



Preparatory Studies Centre  
**Research Engagement Forum**  
**Conducting and Publishing**  
**Action Research**

January 16-18, 2024

Tuesday  
9:20 AM



**Professor Anne Burns**  
Keynote Speaker

Tuesday  
10:15 AM



**Dr Peter Mitchell**  
Session 1 - Action  
Research in Education

Tuesday  
12:30 PM



**Dr Tamsin Waterkeyn**  
Session 2 - How to Choose a  
Topic and Write the Proposal

**Forum Opening**

January 16, 2024 – (GST) 9:00 AM

Wednesday  
8:15 AM



**Dr Zahra Zargaran**  
Session 3 – How to  
Write the Introduction

Wednesday  
10:15 AM



**Dr Faisal Al Saidi**  
Session 4 - The What, Why,  
and How of the Literature Review

Wednesday  
12:30 PM



**Dr Neville John Ellis**  
Session 5 - Data Collection and  
Analysis in Qualitative Research

Thursday  
8:15 AM



**Dr Bashir Khan**  
Session 6 - Data Collection and  
Analysis in Quantitative Research

Thursday  
10:15 AM



**Ms We'am Al Jilani**  
Session 7 – How to  
Write the Methods,  
Results and Discussion Sections

Thursday  
12:30 PM



**Dr Moza Abdullah Al Malki**  
Session 8: How to  
Write the Abstract  
and Publish your Research



## Forum Etiquette

### Be Respectful:

- Treat all participants with courtesy and respect, even if you disagree with their opinions.
- Avoid personal attacks, offensive language, or any form of discrimination.

### Stay on Topic:

- Keep questions relevant to the forum's theme or specific topic.

### No Spamming:

- Refrain from posting repetitive or irrelevant content.
- Avoid self-promotion; contribute meaningfully to discussions.

### Mind Your Language:

- Use clear and appropriate language to ensure effective communication.
- Refrain from using excessive caps, emojis, or overly informal language.

### Respect Privacy:

- Do not share personal information about yourself or other participants without consent.
- Be cautious about sharing sensitive data in chat discussions.

### Report Misconduct:

- If you encounter inappropriate behaviour, report it to the moderators.
- Do not engage in flame wars or public disputes; report issues privately.

### Be Patient:

- The presenters may not respond to your questions immediately. Give moderators the time to raise your questions in the QA.
- Avoid double-posting; edit your existing message if needed.

### Follow Forum Guidelines:

- Familiarize yourself with and adhere to the specific rules and guidelines of the forum.



## Disclaimer

This online forum is a platform for participants to engage in discussions, share information, and connect with others. The views expressed by individual participants are their own and do not necessarily represent the views of the forum administrators or moderators.

The forum administrators and moderators reserve the right to:

- Remove any content that violates the forum guidelines.
- Remove participants that engage in persistent misconduct from the session.
- Modify or update the forum rules as necessary.

Participants are responsible for their own contributions and should exercise caution when sharing personal information. The forum administrators are not liable for any content posted by participants but will make reasonable efforts to maintain a positive and respectful community.

By participating in this forum, participants agree to abide by the established guidelines and accept the consequences for any violations. The administrators and moderators appreciate the cooperation of all participants in fostering a welcoming and constructive environment.

## Important Note:

Certificates of attendance will be sent via email to participants who successfully complete the satisfaction survey at the end of each session. Please kindly ensure that the survey is completed with accurate details of your name and email address. The forum will not be liable to any mistakes in the spelling or capitalization of participant names or not receiving the certificate due to wrong email input.



## Forum Opening

The forum will commence at 9:00 AM on January 16, 2024 with a few verses of Holy Quran. This is followed by the welcome address given by Dr Nasser Salim AL- Bimani, the Assistant Vice Chancellor of UTAS-Al Mussanah, and Mr Juma Ali Alghafri, Head of Preparatory Studies Centre. Subsequently, the keynote speech will be delivered by professor Anne Burns from the University of New South Wales, Sydney.

