

# Hong Kong: Confluence: An Ensemble of ELT Pedagogies

June 1-2, 2019

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I was honored to attend the 2019 *Confluence: An Ensemble of ELT Pedagogies* conference held by the Department of Education Studies from Hong Kong Baptist University on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019. I contributed by sharing a lesson presentation titled “Bridging the cultural and perceptual gaps between teachers and learners in classroom communication with a special emphasis on cognitive dissonance”. I also attended several of the lesson demonstrations and classroom research presentations delivered by experts in English language teaching working in Asia.



The objective of attending this conference was to be able to network with other colleagues in similar situations was an extremely valuable experience. For instance, I was able to attend a lesson demonstration using the trolley problem in the ELT classroom to promote writing and critical thinking. Similarly, I was able to join a classroom session on developing learner autonomy in the Hong Kong secondary classroom. It was particularly interesting to see how the teacher uses motivation as a tool for autonomous learning in the classroom. Some of the presentations were good for novice teachers as their methodologies were very basic and practical and therefore could be a good starting point for research for new teachers.



I was very pleased with my conference attendance. I learned new solutions and best practice strategies that can be implemented in my classrooms. In addition, I gained valuable experience that couldn't be obtained anywhere else. The networking experience was very beneficial as I was able to speak with several experts who provided tips on how they deal with lack of motivation amongst students.

The conference was very organized, and the speakers provided candid opinions on the subject matter at hand, making the information extremely valuable. For instance, ELT professionals have a choice to make whether to adopt or to adapt, which I found very apt.