBE is the British Council Regional Director of Education and Society, is strategic and business lead for the Education, English and Society contracts, partnerships and programmes portfolio. Based in Bangkok, Alison leads a team of close to 200 professionals across 14 countries in East Asia. Our aim is to build strong relationships between the UK and other countries through raising the quality of education globally, providing access to more international opportunities and contributing to more secure, inclusive and prosperous societies. In her previous role as Global Head of English for Education Systems, she led a portfolio aimed at improving the quality of English language policy and practice across more than 30 countries. Alison previously spent over two decades working as an English teacher, teacher educator, academic manager and programme manager in London, Japan, South Korea, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. She has an MA in Teaching English as a Second Language from the Institute of Education, University of London, and specialises in teacher education and development, CPD and the role of English and languages as a medium of instruction.

Ernesto Macaro



Dr. Ernesto Macaro is the Emeritus Professor of Applied Linguistics and a Senior Research Fellow at Worcester College, University of Oxford. He was also the Director of the Department of Education from 2013 to 2016. Ernesto's current research focuses on second language learning strategies and on the interaction between teachers and learners in second language classrooms and in those where English is the medium of instruction. He has published widely in these areas.

Samantha M. Curle



Dr. Samantha Curle is an Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics in the Department of Education at The University of Bath. Her EMI-related research has recently appeared in journals such as *System*, *Language Teaching*, *Studies in Higher Education*, and the *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*.

Yang Weiren



Mr. Yang Weiren is the Vice Counsel of Education & Public Health Committee, Shanghai, the Executive Council Member of Shanghai Overseas Returned Scholars Association, and Head of Australia and New Zealand Branch Association. He used to be the Director of International Cooperation and Exchange Division in Shanghai Municipal Education Commission and serve as the Vice-consul and Consul of Education Sector in Chinese Consulate-General in Sydney from 2002 to 2006.

Zhao Wenshu



Dr. Zhao Wenshu, Professor and Dean of the Institute for International Students, Nanjing University. His main research areas include American literature, English poetry and language education. He is the author of two monographs, over 30 papers and a dozen textbooks of English language and literature. He is also the translator of a dozen books.

Slobodanka Dimova



Dr. Slobodanka Dimova is an associate professor at the University of Copenhagen, where she manages the Test of Oral English Proficiency for Academic Staff (TOEPAS). Her research interests include language testing, EMI, and L2 speaking. Her work appears in *Language Testing*, *TESOL Quarterly*, *English for Specific Purposes*, and *English for Academic Purposes*. She co-edited the volumes *English-Medium Instruction in European Higher Education* (2015) and *Integrating Content and Language in Multilingual Higher Education* (2020), and co-authored the monograph *Local Language Testing* (2020). She serves as a book review editor for *Language Testing* and editorial board member of *Journal of English-medium Instruction*.

Fabrizio Trifiro



Dr. Fabrizio Trifiro heads UK NARIC's quality benchmark services aimed at supporting the recognition of international qualifications. He oversees four key services, TNE Quality Benchmark, TVET-Quality Review and Accreditation, Qualifications Benchmarking, and the EMI Quality scheme.

Prior to joining UK NARIC Fabrizio was with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education for over 10 years, where he led on Transnational Education, the International student experience, and international strategic engagement.

Fabrizio holds a PhD in Political Theory (University of London), an MA in Human Rights (University of Bologna), an MSc in Social Research Methods (University of Sussex), and a post-doctoral fellowship at Trinity College Dublin.

Mark Henebury



Mr. Mark Henebury joined DIT in September 2018 as the English Language Training Specialist, representing and promoting the UK ELT sector and supporting UK ELT providers of all types to export their expertise around the world.

He was previously Head of International at Loughborough College where he worked on in-country projects in India, Qatar, China and Vietnam, including English teacher training, curriculum development and quality assurance.

Prior to this he was the ELT Curriculum Manager at Nottingham College, managing international projects in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and China.

He holds an MSc in Educational Management in TESOL as well as a CELTA, DELTA and DTLLS.

John Knagg



Mr. John Knagg helps educational authorities, universities and schools develop and implement their language policies, especially English Language Teaching and English Medium Education. He was global Head of Research and Consultancy and Head of English for Educational Systems for the British Council. He was also Chair of Accreditation UK, the United Kingdom's quality assurance and inspection system for the teaching of English, with over 400 accredited universities and institutions, a member of the editorial panel and advisory board of the ELT Journal of Oxford University Press, and a Trustee of The International Research Foundation (TIRF). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, and a graduate of Oxford and Edinburgh Universities.