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CITY College
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English
Studies
Department

SEMINAR OVERVIEW

Social Issues in the ELT Classroom



Dr Luke Prodromou

ELT author, trainer and actor

"Social and Global Issues and the Language Teacher.

From Dickens to Debt: The Current Crisis and its Consequences from a Critical Pedagogy Perspective."

Is the current social and economic crisis taking us back to the worst aspects of the 19th century? So many steps towards equality, justice and human rights are constantly being undermined by the forces of market greed. What is the impact of the debt crisis and the power of the free market on our children, their education and future prospects? And where does all this leave the role of the educator and the English language teacher in particular?

This talk takes its inspiration from one of the greatest writers and social crusaders in English and world culture: Charles Dickens. By turning to literature and the light it throws on history we may better understand where we are, how we got here and how to get out of the mess. We look at children and women in society - their right to education and its power to free the imagination - we look at the way debt, the banks and the disordinate power of creditors in the economy threaten the child - male and female - and its right to creativity and a future of dignified labour.

We end with an affirmation of the power of literacy and education and suggest some practical ways in which ELT can raise awareness of social issues and some step we can take towards making our world a better place.

Ms Margarita Kosior

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"Teaching for Social Justice: From Social Context to Teaching Content"

In face of serious global issues and social injustice, such as poverty, war, modern-day slavery, and many others, English Language Teaching has acquired a new dimension. With the added responsibility of not merely preparing our students for certification exams, but equipping them with tools to become responsible world citizens, teachers are turning into educators on a mission to make the world a better place. Utopian and cliché? Possibly, but definitely a possibility to live into!

The session will look into how the new social context can be used in ELT and turned into engaging and thought-provoking teaching content.