

# Plenary speaker

Opening plenary (09.20–10.20)

**Sylwia Macinska**

## **AI and tomorrow's language education: Is it still about the people?**

In the rapidly evolving landscape of language education, the integration of AI poses profound questions about the role of human teachers and learners. In this plenary, Sylwia will explore the intersection of AI and language learning, teaching and assessment, illustrating both its potential to positively augment and negatively disrupt educational paradigms. Ultimately, Sylwia will argue for a future trajectory of language education where AI is leveraged to empower teachers and learners while preserving the essential human elements that underpin effective language education.

**Sylwia Macinska** PhD is Head of AI Research for Learning at Cambridge University Press & Assessment. She leads research that drives the development of evidence-based language learning and assessment products, with a focus on learning analytics, automated feedback, and adaptive learning. Previously, as a member of the assessment and research division, Sylwia investigated accessibility solutions and best practices in education to inform the development of accessible examinations. She also worked as a specialist student mentor for students with learning disabilities. Sylwia holds an MSc in applied data science and has taught research methods and statistical courses in psychology at the University of Hull and Birkbeck, University of London. She also has a PhD in psychology from the University of Hull, where she investigated the influence of emotions on implicit cognitive processes in typical development and autism spectrum disorders (ASD) using behavioural research methods and eye-tracking technology.

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