



Pilgrims

Pilgrims Teacher Training Online Conference

Saturday and Sunday 10th - 11th October 2026
2.00 pm – 5.30pm Central European Time each day

Humanistic Language Teaching Today: Teaching the Whole Person
Be inspired, be inspiring!

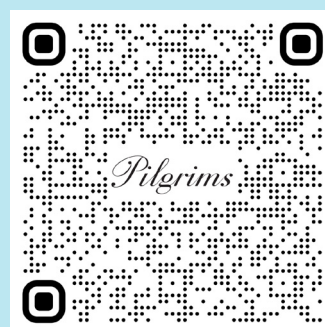


Great news for ELT professionals! This online conference is hosted by the Pilgrims magazines Humanising Language Teaching <https://www.hltmag.co.uk/> and the Teacher Trainer Journal <https://pilgrimsttj.com/>. This conference highlights and showcases some of the best of our Pilgrims approach to humanistic teaching and learning bringing like-minded people and the global Pilgrims community together.

There is a participant fee of 46 Euro for the two days with an early bird fee of 36 Euro if you register by 30th September. To secure your place please use this link to register and pay.

<https://www.pilgrims.co.uk/teacher-training-courses/online-conference>

Certificates of attendance will be issued for participation. Pilgrims Teacher Training is synonymous with humanistic language teaching and it has never wavered from its mission of helping language teachers throughout the world to inject enthusiasm into learning and enhance their satisfaction in teaching.



Our Plenary and Panel Discussion Speakers



Anna Hasper

Teaching with the Head and the Heart: Developing Social Emotional Learning



Elizabeth Bekes

Humanistic approaches in ELT writing and publishing



Alessia Cogo

Teaching with connection: Critical Language Pedagogy

Panel Discussion on Multilingual approaches in ELT



Penny Ur



Amol Padwad



Cina Mosito

Pilgrims Teacher Training is synonymous with Humanistic Language Teaching and it has never wavered from its mission of helping language teachers throughout the world to inject enthusiasm into the learning and satisfaction in teaching.

The full programme will be announced soon. More details on the Pilgrims website

<https://www.pilgrims.co.uk/teacher-training-courses>

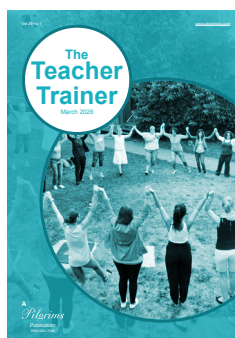
THE PILGRIMS WAY

Pilgrims produces two free to access magazines which are distributed to a global audience of teachers and teacher educators - they are also an opportunity for ELT and education professionals to have a voice and publish

The Teacher Trainer
<https://pilgrimsttj.com>

Humanising Language Teaching
<https://www.hltmag.co.uk>

Pilgrims
HUMANISING LANGUAGE TEACHING



by *Pilgrims*

February 2026 - Year 28 - Issue 1
ISSN 1755-9715

Day 1

10th October 2026

The Conference Programme

10 min	Opening 2.00 -2.10 pm CET	Delivered by Hania Kryszewska and Phil Dexter
30 min+15	Plenary - Talk 1 and Q&A 2.10-2.55 pm CET	Teaching with connection: Emotions, English as Lingua Franca (ELF), and Critical Language Pedagogy Alessia Cogo
5 min	Break 2.55-3.00 pm CET	
20 min+5	Session 1 and Q&A 3.00-3.25 pm CET	The compassionate classroom in action Anna Pires
5 min	Break 3.25-3.30 pm CET	
20 min+5	Session 2 and Q&A 3.30-3.55 pm CET	The impact of leadership in education Mercedes Pérez Berbain
5 min	Break 3.55-4.00 pm CET	
20 min+5	Session 3 and Q&A 4.00-4.25 pm CET	What you don't know: Four actionable tips Nick Michelioudakis
5 min	Break 4.25-4.30 pm CET	
30 min+15	Plenary - Talk 2 and Q&A 4.30-5.15 pm CET	Publish or perish? Ways to disseminate your work as an ELT professional Elisabeth Bekes
15 min	Closing 5.15-5.30 pm CET	Delivered by Hania Kryszewska and Phil Dexter, All

Day 2

11th October 2026

10 min	Opening 2.00 -2.10 pm CET	Delivered by Hania Kryszewska and Phil Dexter
30min+15	Plenary - Talk 1 and Q&A 2.10-2.55 pm CET	Teaching with the head and the heart: Developing Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in ELT. Anna Hasper
5 min	Break 2.55-3.00 pm CET	
20 min+5	Session 1 and Q&A 3.00-3.25 pm CET	Storytelling sets us all free: an example how you and your students can amplify the voices of young Gazans across the world David Heathfield
5 min	Break 3.25-3.30 pm CET	
20 min+5	Session 2 and Q&A 3.30-3.55 pm CET	Mentoring as a tool for humanising professional development: Lessons from the BC-PIAP Mentoring Programme in Chile Silvia Rettaroli and Silvia Luppi
5 min	Break 3.55-4.00 pm CET	
20 min+5	Session 3 and Q&A 4.00-4.25 pm CET	From classroom to leadership: Authentic communication as the missing skill Beroslav Božanović
5 min	Break 4.25-4.30 pm CET	
30 min+15	Plenary 2 – Panel Discussion and Q&A 4.30-5.15 pm CET	Panel discussion on multilingual approaches in ELT Penny Ur, Amol Padwad, Cina P Mosito
15 min	Closing 5.15-5.30 pm CET	Delivered by Hania Kryszewska and Phil Dexter, ALL



