

1st Annual  
KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY-DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

# English Language Learner Conference

Saturday, May 29, 2021  
9:00am–3:00pm

**Program & Schedule of Speakers**

[Conference Registration Link Click Here](#)

Receive Up to Six Act 48  
Hours for Attending - Please  
request Act 48 forms to be  
sent via email on your  
registration form

9:00–10:00 a.m.

## Welcome & Keynote Speaker

*“Immigration and Education Under the Biden Administration: What’s New? What Now?”*

**Dr. Tatyana Kleyn**

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226

Passcode: 012181



Tatyana Kleyn is Associate Professor and Director of the Bilingual Education and TESOL Programs at The City College of New York. She received an Ed.D. at Teachers College, Columbia University. Tatyana is Principal Investigator for the City University of New York - Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY-IIE). She served as president of the New York State Association for Bilingual Education and was a Fulbright Scholar in Oaxaca, Mexico. Tatyana has authored books and articles on immigration, translanguaging, and bilingual education. Her work in film as a producer and director includes the “Living Undocumented Series,” “Una Vida, Dos Países: Children and Youth (Back) in Mexico” and the “Supporting Immigrants in Schools” video series.



# 10:00–11:00 a.m.

## Breakout Sessions

### BREAKOUT ROOM 1

*Addressing the Advanced Chinese ELs through CLT*

Sarah Rawls

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991>

Meeting ID:

981 4280 8991

Session Moderator: Dr. Chris Weiler

### BREAKOUT ROOM 2

*Linguistic Capital: Building a Bi/Multilingual Community*

Nadia Thalassinou & Amanda Bressack

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97856686139?pwd=dFYxK3Y3UktOcjhNN3JwZFhuR1lyUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 5668 6139

Passcode: 273159

Session Moderator: Dr. Nicole Johnson

### BREAKOUT ROOM 3

*Student Produced Audio Narratives: An Inclusive Pedagogy*

George Sirrakos

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226

Passcode: 012181

Session Moderator: Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden

### BREAKOUT ROOM 4

*Students Diverse Education Experiences, Challenges, and Successes: Tales from All Perspectives in Public Schools*

Deborah Johnson

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/92883217318>

Meeting ID: 928 8321 7318

Session Moderator: Dr. Kristen Bazley

### BREAKOUT ROOM 1

*Addressing the Advanced Chinese ELs through CLT*

Sarah Rawls, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Chinese students are one of the largest groups of English Learners (ELs) we teach, yet a majority of instructors encounter many of the same challenges in teaching Chinese ELs such as Chinese ELs demonstrating low confidence in English oral proficiency and lacking opportunities to use their English in meaningful ways outside of class (Chen & Goh, 2011). These challenges are exemplified as both teachers and students of diverse backgrounds have different perspectives on what Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) is and how effective it can be (Rao, 2002). Due to the intensive nature of the program, teachers and students had a short period of time to establish a sense of classroom community, rapport, and trust; all of which are important in cultivating a welcoming learning environment (Simpson, 2008). In this presentation, you will learn how content-based CLT curriculum was designed and implemented in a short summer English practicum for Advanced Chinese ELs at a rigorous research university in China, what challenges English instructors and students faced, and what strategies they utilized to develop culturally responsive instructional materials to address these challenges inside and outside the classroom.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 2

*Linguistic Capital: Building a Bi/Multilingual Community*

Nadia Thalassinou & Amanda Bressack

This presentation will focus on building capacity to run bilingual education programs beginning at early childhood. Points of discussion will include the current linguistic capital in educational agencies, hiring practices, utilizing a student's full linguistic repertoire, and students' linguistic rights.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 3

*Student Produced Audio Narratives: An Inclusive Pedagogy*

George Sirrakos, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

This presentation will introduce participants to Student-Produced Audio Narratives (SPAN). SPAN is an accessible and flexible pedagogical approach that tasks students with engaging with content by telling a story using simple audio recording and production techniques. In our study, SPAN was implemented in introductory level geoscience classrooms at 2-year community colleges and 4-year universities across three semesters. Our original research questions focused on studying students' perceptions of their learning environments and their attitudes toward science. However, through several semi-structured student interviews, we were able to uncover that SPAN also assisted students in language acquisition and the building of content-specific language skills. Specifically, qualitative data revealed three key themes. The first theme was related to the more intentional ways that students had to engage with language. Secondly, students expressed that SPAN gave them greater confidence in communicating content-specific information to a wider audience. Third, students shared that SPAN helped them gain and fine-tune specific language skills. These data demonstrate SPAN's potential as a pedagogical approach to create a more inclusive learning environment, particularly for emergent bilingual students who are often marginalized from traditional classroom settings for not yet fully possessing all second language and communication skills.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 4

*Students Diverse Education Experiences, Challenges, and Successes: Tales from All Perspectives in Public Schools*

Deborah Johnson, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

A panel of undergraduate students discuss their language acquisition experiences, diverse learning needs, special needs, and family participation as second language learners. The panelists will disclose personal stories of teachers' abilities to work with students from all walks of life.

