

Languages of the Wider World

Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Drama and Language Learning Day

Drama and Language Learning Day
A Multi-Stakeholder Workshop and Seminar

G2, Assembly Hall, Main Building, SOAS
Friday 13 June 2008
10.00 - 16.00

The SOAS-UCL Centre of Excellence in the Teaching and Learning of 'Languages of the Wider World' is a HEFCE-funded collaboration between SOAS and UCL. Its aim is to promote and support excellence in the teaching and learning of languages that do not have a large presence in UK HE, i.e.: the languages of the Middle East, Africa, Asia, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe and Russia. Please visit www.lww-cetl.ac.uk.

The SOAS-UCL CETL in 'Languages of the Wider World' invites you to explore and discuss how drama techniques could enhance the teaching and learning of languages. Some previous research has suggested that drama techniques can provide interesting ways of motivating language learners and teachers.

This event will bring together practitioners, researchers and students from a variety of fields to share and discuss their experiences and techniques in the use of drama for language teaching and learning. The particular focus of this multi-stakeholder workshop and seminar is on innovative methodologies used in theatre workshops where participants have the freedom to explore and create text through devising and improvising their own stories.

Keynote Speakers include, **Professor Vivian Gardner** (University of Manchester), **Dr Mike Fleming** (Durham University) and **Ken Wilson** (ELT author and former director of the English Teaching Theatre). Workshops will focus on the themes of (i) 'Drama & second language literature' led by **Nick Bilbrough**, SOAS; (ii) 'Students as authors and creators' led by **Mirjana Filipovic** (University of Manchester) and (iii) 'Use of puppets' by **John Pinder**, SOAS.

Please note, that this event is free of charge but requires pre-registration by completing the form (below) and sending to **Virginia Elgar**, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H 0XG; fax: 020 7898 4859; Email: lww-cetl@soas.ac.uk.

For further information please visit lww-cetl.ac.uk or contact lww-cetl@soas.ac.uk

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Programme

- 9.30 Registration and refreshments**
Room G3, Ground floor, main building SOAS
- 10.00 Welcome Professor Itesh Sachdev LWW-CETL**
Room G2, Ground Floor, main building, SOAS
- 10.10 "Temporary and temporal Diasporas: using theatre with adult literacy trainers"**
Professor Vivian Gardner, Professor of Theatre Studies
The University of Manchester
Room G2, Ground Floor, main building, SOAS
- 10.55 "Perspectives on the use of drama in the learning of language"**
Dr Mike Fleming, director of research at the School of Education, Durham University
Room G2, Ground Floor, main building, SOAS
- 11.40 Refreshments**
Room G3, Ground floor, main building SOAS
- 12.00 Workshop demonstration "Don't waste time on drama"**
Ken Wilson, ELT teacher and expert in drama methodology
Room G3, Ground floor, main building SOAS
- 13.00 Lunch and Networking**
Room G3, Ground floor, main building SOAS
- 14.00 Workshops**
G50 A: **Drama as a way into second language literature** led by Nick Bilbrough,
G51 B: **Students as authors and creators** led by Mirjana Filipovic
- 15.00 Workshop demonstration – Using puppets to teach Hindi**
John Pinder, SOAS Language Centre and expert in drama and puppetry.
Room G51, Ground floor, main building, SOAS
- 15.30 Round Up**
Room G2, Ground Floor, main building, SOAS
- 16.00 Close**

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Keynote Speakers

Professor Vivian Gardner, Professor of Theatre, University of Manchester will give her talk; *Temporary and temporal Diasporas: using theatre with adult literacy trainers*

This paper will discuss the ways in which Professor Viv Gardner's temporary and temporal experience of 'displacement', mirroring that of non-literate adults in a world of written words, was used as a tool to develop workshops with experts in 'non-formal education' – how disadvantage was turned to advantage.