Please note that the opening and keynote speech can be accessed via the same link. You can find the link below.

**Date and Time**

January 16, 2024 - (GST) 9:20 AM

**Session Link**

Click [here](#).



The closing remarks, on January 18, 2024, will be addressed after session 8. Therefore, the link created for session 8 will be used for this purpose. You can access the link below.

**Date and Time**

January 18, 2024 - (GST) 12:30 PM

**Session Link**

Click [here](#).





## Keynote Speech

Action research has been spreading rapidly in the world of education as a way for educators to problematise and investigate their professional practices. It is a way of doing research that is contextually situated and oriented to the interests and concerns of the communities most closely involved in the research.

In this keynote, I will provide a brief overview of the key processes, principles and methodologies of action research that I hope will serve as an introduction and inspiration for those interested in pursuing it as a new way of doing research.

## About the Keynote Speaker Professor Anne Burns



Professor Anne Burns is a part-time Professor at Curtin University, Australia. She was Professor of TESOL, and now hold an Honorary Professorship, in the School of Education at the University of New South Wales, Sydney. She is also a Professor Emerita at Aston University, UK and Honorary Professor at the University of Sydney and The Education University, Hong Kong.

She has published extensively on language teacher education and is particularly well known as a leading expert on action research. Her most recent book is *Sustaining action research: A practical guide for institutional engagement* (with Emily Edwards and Neville Ellis, published by Routledge, 2022). She is also a Series Editor for the Research and Resources Series published by Routledge. In 2017, she was recognised by TESOL International as one of the '50@50' who have made an outstanding contribution to ELT. In 2019, she was listed on Wikipedia: ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne\\_Burns\\_\(linguist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anne_Burns_(linguist)))

### Date and Time

January 16, 2024 - (GST) 9:20 AM

### Session Link

Click [here](#).





## Session 1

### Action Research in Education

Action Research is an accessible and versatile approach to research in educational settings. Although it is particularly favoured by 'researching professionals' as opposed to 'professional researchers', its popularity among novice researchers can lead to misunderstanding about its suitability and use. This presentation explores how educational practitioners can identify opportunities to use Action Research to examine and improve professional practice at the individual and institutional levels. The presentation discusses a variety of examples where Action Research can be effectively harnessed, along with potential difficulties and how they can be mitigated. The presentation proposes a framework that researchers can use to identify opportunities to employ Action Research in educational settings.

### About the Speaker



Dr Peter Mitchell earned his BA (Hons) with distinction in Liberal Arts from Durham University. He holds an MA with distinction in Language Teaching from Tambov State University, an EdD from the University of Derby, and an MSc with distinction in Teacher Education from the University of Oxford. He is a Fellow of the UK's Royal Society of Arts and Chartered Institute of Linguists. Dr Peter has supervised doctoral theses in Africa, Brazil, and the Caribbean, and taught over 70,000 learners from 190 countries and territories in partnership with Coursera. His research currently focuses on reflective practice.

**Date and Time**

January 16, 2024 - (GST) 10:15 AM

**Session Link**

Click [here](#).



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## Session 2

### How to Choose a Topic and Write the Proposal

This session will focus on identifying your own research interests and passions as active teachers and educators in UTAS context. We also explore 'common pitfalls' in choosing a topic for research and then focus on the components of a proposal, while keeping successful proposal acceptance in mind. Some useful 'hacks' on citation and referencing will be shared. Sometimes the first step of action research can be the most daunting, but instead looking at research from a reflective practitioner perspective can help foster creativity and ignite a spark for researching teaching issues.

### About the Speaker



Dr Tamsin Waterkeyn was an academic skills lecturer and research assistant in the Research and Development department at LUNEX International University (Luxembourg) prior to joining UTAS Mussanah in November 2023. She completed a doctoral study on women in Higher Education (HE) while working in Princess Nourah University (Saudi Arabia). Her research focused on the sociocultural impacts of English and globalization through the qualitative approach of narrative inquiry.

#### Date and Time

January 16, 2024 - (GST) 12:30 PM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).