# 11:00 a.m. – noon

## Breakout Sessions

### BREAKOUT ROOM 5

*ESL Certification for Content Teachers: Why You Should Get Certified*

Carissa Pokorny-Golden & Kara Leibensperger

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/94227912829?pwd=QXpjcW9VZ2NabnZpUUFZQTdDemsvZz09>

Meeting ID: 942 2791 2829

Passcode: 007499

Session Moderator: Prof. Debbie Johnson

### BREAKOUT ROOM 7

*Meeting the Needs of Newcomer English Learners*

Kathleen Gill

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991>

Meeting ID: 981 4280 8991

Session Moderator: Dr. Christopher Weiler

### BREAKOUT ROOM 6

*Transition to Bilingualism: The Case for Heritage Language Maintenance in the ESL Curriculum*

Christine Coleman Núñez

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/s/99705392266>

Meeting ID: 997 0539 2266

Passcode: 470575

Session Moderator: Dr. Tabetta Bernstein-Danis

### BREAKOUT ROOM 8

*Through Kenyan Eyes: The Story Behind the Series*

Sharon Maida

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97856686139?pwd=dFYxK3Y3UktOcjhNN3JwZFhuR1lyUT09>

Meeting ID: 978 5668 6139

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Session Moderator: Dr. Nicole Johnson

### BREAKOUT ROOM 5

*ESL Certification for Content Teachers: Why You Should Get Certified*

Carissa Pokorny-Golden & Kara Leibensperger, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Getting certified in ESL as a content teacher is not as hard as many think it is. Come to this presentation and find out how to get certified, what it takes, and why. Meet teachers who received their certification in a content area and are now teaching ESL.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 6

*Transition to Bilingualism: The Case for Heritage Language Maintenance in the ESL Curriculum*

Christine Coleman Núñez, Grace Hajjar, Ferize Katzarova, Marisela Montero, Dorothea Vardaxis, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

The term “emerging bilingual” is often based on an educational paradigm that separates the learner’s home language from English, rather than a holistic bilingual lens which acknowledges that simultaneous bilinguals access both languages even when working in a single language. This is based partly on the pervasive myth that exposing children to two or more languages will cause confusion and slow their academic progress. Consequently, the focus of instruction becomes the transition to English rather than bilingualism and biliteracy, where learners are encouraged to draw on one language to help them with the other and develop metalinguistic awareness. Research demonstrates that bilingual children show cognitive advantages over monolingual children and that linguistic development is greatly enhanced when learners use all their bilingual competencies together to make cross-language connections. Heritage language development also serves to connect the students with their home culture and identity and works to meet the growing need for multilingual and multicultural citizens. In this panel, we make a case for promoting bilingual development in ESL programs and explore ways to scaffold instruction and assessment using home language skills to the learners’ advantage. Panelists will share their unique perspectives as former English learners and current ESL teachers. Discussion includes the challenges to this approach.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 7

*Meeting the Needs of Newcomer English Learners*

Kathleen Gill, ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Allentown School District Secondary Newcomer Academy was founded in 2011. As a result of the evacuee crisis from Hurricane Maria, in the fall of 2017, the district opened an elementary Newcomer Academy in February of 2018. We serve a culturally and linguistically diverse population of more than 375 students from around the world. The Newcomer Academies are designed to support students who are new arrivals to the United States with minimal English language skills, as well as refugees who may have limited formal schooling in their native country. Our schools offer intensive English language instruction and sheltered content area instruction. Newcomer Academies are transitional programs that focus on oral language development and content needed for success in core subjects and acclimation into American Public School. Additionally, we offer our students the supports necessary to graduate high school college, career and community ready. During our presentation we will share facts about ELs and address the social and emotional needs of emerging bilingual Newcomer Students.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 8

*Through Kenyan Eyes: The Story Behind the Series”*

Sharon Maida, LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

The author will take you through her decades-long involvement with two schools for the blind in rural Kenya, which is the impetus for this four book series that explores some of the most prevalent eye diseases in the developing world. We will explore the author’s boots-on-the-ground fact-finding process and the challenges of translating humanity into fiction. Finally, the author will discuss working with children who have disabilities when there are language barriers.



