



2<sup>nd</sup>  
PSC  
Forum

# Navigating the Future of Education Transforming Challenges into Opportunities

January 15-16, 2025

Jan 15



Mr Ishaq AL-Naabi  
11:00 AM

How Can Webinars for Continuous Professional Development Foster Transformative Learning? A Systematic



Dr Aylar Norouzifard  
12:15 PM

Navigating AI and Technology-enhanced Learning: Neuroscience and Mental Health Insights for Generation Z in Higher Education



Ms Valerie Lewis  
1:30 PM

Innovatively-shaped Peer Coaching: Task-stations Manned by Peers

## Forum Opening

15 Jan 9:00 AM - MCT (+4)



Prof Hayo Reinders  
9:30 AM

Supporting Language Learning  
Beyond the Classroom



Jan 16



Dr Amjed Ayyat  
9:00 AM

Implementing a Three-stage Approach to Teaching Writing Skills Using the Corpus of Contemporary American English in an ESL Class



Dr Tabassum Sadik  
10:15 AM

Advancing Education Research: Training and Collaborative Opportunities



Ms Sonia Soans  
11:30 AM

Revolutionizing Assessment in the Age of AI: Innovative Techniques for Skill-based Learning



## Forum Etiquette

### Be Respectful:

- Treat all participants with courtesy and respect, even when you disagree with their opinions.
- Avoid personal attacks, offensive language, or any form of discrimination.

### Stay on Topic:

- Keep questions relevant to the forum's theme or specific topic.

### No Spamming:

- Refrain from posting repetitive or irrelevant content.
- Avoid self-promotion; instead, contribute meaningfully to discussions.

### Mind Your Language:

- Use clear and appropriate language to ensure effective communication.
- Refrain from using excessive caps, emojis, or overly informal language.

### Respect Privacy:

- Do not share personal information about yourself or other participants without consent.
- Be cautious about sharing sensitive data in chat discussions.

### Report Misconduct:

- If you encounter inappropriate behaviour, report it to the moderators.
- Avoid engaging in flame wars or public disputes; report issues privately.

### Be Patient:

- The presenters may not respond to your questions immediately. Allow moderators the time to raise your questions in the Q&A.
- Avoid double-posting; edit your existing message if needed.

### Follow Forum Guidelines:

- Familiarize yourself with and adhere to the specific rules and guidelines of the forum.



## Disclaimer

This online forum is a platform for participants to engage in discussions, share information, and connect with others. The views expressed by individual participants are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the forum administrators or moderators.

The forum administrators and moderators reserve the right to:

- Remove any content that violates the forum guidelines.
- Remove participants who engage in persistent misconduct from the session.
- Modify or update the forum rules as necessary.

Participants are responsible for their own contributions and should exercise caution when sharing personal information. The forum administrators are not liable for any content posted by participants but will make reasonable efforts to maintain a positive and respectful community.

By participating in this forum, participants agree to abide by the established guidelines and accept the consequences for any violations. The administrators and moderators appreciate your cooperation in fostering a welcoming and constructive environment.

## Important Note:

Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session. Please kindly ensure that the survey is completed with accurate details of your name and email address. The forum will not be liable to any mistakes in the spelling or capitalization of participant names or not receiving the certificate due to wrong email input.



## Forum Opening



**Dr Said Hamed Al Rubaii**  
Vice Chancellor of UTAS



**Mr Juma Al Ghafri**  
Head of Preparatory  
Studies Centre,  
UTAS-A

The forum will commence at 9:00 AM on January 15, 2025 with a few verses of the Holy Quran. This is followed by the inaugural address given by Dr Said Hamed Al Rubaii, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, and the welcome remarks by Mr Juma Ali Al Ghafri, Head of Preparatory Studies Centre at UTAS-Al Mussanah. Subsequently, the keynote speech will be delivered by Professor Hayo Reinders from the Anaheim University, USA.

Please note that the opening and keynote speech can be accessed via the same link. You can find the link below.

**Date and Time** January 15, 2025 - (MCT) 9:00 AM

**Session Link** Click [here](#).

The closing remarks, on January 16, 2025, will be addressed after session 6. Therefore, the link created for session 6 will be used for this purpose. You can access the link below.

**Date and Time** January 16, 2025 - (MCT +4) 11:30 AM

**Session Link** Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.



## Keynote Speech

### Supporting Language Learning Beyond the Classroom

Preparation for lifelong learning is now an explicit goal of many language programs worldwide. A complementary focus on *lifewide* learning has been proposed (Reinders, 2020), recognizing the importance of the wide range of spaces learners occupy outside formal education, such as the home, community, and online environments. For learners to benefit from the affordances of lifelong and lifewide learning, they must be equipped with the skills and confidence to identify learning needs and opportunities, set appropriate and manageable goals, and monitor progress, among other competencies (Reinders, 2011).

