
IN CELEBRATION OF ELT IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Friday, 4 October 2019

Hotel Grandium, Prague

#ELTrevolution



This conference is organized under the personal auspices of the Minister of Education,
Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic

#ELTREVOLUTION

FOREWORD

1989 brought massive changes not only to politics but also to education throughout the region. The impact was felt both within education systems and also by individuals.

With the second language for school students changing from Russian to English, it was a steep learning curve for many thousands of teachers across the country. The UK was keen to help and through UK government funding, the British Council was able to work with ministries of education to help reform pre-service and in-service teacher training; produce materials; establish resource centres and libraries and work with the academic leadership in a range of universities and institutions.

Today we celebrate the advances in English proficiency in the Czech Republic over the past thirty years and the teachers and organisations who helped make this possible. The afternoon workshops will look at contemporary teaching practice and trends and demonstrate practical ideas to support learners.

The British Council's aim in English is to continue to achieve more widespread and better-quality teaching and learning of English worldwide. Globally we work with over 900,000 policy makers and government ministers, teachers and learners; 17.7 million teachers and learners in online communities and over 390,000 learners in British Council teaching centre classes.

I hope you find the day motivating, inspiring and enjoyable.



Denise Waddingham
Country Director, British Council Czech Republic

It is hard for a Briton not to let a note of triumphalism enter the voice when considering his or her good fortune in being born an English-speaker. British English is an infinitely rich and nuanced language and whilst it has gaps – no word for *schadenfreude* most obviously – it's a wonderful instrument to play and, if one can, play well.

Britons are reluctant, though, to admit that they are a minority group amongst speakers, and still more so to confront the truth that speakers of English as a second language use it to better effect in negotiation. English-speaking Czechs may well have the edge on us for practical purposes. Before you add in the fact that they all speak Czech too!

And today's event is for them, for you; the speakers and those who teach others. It's a celebration not only of the language but also of your efforts. Thank you for being part of it – I hope you enjoy it and take home an insight or two to enrich your work.



Nick Archer
Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Czech Republic

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PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

	PROGRAMME	VENUE
08.30	Registration	Hotel Grandium
09.30	Welcome Denise Waddingham, Country Director, British Council; His Excellency Nick Archer, British Ambassador	Hotel Grandium
10.00	Malcolm Griffiths: Post 1989: The ELT Revolution in the Czech Republic - The foreign perspective	Hotel Grandium
10.30	Miluška Karásková: Post 1989: The ELT Revolution in the Czech Republic - The Czech perspective	Hotel Grandium
11.00	Coffee break	Hotel Grandium
11.30	Roy Cross: Post 1989: The ELT Revolution in the Czech Republic - The London perspective	Hotel Grandium
12.00	Karel Oliva: Reflections on the mutual enrichment of the Czech and English languages	Hotel Grandium
12.30	Lunch	Hotel Grandium
14.00	Malcolm Griffiths & Miluška Karásková: Q&A	Hotel Grandium
	Charles Stewart: Accommodating Learners with Special Needs	British Council
	Jarmila Válková : Say it in English, please	Hotel Grandium
	Martin Stanley: I hate homework!	British Council
	Dunstan Clarke: Mediation and multilingualism in the global classroom (The new 2018 CEFR descriptors and how to teach them)	British Council
	Jaime Lilley: A framework for taking a process approach to speaking	British Council
	Kylie Malinowska: From speaking to writing in the primary classroom	Hotel Grandium
15.00	Coffee break	Hotel Grandium

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15.30	Roy Cross: Share your experiences of learning/teaching English in the 1990s	Hotel Grandium
	Charles Stewart: Accommodating Learners with Special Needs	British Council
	Jarmila Válková: Say it in English, please	Hotel Grandium
	Martin Stanley: I hate homework!	British Council
	Dunstan Clarke: Mediation and multilingualism in the global classroom (The new 2018 CEFR descriptors and how to teach them)	British Council
	Jaime Lilley: A framework for taking a process approach to speaking	British Council
	Kylie Malinowska: From speaking to writing in the primary classroom	Hotel Grandium
18.00	Reception hosted by HMA Nick Archer	British Embassy Prague

VENUES:

Hotel Grandium - Politických vězňů 12, Prague 1

British Council - Politických vězňů 13, Prague 1

British Embassy Prague - Thunovská 14, Prague 1 - Malá Strana

NB Guests attending the evening reception hosted at the residency of the British Ambassador must bring their ID.

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KEY NOTES

Malcolm Griffiths

Post 1989: The ELT Revolution in the Czech Republic - The foreign perspective

A million keys: jangling in the still, chilly air of a November evening. That strange sound was to become an unforgettable symbol of those life-changing days in 1989. Those were keys that unlocked doors that had been bolted and barred for decades. English teachers in Czechoslovakia, (later, Czech Republic and Slovakia) were often among the first to explore the new landscape that lay beyond those doors and they acted quickly to create their own velvet revolution as a profession. Many foreigners were fortunate enough to be caught up in the revolution too. As one of those 'Velveteers', it will be a huge pleasure for me to share some recollections and perspectives on this exciting period of transition.

