

February e-Newsletter 2017

Dear «M_1st_NAME»



ETAS e-Newsletter

President's Note

The ETAS Annual Conference and AGM this year was my last event as National Coordinator as I will now be stepping into JoAnn Salvisberg's shoes as President - an impossible act to follow! ETAS owes JoAnn a huge debt of gratitude for her commitment in the past years. We wish her the best of luck and hope she will continue to add her valuable experience and skills to the ETAS team in her new position as Past President.



Organising a major event such as the Annual Conference and AGM is only possible with the help and support of the organising team, speakers and exhibitors. My heartfelt thanks to all involved. Planning for the PD Day in Biel/Bienne on 23rd September is well underway and details of both this and the Annual Conference and AGM 2018 will be announced shortly. We look forward to seeing you again very soon!

Sue Wood
ETAS President

ETAS Office and Library will be closed from 23rd February to 3rd March 2017.

Where Teachers meet:

ETAS 33rd Annual Conference and AGM in Zürich



The **Annual Conference on 21st and 22nd January** was once again a time for members, speakers and exhibitors to come together in Zürich. It was packed with ideas, moments of sharing and plenty of laughter. Our excellent, thought-provoking plenary speakers included Jeremy Harmer and Herbert Puchta, as well as first-time visitors, Sarah Mercer and Carole Robinson. In addition, the wide range of workshops provided entertainment, inspiration and chances to reflect. For the first time we were able to repeat some of the most popular sessions. From the pre-conference workshop with Jon Wright to the last plenary speaker, all those who attended the conference were able to fill their backpacks with more than just one practical 'warmer' idea for Monday morning. The richness of professional development opportunities was evident as well, enticing one to perhaps branch out and write some original material or imagine coaching a new teacher in Myanmar. So check out the [website](#) soon for [videos](#) of our plenary speakers, links to presentations and photos of the event.

The **33rd Annual General Meeting** was held during the Conference. A lively discussion took place concerning the Statute revision. All the documents relevant to the AGM can be found in [this folder](#). Remember to log-in to the ETAS website first!

ETAS is happy to welcome **new members on the Executive Committee**. Our new President is Sue Wood. Kelly Sovilla is now Vice President and Secretary. Antoinette Breutel-O'Donoghue is the new National Coordinator, Choreanne Frei holds the National Events Chair and Emilia Siravo the Public Relations Chair. To learn more about all current Committee Members please go to [this section](#) of the ETAS website.

We extend our gratitude to former President JoAnn Salvisberg, Anel Aubert, Annette Leimer and Neil Bullock, who have all dedicated their precious time and efforts to ETAS over the past years and have now left the Executive Committee.



As the conference slowly fades in memory and the uplifting spring breeze grows stronger, ETAS members may look forward to working with a new Executive Committee and building on the projects and goals that began in Zurich!

Teacher-to-Teacher Myanmar Project

A huge THANK YOU goes to all the supporters of the Myanmar project! We were able to raise CHF 2005.- at the ETAS Conference. That is equivalent to meals for 100 students for more than two months in Myanmar!

Click [here](#) to read more about the project.

Upcoming ETAS Events



Geneva, postponed to Thursday, 9th March “How did I do?”, Part 2 – Feedback on Writing

This is the second in a series of two workshops dealing with **feedback**. If you missed the first one, not to worry. Now's your chance to make amends!

This workshop looks at the following questions: What kind of feedback can we give students on their written work? What kind of feedback works best? How important is it to provide a formal assessment of our students' work? How can we do so efficiently? Do we really need to correct their mistakes? What would happen if we didn't?

This workshop will be given by Paul Henderson, an ELT author, freelance test development consultant and former Head of English at IFAGE. Paul worked as an item writer on Cambridge exams for 20 years.

No fee will be charged, but places are limited! For more information see [here](#).

St. Gallen, Saturday, 11th March Using Literature to teach English for all CEFR Levels

This seminar, which will be conducted by Graham Workman, will look at different ways of **exploiting poetry and short stories for teaching vocabulary, lexical phrases, and speaking and writing activities**. Numerous practical examples will be given, along with classroom materials teachers can use, and website tools and resources for application both inside and outside the classroom.

Graham is a teacher trainer for Primary, Secondary, Adult, Business and CLIL teachers of English. He runs teacher training courses in England, Switzerland, and other European countries. He has written 12 books of teaching materials.

For full details please have a look [here](#).

External Events

What's going on in Switzerland and Europe?

ASSET: Assessing English Texts Research Project by the School of Education Basel

We invite you to participate in an international study of assessing English learner essays! Assessing argumentative learner texts is one of the most important as well as difficult tasks for English teaching professionals at secondary level.

ASSET examines different **factors influencing teacher judgments** and measures “**teacher judgment accuracy**” vis-à-vis benchmark scores. Participants are asked to assess authentic learner texts on various dimensions and note down their observations.

The test takes about 2 hours and the ASSET team will fix dates with participants individually. They receive **regular updates on the study** as well as **CHF 100.- in cash**.

Are you interested? Have a look [here](#).

Cambridge English Professional Development Day in Weinfelden, 4th March 2017

Focus on Reading and Listening: You will be exploring how to develop your learners' reading skills from A2 to B2 and how you can support learners develop key listening skills so they can perform effectively in their exams. This workshop will be led by Dina Blanco-loannou, who is a professional English Language Teacher and Teacher Educator with over 20 years' experience. For full details please look [here](#).