In this presentation, a pedagogical framework is introduced to enhance learners' ability and willingness to take increasing control over their own learning. The implementation of such a framework is also explored. For self-directed learning to be successfully integrated into the curriculum, a shared understanding of its definition and methods of support is required. This necessitates collaboration and the sharing of experiences across different parts of an organization. A number of best practices are presented for fostering pedagogical innovation in an educationally sustainable way.

## About the Keynote Speaker

### Professor Hayo Reinders



Dr Hayo Reinders is TESOL Professor and Director of the doctoral programme at Anaheim University in the USA. Hayo is the Editor of the journal, *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching* (published by Taylor & Francis) and edits a book series on "New Learning and Teaching Environments". He founded the Institute for Teacher Leadership. His interests are in teacher empowerment, learner autonomy, and educational technology.  
([www.innovationinteaching.org](http://www.innovationinteaching.org))

#### Date and Time

January 15, 2025 - (MCT) 9:30 AM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.



## Session 1

# How Can Webinars for Continuous Professional Development Foster Transformative Learning? A Systematic Review of Literature

Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is vital for equipping educators to adapt to the evolving demands of teaching. This study explores webinars as CPD tools, synthesizing findings from 35 studies through a systematic literature review guided by PRISMA protocols. The findings reveal webinars' advantages, including flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and scalability, while overcoming logistical barriers and fostering reflective practices. However, challenges such as limited interactivity and passive engagement remain, emphasizing the need for innovative webinar designs. The study critiques the focus on knowledge acquisition over transformative learning and the lack of long-term impact assessments. This presentation highlights the review's findings and provides strategies for designing webinars based on Transformative Learning Theory, incorporating interactive elements, real-world applications, and reflective practices to enhance CPD outcomes.

## About the Speaker

### Mr Ishaq Salim AL-Naabi



Mr Ishaq Al-Naabi is a lecturer at the Preparatory Studies Center, University of Technology and Applied Sciences, and a postgraduate researcher at Lancaster University, UK. With over a decade of experience in higher education, his research focuses on professional development, online pedagogies, and higher education. Ishaq has published research, presented at conferences, and serves as a reviewer for the *Journal of University Teaching and Learning Practice*.

#### Date and Time

January 15, 2025 - (MCT) 11:00 AM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.



## Session 2

### Navigating AI and Technology-Enhanced Learning: Neuroscience and Mental Health Insights for Generation Z in Higher Education

This presentation explores how Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology-enhanced learning can address the unique cognitive, emotional, and mental health needs of Generation Z in higher education. Participants will learn how constant digital engagement impacts Gen Z's learning behaviors and well-being and discover neuroscience-informed strategies to alleviate cognitive overload, enhance focus, and support deep learning. The session will also examine AI's potential as both a tool for innovation and a source of distraction, offering ethical and practical approaches to integrate AI responsibly in education. Attendees will gain actionable strategies to create inclusive, technology-enhanced learning environments that promote holistic student well-being while ensuring academic success. This session empowers educators to turn the challenges of AI reliance and digital overload into opportunities for innovation, ethical teaching practices, and sustainable student support systems.

#### About the Speaker

##### Dr Aylar Norouzifard



Dr Aylar Norouzifard is a Senior Lecturer at the Preparatory Studies Center, UTAS-Muscat, with over 16 years of experience in education. Specializing in Teaching English as a Foreign Language, her research focuses on technology-enhanced pedagogy, neuroscience in learning, individual cognitive and affective differences, and teacher professional development. Dr Norouzifard is dedicated to integrating innovative technological methodologies into teaching practices, bridging theory and practice to foster educational excellence. Her expertise supports the development of evidence-based strategies for transformative education across diverse learning contexts.

#### Date and Time

January 15, 2025 - (MCT) 12:15 PM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.



## Session 3

### Innovatively-shaped Peer Coaching: Task-stations Manned by Peers

This session explores a dynamic approach to lesson design by reshaping the traditional tutor-tutee relationship and lesson space. Participants will examine a scenario involving a kinetic reorganization of lessons through task stations arranged in a circular format. These stations facilitate rotated encounters and structured learning tasks, fostering novel engagement with lesson content. The session integrates theoretical principles of Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) with reciprocal peer tutoring, emphasizing interactive student-led activities. Attendees will evaluate a framework where student tutors adopt communicative roles to present and direct pre-designated activities for visiting peer groups.

Practical aspects covered include designing task cards, developing scripts and worksheets for task stations, and pre-training peer coaches in soft skills for managing groups and conveying content effectively. This session offers innovative strategies to energize classroom learning and enhance student collaboration.