12:00–1:00 *p.m.*

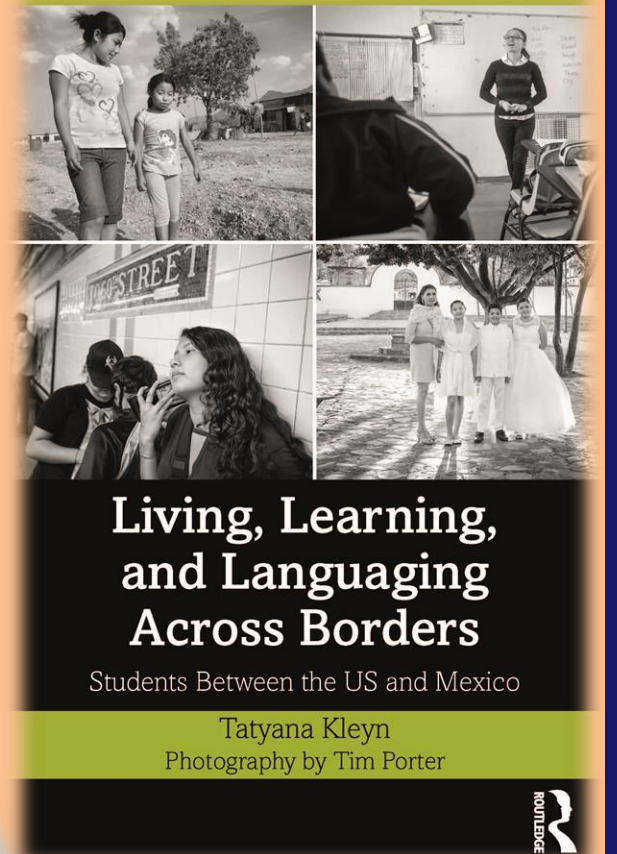
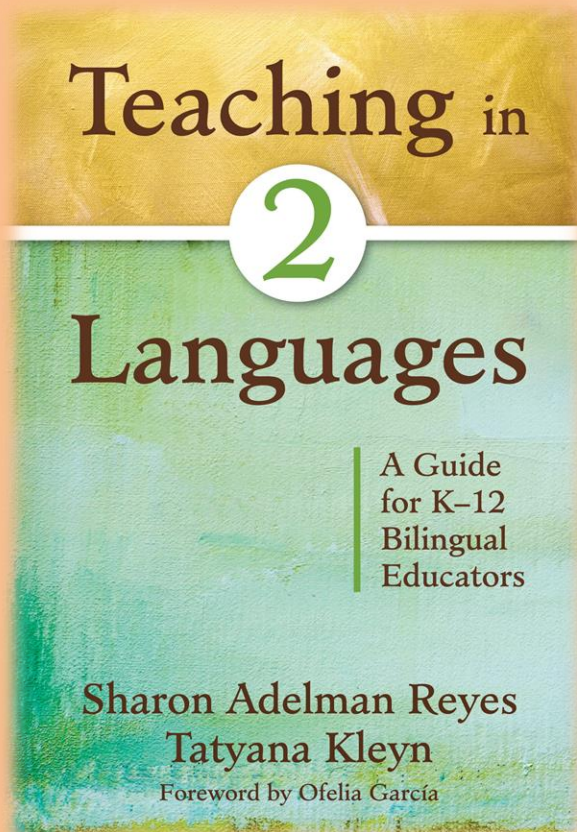
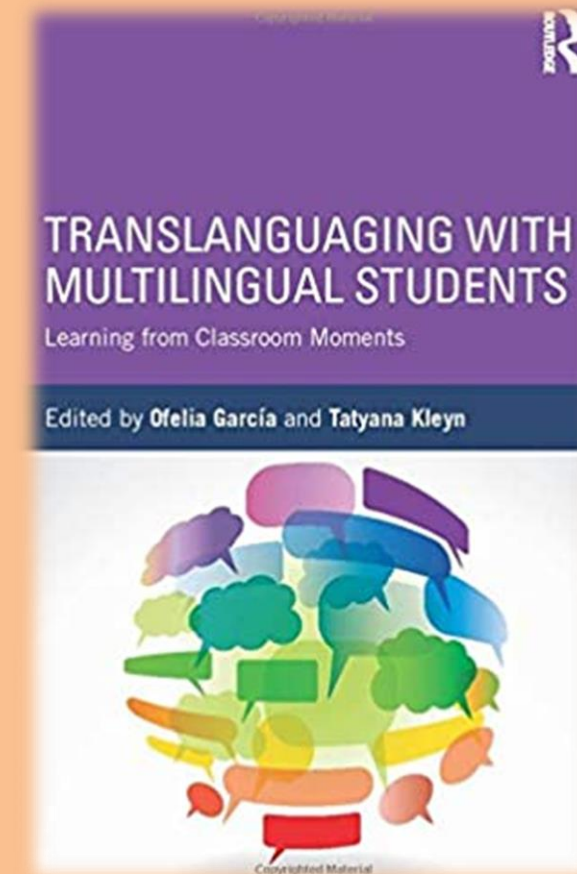
Lunch with our Keynote Speaker,  
**Dr. Tatyana Kleyn**

