



Curtin University

*8th International Conference on TESOL:  
ELT IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES*

Date: **Thursday, Aug 10, 2017**

Time: **9:30-10:30**

Presenter/s: **Associate Professor Rita Elaine SILVER**

**Bio:**

Rita Elaine Silver is an Associate Professor at National Institute of Education (NIE) in Singapore. She teaches courses on English Language methodology (with an emphasis on literacy and reading comprehension), language acquisition, classroom discourse, and qualitative research methods.

Her current research involves a school-based intervention to enhance reading comprehension instruction, encourage more open-ended discussion in the context of Singapore primary classrooms, and foster deeper reading comprehension skills (with Jessie Png), and a proof-of-concept study on research data archiving and access (with Dennis Kwek).

She is Co-Editor of Language and Education (from Jan 2016) (<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rlae20#.Vphj4f197IU>) and was previously a Co-editor of Pedagogies: An International Journal (2013-2015). She has published in Cambridge Journal of Education, Journal of Educational Change, Language and Education, Language Policy, Language Teaching Research, System, and TESOL Quarterly.

Her most recent books are Quadrilingual Education in Singapore: Pedagogical Innovation in Language Education edited with Wendy Bokhorst-Heng (2016) and Language and Education: Social Implications with Soe Marlar Lwin (2014).

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Title: **Language Learning Environments Inside and Outside Classrooms: Opportunities for Learning and Engagement**

**Abstract:**

Language learning environments are the physical, social, emotional, and cultural contexts in which students have opportunities to learn language. These include the classroom environment, which teachers can shape, and environments outside of the classroom, which teachers and students might take advantage of. In this paper, I provide some background on learning environments and, more specifically, language learning environments. Then, I focus on three questions: 1) What are important factors in the learning environment which teachers should consider for language learning? 2) How can teachers take advantage of opportunities in the learning environment to enhance language learning? 3) What are ways in which teachers can make learning environments in and outside of the classroom more engaging?