

Melanie Gobert

Higher Colleges of Technology
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Education

- Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership, University of Phoenix, 2009
- Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics/TESOL, University of Leicester, UK, 2002
- Bachelor of Arts in English Composition, Beloit College, 1984

Professional Work Experience

- Program Coordinator and Course Leader, Higher Colleges of Technology, Abu Dhabi Men's College, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates 2017–2020
- Academic Coordinator and Course Team Leader, HCT ADMC, 2013–2017
- English Foundations Faculty, HCT ADMC, 2010-2013
- Academic Coordinator and Team Leader, HCT Centre of Excellence in Applied Research and Training, 2007-2010
- Faculty and Course Team Leader, HCT Abu Dhabi Women's College, 2001-2007
- English Teacher, Al Afaq Model School and the British Council, Abu Dhabi, UAE, Summer 2002
- ESL Lecturer, Institute of Public Administration, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 2000-2001
- ESL Adjunct Professor, Loma Linda University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1994-2000
- English Instructor, Al-Nahda Center of Continuing Education, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 1993
- English Teacher, United States Peace Corps, Xaverian Mission School, Bukavu, Zaire, 1984-1986

Professional Affiliations

- BELTA (Belgian English Language Teaching Association), 2021-present
- TESOL International (2015-present), TESOL International Affiliate Review Task Force (2015-2016), Proposals Reviewer, 2016-present
- TESOL Arabia, 2001-2019, TESOL Arabia, Executive Council (2009-2020), President and Conference Co-Chair (2014-2015), Conference Book Editor, (2011-2013), Perspectives Editor, TESOL Arabia peer-reviewed journal (2009-2015), Abu Dhabi Chapter Treasurer (2005-2009)
- President and Co-founder, Middle East and North Africa Extensive Reading Foundation, 2013-2015, Conference Co-Chair, 2015
- Gulf Comparative Education Society, 2013-2020
- IATEFL, 2007

Recent Presentations:

- New Activities for Recycling Vocabulary, TESOL International, Atlanta, Georgia, 2019
- Reflecting on Assessment, Workshop, TESOL International, Atlanta, Georgia, 2019
- Gamification in Education, First Subject Teacher Forum, UAE Ministry of Education, 2018
- Using Quizlet Live to Learn and Recycle Vocabulary, Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching Conference, Dubai, 2018
- Using Mreader to Track Students' Extensive Reading, Workshop, Australian College of Kuwait, 2017

- Reading: A 21st Century Skill in Higher Education, Keynote Speaker, International Academic Forum, Dubai, 2017
- Taboo Topics in Gulf Arab Cooperation Council Classrooms, TESOL International, Baltimore, USA, 2016
- Language Learner Literature and Identity, TESOL International Regional Conference, Singapore, 2015

Recent Publications:

- Helping Arabic Learners Negotiate the Linguistic Challenges Posed by English as a Medium of Instruction. (forthcoming). In M. Wyatt & G. El Gamal (Eds.), *English as a Medium of Instruction on the Arabian Peninsula: Where do we go from here?*
- The Development of a Large Scale Online Cross-listed Course to Teach Life and Study Skills. (forthcoming). In C. Coombe, L. Hiasat, & G. Deleure (Eds.), *English Language and General Studies Education in the United Arab Emirates - Theoretical, Empirical and Practical Perspectives*. Springer.
- Conference Organization as a Path to Professional Development. (2020). In C. Coombe, N. Anderson, & L. Stephenson (Eds.), *Professionalizing your English language teaching*. Springer.
- Innovation in reading in the United Arab Emirates. (2019). In H. Reinders, C. Coombe, A. Littlejohn, & D. Tafazoli, (Eds.), *Innovation in language learning & teaching: The case of the Middle East and North Africa*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Transformation in English language education in the UAE. (2019). In K. Gallagher (Ed.) *Education in the United Arab Emirates* pp. 113-126. Springer.
- Accommodations. (2018). In J.I. Lontas (Ed.), *The TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*
- Flash Cards, Realia, and Objects. (2018). In J.I. Lontas (Ed.), *The TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching*.
- Proceedings for the Third World Congress on Extensive Reading, Editor. (2016). Lean Publishing.
- Current Issues in Reading, Writing and Visual Literacy: Research and Practice. (2015). Co-Editor. UK: Cambridge Scholars
- Taboo Topics in the ESL/EFL Classroom in the Gulf Region. (2015). In R. Radawi (Ed.), *Intercultural Communication with Arabs* (pp. 109-126). Springer.
- Language learner literature and identity. (2014). *The Fifth Annual Gulf Comparative Education Society Symposium Proceedings*.

Research:

- Action Research Advisor, GEMS Education, 2012-2014, Largest private K-12 provider in United Arab Emirates
- Lead Researcher, Emirates Foundation Grant #182/2009 (200,000 AED; 44,500 EUR), 2009-2011
- Lead Researcher, Abu Dhabi University, English Language Provision and Assessment Strategies, 2007

Candidate Statement:

What kind of leaders does the association need? Why are you a good candidate to choose them?

Times are changing in education and TESOL International must show that it is able to adapt and move the “old guard” over for the “new guard.” COVID-19 has had a huge impact on how we think education can be delivered and TESOL International needs to confront this. Streaming services,

different financial models, social media, and the democratization of English language teaching and learning will continue to impact our association. TESOL International needs forward thinkers who can take the shape of the organization and maintain all the values it holds dear, while embracing opportunities for inclusivity, diversity, and equality. As a leader, I will bring a vast knowledge of the changing educational world from CD-based language lab stations to the democratization of online webinars, conferences, and professional learning networks. The possibilities are endless, the time for adaptation and adoption is now, and the face of TESOL International should lead this change and not merely reflect it.