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## Session 3

### How to Write the Introduction

Including a well-developed introduction section in a research paper can enhance the quality of the manuscript by providing audience a glimpse of what the study is about, significance of the research and how it can fill in the possible gaps in the related research area. Implicating comprehensive strategies for researchers seems to be necessary. Therefore, this session will offer insights into crafting engaging, purposeful introductions that capture the essence of the research while hooking the readers' attention. To this aim, the objectives of an introduction and its role in setting the tone for the paper will be clarified. The webinar will also highlight the essential elements of an introduction encompassing the inclusion of thesis statement, background of the study, and the research question(s). In the end, the features of a well-organized introduction will be addressed and samples of exemplary introductions will be shared with the audience.

### About the Speaker



Dr Zahra Zargaran is a Ph.D. holder in TEFL from Tehran Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Tehran, Iran working as a lecturer at UTAS-Shinas, Oman. She has 19 years of teaching experience in different fields of language studies. She is a certified trainer by the British Council, IDP Australia, and Cambridge. She has been training hundreds of teachers since 2011 in the public and private sectors. She is currently the trainer of the professional development committee at UTAS-Shinas. She has published many articles and has delivered many presentations and teaching workshops in national and international conferences. She is active in the fields of professional teaching, curriculum design, and materials development in both private and public sectors. Her area of interest in research includes teacher education, learning strategies, teacher cognition, active learning and psycholinguistics.

**Date and Time**

January 17, 2024 - (GST) 8:15 AM

**Session Link**

Click [here](#).



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## Session 4

### The What, Why, and How of the Literature Review

At the outset of this session, the presenter will discuss what a literature review is and why it is needed. Then drawing on guidelines from prominent research institutions (such as Oxford, Cambridge, and Yale) as well as his own experience, the presenter will account for the required skills and components necessary for achieving a well-functioning literature review. The session will also outline some key procedures that have been widely promoted by various scholars as effective steps towards constructing a literature review. These steps include finding relevant studies, snowballing literature, and visually synthesizing relevant information. Upon presenting these steps, there will also be some suggestions of useful technological tools that can facilitate the planning, outlining and writing of a literature review.

### About the Speaker



Dr Faisal Al Saidi is an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Sultan Qaboos University. He holds a PhD from the University of Bath, UK, in the area of Computer-Assisted Language Learning. He has been teaching English for more than 12 years at different levels in higher education. He has conducted research in various areas within Applied Linguistics including language emergence, noticing, language use, interaction and multimodality.

**Date and Time**

January 17, 2024 - (GST) 10:15 AM

**Session Link**

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## Session 5

### Data Collection and Analysis in Qualitative Research

The topic of the session will be the use of qualitative methods to collect and analyse data as part of the action research cycle. Specifically, the speaker will focus on the use of currently available data, questionnaires, interviews, focus groups, and observations. The session will begin by defining key terms, such as action research, and establishing the idea that the research problem should drive the data collection method, and not vice versa. The research question must be central to the research design. The speaker will touch on identifying a research problem, selecting the sample group, and participants, as well as ethical considerations in action research. Then, the session will explore, in some detail, the use of various qualitative methods to collect data and consider the advantages and limitations of each method. The speaker will also look at how to design various data collection instruments and how to analyse the qualitative data once collected, prior to the question and answer session.

### About the Speaker



Dr Neville John Ellis is an Honorary Lecturer at the School of Education, UNSW, Sydney. Previous to his appointment at UNSW as a Lecturer in Teacher Professional Learning, he worked in education at the University of Sydney, in corporate strategy and planning at Western Sydney University, and as a Senior Education Officer at the Ministry of Education and Dean of Nanyang Girls High School, Singapore. His research interests centre on teacher development, professional learning, action research and mentoring. His PhD was a comparative case study which focused on teacher professional learning and action research. He has published several peer-reviewed journal articles and a book chapter on action research and in 2022, co-authored the book, "Sustaining Action Research", with Prof. Anne Burns and Dr Emily Edwards.