*Bring your food, questions, and  
conversation!*

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226

Passcode: 012181





# 1:00–2:00 p.m.

## Breakout Sessions

### BREAKOUT ROOM 9

*Sharing Knowledge of Different Barriers Migrant/EL Students Face with Future Teachers*  
Lees Chevere

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/99705392266>

Meeting ID: 997 0539 2266

Passcode: 470575

Session Moderator: Dr. Tabettha Bernstein-Danis

### BREAKOUT ROOM 11

*Using Ekphrasis as a Tool to Enhance and Support Emergent Bilinguals*  
Julia L. Hovanec

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226

Passcode: 012181

Session Moderator: Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden

### BREAKOUT ROOM 10

*Evaluating and Establishing Global Relationships for Pre-service Teachers in Rural Students in Alaska*  
Kristen Bazely

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/94227912829?pwd=QXpjcW9VZ2NabnZpUUFZQTdDemsVZz09>

Meeting ID: 942 2791 2829

Passcode: 007499

Session Moderator: Prof. Debbie Johnson

### BREAKOUT ROOM 12

*Inspiring the Reluctant Teacher*  
Jen Clinton

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97620879305?pwd=bHVjdGxMUGU2NmtLc204YjVhMCswUT09>

Meeting ID: 976 2087 9305

Passcode: 042258

Session Moderator: Dr. Brenda Muzeta

### BREAKOUT ROOM 9

*Sharing Knowledge of Different Barriers Migrant/EL Students Face with Future Teachers*

Lees Chevere, PENNSYLVANIA MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM

This workshop will provide the future teachers and administrators knowledge of different barriers the Migrant/ELL students encounter when arriving to their school district. We acknowledge that teachers need a solid understanding of the cultural and social dimensions of the lives of MEP students. The participants will leave with an understanding of the multiple barriers the Migrant/EL students encounter daily. In addition, participants will learn about the support services that are provided via the PA-MEP, to ensure a better understanding of the challenges that Migrant/EL students face. They will then be able to identify effective strategies that will improve the coordination and delivery of services.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 10

*Evaluating and Establishing Global Relationships for Pre-service Teachers in Rural Students in Alaska*

Kristen Bazely, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

Participants will learn about a unique program that is offered at Kutztown University where teacher candidates remotely tutor a student in the diverse village schools of Bush Alaska. The program has just completed its 10th year working with the district in Alaska. The presentation will cover the overall benefits to both teacher candidates and students in Alaska, the cultural impact on our current teacher candidates. It will also address the research completed on how this program has impacted former tutors, now KU Alumni, that are currently teaching in various school systems across the United States.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 11

*Using Ekphrasis as a Tool to Enhance and Support Emergent Bilinguals*

Julia L. Hovanec, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

How can Ekphrasis be used as a tool to enhance and support emergent bilinguals? In this hands-on session, participants will partake in five ekphrastic encounters that take notice of and honor bilingualism. Ekphrasis simply defined, is poetry about a work of art and was first introduced in Ancient Greece as a rhetorical exercise, (Welsh, 2007). Contemporary ekphrastic works can simply describe a work of art or expressively bring it to life. In the classroom, this bold intersection of art and poetry has unlimited potential as it appeals to the heart, head and hands of learners (Hovanec, 2016). For bilinguals, these ekphrastic encounters have the unique capacity to convey and portray what it means to be human. They also challenge intellect and provide rich experiences in analysis, exploration, reflection, observation, comprehension and communication, providing both concrete and abstract ways for students to create mental images. Through the combination of visual arts and poetry, bilinguals are able to deepen their understanding of themselves and others. The ekphrastic encounters shared in this workshop allow bilinguals to capitalize on the power and beauty of both the image and the text.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 12

*Inspiring the Reluctant Teacher*

Jen Clinton, HAMBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

We all encounter teachers that struggle to meet the needs of ELs. Many times those teachers simply don't understand why modifications and accommodations are needed, let alone how to make them. "I told him three times to take out his book and turn to page 57. Why did he get his Science book out and turn to page 7 when everyone else was working on Math?" They've been teaching the same subject for 17 years and "everyone else does fine". This workshop is designed to help teachers empathize with language learners through demonstration and experience. Participants will utilize their own experience in this workshop to begin understanding their ELs' needs, and how to start making meaningful modifications and accommodations for their ELL students. One of the biggest difficulties in smaller rural districts is that EL students are few and infrequent; thus, knowing how to appropriately modify and accommodate for them is foreign. As ESL teachers, our job is to help our colleagues help our EL students. Many teachers find modifying their assignments to be a daunting task and become overwhelmed by the concept. Join me for an interactive hour to learn tips and techniques to help motivate your colleagues into helping our EL population. Non-ESL teachers are welcome, too!

