

Lend - International Summer School

21st - 24th July 2025

Salerno (Italy)

Antonia Clare



Plenary Abstract

Connection matters: the importance of human connection

As humans, our relationships are important and we thrive when we feel a sense of connection in our daily lives. In education, connection extends beyond this idea of social connectedness to include the deep connections required to make learning effective. However, it can be hard to form these deeper connections in today's world. This talk will look at the importance of deep connection in learning and life and explore techniques we can use to maximise our own and our learners' sense of connectedness. I will look at ways in which we can aim to **reconnect** with ourselves, with each other and with the important work that we do.

Workshop

Teaching the curriculum creatively

Our desire as teachers to be creative and to encourage our learners' creativity are prime motivating factors in our own professional self-development and self-renewal. Yet there is often a tension perceived between 'being creative' in our lessons and the demands of standardised curricula and testing. In this interactive workshop, Antonia will explore reasons why it is so important to resolve that tension – to teach the syllabus in creative ways – and offer practical ideas for how this can be achieved.

Speaker: Antonia Clare

Antonia Clare is an English language teacher trainer, international conference speaker and author. Her special interests include the psychology of language learning, creativity and art. She has taught and trained in many countries around the world, and co-authored bestselling course book titles including *Total English* and *Speakout* (now in its 3rd edition) as well as Teachers' Resource titles such as *The Creative Teacher's Compendium*. She is a freelance writer, a consultant trainer with NILE, and her latest publication is *Positive Language Education - Teaching Global Life Skills in the Language Classroom* (Routledge).