

## Keynote speakers



**Dariusz Buchczik** has been a scientific and didactic employee of the **Faculty of Automatic Control, Electronics and Computer Science of the Silesian University of Technology** for over 20 years. He took part in the implementation of many educational projects co-financed by European Funds related to the education of students in the field of automation and robotics. He is a co-author and for the last three years a project manager of the project "Silesian University of Technology as a Centre of Modern Education based on research and innovation", which is co-financed by the European Social Fund under the Operational Programme Knowledge Education Development.



**Alastair Creelman** is an e-learning specialist in the field of online and distance education at the unit for Higher Education Development at **Linnaeus University, Sweden**. Monitors developments in the field and is active in several national and international projects in areas such as distance/online learning, quality in online education, open educational resources (OER), MOOCs, social media in education and virtual mobility/exchange. He writes regularly on the use of technology in education on his blog at [The corridor of uncertainty](#).



**Melanie Ellis** works at the **Institute for Research on Education and Communication, Silesian University of Technology in Gliwice, Poland**. She holds a PhD from the University of Warsaw, Poland and a habilitation (postdoctoral degree) from the Pedagogical University of Kraków, Poland. She has worked as a language teacher and teacher educator in many countries. Her research interests are the process of the education of teachers of English as a foreign language, or those teaching through English as the medium of instruction; the role of assessment in the teaching/learning process; and early reading in English as a foreign language in primary school, with a focus on struggling readers. She has long experience in distance education, and tele-working and holds a post-graduate diploma in Open and Online learning.



**Ana Kanareva-Dimitrovska** completed her PhD degree in language science at the School of Communication and Culture, Aarhus University, Denmark in 2015 on development of intercultural communicative competence in online intercultural exchanges. She holds a MA in French as a foreign language from the University of Strasbourg, France. Her research interests are in the areas of interculturality and computer-mediated communication, the use of digital technologies in promoting intercultural competences and language learning as well as academic mobility and intercultural learning. She is currently leading the Danish contact point for the **European Centre for Modern Languages at Aarhus University** and she is a project coordinator for **The Danish National Centre for Foreign Languages at Aarhus University**.



**Małgorzata (Gosia) Kurek** is a researcher and lecturer at Institute of Foreign Languages, Jan Długosz University, Częstochowa, Poland. She holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics and works as an Assistant Professor and TEFL trainer long involved in academic-level Virtual Exchange. Her principal research areas address the issues of CALL, digital literacy, teacher education and task design for CALL and VE. She has been involved in several VE projects focusing on the development of linguistic, digital and pedagogical competences. She is the First Training Officer for Unicollaboration and a co-designer of several VE training programmes. She is currently involved in EVOLVE project supporting the mainstreaming of VE. She has published and presented internationally on the subject of VE.

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**Oleg Kolpashchikov** is President of “White cane” NPO Russia, Board member of the First World Congress for Persons with Disabilities (2017 Ekaterinburg, Russia), Board member of annual international inclusive academic conference Extrability as a phenomenon of inclusive culture Russia – Israel.

The mission of the “White cane” organization is creation a world in which people realise additional abilities – Extrabilities. Extrabilities are additional abilities which are developed as a result of limitations and active socialisation.

“White cane” organisation hosts inclusive social projects which provide inclusive interaction engaging people from different social groups which focus on developing hidden talents and abilities of each participant.



**Teresa MacKinnon** is an open educator, an award winning language teacher with a wealth of expertise in online delivery. Experienced in education management and course design in secondary and higher education, Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and Certified Member of the Association for Learning Technology (ALT), Teresa has extensive experience of the integration of computer-mediated communication in learning design. She retired in January 2021 from her post as **Associate Professor at the University of Warwick** but remains active online as @WarwickLanguage where she enjoys connecting educators internationally across sectors. She advocates open educational practice, leads ALT’s Open Education Special Interest Group and is active in the areas of virtual exchange and open badges.



**Marcin Witkowski** specializes in international marketing and intercultural communication. He studied Industrial and Labor Relations at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania (USA) and Political Science as well as International Relations at the **University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznan, Poland** (AMU). Following his doctoral studies (Europa Fellow 2004-2005 at European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder) he continued to give lectures on principles of PR/marketing, public policy, political systems and international affairs to students of AMU, University of Economics and other HEIs in Poland and abroad. Voted Poland’s Internationalization Star in the field of Marketing by the jury of the 2020 nationwide competition under the patronage of several top government and non-government agencies devoted to international PR and marketing of higher education.