Hania Kryszewska

Hanna (Hania) Kryszewska is a freelance teacher, teacher trainer, trainer of trainers (mainly with Pilgrims and University of Oxford), and a presenter at conferences worldwide. She co-authored resource books, coursebooks, TT materials and online courses - Learner-based Teaching, OUP, Towards Teaching, Heinemann, The Standby Book, CUP, Language Activities for Teenagers, CUP, The Company Words Keep, DELTA. She has been editor of HLT online magazine for 20 years.



Phil Dexter

Phil Dexter is the Director of Studies for Pilgrims Teacher Training and is editor and manager of The Pilgrims Teacher Trainer. Phil has worked as a teacher trainer for Pilgrims since 1997 and is now a freelance educational consultant. Phil worked for the British Council for over 30 years in English and Education projects supporting teacher development and applying approaches to inclusive teaching and learning for teachers across the world.



Saturday Speaker

Teaching with connection: Emotions, English as Lingua Franca (ELF), and Critical Language Pedagogy

Alessia Cogo

Blurb

This talk explores how attending to emotions and relationships can enrich English teaching and support the whole person. Drawing on work with ELF and critical pedagogy, I show how small shifts in awareness can transform classroom connection. The talk offers practical ideas for nurturing more humane and responsive learning spaces.

Bio

Alessia Cogo works at King's College and University College London, and is Editor-in-chief of ELT Journal. She supervises MA and PhD students in the areas of Global Englishes, ELF, translanguaging and the implications for language teaching. Her current projects focus on English and multilingual practices in professional, academic and migration contexts, with particular emphasis on inclusive practices and linguistic justice. She is co-author of *English for a Critical Mind. Language pedagogy for social justice* DELTA Publishing.



The compassionate classroom in action

Anna Pires

Blurb

How can compassion be quietly woven into our EFL classrooms? Through a mindfulness lens, this session explores how small, intentional choices can nurture kindness, connection and shared responsibility. Working with a simple classroom framework, we will consider how learners can move beyond awareness towards meaningful participation.

Bio

Anna is a teacher trainer, coursebook writer and co-coordinator of the APPI Mindful EFL SIG. Her work focuses on mindful, humanistic and multimodal approaches to English language teaching. She is especially interested in classroom community, compassion, music, SEL and teacher/student well-being.

Saturday Speaker



Saturday Speaker

The impact of leadership in education

Mercedes Pérez Berbain

Blurb

How different would schools be if educators understood the impact of leadership in education? In this session we will discuss building leadership both as teachers and headteachers. We will also hear findings from colleagues who have moved away from the trendy demands of our times to focus entirely on leadership.

Bio

Mercedes Pérez Berbain is a teacher educator and mentor of leadership for educators. She holds an M.A. in Education with Distinction from Oxford Brookes University, UK. She is a senior faculty member at Pilgrims Teacher Training (UK) and ESSARP (Argentina), and a reviewer for several educational journals, such as LACLIL and AJAL.



What you don't know: Four actionable tips

Nick Michelioudakis

Blurb

What is wrong with ELT talks? First, very often we are familiar with the ideas already; second, more often than not, the 'take-aways' are too general (like 'Be close to your students'; 'Keep your eyes and ears open'). This talk is different: the ideas come from Applied Psychology (not ELT or the field of Education); and the four tips you will get are actionable. For instance: 'Use images/videos of cute animals in your lessons.' [Do please let me know if you have heard this before...]

Bio

Nick Michelioudakis (B. Econ., Dip. RSA, MSc [TEFL]) has been active in ELT for many years as a teacher, examiner, presenter and teacher trainer. He has worked for many publishers and examination boards, and he has given seminars and workshops in numerous countries. He has written extensively on methodology, though he is better known for his 'Psychology and ELT' articles which have appeared in numerous newsletters and magazines.

For articles, videoclips or worksheets of his, you can visit his YouTube channel or his blog.

Saturday Speaker



Saturday Speaker

Publish or perish? Ways to disseminate your work as an ELT professional

Elisabeth Bekes

Blurb

Publishing in ELT, be it a classroom tip you want to share with other teachers or an article you wish to submit to disseminate the findings of your research can be daunting. In her talk, Eli is going to take you through the steps starting with the initial bright idea to carrying out your research and then writing it up for publication. She will provide practical tips as well as information on how you can get mentoring support if you decide to take the plunge.