# 2:00–3:00 p.m.

## Breakout Sessions

### BREAKOUT ROOM 13

*Kutztown University's ESL Minor Program*

Madison Szczecina

Zoom link:

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/92883217318>

Meeting ID: 928 8321 7318

Session Moderator: Dr. Kristen Bazley

### BREAKOUT ROOM 15

*Tools for Treacherous Times: Teaching Social Justice in the ESL Classroom*

Kenza Glass

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226

Passcode: 012181

Session Moderator: Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden

### BREAKOUT ROOM 14

*A Year in Perspective: Reflecting on Pandemic Practice and Collaborating for the Future*

Christopher Thomas

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97620879305?pwd=bHVjdGxMUGU2NmtLc204YjVkMCswUT09>

Meeting ID: 976 2087 9305

Passcode: 042258

Session Moderator: Dr. Brenda Muzeta

### BREAKOUT ROOM 16

*Essential ESL Education for ELA Teacher Preparedness*

Patricia D. Pytleski,

Zoom link

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991>

Meeting ID:

981 4280 8991

Session Moderator: Dr. Chris Weiler

### BREAKOUT ROOM 13

*Kutztown University's ESL Minor Program*

Madison Szczecina, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

KU student Madison Szczecina will present her reason for choosing the ESL minor, the classes she has taken while in the program, as well as the outcomes that come from the courses. This will include her continuing story as an undergraduate at the university, the highlights of the program and the opportunities the program has awarded her.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 14

*A Year in Perspective: Reflecting on Pandemic Practice and Collaborating for the Future*

Christopher Thomas, READING SCHOOL DISTRICT

A guided reflection and discussion on this crazy year! Discussion topics include where we were, where we are, and where we (as teachers) want to go for our schools as well as the strategies you used in your classroom to support your students. Join us for an interactive presentation using PearDeck and an opportunity to collaborate to gain new perspectives and new ideas.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 15

*Tools for Treacherous Times: Teaching Social Justice in the ESL Classroom*

Kenza Glass, LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Discussing race/ethnicity, gender, and stereotypes using pop culture as a pedagogical tool helps students think critically, provides an understanding of social justice, and offers a space to conceptualize intersectional identities in American culture. This session provides a rationale and methods for incorporating difficult conversations into the curriculum of college ESL classroom.

### BREAKOUT ROOM 16

*Essential ESL Education for ELA Teacher Preparedness*

Patricia D. Pytleski, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY

It is imperative that secondary English education students receive instruction on the ESL classroom and ELLs in addition to learning about generalized and special education differentiation within the secondary ELA classroom. Rather than encounter ELL students in their future classrooms for the first time, KU has fostered this instruction prior to graduation, starting at first with mandatory visits to ESL literacy centers during practicum for over a decade now. This presentation looks to share some of this experience, of both the instructor and the students, along with the incorporation of best practices, theory, and pedagogy.

# ABOUT *the* Presenters

## **Kristen Bazley**

Dr. Bazley is an Associate Professor in the EMLT Department in the College of Education. Dr. Bazley came from Tampa, FL, where she taught in Tampa's highly diverse public-school system prior to teaching at Kutztown. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes in diversity, children's literature, foundations of teaching and theory and development. Dr. Bazley created and has run the Alaska Distance Intervention program since 2010, that enables teacher candidates to tutor students remotely in Bush Alaska. This has led to student teaching positions and permanent teaching jobs in Alaska. Dr. Bazley has published numerous articles in diversity, literature, has a textbook publication called *Teaching Diversity Through Children's Literature*.

## **Amanda Bressack**

Amanda is currently pursuing a master's degree in Anthropology and Education at Teachers College Columbia University with a focus on language learning and acquisition. My interest in second language acquisition began when working with ESOL children in public schools in Lehigh Valley. Through my profession experience and my research, I seek to make language learning, education policies and students' experience reflect the multilingual societies in which we live in. Work as a research assistant for the Language Project LLC has produced empirical data that will allow the Lehigh Valley to move towards a more wholistic system for learning languages.