## About the Speaker

### Ms Valerie Ann Lewis



Ms Valerie Ann Lewis has taught in Southeast Asia, Russia, the Caucasus, North Africa, and the Gulf nations. Holding two Master's degrees from British universities and a DELTA completed in Hungary, she is passionate about integrating art and design into lesson materials. With the advent of AI, Valerie embraces tools that bring lessons to life with colors, sounds, and animation. She believes students are a treasury of ideas and strives to tap into their hidden genius, drawing inspiration from their creativity to revolutionize classroom learning.

#### Date and Time

January 15, 2025 - (MCT) 1:30 PM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.





## Session 4

### Implementing a Three-stage Approach to Teaching Writing Skills Using the Corpus of Contemporary American English in an ESL Class

This presentation investigates the use of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) as a tool for enhancing writing skills in ESL (English as a Second Language) classrooms. COCA offers a linguistic corpus of over one billion words, featuring six searchable elements: List, Chart, Collocates, Compare, word, and KWIC. Teaching writing often presents challenges, particularly in providing authentic contexts and fostering a student-centered environment. By employing COCA within a process-based approach to writing, this presentation demonstrates how educators can guide students through the three stages of writing: brainstorming, drafting, and post-writing feedback. Participants will learn effective strategies for integrating COCA into their writing instruction, ultimately empowering students to improve their writing skills through authentic, engaging practices.

#### About the Speaker

##### Dr Amjed Ayyat



Dr Amjed Ayyat is an English language lecturer in the Centre for Preparatory Studies, Dhofar University. He has been teaching English for students in the Foundation Program for more than 14 years. He has published many papers in the field of TESOL. His research interests are syntax, phonology and using technology in the ESL classroom.

#### Date and Time

January 16, 2025 - (MCT) 9:00 AM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.



## Session 5

### Advancing Education Research: Training and Collaborative Opportunities

Advancing Education Research: Training and Collaborative Opportunities" initiative aims to enhance educational research by offering specialized training and fostering collaboration among researchers, educators, and industry professionals. By promoting cross-institutional partnerships, both academic and non-academic—the initiative seeks to build research capacity, integrate emerging educational trends, and share best practices. This collaborative approach focuses on addressing current challenges in teaching and learning, empowering researchers to influence policy, curriculum development, and teaching methods, there is a growing demand to advance the field of education research itself. Ultimately, the initiative aims to build capacity for researchers, educators, and industrialists by offering specialized training and fostering collaborative research opportunities and as well to ensure that education systems are adaptive to technological advancements, societal changes, and drive innovation in teaching and learning.

### About the Speaker

#### Dr Tabassum Sadik



Dr Tabassum Sadik, a Senior Lecturer and researcher with over 25 years of experience, specializes in composite materials, 3D filament production, and 3D printing. She has supervised nearly 90 undergraduate research projects, guided postgraduate students, and published over 20 papers in national and international journals. Dr Sadik has delivered more than 20 guest lectures and serves as an external examiner for master's dissertations. Committed to fostering innovation and collaboration, she combines academic rigor with practical insights to inspire students and advance research in her fields of expertise.

#### Date and Time

January 16, 2025 - (MCT) 10:15 AM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.



## Session 6

# Revolutionizing Assessment in the Age of AI: Innovative Techniques for Skill-based Learning

This session introduces the CAPFS Model (Creative Assessment to Promote Future Skills), a transformative framework addressing the challenges of Artificial Intelligence in academia. Moving beyond traditional rote-based methods, the model integrates competency-based assessments, authentic performance tasks, presentation-based evaluations, formative feedback, and student-led teaching. These approaches promote real-world learning, critical thinking, and communication skills while fostering creativity and innovation. Participants will explore practical strategies for designing rubrics and assessments tailored to students' capacities, enabling a shift toward meaningful, technology-compatible evaluation practices that uphold academic integrity and nurture essential future skills.

## About the Speaker

### Ms Sonia Victor Soans



Ms Sonia Victor Soans is a passionate educator with 28 years of teaching experience. Currently pursuing a PhD in Computer Science specializing in Computer Vision, she holds an MCA, M.Phil., and a postgraduate degree in Artificial Intelligence (AI). A University Rank holder from Pune University, she has evolved from teaching Pascal to Python for AI. Dedicated to fostering critical thinking, she actively conducts research, training programs, and institutional development initiatives. Recognized for her teaching excellence, she inspires through guest talks and innovative projects, striving to transform education into a dynamic, thought-provoking experience.

### Date and Time

January 16, 2025 - (MCT) 11:30 AM

### Session Link

Click [here](#).

**Note:** Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session.