

2023-2024 Academic Year - ScOLa Get-together Session Abstracts

Concurrent Sessions - 1

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| Presenter | Ervin Daleth Ostos Santos |
| Presentation Title | Effective LMS (Moodle) Design |
| Abstract | <p>The presentation will focus on how MOODLE has been adapted and organized in the Modern Languages Program of Özyeğin University during the post pandemic period.</p> <p>The role of platforms has evolved especially during pandemics, transitioning from a platform where extra materials are stored to a platform where they have to be the main center where students get input, practice skills, tested and graded, collaborate and interact. Returning to face-to-face education, certain adaptations had to be made in order to foster effective learning, maintain interaction and motivation.</p> <p>In the session, MOODLE design and the utilized applications (Genially) will be shared to show how students proceed in the course, how course content is provided to maintain students' engagement, interactivity and motivation.</p> |

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| Presenter | Işıl Özdemir |
| Presentation Title | Fostering Inclusivity in Higher Education: Strategies for Educator Awareness |
| Abstract | <p>As defined by Christine Hockings, inclusive learning and teaching in higher education pertains to the design of pedagogy, curricula, and assessment with the aim of involving students in meaningful, relevant, and accessible learning experiences for everyone. To evaluate inclusivity from the teacher's perspective and achieve it, educators, who play a crucial role in fostering inclusivity, need a comprehensive understanding of the concept. This realization prompts us to consider the factors contributing to educators gaining awareness in creating an inclusive environment. Such awareness empowers instructors to tailor instructional strategies that disrupt power dynamics, promote dialogue, and facilitate self-reflection, thereby enhancing student self-awareness and development. To realize this objective, we will explore the integration of insights from social identity development, intersectionality, and disciplinary identity. This integration aims not only to enhance teaching practices in higher education but also to promote inclusivity, foster understanding of diverse student experiences, and create a supportive learning environment. Therefore, in this session, we will delve into strategies for enhancing instructor awareness, ultimately aiming for a more inclusive educational atmosphere.</p> |

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| Presenter | Adam Rackham |
| Presentation Title | Implementing and Utilizing Pronunciation Teaching in the Classroom |
| Abstract | <p>Pronunciation constitutes a frequently neglected aspect of English Language Teaching (ELT) and regrettably remains significantly underutilized in the classroom setting. Nevertheless, compelling evidence indicates that incorporating pronunciation instruction and equipping students with the necessary skills to comprehend various facets of pronunciation significantly impacts a student's confidence not only in speaking but also in listening comprehension. The primary objective of this session is to provide you with an introductory exploration of the phonemic chart, elucidating the diverse sounds it encompasses and offering practical guidance on integrating it effectively into your teaching repertoire.</p> |

Concurrent Sessions - 2

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| Presenter | Salma Alamassi |
| Presentation Title | Between teaching and guidance: 5 practical tips for student-centered learning |
| Abstract | It's not about what the teacher covers; it's about what the student discovers. How to make students the center of learning in your classroom? Obviously, creating a student-centered learning atmosphere in your classroom is a promising way for you, as a teacher, to obtain worthwhile student involvement and connect learning modules back to real-world contexts. Student-centered learning doesn't begin and end with the students. Teachers are always present to provide guidance by clearly communicating expectations and learning objectives, students can engage in flexible learning while achieving the desired outcome. In this session, I'll be sharing with you 5 helpful pointers for enhancing the impact of student-centered learning. |

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| Presenter | Merve Elbirlik Tülek |
| Presentation Title | "Exploring Student Perspectives: Success, Failure, and Self-Reflection" |
| Abstract | This talk focuses on students' varied views on success, failure and self-reflection. It uncovers how failure is not the end but a stepping stone for growth. It highlights the critical role of self-reflection as a compass guiding students through their studies. Participate in understanding how these perceptions shape resilient, adaptable learners." |

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| Presenter | Ayşe Gizem Çiftçi |
| Presentation Title | Interactive Approaches to Teaching Pronunciation for Turkish Learners of English: A Teacher Development Session |
| Abstract | <p>This teacher-development session, designed especially for English teachers who work with Turkish learners, seeks to improve the efficacy of pronunciation instruction. Interactive icebreakers are used at the beginning of the session to foster a good, learning-oriented environment.</p> <p>We will delve into the phonetic intricacies of Turkish and English, examining the challenges that Turkish learners commonly encounter. Through participatory activities, attendees will actively practice and comprehend the distinctions between sounds in both languages. Common pronunciation errors made by Turkish learners will be dissected to create discussion. Scenarios will be provided to the teachers about pronunciation challenges, and they will be asked to propose solutions. Thus, the session will guide participants through practical strategies, mouth diagrams, and technology for an enriched learning experience.</p> <p>Highlighting the role of technology, the session will introduce online resources for effective pronunciation teaching. Peer feedback sessions will offer practical applications, allowing participants to refine their teaching methodologies.</p> |

Concurrent Sessions - 3

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| Presenter | Sultan Zeydan |
| Presentation Title | Breaking Down Barriers: Building Inclusive Learning Environments |
| Abstract | Creating an inclusive learning environment in higher education is crucial for promoting diversity, equity and equal opportunities for all students. Not only does it provide equitable opportunities for students to feel supported both intellectually and academically, but it also helps them find greater belonging, equity and trust in their learning environment. This session aims to introduce the key principles underpinning inclusive education, shedding light on both the barriers hindering the establishment of inclusive learning environments and potential strategies to overcome them. The participants will gain experience by engaging in real-world scenarios that showcase the implementation of these strategies. |

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| Presenters | Giti Najafi & Bedra Şenol |
| Presentation Title | "Navigating Life's Journey: A Personal Reflection and Strategies for joy and ease |
| Abstract | In this presentation, the first speaker digs into her own experiences, learning from tough times and the power of self-awareness during challenges. She focuses on decision-making, exploring how we navigate the choices that shape our lives, aiming to align them with our goals and well-being. But it's not just about thoughts; she shares a practical method for personal growth. She introduces a helpful way to make decisions, sorting out the good from the not-so-good. Then, the presentation goes on with moving beyond the usual talk and exploring holistic healing like Access Bars and Theta Healing by the second presenter. These methods can help balance our minds and emotions, guiding us toward becoming the best versions of ourselves. Overall, this presentation brings together self-reflection, decision-making insights, and healing approaches. It's an invitation to understand ourselves better and embrace tools that can make our lives more fulfilling. |