## **Lees M. Chevere**

Lees M. Chevere has a BA in Education and a MS in Curriculum and Teaching. Lees started her journey teaching in Puerto Rico (PR) and became a Special Education Facilitator. After completing her job responsibilities in PR, Lees moved to Reading PA to work as a Student Support Specialist and Parent Coordinator for the PA Migrant Education Program (MEP). Two years later, Lees was promoted to Team Leader for the PA MEP in Berks County. Lees believes that knowledge is power and that she is determined to provide her staff with all the tools and resources they need to help the 1300 students they serve in the PA MEP.

## **Jen Clinton**

Jen Clinton has taught ESL in some capacity since 2008. Jen stumbled upon her first ESL certification while teaching in Texas and she liked it so much she followed the necessary steps to get certified when she came back to PA. She taught Biology and had several EL students in her classes. Jen has also taught entire classes of EL students and she currently teaches K-8 EL students at Hamburg Area SD.

## **Kathleen Gill**

Kathleen Gill is the Director of ESOL & World Languages and Principal of the Newcomer Academies in the Allentown School District. Mrs. Gill's work at the Newcomer Academies supports immigrants, evacuees and refugees including students with Limited Interrupted Formal Schooling (LIFE). Currently, ASD includes students from 69 countries who speak 49 different languages. Over 3,500 students qualify for ESL Services. The ASD ESOL Department also provides free Adult English Classes for parents and families throughout the City of Allentown. Mrs. Gill has focused on ESL, Linguistics and English Learners throughout her 35+ year career. She is an Adjunct Professor of Applied Linguistics in the Graduate School of Education at DeSales University in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Gill was the recipient of the 2019 ASD Secondary Principal Award of Excellence and the IU 21 Outstanding ESL Educator Award in January of 2021. The ASD Newcomer Academies received the National School Board Association 2019 Magna Award for removing barriers to achievement for underserved and vulnerable students. Mrs. Gill has given presentations about Newcomer Students at the 2019 Middle Atlantic Equity Consortium Conference, the 2020 PA State Migrant Education English Language Development Conference, Chester County IU Consortium Symposium and the Pa-TTAN "ELD Connexion Event."

## **Kenza Glass**

Kenza Glass is the Director of English Learning Services at Lehigh Carbon Community College. For nearly 20 years, Kenza has had the privilege to work with English language learners in higher education as a teacher, administrator, and equity advocate. A passion for intercultural communication, linguistics, and social justice overlap in her career leading to opportunities to provide teacher training in TESOL and critical pedagogy. Kenza's educational background includes a BA in anthropology/archaeology from Franklin Pierce University and an MS Ed in applied linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Julia L. Hovanec**

Julia L. Hovanec has taught art for more than 34 years, beginning as an elementary and middle school art teacher in The School District of the City of York. In 2011, she earned her doctorate at Capella University with research focused on pre-service art educators, professional identity construction and reflective practice. At KU, Dr. Hovanec inspires undergraduate and graduate art education students and general education students alike. One of her major roles is supervising student teachers and she served as department chair from 2017 to 2020. Dr. Hovanec has presented on a range of topics at local, regional, state, and national conferences and facilitated many professional development workshops and seminars. In those presentations, she shares her research on interdisciplinary teaching and learning, literacy, visual literacy, picture books and reflective practice. Recently, she was honored as the 2019 Outstanding Higher Education Art Educator Award recipient from The Pennsylvania Art Education Association.

## **Deborah Johnson**

Deborah Johnson is an Assistant Professor in the Elementary, Middle Level, Library and Technologies Education Department [EMLT] for 20 years at Kutztown University. She often speaks at state and national conferences on issues of diversity, equity, and social justice. As a former principal and secondary English teacher, her devotion to public school education supports her advocacy for teaching underprivileged students, resolving challenges in urban education, and bridging the community to neighborhood schools. Deborah is a native of Philadelphia and was educated in all PA schools.



# ABOUT *the* Presenters (cont'd)

## **Kara Leibensperger**

Kara Leibensperger is a graduate student in the English program at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. Kara's passions include Latinx studies, equity studies, intersectionality and borderland theories. Her passions are driven by her work as an instructional coach and ESL teacher in the Reading School District.

## **Dr. Sharon Maida**

Dr. Sharon Maida is a parent and lifelong educator who has discovered a passion for writing books to make people more socially aware of unique conditions in the world. Her thirty-five years in private practice in the blindness community have provided her a unique window into the world of blind and visually impaired children. She has assisted these students in achieving inclusion and maximum independence. She is currently on the Dean's Advisory Council in the School of Education at Lehigh University.

## **Christine Coleman Núñez**

Christine Coleman Núñez is Associate Professor of Spanish and chair of the Department of Modern Language Studies at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. She specializes in Spanish sociolinguistics, bilingualism and second language acquisition. Her recent research interests focus on curriculum and assessment to increase oral proficiency and intercultural competence in second language learners, including experiential learning approaches, backward curricular design, and program evaluation to inform curricular innovation.

