

**Friday 5 June**

**3:20pm - 4:00pm**

Room: Block Y, Room Y302

**Presentation Title:** Teacher Education in Vietnam and China: The need for personal experience

<b>Presenter / Co-presenters:</b>	Dr Elke Stracke, University of Canberra
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<b>Theme:</b>	Autonomy and teacher education
<b>Presentation Type:</b>	Paper presentation

### **Abstract**

This paper reports on a small-scale study that investigates views expressed by MA TESOL students in China and Vietnam (N = 99) on their experience of group work learning.\* The data consists of short reflections written by students after group work-based assignments. The reflections allow for interesting insights:

1. Many of these MA TESOL students, most of whom are already practising EFL teachers, had little or no previous personal experience of group work in their own learning;
2. Experiencing group work in their own learning seemed to lead to a more open attitude to use such more learner-centred forms of learning in their own classroom.

This paper highlights the importance of and need for personal experience when preparing teachers to make the conceptual shift from an instructivist to a more learner-centred teaching style. Teachers seem to be able to make this conceptual shift more easily if they experience themselves what it is like to be (more) responsible of their own learning. This has implications for teacher training in contexts such as China or Vietnam.

\* This MA programme is a joint programme between an Australian University and partner universities in China or Vietnam.

### **Biodata**

Elke is a Senior Lecturer in TESOL/Foreign Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics at the University of Canberra, Australia. She has taught in New Zealand, Australia, and Germany before joining the University of Canberra in 2007.

Her research interests include blended language learning, independent learning and learner autonomy, students' and teachers' beliefs, language teacher education, and post-graduate supervision development.