Miluška Karásková

Post 1989: The ELT Revolution in the Czech Republic - The Czech perspective

From the personal perspective of a Czech teacher, teacher trainer (and big lover of English), I will look at the following questions: What was the situation in ELT in the early 1990s? How did the British Council contribute to the change in ELT? How did Czech teachers of English react to the British support? Who else influenced ELT? What were the main challenges and results? How has the situation changed now and what are the expectations of today's Czech teachers of English?

Roy Cross

Post 1989: The ELT Revolution in the Czech Republic - The London perspective

What was I doing while Malcolm and Miluška were jangling their keys? In a biergarten in the late summer of 1989, I had said farewell to my Munich friends, all unsuspecting of the momentous political changes to follow that autumn. In early 1990, I found myself in Baghdad watching the film of the execution of the Ceaușescus on Iraqi state TV, trying to fathom what message Saddam Hussein intended his people to take from that film, played over and over again. In August 1990, following Saddam's invasion of Kuwait, I found myself marooned in London, unable to return to Baghdad. By great, career-changing good fortune I was invited to join the small team working on the design of the ELT strand of Margaret Thatcher's 'Know How Fund' (KHF) for East and Central Europe. My talk will consider the theory underpinning the UK intervention that Malcolm and Miluška describe in practice and invite the audience to join the first comprehensive research study of the ELT Revolution in the Czech Republic that the British Council has undertaken.

Karel Oliva

Reflections on the mutual enrichment of the Czech and English languages

What makes languages influential and how is the role of English changing globally? How has Czech enriched English and vice versa? Which words tend to be integrated to other languages fastest and how long are they perceived foreign? This talk will look at these questions in the historical and contemporary context in a light-hearted manner.

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WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSIONS

Malcolm Griffiths & Miluška Karásková: Q&A

Opportunity to ask questions on themes discussed in the morning sessions.

(Hotel Grandium, 14.00 – 15.00)

Roy Cross: Share your experiences of learning/teaching English in the 1990s

Roy's current passion (apart from Leeds United) is undertaking research on ELT practice. This workshop offers a unique opportunity to become part of a planned British Council study on the impact of our work in the region in the 1990s.

(Hotel Grandium, 15.30 – 16.30)

Charles Stewart: Accommodating Learners with Special Needs

Each learner is unique in their abilities, needs, and desires. In this interactive workshop, we will focus on teaching students with the Learning Challenges ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), Dyspraxia, and ADHD. We will briefly deconstruct these conditions and establish various techniques which can be implemented in our classrooms to ensure that these learners' needs are met in order to allow them to succeed.

(British Council, 14.00 – 15.00 and 15.30 – 16.30)

Jarmila Válková: Say it in English, please

The workshop focuses on students' personal motivation for the unsolicited use of their first language in class. The results of my current small-scale research will be presented, and we will look at the possibilities teachers have to foster the use of the target language as well as the language tools we can provide to help students reach their communication goals in the target language.

(Hotel Grandium, 14.00 – 15.00 and 15.30 – 16.30)

Martin Stanley: I hate homework!

In this session we will discuss the perennial challenge of getting students 'to do homework' with an eye on the tension it can cause between teachers and students. I will share a template for homework which gives students more choice and encourages them to self-reflect. This more learner-autonomous model will include a look at some less traditional homework tasks as well as alternative ways to monitor and manage homework feedback.

(British Council, 14.00 – 15.00 and 15.30 – 16.30)

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Dunstan Clarke: Mediation and multilingualism in the global classroom (The new 2018 CEFR descriptors and how to teach them)

In 2018 the CEFR underwent a radical new rewrite. In addition to the previous three descriptors on reception, production and interaction a new descriptor was added: mediation. Moreover, in addition to the previous three communicative language competencies a new category of competence, that of plurilingual and pluricultural competence has been introduced.

The workshop will introduce the new CEFR and look at how the writers are looking to move away from the idea of languages (and in particular English) being confined to a country's borders and being the property of native speakers. In place of native speaker competence, the ability to understand how multilingual speakers will use English as a lingua franca is now emphasised. This comes alongside an understanding of how different cultural and linguistic backgrounds will influence communication. The workshop will discuss the implications of this and look at ways in which teaching could change to reflect this emphasis.

(British Council, 14.00 – 15.00 and 15.30 – 16.30)

Jaime Lilley: A framework for taking a process approach to speaking

Most of us are aware of the process approach as it applies to writing – moving from brainstorming, through planning, drafting, editing, and redrafting – but it's rarer to see a recursive or process-oriented approach to developing speaking skills. In this session, I will suggest a framework for how this might be done, using speaking genres that are authentically recursive and self-made student recordings, which can give students a concrete sense of learning and progress.

