

# CLER Creative Conversation Series:

## Language Teaching Materials through the Critical Lens

**Date: February 10th 2020, 2 to 4 p.m.**



### CLER Creative Conversations Abstract

The concept of the 'global coursebook', along with other teaching resources produced for a global market, has arguably made the life of the English language teacher easier by allowing attractive, professional-looking materials to be used across a wide range of contexts. Each coursebook provides the syllabus as well as the lesson materials, meaning the hard work organising and sequencing content has already been done. Clear instructions for students and teachers and supporting multimedia resources allow even inexperienced or unqualified teachers to deliver lessons written by professionals who are extremely knowledgeable about ELT.

However, there is much about popular ELT materials and their provenance that is problematic. The mismatch between their design and widely accepted principles of second language acquisition, the lack of inclusion of topics that encourage learners to engage critically with issues of injustice or inequality, the seemingly uncritical presentation of dominant global, neoliberal values such as materialism and competitiveness, and the excessive reliance on standardisation as a means of quality assurance, all raise questions about the validity of these materials as effective teaching aids.

My short presentation will explore the limitations of global ELT materials when analysed from a critical perspective. I then invite audience members to imagine a world without these materials and consider ways in which the ELT profession might evolve differently as a result.

### Guest Speaker: Steve Brown

Director of Studies of the English Language Unit at the University of the West of Scotland

*Steve Brown started his English language teaching career in 1993 as a volunteer in Mongolia. He then moved to the private ELT sector and spent several years in a range of roles in Central/Eastern Europe and South Africa. In 2001 he returned to the UK to complete an MSc in applied linguistics before spending more than 15 years in the Scottish FE sector, as an ESOL lecturer and manager. In 2018 Steve completed a Doctorate of Education from the University of Glasgow and is currently Director of Studies of the English Language Unit at the University of the West of Scotland. His main research interests are related to the potential for ELT to play an emancipatory role in global society*

\*In line with calls for an ethical vision for language education, the aim of this seminar is to analyse and discuss English language teaching classroom materials from the perspective of critical pedagogy. The event will feature a presentation as well as group discussions and practical activities.

**Location: 11– 14 Blenheim Terrace SR G.11**

### Discussants:

Loreto Aliaga-Salas

Chiara Bruzzano

**Please register on Eventbrite via this link :**

<http://bit.ly/eltmaterials>

**#CLERConversation**

