

TESLA Newsletter, October 2021

A Message from TESLA Program Director, Dr. Terry Osborn

Welcome back to Fall 2021! We hope to share regular newsletters such as this one with you to keep you apprised on exciting news, opportunities, and developments in the TESLA program. If you have ideas for future content, please let us know at terryosborn@usf.edu or sarasmith3@usf.edu. We also want to let you get to know our faculty and their research interests more closely, so we will highlight one each time. This time, it is my pleasure to introduce you to **Dr. John Liontas**.

Dr. John Liontas



If you ever had the opportunity to scan the back cover of any one of the 8-volumes of the TESOL Encyclopedia of English Language Teaching (Wiley, 2018), you would quickly note the short bio about Dr. Liontas. It reads as follows:

JOHN I. LIONTAS, PhD, holds a doctorate in second language acquisition and teaching and is a tenured associate professor of ESOL and director and doctoral faculty of TESLA (Technology in Education and Second Language Acquisition) at the University of South Florida. He is a distinguished thought leader, author, and practitioner in the fields of applied linguistics, second language acquisition, and ESL/EFL and the recipient of over two dozen local, state, regional, national, and international teaching awards and honors.

While the 78-word bio is indeed accurate in its laconic description of him in 2018, it falls short of getting at the core of who Dr. Liontas really is. See attachment for the full story.

Upcoming deadlines

Qualifying Exam Dates: October 4, 5, and 6, 2021

Technology and Innovation in Education Research Virtual Lecture Series, Fall 2021

The Technology Education and Second Language Acquisition (TESLA) and Instruction Technology (IT) doctoral programs invite you to attend the Technology and Innovation in Education Research Virtual Lecture Series. This virtual lecture series will bring nationally recognized scholars to share their innovative research in the areas of educational technology and learning sciences. This series will share cutting edge, technology-based research methods for studying teaching and learning and present the application of these methods in the speaker's own work.

Learning Beyond Reality: Exploring the educational potential of eXtended Reality technologies.

Speaker: Enrico Gandolfi, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Educational Technology, School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies, Kent State University.

Date: Wednesday, Sept 29th, 4pm-4:45pm

The adoption of eXtended Reality (XR) innovations is dramatically increasing in education, from augmented reality apps for STEM curricula to immersive virtual reality applied to teacher training. This talk will address strengths, limitations, and future challenges characterizing these technologies. The leading objective is to provide an overview of how XR is impacting instructional practices and endeavors across multiple disciplines (e.g., Humanities, Language Education, Social Studies), trying to envision what is next with the help of the audience.

RSVP to attend: bit.ly/usfvr0929

Notices

OPS Data Collection Specialist, Job Opening Number: 28258

Position Summary: The Rightpath Research & Innovation Center has a federally funded project, and we are looking to hire one Data Collection Specialist whom will report to Dr. Maria Carlo, Principal Investigator. The Data Collection Specialist will work with study team members to support research activities of the study entitled “Effect of bilingual vs. monolingual definition supports during explicit English vocabulary instruction on 4th grade Spanish-speaking English learners (ELs): A single-subject case design.” Data Collection Specialist will work remotely via Microsoft Teams with culturally and linguistically diverse elementary age children at a Hillsborough County Public School in Tampa, Florida. Instruction will be one-on-one. Primary duties include delivering a Spanish and English vocabulary intervention via Microsoft Teams and collection of educational test data from children aged 9 to 10 years in the 4th Grade. We are tentatively looking at a start date of the middle of September 2021, where onboarding will be for 2 weeks. Beginning in October, remote delivery of vocabulary instruction and educational testing will be conducted during after school hours over the course of 8 weeks, including afternoon between 2:45PM – 5:15PM. This position is remote. Hiring Salary/Salary Range: \$15.00 an hour. Apply via the Careers@USF jobs portal.

Seeking volunteers to work on a research project: Looking for TESLA students who are interested in working with me during fall 2021 – spring 2022 on writing a systematic literature review manuscript(s) on the use of emerging technologies for language learning. Please email Dr. Sang Park at park2@usf.edu.

September scholarly updates from TESLA faculty and students

Dr. Sara Smith and her research were featured in an article titled: “Research, Innovation & Technology: Augmented Reality Language Learning.” in the September 2021 issue of *Florida Trend Magazine*.

Upcoming conferences

2021 Sunshine State TESOL Hybrid Conference - Thursday 28th (evening), Friday 29th (all Day) + Saturday 30th (all day), October, 2021. [Registration is now open.](#)

The Bilingualism Matters Research Symposium (BMRS) is an annual interdisciplinary research conference organised by the Bilingualism Matters network. It is open to bilingualism researchers at any stage of their career, irrespective of their affiliation to Bilingualism Matters. The BMRS21 plenary speakers are: 1) Prof Ellen Bialystok, Distinguished Research Professor of Psychology and Walter Gordon Research Chair of Lifespan Cognitive Development at York University, and Associate Scientist at the Rotman Research Institute of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; 2) Prof Li Wei, Chair of Applied Linguistics and Director of the Centre for Applied Linguistics and incoming director and dean of the UCL Institute of Education.

25 & 26 October 2021. [Registration is now open.](#)

Please submit announcements for the November TESLA newsletter to Dr. Sara Smith, sarasmith3@usf.edu.

We highly encourage TESLA students to submit their publications and conference presentations for sharing in the newsletter. Please include links for publication announcements.

Does a TESLA student deserve congratulations? Please feel free to submit non-academia related congratulations, such as birth announcements or major life milestones. We will do our best to include them, space permitting.