## **Carissa Pokorny-Golden**

Carissa Pokorny-Golden, PhD, is the Associate Dean of the College of Education at Kutztown University. Before taking on this role four years ago, Carissa was an Associate Professor and Supervisor of Secondary Education English in the English Department at KU for 13 years and an English/Journalism teacher for 8 years at Pleasant Valley High School in Brodheadsville. Carissa received her ESL certification from the Colonial IU in 2004 and completed her dissertation on English, ESL, and Literacy Studies at Temple University in 2010. She is co-chair of the Kutztown University COE ESL Advisory Board. She has presented on ESL studies at the College English Association (CEA), American Association of Colleges for Teacher Educators (AACTE), and the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA).

## **Patricia D. Pytleski**

Patricia D. Pytleski is an Assistant Professor of English/ Composition and Rhetoric and Director of the Kutztown University Writing Center; she teaches courses in writing and secondary English education and supervises English student teachers in the secondary education classroom. She is the author of "Writing Center Reflections: The Impact of Tutor to Tutor Teaching," "Contact Zones and Contingent Faculty: An Argument for Conversion," and "Crossing the Ideological Borders of Writing: The Fundamental Nature of Personal Writing (and Academic Discourse) In the First Year Writing Classroom."

## **Sarah Rawls**

Sarah Rawls is a doctoral student in the Applied Linguistics program in Temple University's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). She is the co-chair of Graduate Students of Language at Temple University (GSOLT), where she organizes professional development opportunities for graduate students in language-related programs, including a student-led annual language and linguistics conference. She obtained her Master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Temple's CEHD. She has taught in a variety of teaching contexts including multi-leveled classrooms, multi-lingual classrooms throughout Philadelphia and varying age groups including adult ELs, community-based language and college EL classes. Currently, she tutors a 7-year-old Chinese girl in English. In the summer of 2019, she taught English in China to STEM college students. In her free time, she learns about other cultures and new skills such as programming, travels, and reflects on how to best deliver student-centered instruction.

## **Georgeos Sirrakos**

Dr. Georgeos Sirrakos is an Associate Professor in the Department of Secondary Education at Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. At Kutztown University, Dr. Sirrakos teaches courses in education research, multicultural education, education psychology, and methods of science instruction and supervises student teachers. His research interests include fostering equity in education, creating opportunities for students to inform the teaching and learning process, and cross-national studies of learning environments. Dr. Sirrakos was named a 2013-2014 Phi Delta Kappa Emerging Leader in Education and in 2018 was awarded the John P. Schellenberg award for Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

## **Madison Szczecina**

Madison Szczecina is a 2021 graduate of Kutztown University. She was one of the first graduates of the ESL minor program and is excited to share her experience with the program. In her presentation, she will share highlights of the program and the Secondary Education department.

## **Nadia Thalassinos**

Nadia is a native Spanish speaker born in Lima, Perú. Her career in education and second language acquisition began at Kutztown University where she earned a BA in Education: Spanish PK-12. After being in the field, she continued her studies at Temple University, where she mastered in Spanish Literature and Linguistics. Her love for teaching and researching language acquisition inspired her to reach learners PK-16 including adult professionals. Language Project LLC and the Spanish Immersion Learning Center are a direct result of her passion for teaching language and her love for the Lehigh Valley community.

## **Christopher Thomas**

Mr. Thomas is a Graduate of Kutztown University's Masters in Education program. He taught and developed 11th Grade ESL Film Studies and Civics courses at Reading High School and currently teaches 9th Grade American History at Reading High. He is currently working on several projects focused around the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on pedagogy and public discourse of public education.



**Contact Information if Problems Occur**

John Ward – Dean College of Education [ward@kutztown.edu](mailto:ward@kutztown.edu) 717-615-8970

Carissa Pokorny-Golden Associate Dean College of Education [pokorny@kutztown.edu](mailto:pokorny@kutztown.edu) 570-817-1787

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Time	Morning Session	Name of Moderator
9:00-10:00 AM	Welcome & Keynote Speaker <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09</a> Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226 Passcode: 012181	Dr. John Ward Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden Dr. Brenda Muzeta
	Session 1	
10:00-11:00 AM	<b>Breakout Room 1</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991</a>  Meeting ID: 981 4280 8991	Dr. Chris Weiler Dr. Christine Nunez
	<b>Breakout Room 2</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97856686139?pwd=dFYxK3Y3UktOcjhNN3JwZFhuR1lyUT09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97856686139?pwd=dFYxK3Y3UktOcjhNN3JwZFhuR1lyUT09</a>  Meeting ID: 978 5668 6139 Passcode: 273159	Dr. Nicole Johnson Dr. Andy Miness
	<b>Breakout Room 3</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09</a>  Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226 Passcode: 012181	Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden Dr. Patricia Walsh-Coates
	<b>Breakout Room 4</b> Zoom link: <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/92883217318">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/92883217318</a> Meeting ID: 928 8321 7318	Dr. Kristen Bazley

