

# Inclusive Practices in the English Language Classroom

Training for Secondary School Teachers from Germany and Poland

## Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November

From 14:00: **Hotel arrival, check-in**  
18:30: **Pre-conference gathering**  
19:00: **Dinner**

## Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November

08:30 – 08:45: **10-minute walk from hotel to Nicolaus Copernicus Bilingual Secondary School in Kołobrzeg**  
09:00 – 09:15: **Opening and welcome**  
09:15 – 09:35: **Plenary (20 mins)** – Presentation of Nicolaus Copernicus Bilingual Secondary School  
Break (with option to learn more about Nicolaus Copernicus Bilingual Secondary School)  
10:00 – 11:00: **Plenary (60 mins)** – Teaching and Learning for Social Justice  
Break 10-minute walk to hotel  
11:30 – 12:30: **Lunch**  
12:30 – 14:00: **Workshop 1 (90 mins)** – A Social Justice Pedagogy Framework for the Language Classroom  
Break  
14:30 – 16:00: **Workshop 2 (90 mins)** – Exploring Social Justice Issues Using Graphic Novels  
Break  
19:00: **Dinner**

## Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November

**Hotel check out by 11:00 (either before workshop 3 or within break at 10:30)**  
09:00 – 10:30: **Workshop 3 (90 mins)** – Inclusive School Practices for Students with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities  
Break  
11:00 – 12:30: **Workshop 4 (90 mins)** – Using Music Videos to Engage Higher Secondary Learners in Social Justice Themes  
12:30 – 13:30: **Lunch**  
**Hotel departure by 13:30**

## 1. Abstracts

### Plenary Talk (60 minutes)

#### Teaching and Learning for Social Justice

In an increasingly fragmented and unpredictable world, it's crucial for teachers to provide supportive and empowering learning environments which help our students develop empathy, open-mindedness, critical thinking and social awareness. The EFL classroom is an ideal context for Social Justice Education and, in this interactive talk, participants will explore how language teaching can go beyond linguistic proficiency to nurture empathy, social awareness, and active participation in building a more just world. (70 words)

### Workshop 1 (90 minutes)

#### A Social Justice Pedagogy Framework for the Language Classroom

In this interactive workshop, we explore eltonix' 5-step framework for social justice lessons and how this can be implemented in the English Language Classroom. We will demonstrate techniques and activities that allow students to develop empathy and open-mindedness, while advancing their critical and creative thinking skills. We will reflect on how teachers can more confidently manage sensitive issues and student reactions in a respectful way. By the end of the session, participants will leave with concrete tools to create a more empowering and socially conscious learning environment. (86 words)

### Workshop 2 (90 minutes)

#### Exploring Social Justice Issues Using Graphic Novels

A graphic novel is more than a sequence of drawings and simple text. The juxtaposition of word and image is a language that can be 'read' and used to develop our learners' visual literacy skills, critical thinking and historical/societal awareness of social justice issues from different perspectives. In this interactive workshop, we'll learn about the different features of graphic novels and explore ways to use these in classroom activities. By doing so, we'll learn how this resource can be exploited to support our students' understanding of social justice themes. (89 words)

### Workshop 3 (90 minutes)

#### Inclusive School Practices for Students with Learning Difficulties & Disabilities

An educator who understands learning difficulties and disabilities can make a meaningful and long-lasting difference to many children's lives. In this session, we'll look at how some of the more common learning difficulties and disabilities manifest, and what they have in common. We'll explore executive function and dysfunction and how this affects our students' feelings and performance in the classroom. Finally, we will equip you with practical techniques that help all students thrive in the classroom. (76 words)

### Workshop 4 (90 minutes)

#### Using Music Videos to Engage Higher Secondary Learners in Social Justice Themes

A music video is an example of a multimodal text that communicates and is open to interpretation by its 'reader'. Upper secondary students are already motivated, inspired by, and are actively seeking You Tube music videos online. So, why not bring them into the classroom?. In this session, we'll examine music videos and learn how to help students interpret the expressive, symbolic, linguistic and cultural aspects in music videos that explore social justice themes. (67 words)

## 2. Speaker bio texts

### Sea (Claire) Steele (they/them)

I'm Sea and I have worked in EFL/ESL as a teacher, trainer, manager and consultant worldwide, but mainly in the UK, Australia, Colombia and Greece. I have always been interested in inspiring students and teachers, so teacher development has always been my area of interest and career path. I've been very privileged to have worked with teachers all over the world in their contexts. I work with teachers on fostering creativity and critical-thinking in the classroom to create a more dynamic and engaging learning experience. I'm also interested in teaching visual literacy skills, exploring social justice themes in the classroom, and supporting students who are gender diverse.

### Sarah Smith (she/her)

I'm Sarah and I have worked as an EFL/ESL teacher in Senegal, Japan, Ecuador and Turkey. I was a teacher and mentor in Thailand and France and am now based in Greece where I initially worked as an academic manager and a teacher trainer. I work with teachers on creative thinking, reflective practice and holistic child development. As an educator with ADHD, I also deliver training on teaching and learning with ADHD and encouraging a sense of progress through learning to learn techniques. I am also an advocate for social justice pedagogy approaches which provide a safe learning environment for all teachers and students. I'm currently a board member of TESOL Greece.