

CONFERENCE REPORT

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International House Brno is one of the best-known language schools in the Czech Republic. This school is a part of the International House Network, which guarantees a high standard of education and well-qualified teachers. Every year the school organizes two international conferences for English teachers, one in the spring, one in the fall. It is a big event for speakers and guests.

This year it was called *Imagine* and it took place on Saturday 24th February 2018. Trainers from all over Europe, including the famous Mr. Underhill (whose books are hugely popular in Europe) shared their knowledge and experience with the participants.

For many years, I have visited this conference as a listener and have enjoyed the incredible workshops. This year, however, I decided to attend as a speaker. It happened mostly because I was inspired by the content of the Level 3 course that I currently teach. That's why the topic of my workshop was *Teaching Culture in the English Language Classroom*.

During the 60-minute presentation (followed by 20 minutes of Q&A), I provided handouts with topics for teaching culture, a cultural quiz and examples of culture-related British books and films. During the presentation I first asked teachers to answer a couple of questions connected with teaching culture in their own countries. After a brief discussion, some main theoretical ideas were presented. Finally, I explained how we teach intercultural communication at Shantou University, and I also used several examples from the course book *Encounters with Westerners*, by Don Snow. After the presentation, the audience had the opportunity to ask me questions. Surprisingly for me, there were plenty of questions not only about the content of the presentation but also about China and Shantou university. It was my pleasure to answer them.

This conference was a big step for me as I realized that I can be a successful speaker at international conferences. I do believe that my workshop was useful for the audience, as I provided them with not only theoretical ideas but also with the handouts that teachers can use in their lessons.

Presenters were provided with the feedback from the audience immediately after the conference. To my great pleasure, my colleagues' comments were very positive.