Oxford Business English Conference in Lausanne, 18th March and in Zürich, 1st April 2017

A full-day (10:00-15:00) conference exclusively **for Business English teachers in Switzerland**. Sessions will be presented by Business Result author John Hughes (both in Lausanne and Zürich), international teacher trainer Robert McLarty (Lausanne only) and Managing Editor and former teacher and teacher trainer, Keith Layfield (Zürich only). For more information and to register, please see [here](#) (Lausanne) and [here](#) (Zürich).

13th Annual Cambridge English Spring Seminar in Horgen, 25th-26th March 2017

At this seminar, '**Getting the Message – developing and testing the receptive skills**', you will be looking closely at reading and listening with special attention to how good receptive skills can lead to good productive skills. This transfer of learning strategies from one skill to another will support the main theme of training teachers in how to develop and test the receptive skills. Complete details including information about the speakers and a link to the registration form can be found [here](#).

The Consultants-E: Teaching Live Online Classes – 13th-27nd April 2017 (online)

Develop your professionalism, increase your employability and update your teaching with this Teaching Live Online Classes course.

Growing numbers of students expect a choice in where and how they learn. This includes being able to learn fully online or in blended mode (part face-to-face and part online), whatever the subject matter. Today's teachers are increasingly expected to know **how to teach their students online effectively**. The course gives you the **skills and confidence to teach synchronously online** in a principled and effective manner, and the chance to **earn a certificate**. For full details see [here](#).

ELT Springboard in Bern

The next ELT Springboard meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, 23th February at 8 p.m.** and will once again take place at **The Fitting Room in Welle 7**. RSVP if you can.

For a link to the ELT Springboard website please look [here](#).

51st IATEFL International Annual Conference & Exhibition in Glasgow in April

This year's IATEFL Conference will be held in **Glasgow, UK from 4th to 7th April**, with Pre-Conference Events on 3rd April. The Conference brings together ELT professionals from around the world to discuss, reflect on and develop their ideas. It offers many opportunities for professional contact and development and is a great networking event. It involves a four-day programme of over 500 sessions including forums, poster presentations, talks and workshops.

If you're interested, have a look [here](#). Don't forget: **ETAS members are eligible for a huge**

discount to join IATEFL (Basic Membership), which qualifies for the lower member rate to register at the Annual Conference.

For other external events, be sure to check out [this section](#) on our website.

ETAS Journal News



Call for Papers:

ETAS Journal Spring 2018 Special Supplement on Drama and Theater in Education

Do you work with drama and/or theatre in your English language lessons? Researchers and teacher practitioners are invited to share examples of “best practice”, such as (success) stories, a favourite lesson or drama in education method, an aha-moment or challenge experienced in class, or, for example, an action research report.

The ETAS Journal Spring 2018 edition Special Supplement will explore the use and place of drama and theatre in a wide variety of classrooms, from kindergarten to university: We are excited to get a glimpse of how teachers and researchers integrate drama and/or theatre into their practice.

Share your story by **31st May 2017**. ETAS Journal invites submissions for its Special Supplement on Drama and Theater in Education Spring Edition 2018. More information is to be found [here](#).

Call for Papers:

ETAS Journal Winter 2017 Special Supplement on Research conducted by ETAS Members

Are you an ETAS member and have conducted research pertaining to your job or as part of a post graduate degree? Have you discovered new insights that you would like to share with the ETAS community? ETAS Journal invites submissions for its Special Supplement on ETAS does Research Winter Edition 2017.

Please send submission, including a very brief abstract, a short biodata, and mailing address, as a Word document by email attachment by **4th August 2017** to the Special Supplement Editors [Susanne Oswald](#) and [Lynn Williams](#), who can also be contacted for any queries.

Write a Book Review for the ETAS Journal!

Writing a book review is an excellent way to get to know your material profoundly. Choose from a wide selection of books for a review ETAS has to offer. Here’s the latest entry:



21st Century Communication (Listening, Speaking and Critical Thinking)
National Geographic/Cengage. Based on TedTalks. Available in 4 levels.

All books for review can be found [here](#). If you are interested then please contact [Helena](#).

Have you written and published ELT books and/or materials yourself and wish to promote them through ETAS? [Helena](#) is also the person to get in touch with.

Teacher Tips and ELT Links



30 Things to do with a Piece of Paper in the Primary Classroom

Books seem to be the most obvious thing to make out of paper, and a book is a good way of consolidating learning and producing a written trace of work at the end of a module for example. Books are the ideal solution for students to show what they have been doing in class, either in



classroom displays or by taking them home to show their family. The secret, as with so many things in the classroom, is to vary the way you make books to avoid boredom and repetition, so [here](#) are a few different ways of making books.

ETAS on Facebook and on Twitter

ETAS is present on Facebook and Twitter @ETAS_CH. Keep up-to-date with the latest developments and ideas in the world of ELT and find magnificent new lesson ideas! If you have no idea how to use Twitter or why it's an amazing resource for teachers, [this blog post](#) has some handy tips.

Last Month's most popular tweets

[Looking Ahead](#) – Various posts in the new [@iTDipro](#) blog issue,

[Why Evidence Matters](#) via [@theteacherjames](#) in [@eflmagazine](#),

[The Cognitive Linguistic Approach to Teaching Phrasal Verbs](#) via [@ResearchBites](#),

[EFL Listening lesson: what one class learned \(and taught me\) about learner autonomy](#) via [@ClarkLinz](#), and

[TED talks for autonomous listening: ten activities](#) via [@olyaelt](#).

ETAS Office

ETAS Office and Library will be closed from 23rd February to 3rd March 2017.

Phone hours:

Monday, 8.30 – 11.30

Wednesday, 8.30 – 11.30 and 13.30 – 16.30

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