Bio

Elisabeth (Eli) Bekes is a teacher-research mentor who has a special interest in supporting language teachers in publishing their research projects. Over the past ten years, she has worked with many ELT journals and acted as a mentor-editor for teacher-researchers helping them make submissions to mainly open access journals. She is now Reviews Editor of ELT Classroom Research Journal and paves the way for her mentees to publish both book reviews and full-length articles



Teaching with the head and the heart: Developing Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in ELT.

Anna Hasper

Blurb

We do not just teach a language: we teach people with the aims of enhancing their communicative abilities. In this talk, we will explore the concept of SEL, what it entails and why growing students' SEL competences is crucial; even more so now in our global, ever-changing world. SEL can be implemented in the ELT classroom to not only develop students' language competences but also to enable learners to thrive beyond the classroom.

Bio

Anna Hasper is an experienced teacher, trainer and author. She has worked pre-service and in-service teachers in primary and secondary sector. Her main interest is the importance of humanising language learning and teaching. Her research interests are educational psychology with an emphasis on motivation and social-emotional wellbeing. She is the author of *Activities for Social-Emotional Learning and 50 activities to include learners affected by Trauma*, both by DELTA Publishing.

Sunday Speaker



Sunday Speaker

Storytelling sets us all free: an example how you and your students can amplify the voices of young Gazans across the world

David Heathfield

Blurb

Storytelling connects learners humanistically, creatively and across cultures. This session explores intercultural projects enabling young Gazans to share their stories globally, while students worldwide engage, respond, and grow. In this session you will discover practical approaches to amplify marginalised voices and foster empathy, agency and meaningful dialogue in your language teaching context.

Bio

David Heathfield is a world storyteller, teacher trainer, project leader and writer from Exeter, UK. He is the author of two books – *Storytelling with our Students* and *Spontaneous Speaking* (both DELTA Publishing) and numerous articles and book chapters. He offers storytelling courses and workshops for educators worldwide online, in person and even on homestay courses in his house in Exeter.



Mentoring as a tool for humanising professional development: Lessons from the BC–PIAP Mentoring Programme in Chile

Silvia Rettaroli and Silvia Luppi

Blurb

This session explores mentoring as a humanising form of teacher professional development. Drawing on our experience in the British Council–PIAP Mentoring Programme in Chile, it describes how sustained, non-evaluative mentoring conversations can foster trust, collaboration, reflection, teacher agency and professional growth, while also supporting mentors' own learning and identity development.

Bio

Silvia Rettaroli is a teacher of English, teacher educator, and curriculum and materials designer based in Argentina. She has worked for different ministries of education in curriculum design, large-scale examinations, and teacher training/education programmes (local, regional and international level). Her interests include bilingual education, professional development, language assessment, curriculum design, and AI in ELT.

Silvia Luppi is an Argentine English teacher and teacher educator. She has designed and implemented teacher education projects across Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. Her areas of interest are continuous professional development and language and programmes assessment.



Sunday Speaker

From classroom to leadership: Authentic communication as the missing skill

Beroslav Božanović

Blurb

Many language-school leaders come from the classroom: strong in teaching and communication mechanics, but rarely trained in leadership, finance, or organisational design. This session looks at how sustainable change starts with self-leadership and emotional communication. When leaders model authenticity, empathy, and clear boundaries, teams build trust—and trust becomes the engine of learning.

Bio

Berislav Božanović is the founder of Linguapax Language School (Croatia) and Chair of CALS – the Croatian Association of Language Schools. He is a Learn & Lead teacher trainer, delivering leadership and communication modules within the Learn & Lead network of educational organisations. His work focuses on culture-building, sustainable school development, and human-centred leadership in education.



Panel discussion on multilingual approaches in ELT

Penny Ur, Amol Padwad, Cina P Mosito

Blurb

Today it is no longer enough to learn English through English only approaches – if it ever was!. Multilingual approaches strengthen English learning. They can build confidence, deepen comprehension, and make connections between languages clearer. This is also an inclusive approach that values identity, personalises learning and meaning and is an issue of social justice. Please join us for this engaging and important panel discussion.

Bio

Penny Ur has thirty years' experience as an English teacher in elementary, middle and high schools. She has also taught BA and MA courses at Oranim Academic College of Education and Haifa University, Israel. She is primarily interested in practical aspects of effective English language teaching, and has presented on related topics at TESOL, IATEFL and other English teachers' conferences worldwide.

Amol Padwad was formerly the Director, Centre for English Language Education, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, India. He is currently the President, AINET Association of English Teachers and a trustee of the A. S. Hornby Educational Trust, UK.

Cina P Mosito is an Associate Professor of Inclusive Education at the Faculty of Education Nelson Mandela University, South Africa. Her research interests are teacher education, child development and inclusive education. She is currently a Principal Investigator in a national project that seeks to understand how teachers transact pedagogy in diverse classrooms. The project focus areas are Languages, Mathematics, Life-skills/Life Orientation, Early Childhood Development/Early Childhood Care and Education, and Teacher Education & Support.



Pilgrims

2026

<https://www.pilgrims.co.uk/teacher-training-courses>

<https://www.hltmag.co.uk/>

<https://pilgrimsttj.com>

for more information please email at
info@pilgrims.co.uk