

About our Keynote Speakers

Dr. Jason M. Ward

Dr. Jason M. Ward teaches literature at Hacettepe University. He has a PhD from *The University of Nottingham*, a masters degree in critical theory, a second masters in teaching, and a BA in English language and literature. He has written a book on literary adaptations called *The Forgotten Film Adaptations of D.H. Lawrence's Short Stories*, which was published by Brill last year. Originally from Nottingham in England, Jason has been teaching overseas for almost twenty years in the United Arab Emirates, Istanbul and Ankara. He has taught courses on composition, speaking and listening, the short story, the post-modern novel, popular literature, popular culture, film genre, memetics, dreams, and literary adaptation. His main research interests include pedagogy, alternative assessment, educational technology, adaptation, the short story, genre, and the fluid text.

Gülfem Aslan

Thwarted from her original goal of becoming a Shakesperian actress, Gülfem Aslan landed on the ELT stage in 1980. Since then she has been playing to captive audiences ranging from very young learners to university students. Picking up an RSA Diploma in Teaching English, an MSc. in TEFL and an NLP trainer training diploma along the way, she took on the role of teacher trainer at Bilkent University and later, The Middle East Technical University. She continued to play the same part at the British Council in Ankara where she worked as a teacher training consultant and CELTA tutor for several years. This veteran of the classroom, stage and screen transferred to Istanbul in later life where she led a dual role as Director of Education at Bahçeşehir k-12 schools while also leading and coordinating the MA TEFL programme at Bahçeşehir University. Now, back in her beloved hometown of Ankara, Granny Gulfem continues to coach, train and educate teachers of all levels in her present post as Coordinator of English at Sınav High Schools.