

Cairns Conference Update

Preparations for the 2012 ACTA International Conference are now in full swing. The conference program will feature a broad range of strands and exciting keynote presentations along with workshops, colloquia and poster sessions relevant to ESL, EFL and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander educators at all levels and across all sectors. Our keynote speakers have been finalised and abstract submissions are now open.

With an average daily July temperature of 26 degrees, Cairns is the ideal destination for a (fully tax-deductible!) winter break. Partners' programs and pre-and post-conference tour packages have been specially negotiated for our delegates and their families.



Beautiful Cairns

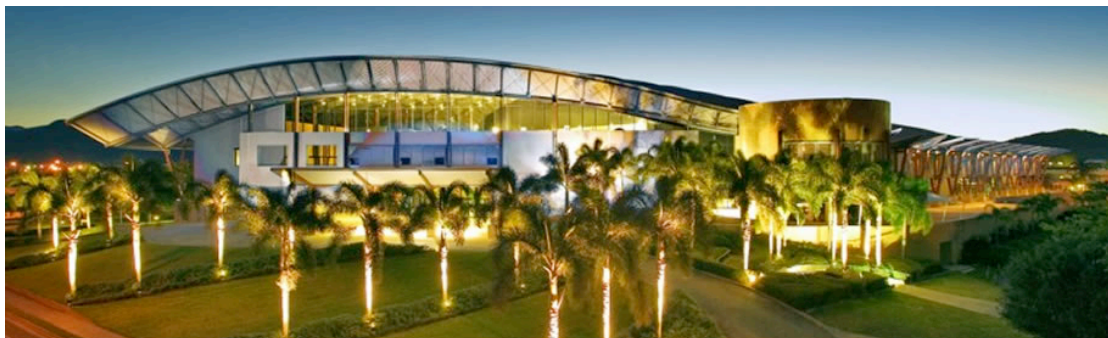
Located only 10 minutes from the city centre, Cairns International Airport is Australia's gateway to the Asia Pacific. There are direct flights to Cairns from all Australian capital cities with Qantas, Virgin Blue and Jetstar and international flights with onward connections to Europe and North America with Qantas, Cathay Pacific, Jetstar, Continental Airlines, Air New Zealand and Air Niugini.

Venue

Our conference venue is the state of the art Cairns Convention Centre. Situated on Trinity Inlet just a stone's throw from Cairns Pier and the CBD, the Centre was Australia's first environmentally designed major public building. Ecofriendly features include solar water heating, rainwater storage and water flow restrictors, and energy-saving shading devices.



The Welcome Reception will be held on the Outdoor Plaza on the Exhibition level of the Convention Centre on Monday evening 2 July following the pre-conference Pronunciation Symposium. Overlooking the main waterway and Cairns harbour with spectacular views across to the wilderness highlands of the Yarrabah peninsula, delegates attending this function will be treated to a special cultural performance which is sure to be a conference highlight.



Cairns Convention Centre, opened in 1997

Program

Our conference title is 'Ethics, Equity and Ecology – TESOL as a Global Trade'. Along with a strong practical focus on effective pedagogies for English language learning, conference papers will explore issues relating to language rights, first language maintenance and multilingualism as they apply to the profession of

English Language Teaching in both local and overseas contexts.

In addition, an ACTA colloquium and round table forum of educational managers

from the states and territories have been scheduled to explore some of the intersections between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander home languages, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language education initiatives, and TESOL, in order to map a way forward in the provision of appropriate educational support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are learning English as an additional language or dialect.

The conference dinner on the Wednesday night is sure to be a memorable occasion. The venue and theme will remain a closely guarded secret; however, guests are guaranteed an up close and personal encounter with some of the natural wonders of this tropical paradise!

Speakers

We are extremely excited to host an outstanding line-up of international and home-grown Keynote speakers:

- Professor Robert Phillipson
- Dr Tove Skutnabb-Kangas
- Professor Suresh Canagarajah
- Professor Gillian Wigglesworth and Dr Jane Simpson
- Juanita Sellwood.

Featured speakers will include the immediate Past President of TESOL International, Brock Brady, who is attending as the TESOL International representative, and Professor Tracey Derwing, the Keynote presenter for our pre-conference Pronunciation Symposium.