#### Date and Time

January 17, 2024 - (GST) 12:30 PM

#### Session Link

Click [here](#).



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## Session 6

### Data Collection and Analysis in Quantitative Research

The session aims to introduce quantitative data analysis. It will start with how to align research questions with data collection methods. It will highlight why and how you should set your data collection tools keeping your research objectives and research questions in mind. Different data collection techniques such as surveys, interviews, and observation will be introduced during the session; however, the main target will be to explain how to design surveys and questionnaires. The session will further elucidate how to ensure data validity and reliability through examples. Finally, the session will introduce SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) and how to choose the right statistical tests and techniques of data analysis.

#### About the Speaker



Dr Bashir Khan is working as a Deputy Director in Higher Education Data Repository, Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad, Pakistan. In this capacity he does data analysis, ranks universities, and reports on Higher Education Statistics. He has also worked as Statistical Analyst at the English Language Teaching Reforms (ELTR) Project of the HEC, Pakistan, he has organized conferences, workshops, research methodology courses, conducted surveys and presented reports to Higher Education Commission; with the aim of promoting the goals of the ELTR Project and to encourage good practices/standards.

Mr. Khan holds PhD Degree in Economics from Quaid e Azam University Islamabad, Pakistan. He has published 10 research papers in national and international Journals. Being an Economist/Statistician, his main area of interest lies in Research, Data Analysis, Surveys, Evaluation and Impact Analysis of the Programs/Projects. He is a proficient user of MS share point and Power BI.

#### Date and Time

January 18, 2024 - (GST) 8:15 AM

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## Session 7

### How to Write the Methods, Results and Discussion Sections

The presentation covers essential aspects of structuring the methods section effectively, presenting and interpreting research findings, relating findings to the research questions, addressing limitations and future research directions, writing a strong conclusion, as well as formatting and style considerations. It delves into the difference between methods and methodology, important elements of a methods section such as research design, ethical approval, setting, participants, instruments of data collection, procedures/intervention, data collection, and data analysis/statistical analyses. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of connecting research parts, listing research limitations and future research directions, and provides tips for writing a strong and memorable conclusion.

### About the Speaker



We'am Mohammed Al Jilani, an English lecturer and Level 1 Coordinator in Preparatory Studies Centre at the University of Technology and Applied Sciences, Salalah. She holds a Master's degree in TESOL from Reading University, UK. She worked in Dhofar University and Salalah Vocational College prior to joining UTAS. As an educator, her two interests are teaching and researching. Her research focuses mainly on integration of technology in ELT, improving students' productive skills and motivating EFL learners.

**Date and Time**

January 18, 2024 - (GST) 10:15 AM

**Session Link**

Click [here](#).



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## Session 8

### How to Write the Abstract and Publish your Research

This session will address two key aspects related to the field of action research: the effective writing of abstracts and the process of publishing research. In the first part, the presenter will elaborate on the purpose of an abstract and its essential components. Emphasis will be placed on providing tips for crafting clear and concise abstracts, along with highlighting common mistakes to avoid. The session will include examples of well-written abstracts in the action research field. Additionally, best practices for submitting abstracts to conferences and journals will be discussed. The second part will focus on understanding the publication process, starting with guidance on selecting appropriate journals for research. The presenter will underscore how to respond to reviewer comments and navigate the peer-review process. Ethical considerations in publishing, open access, and copyright issues will be addressed. The session will conclude with a discussion on strategies for enhancing the visibility and impact of research.

### About the Speaker



Dr Moza Abdullah Al Malki is an assistant professor at University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS) – Rustaq College of Education. She has worked at the institution since 2007. She holds PhD from Griffith University, Australia in the field of Education. She has participated in a number of local and international conferences and published a number of articles in the field of English Language Teaching. Her interest is in the field of teacher education including teaching strategies, values and equipping pre-service teachers with educational technology. Currently, she is teaching school-based practicum and ELT courses for pre-service English language teachers.

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January 18, 2024 - (GST) 12:30 PM

#### Session Link

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