Back to Basics in Language Teaching and Learning: Purposeful Assessment

Keynote speaker at workshop 3:

Dr Wissia Fiorucci, University of Kent

Title: Rethinking Inclusivity and Assessment in Language Education: The Role of Authenticity and Artificial Intelligence

This talk explores the intersection of inclusivity, assessment, and emerging technologies in language education, with a focus on authentic assessment and the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI). It investigates whether inclusive practices in language learning differ from those in other disciplines, highlighting the cultural and identity-driven aspects of language education. Assessment plays a crucial role in shaping inclusive learning environments. This talk examines how diversifying assessment methods—such as offering multiple formats or prioritising real-world applications—can better support student success. The potential of AI to enhance accessibility and personalisation in assessment will also be discussed, alongside the ethical challenges it presents, including bias and the need for human oversight.
Through critical reflection and practical insights, this keynote encourages educators to rethink assessment as a tool for fostering both linguistic proficiency and intercultural competence. It also explores how the intentional integration of AI in language education can serve as an enabler of inclusivity, rather than a barrier.

Dr Wissia Fiorucci, Language Centre Director at the University of Kent, is a Senior Fellow of Advance HE and serves as Honorary Secretary for the University Council of Foreign Languages (UCFL).
Through her leadership in the Language Centre and participation in university-wide committees, Wissia drives curriculum innovation, advocates for digital transformation, and promotes student success through equitable and inclusive practices.
Her research and teaching focus on education, language education, and intercultural communication. Recent publications include *Language Education During the Pandemic: Rushing Online, Assessment, Community* (Palgrave, 2023) and "Educationally Authentic Assessment" (*Teaching in Higher Education*, 2024, with Prof. Kathleen Quinlan). She is currently

co-editing *The Impact of AI on Language Education: Practices, Challenges, Futures* (Palgrave, 2026).

Wissia's research expertise informs her teaching in employability-focused modules such as "Languages in the Classroom" and "Language Teachers at Work", which equip undergraduate students with the skills to become language teachers or pursue training programmes like the PGCE. She also lectures on intercultural communication and contributes to various modules focussing on themes such as "rewilding languages", magical realism, and gender studies.