## Mid-Morning Session Presentations

11:00-12:00 PM	<b>Breakout Room 5</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/94227912829?pwd=QXpjcW9VZ2NabnZpUUFZQTdDemsvZz09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/94227912829?pwd=QXpjcW9VZ2NabnZpUUFZQTdDemsvZz09</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 942 2791 2829 <b>Passcode:</b> 007499	Prof. Deborah Johnson Dr. Patricia Walsh-Coates
	<b>Breakout Room 6</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/s/99705392266">https://kutztown.zoom.us/s/99705392266</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 997 0539 2266 <b>Passcode:</b> 470575	Dr. Tabettha Bernstein-Danis Bethany Sherman
	<b>Breakout Room 7</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 981 4280 8991	Dr. Chris Weiler
	<b>Breakout Room 8</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97856686139?pwd=dFYxK3Y3UktOcjhNN3JwZFhuR1lyUT09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97856686139?pwd=dFYxK3Y3UktOcjhNN3JwZFhuR1lyUT09</a> <b>Meeting ID:</b> 978 5668 6139 <b>Passcode:</b> 273159	Dr. Nicole Johnson Dr. Krista Varano



# Afternoon Session Presentations

	Session 3	
1:00-2:00 PM	<b>Breakout Room 9</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/99705392266">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/99705392266</a> Meeting ID: 997 0539 2266 Passcode: 470575	Dr. Tabettha Bernstein-Danis Krista Venza
	<b>Breakout Room 10</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/94227912829?pwd=QXpjcW9VZ2NabnZpUUFZQTdDemsvZz09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/94227912829?pwd=QXpjcW9VZ2NabnZpUUFZQTdDemsvZz09</a> Meeting ID: 942 2791 2829 Passcode: 007499	Prof. Deborah Johnson Dr. Christine Nunez
	<b>Breakout Room 11</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzd09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzd09</a> Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226 Passcode: 012181	Dr. Carissa Pokorny-Golden Dr. Sandy Leonard
	<b>Breakout Room 12</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97620879305?pwd=bHVjdGxMUGU2NmtLc204YjVkMCswUT09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97620879305?pwd=bHVjdGxMUGU2NmtLc204YjVkMCswUT09</a> Meeting ID: 976 2087 9305 Passcode: 042258	Dr. Brenda Muzeta Dr. Kathryn Accurso
	Session 4	
2:00-3:00 PM	<b>Breakout Room 13</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/92883217318">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/92883217318</a> Meeting ID: 928 8321 7318	Dr. Kristen Bazley Dr. Jennifer Suwak
	<b>Breakout Room 14</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97620879305?pwd=bHVjdGxMUGU2NmtLc204YjVkMCswUT09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97620879305?pwd=bHVjdGxMUGU2NmtLc204YjVkMCswUT09</a> Meeting ID: 976 2087 9305 Passcode: 042258	Dr. Carissa Pokorny –Golden Wanda Gonzales-Crespo
	<b>Breakout Room 15</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzd09">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzd09</a> Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226 Passcode: 012181	Dr. Brenda Muzeta Dr. Kathryn Accurso
	<b>Breakout Room 16</b> <a href="https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991">https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/98142808991</a> Meeting ID: 981 4280 8991	Dr. Chris Weiler Dr. Michele White

3:00 PM *P.M.*

## Closing Remarks



Carissa Pokorny-Golden Associate Dean College of Education  
Brenda Muzeta Assistant Professor College of Education

<https://kutztown.zoom.us/j/97866023226?pwd=VWVoeHVRTUpzK05NWE41WTVxSUFzdz09>

Meeting ID: 978 6602 3226

Passcode: 012181



# Thank you for your participation!

Keep well and we will see you next year 😊

Special thanks to the 2021 conference organizing team

- Carissa Pokorny-Golden & Brenda Muzeta - ORGANIZERS
- Deborah Johnson, COMMITTEE MEMBER
- Nicole Johnson, COMMITTEE MEMBER
- Tabettha Bernstein-Danis, COMMITTEE MEMBER
- Christopher Weller, COMMITTEE MEMBER
- Kristen Bazley, COMMITTEE MEMBER
- Dan Metzger, COMMITTEE MEMBER

## Program Designers

Brenda Muzeta (KU) & Kathryn Accurso (UBC)

