

3:50pm - 4:30pm

Block Y, Room Y303

Presentation Title: Strategies for Confident Conversations and Presentations- An experiential learning approach

Presenter / Co-presenters: Ms Tess HOGUE, The University of Hong Kong

Abstract

In 2009, the Summer Institute was launched through the Faculty of Arts, at the University of Hong Kong. Adopting a broad based approach for students, the Institute included such courses as African drumming, poetry, musical events and specifically tailored English courses for mainland exchange students. These courses included English for Fine Arts, English for Mainland Exchange Students and Strategies for Confident Conversations and Presentations. These were accredited courses designed and taught by the Centre for Applied English Studies, HKU. This paper focuses on the Strategies for Confident Conversations and Presentations course, with a view to elucidating the development of communicative skills and their potential in the new curriculum. The relationship between experiential teaching/learning and the unique placement of 'conversational skills' in developing a more flexible, creative approach to communication, is the central theme of this paper. The new curriculum direction will demand a more flexible, adaptive approach for student but above all in terms of English language demands, the ability to make connections between disparate ideas, to engage in interesting and meaningful discussions and most importantly the ability to foster a creative approach to language, are all skills that will be highly valued in the present and future society.

Biodata

Tess Hogue works at the Centre for Applied English Studies, HKU. Her research interests include second language acquisition issues in the areas of narrative, social identity and critical pedagogy.