

# January Newsletter 2016

Dear «M\_1st\_NAME»



## ETAS News & Updates



Dear ETAS Members

Happy New Year!

ETAS is fortunate this year to have two viable candidates who have accepted the nomination for the position of ETAS Treasurer for the term of office from 2016 to 2019, Florian Gantenbein and David Kaufher.

**Please carefully read the biographical data** of each which can be found [online here](#).

At the election to be held at the AGM on Saturday, 23 January 2016, at 16.15, please select and vote for the candidate you believe would be the best choice for this position. If you will not be able to attend, you may vote by **Absentee Ballot** using the slip provided at the bottom of the online notice. Please print, complete, and **mail by regular post** the ballot slip

to **ETAS Administration** no later than **Monday, 18 January**, as indicated at the bottom of the form.

Please Note: Only votes from current members **either** by regular post by **18 January**, or voting during the AGM will be accepted. Any ballots received after this date, or in any other form, will not be valid.

Thank you. Hope to see you in Zürich at the 23rd Annual Conference and AGM!

Best regards

*JoAnn Salvisberg*

*ETAS President*

**The countdown has started ...**

**ETAS 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference and AGM 2016 – Zurich**

**23 Saturday – 24 Sunday January 2016**

It's January and that means ETAS Annual Conference is drawing closer. Don't worry if you missed the online registration deadline. You can still register on the day with a surcharge of CHF 20. Invite a friend or two and enjoy the event together!

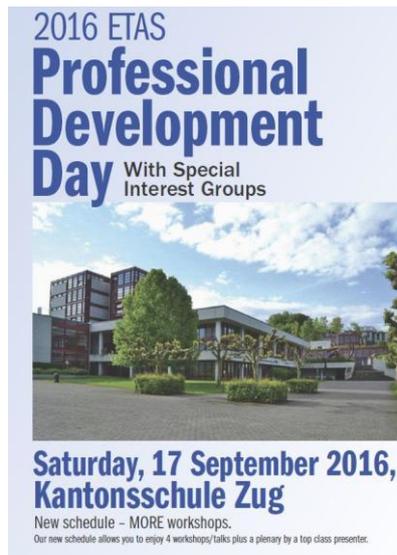
Check out the fantastic Conference programme [here](#).

**Attention tweeters!** The Conference hashtag is **#ETAS16**

Share some of your event highlights with us, whether it's an image, text, video, or a cool selfie. We're looking forward to seeing your posts on ETAS tweeter feed.

**Call for papers: Professional Development Day 2016**

I know what you're thinking. It's only January! But preparations for ETAS Professional Development Day, Saturday 17 September, have already begun. If you're interested in presenting then the **deadline for papers is 31 January**. Don't miss out. Use the convenience of ETAS [online registration](#) service for your workshop proposals.



## SIG News

A special reminder to **Teen SIGers** that the **Teen SIG page** is regularly updated to include relevant and useful webinars and activities. So please [drop in](#) and make the most of these resources.

While you're there, browse through what's happening in the rest of the [SIG groups](#). Perhaps something will catch your interest!

## Current ETAS Vacancies



### **Jump on board and become an ACTIVE ETAS member!**

Looking for a few Good Men and Women! ETAS has openings for volunteers on several of its dynamic teams, for example, Online Content Coordinator for the Journal! If the digital

world is your oyster, and you have experience posting content online, then please step right up and email [Ceres Pioquinto](#) for more details.

Here's a brief overview of the available positions and who to contact:

**Library Sub-Committee Member:** Contact [Urs Kalberer](#).

**Regional Coordinators for Graubunden and St Gallen:** Contact [Annette Leimer](#).

**Co-Regional Coordinator for Baden:** Contact [Caroline](#).

**Editorial Board Members:** Contact [Ceres Pioquinto](#).

**ETAS Journal Online Content Coordinator:** Contact [Ceres Pioquinto](#).

**Facebook Co-administrator:** Contact [JoAnn Salvisberg](#).

Follow this [link](#) and you'll find all of the above positions online. Please note, that **only ETAS members** can fill the volunteer positions.

## Events



**29 January Bern: ELT Springboard's** first informal meet for the year. Dave and Ben are waiting to welcome you. Everything you need to know can be found [here](#).

**30 January Geneva: Story Telling with Young Learners and Teens.** Heidi Philipp and Rachael Harris are hosting this hands-on workshop. You'll learn how to make the most of stories in class. Please note that **places are limited** to thirty. Therefore, we kindly ask that you register early with [geneva@e-tas.ch](mailto:geneva@e-tas.ch). Read all about it [here](#).

**5 March Solothurn: Dictation... a relic from a bygone era or a versatile activity?**

Are your memories of dictation linked to boring, uncommunicative language lessons where the emphasis was purely on linguistic accuracy? Well, let's think again. Jayne Kyte is going to look at a wide range of activities linked to dictation, which will have your students practising all four literacy skills, as well as grammar and vocabulary. Let's make their memories of classroom dictations ones which are linked to fun and communicative language lessons! More information will be posted shortly, so keep your eye on this [space](#).

The Regional Coordinator [Sue Nikles](#) can also assist you with further details.

## External Links

### New in St. Gallen: ELT Academic Reading Group

The ETAS ELT Academic Reading Group in St. Gallen, Switzerland, will meet once a month starting in January 2016. The meetings will take place on the third Sunday of every month (17 January, 21 February, 20 March...) at 14:15 p.m. in Seegar Café, Restaurant, Oberer Graben 2, 9000 St. Gallen.