Pronunciation Symposium

'Teaching and learning pronunciation: Local and global perspectives on research and practice' is the title of the symposium to be held on Monday 2 July, with leading national and international educators and researchers in the field taking part:

- Professor Tracey Derwing
- Dr John Field
- Professor Andy Kirkpatrick
- Dr Helen Fraser
- Associate Professor Ee Ling Low
- Associate Professor Lynda Yates.

The 2012 ACTA International Conference in Cairns is being hosted by ATESOL NSW. To submit an abstract, or to register, visit the conference website at

<http://www.astmanagement.com.au/acta12/>

The Conference Committee



Invited Speakers



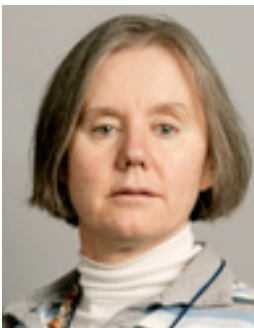
Dr Tove Skutnabb-Kangas is a world-renowned linguist and author who in the mid-1980s originated the concept of 'linguicism', or linguistically-argued racism, which she defined as follows: 'ideologies and structures which are used to legitimate, effectuate, and reproduce unequal division of power and resources (both material and non-material) between groups which are defined on the basis of language.' Dr Skutnabb-Kangas has recently been working on projects in Nepal and India where Indigenous children are being taught through the medium of their mother tongues.



Robert Phillipson is Professor Emeritus of the Department of International Language Studies and Computational Linguistics at the Copenhagen Business School. An advocate for multilingual education and linguistic rights, his groundbreaking 1992 book *Linguistic Imperialism* continues to generate substantial discussion and debate about the ethics of English language teaching. In 2010, Professor Phillipson was joint recipient of the Linguapax Prize, an award presented for 'outstanding contributions in the promotion of linguistic diversity, the revitalization of linguistic communities, and the fostering of multilingual education.'



Suresh Canagarajah is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor in Applied Linguistics and English at Pennsylvania State University. His multidisciplinary research in the fields of sociolinguistics, rhetoric and composition, and migration studies, and publications including *Resisting Linguistic Imperialism in English Teaching* (1999) and *A Geopolitics of Academic Writing* (2002) have received numerous awards. From 2004-2009 Professor Canagarajah edited *TESOL Quarterly*, the flagship journal of TESOL International. He is currently President of the American Association for Applied Linguistics.



Dr Jane Simpson is Chair of Indigenous Linguistics and Head of the School of Language Studies at the Australian National University. Dr Simpson has carried out fieldwork on Indigenous Australian languages since 1979 and studies the structure and use of several Australian Aboriginal languages: Warumungu, Kurna and Warlpiri. She has worked on land claims in the Tennant Creek area, on the maintenance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and on establishing electronic archives of text and audio-visual material.

Professor Gillian Wigglesworth has been Head of the School of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Melbourne since 2005. With Dr Simpson, she worked on the Aboriginal Child Language Acquisition Project, an Australian Research Council-funded longitudinal study of Aboriginal children in remote communities in Central and Northern Australia who are acquiring creoles, English and traditional languages.



Juanita Sellwood is a lecturer in the School of Education at the Cairns campus of James Cook University. Her research interests include cultural diversity, effective teaching practices for ESL Indigenous students and the language situation for Indigenous Australians and she is a member of the ACARA EAL/D Working Group. Juanita was born in Cairns and her family heritage links to the Indigenous Australian community of Masig (Yorke Island) in the Torres Strait. Before working in tertiary education, Juanita was a primary school teacher in Cairns.



Dr Tracey Derwing is a professor of TESL in the Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Alberta and Co-Director of the Prairie Metropolis Centre for Research on Immigration, Integration and Diversity. Professor Derwing prepares teachers who plan to teach English as a second or foreign language and she has also conducted large-scale studies on the settlement experiences of refugees in Canada. Dr. Derwing has served as an editor of the *TESL Canada Journal* and more recently of the *Canadian Modern Language Review*.



Brock Brady is the Programming and Training Education Specialist for the United States Peace Corps and immediate Past-President of TESOL International. Brock served as Coordinator then Co-Director of the American University TESOL Program in Washington DC for 12 years, developing and enhancing academic programs and designing and teaching graduate level teacher education courses. He has directed English Language Programs for the US State Department in Burkina Faso and Benin, was a Fulbright Scholar in France, and served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Togo.

