



The Gwangju Communicator

Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of Korea TESOL

June 2019

Decolonizing Pedagogies: Some Practical Examples from Intercultural Educators in Korea

By Dr. Kevin Kester

In response to the increasing internationalization of Korean higher education, questions are arising about how educational professionals should respond creatively and effectively to changing demographics and citizenships in classrooms and universities (Kim & Chun, 2015). Lecturers are increasingly facing the challenge of educating young people from diverse backgrounds – from the global North and the global South. It is important in this changing context that intercultural educators in Korean universities adapt their theoretical and pedagogical approaches to transcend the limitations of the previous generations of multicultural education, human rights, language, peace, and citizenship education to approach interculturalism from diverse traditions (Andreotti et al., 2015; Connell, 2007).

This workshop will begin with a critical review of the literature and share findings from previous workshops. This will be followed by guided inquiry to collectively re-imagine strategies for decolonizing higher education in Korea today. The strategies in turn will be shared with the KOTESOL community in the *Korea TESOL Journal*. [References on page 3.]

THE PRESENTER

Dr. Kevin Kester is a tenure-track assistant professor of the Department of International Education and Global Affairs at Keimyung University in Daegu. He

completed his PhD and post-doctorate work at the University of Cambridge and regularly consults with UNESCO and KEDI in Seoul. Kevin has published more than 60 peer-reviewed articles and book



chapters in well-regarded international and domestic publications, and has acquired considerable research funding in his early career. He researches the sociology and politics of education with a focus on comparative and

international education; education, conflict, and peacebuilding; and social theory (de- / post-colonial and postmodern thought, and critical pedagogy). His latest book is *The United Nations and Higher Education: Peacebuilding, Social Justice, and Global Cooperation for the 21st Century*. He has worked in Korea since 2007.

(Dr. Kester will be presenting on “Decolonizing Pedagogies” on June 8 at the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter KOTESOL meeting at Gwangju National University of Education).

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Joining Korea TESOL

Who May Join: English teachers of any level or nationality are eligible to join. KOTESOL welcomes native and non-native speakers teaching at public schools, language institutes, colleges and universities, and other organizations, as well as tutors. Undergraduate students may join as student members.

What Memberships Types Are Available?

- **Regular 1-Year Membership:** 50,000 won.
- **Lifetime Membership:** 500,000 won. Student and International Membership options are also available.

How to Join: Apply by using the online membership form at <http://www.koreatesol.org/>. On the front page, click on "Join KOTESOL" in the menu, and follow the directions. Help available at a Chapter meeting.

Alternately, paper membership application and renewal forms are available at Chapter meetings for those who prefer making a hard-copy application with Chapter assistance.

Membership payment may be made by either of these two methods:

- Bank transfer to: **KOTESOL**. KEB-Hana bank account number: 299-890069-83204.
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting.

EFL in Korea's Remote Elementary Schools: Challenges and Opportunities

By Vanessa Virgiel

The Ministry of Education mandates that every Korean public school offer English classes starting at elementary grade three, yet students in Korea's most remote village and island elementary schools are at a disadvantage in accessing quality English education in comparison to their urban peers. In this workshop, we will first explore the reasons why students at these rural elementary schools often face a number of challenges in getting a solid foundation in primary-level English skills in ways that students in metropolitan areas do not.



Then, we will look at what an English teacher working at one of these rural elementary schools can do to help compensate for the constraints encountered and also explore the affordances this particular teaching environment offers. The

workshop will then cover practical tips, such as useful classroom activities and games, before concluding with a chance for workshop participants to share ideas from their own teacher tool kits.

THE PRESENTER

Vanessa Virgiel is a linguist and EFL/ESL educator who has taught in Korea and the United States. She holds a Master of Education in TESL (Framingham State University, Massachusetts, USA) and a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Linguistics (Portland State University, Oregon, USA).

Her areas of interest within ELT include materials design, CALL, intercultural competency development, and how to extend the ethos of inclusive education to the field of TESOL.

(Vanessa will be presenting on "EFL in Korea's Remote Elementary Schools" on June 8 at the Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter KOTESOL meeting at Gwangju National University of Education.)

References from page 1

- Andreotti, V., Stein, S., Ahenakew, C., & Hunt, D. (2015). Mapping interpretations of decolonization in the context of higher education. *Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education, and Society*, 4(1), 21–40.
- Connell, R. (2007). *Southern theory: The global dynamics of knowledge in social science*. Sydney, Australia: Allen & Unwin.
- Kim, J. H., & Chun, Y. J. (2015). Ethnocentrism as a barrier to intercultural interaction. *Korean Journal of Comparative Education*, 25, 201–229.

Pre-registration

THE 27TH ANNUAL KOREA TESOL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**Advancing ELT:
Blending Disciplines,
Approaches, and
Technologies**

October 12-13, 2019
Seoul, Korea

Plenary Speakers:
Rod Ellis
Andrew D. Cohen

Invited Panels:
Women in Leadership
in ELT
Women in Leadership
in Korea

PRE-REGISTRATION
August 1 ~ September 30
<https://koreatesol.org/IC2019>
#KOTESOL2019 #AdvancingELT

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KOTESOL
대한영어교육학회

Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL June Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, June 8, 2019, 1:45–5:00 p.m.
- Place: Gwangju Natl. University of Ed., Teacher Training Bldg., Room **812** (1st Floor)

■ Schedule: Chapter Meeting, Main Session

- 1:45 pm:** Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission free for newcomers. Future membership always welcomed.)
- 2:00 – 2:50 pm: SESSION 1 (PRESENTATION)**
EFL in Korea's Remote Elementary Schools: Challenges and Opportunities
 Vanessa Virgiel (Framingham State University)
- 2:50 – 3:10 pm:** Refreshment & Networking Break
- 3:10 – 4:00 pm: SESSION 2 (WORKSHOP)**
Decolonizing Pedagogies: Some Practical Examples from Intercultural Educators in Korea
 Dr. Kevin Kester (Keimyung University, Daegu)
- 4:10 – 4:45 pm: SwapShop Session (Open to All)**
 Everyone is encouraged to share their Teaching Discoveries and “Secrets” with the group. Share your Teaching Tips, Ideas, Classroom Activities, Games, ELT Books, or other Teaching Wisdom. (Handouts welcomed.)
- 4:45 – 5:00 pm:** Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

After-Meeting Dinner nearby at *Angelo* pasta-and-pizza restaurant.

Upcoming Chapter Events

July 13, 2019. Chapter Meeting.

Bryan Alkema: *Codeswitching: Assist or Avoid*
 Judith Alkema: *Break Out the Lego: The Value of Play and Art in the EFL Environment*
 Teacher Training Center, GNUE, Gwangju.

August 10, 2019. Chapter Meeting.

Teacher Training Center, GNUE, Gwangju.

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

October 12–13, 2019.

The 27th Annual Korea TESOL International Conference
Advancing ELT: Blending Disciplines, Approaches, and Technologies
 Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul

Plenary Speakers

- Rod Ellis
- Andrew D. Cohen

Reflective Practice SIG

From ELT ... to GELT

June 8 (11:00–12:30)

Jocelyn Wright facilitating.

At *Coffee Lab Mujii* (near GNUE)