Dr Mike Fleming, Mike Fleming is currently director of research at the School of Education Durham University, with a background in secondary school teaching (English and drama) and teacher training. He is not a language teacher but became interested in drama as methodology through his work in drama and interculturalism. He is currently a second language learner (basic) and this experience will inform this talk.

Dr Fleming will give his talk *Perspectives on the use of drama in the learning of language*. This talk will examine some of the theoretical issues, advantages and practical challenges involved in using drama to support language learning.

Ken Wilson, Ken Wilson trained as an ELT teacher, but his working life changed radically when he joined the English Teaching Theatre, a group which performed shows for English learners all over the world. For many years, he was artistic director of the company and with his working partner Doug Case wrote more than 100 sketches and songs for the group. Since the ETT closed down in 2002, Ken has concentrated on writing ELT course material and took time off from that recently to write a methodology book called *Drama and Improvisation* (OUP).

Ken will give a workshop demonstration; *Don't waste time on drama*

Drama activities are not part of the main business of teaching English and they take too long. So I'm not going to bother. This is how some ELT teachers react to the idea of using drama in class, and it's an understandable response. But drama activities really can help your students with confidence and fluency and can make the class atmosphere nicer and the teacher's work easier. Also, most of the activities I will demonstrate can be completed in 10 minutes. With no preparation. And with the students doing all the work. I hope I can show that rather than being time-consuming and peripheral, these activities can be central, useful and lots of fun.

Workshop Leaders

Mirjana Filipovic is a drama practitioner of Contemporary theatre with an MA in Contemporary Performance Making and is currently working as a solo performer, actor and director in London and Manchester. She has more than 8 years professional experience in theatre working in small and large productions.

In her workshop; *Students as authors and creators* Mirjana will look at students' own experience of life and culture, the workshop will explore the language learning experience through memories, dreams, playfulness,

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objects and improvisation. She will try to introduce a unique approach to creativity and language learning, employing Robert Lepage's methodology of work.

Lepage's theatricality is especially important as a guide into seeing narrative not as a fixed structure but as a set of appearances that are cyclical and transformative, where students/actors have the freedom to create a text through improvisation and communicate their own stories.

Nick Bilbrough is a teacher trainer at SOAS Language Centre and also runs courses for language teachers in Totnes, Devon. He has an MA in Drama in Education and has spent many years experimenting with drama techniques in the teaching of English as a second language. Having acted in both Danish and Portuguese he also has first hand experience of the power of drama in second language development.

There are many difficulties associated with reading in a second language. Where there are too many unknown words and structures, learners can struggle with entering into the imagined world of the book, and reading can become mechanical and dry. Using a series of linked non-threatening drama activities before the learners encounter the text, is one way of nurturing learners predictive skills and helping them into the themes of a piece of literature.

In this practical workshop we will experiment with some conventions that have been used extensively in the field of drama in education -Teacher in Role, Conscience Alley, and Tableaux – and discuss their usefulness as a pre-reading activity in the teaching of a second language

John Pinder graduated from SOAS in 2005 obtaining a degree in Hindi and Social anthropology. Whilst studying Hindi in India he started an apprenticeship in Rajasthani string puppets. After performing to a circuit of street festivals and schools, he went on to study puppetry and drama at the Central School of Speech and Drama. Amongst other things, John Pinder is currently researching and developing his own programme of drama in education for adults and children.

Like other forms of drama, the use of puppets affords a level of safety to language learners and allows them to experiment creatively in the target language. In this workshop, we shall report on a case study where puppets were used in the teaching of Hindi to adults at SOAS Language Centre and explore some simple techniques for using puppets in the language classroom.

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REGISTRATION FORM

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Title		Name	
Job Title			
Interest Area e.g. research, teaching, etc.			
Institution			
Type of Institution			
Which language(s) are you interested in/teach/learn			
Contact Address			
Telephone		Email	
Special dietary requirements			
Special access requirements			

Reasons for attending workshop and seminar:

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Please return this form to:

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