The aim of this group is to discuss a different academic article each month related to various aspects of English language teaching. For example, we'll discuss the research and findings, how these can be applied to our classrooms and any relevant experience and opinions on this aspect of ELT.

This group is open and free to all teachers from any background or type of institution. You don't have to have a Masters or be a member of ETAS, just a keen interest in all things related to English language teaching. This will be an informal group and a great place to meet like-minded teachers and share ideas.

Please contact [Gemma Lunn](#) for more information.

### There's more ...

Check out the **amazing list of updated resources** and ELT happenings on the [External Events](#) page. There are interesting online courses and webinars that cover a diverse range of topics.

## Journal News



### Article Submission!

**The submission deadline** for the Summer Special Supplement 2016 on Creativity in the language classroom is **Monday 7 March**. If you're interested in contributing an article then please contact the [Geneva Regional Coordinators](#) for full details.

In addition, Journal submissions that appeal to a broader readership are always welcome. Guidelines are provided in every Journal. If you require further assistance please mail [Ceres](#). Spice up your CV with your published article!

## Showcase your artwork

**ART at ETAS Cover Art initiative** is a great way to **advertise** your artwork **for free**. Full details can be found in every print and [digital Journal](#). Members, remember to log in if you use the link provided, as this is a members' only area. If you need to know more then please contact [Ceres](#).

## Book Reviews

**Oxford University Press** has generously offered ETAS Newsletter readers the chance to receive and review all the components of their brand new general English course, *Navigate* at the level of their choice:

[Navigate A1 Beginner](#)

[Navigate B2 Upper-Intermediate](#)

[Navigate C1 Advanced](#)

To take advantage of this offer, [contact Helena](#). **First come, first served!**

## Looking for something else to review?

Book review guidelines and the Books and Materials review list are available [online](#). This is a members' only area so please log in to view the relevant pages. Click on *Journal* and then *Books and Materials Reviews* as illustrated below.



## Have you published fiction or any books on ELT?

Members, if any of you creative people have published books, poems, songs, plays or short stories related to ELT or fiction then please don't keep it a secret. The Editorial team would love to feature you in the Journal. Please contact [Ceres](#) so we can share and promote your work.

## Practical Teacher Tips and ELT Links



### Short video clips to stimulate discussions

If you're looking for very short video clips to stimulate discussions or writing tasks then BBC Learning's [Express English](#) series might just be the solution. The videos are brief and the topics are diverse. Many of the clips include text, which is of course a useful aid for students.

While you're there browse through the [other series](#). They have created episodes on pronunciation, vocabulary, learning strategies and more.

### EdPuzzle: create your own video lessons

We all know the problem. You've just found the perfect video on You Tube, Vimeo, Learn Zillion, TED Ed or whatever other video channel you like to use, but it's way too long. Well then, EdPuzzle can help you sort it out. It's a tool that enables you to trim and edit videos, to add textual comments and voice-overs, to create quizzes and you can monitor your students' progress with tracking analytics. In this respect, your chosen video becomes a video lesson and as such, a very useful learning and teaching tool that you can archive in your own video library. Use your personalised video lessons to flip your classroom, to let students review what you've been working on in class, or for learner oriented assessment. Check it out for yourselves. It's easy to use and if you do encounter problems there are plenty of *help videos* to put you back on the right track.

### What's hot on Twitter?

We'd like to share a few posts that have been popular on Twitter this month. You can follow ETAS (@ETAS\_CH) to keep up-to-date with all the latest ETAS news and events as well as find useful teaching material and interesting articles and blogs.

This month's **top five** are:

1. [Doing Classroom-Based Research](#) by @AchilleasK

**Research SIGers** this might be of particular interest to you. Check out the workshop slides and worksheet!

2. [The Year I Almost Turned My Back on Teaching English](#) by @swissirja on The iTDi pro blog.

3. [What are reading skills? – They're not \(only\) what you think](#) by @teflerinha

Rachael Roberts speaks about reading strategies, decoding skills and more.

4. [Personalised Development Groups – a new approach to TD](#) by @JoshSRound

This is an interesting read about teacher development.

5. [C'mon let's speak](#) by @HanaTichá

Do you need some ideas for speaking activities? Then this might be just what you're after.

These posts are just a taste of what educators are speaking about and sharing on Twitter. If you'd like to see more, then come and join us on ETAS social media channels. You'll find [links](#) to all of our **channels** on the bottom of the ETAS homepage.

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## ETAS Office



**Phone hours:** Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30-11:30

[Pamela](#), ETAS Administrator, can also be contacted via mail.

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## Mail Addresses



For your convenience, mail addresses included in this eNewsletter are also listed below.

If you're experiencing any **problems accessing links** then please mail [cafe@e-tas.ch](mailto:cafe@e-tas.ch) and direct your enquiries to Patricia.

### **Mail addresses**

Ceres Pioquinto: [journal@e-tas.ch](mailto:journal@e-tas.ch)

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**Welcome to 2016**



We hope you've bounced into the New Year fully revitalised and brimming with motivation.

See you all at ETAS Conference and AGM!

With Warmest Wishes

Your eNewsletter Team

**eNewsletter Editor:** Patricia Daniels

**Proofreader:** Rachael Harris

**Reviewers:** JoAnn Salvisberg and Pamela Betschen

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