(British Council, 14.00 – 15.00 and 15.30 – 16.30)

Kylie Malinowska: From speaking to writing in the primary classroom

It can be a gigantic jump for learners still developing literacy skills in their own language to transition from speaking to writing in English. If you want to help make it less daunting for your learners and instill confidence in their ability, join me on a journey from speaking to writing. This practical workshop is aimed at Early Primary; however, the activities and tips can easily be applied to all young learners.

(Hotel Grandium, 14.00 – 15.00 and 15.30 – 16.30)

BIOS



Malcolm Griffiths

Arriving in Czechoslovakia in September 1989, Malcolm was fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time. He was very happy to be able to stay on, in various guises for British Council English Teacher Education projects, until 2002. Since then, the field of English and teacher education has taken him to other exciting projects in Afghanistan, China, Iraq and Indonesia. He joined the Open University in 2010 as a lecturer in International Teacher Education for Development. For the OU he has been working on projects in Bangladesh, Myanmar and Zimbabwe that all have a focus on using low-cost technologies to support schools in marginalised communities in the field of basic literacy and numeracy as well as English.



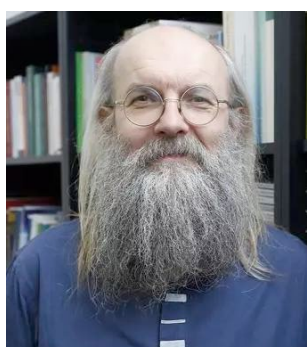
Miluška Karásková

Miluska has spent all her professional life in education, and a great part of that time she has been teaching English to very young learners (first and second graders), young learners, teenagers, adults and since last year also to seniors. For 12 years Miluska was the headmistress of a basic school that focused on teaching foreign languages. She has also worked as an in-service teacher trainer for many years. She is co-author of an English course book for young Czech learners of English in basic schools (grades 3 to 5), and co-author of an English course book for the first and second graders that has been published recently. Miluska also contributed to the creation of the Czech version of the European language portfolio for young children; was among the group of Czech teacher trainers who started up AMATE (the professional association of teacher educators) and wrote reviews on English course books for the Czech Ministry of Education. Miluska retired from full-time teaching three years ago.



Roy Cross

Roy works in the British Council's global English for Education Systems team in London and has responsibility for monitoring & evaluation and relations with UK stakeholders. He's been with the British Council since before many of the people attending this conference were born, mostly overseas and often working on ELT projects in partnership with national ministries of education.



Karel Oliva

Karel has worked in the field of linguistics his whole life, despite graduating from the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University. He worked at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Saarland University and the Austrian Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence. He was the Director of the Czech Language Institute between 2003 - 2016. Karel speaks English, German, Russian, Bulgarian and Italian.

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Dunstan Clarke

Dunstan has been teaching English since 1998 and has worked in the UK, Thailand and Spain. Since 2008, he has lived in the Czech Republic. He worked as a CELTA trainer at IH Akcent and is currently employed as a teacher and teacher trainer at the British Council. In addition to an RSA DELTA and an MA in applied linguistics, he is currently studying for a PhD. in linguistics at Charles University. He specialises in teaching English as a lingua franca in Europe.



Jaime Lilley

Jaime Lilley has been teaching English in Prague for nearly 15 years. She splits her time between teaching for the British Council and working as a Cambridge CELTA and DELTA tutor. She loves her job!



Kylie Malinowska

Educator, OUP presenter, trainer, writer, coffee addict, and mum of tri-lingual seven-year-old twins, Kylie is the Young Learner Coordinator for the British Council Czech Republic. Prior to joining the British Council three years ago she was the Young Learner Advisor and Training Coordinator for the International House World Organisation. She has trained, taught and presented all over Europe and Turkey and is especially interested in *learning* centred approaches, motivating learners to read, and using songs in the Early Years classroom (which was her Masters focus).



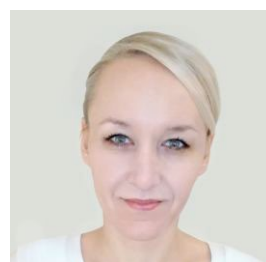
Martin Stanley

Martin has over 20 years' experience in ELT as a teacher, academic manager and occasional teacher trainer. Most of his career has been spent working for the British Council in Spain and the Czech Republic, with Martin returning to Prague five times! As a teacher, he enjoys working with all age-groups and levels. Apart from learner autonomy, his current interests include online tutoring, task-based learning and evidence-based practice.



Charles Stewart

Charles has been working in ELT for over ten years, having taught English in the USA, France, and the Czech Republic. He currently works as an ESL teacher and teacher trainer at the British Council in Prague. Having previously taught all age groups, Charles' specialisation over the last 5 years has been in teaching Young Learners, both pre-school and primary age groups. As a result of his experiences, he has developed a passion for these age groups and hopes to be able to share this passion for teaching young learners.



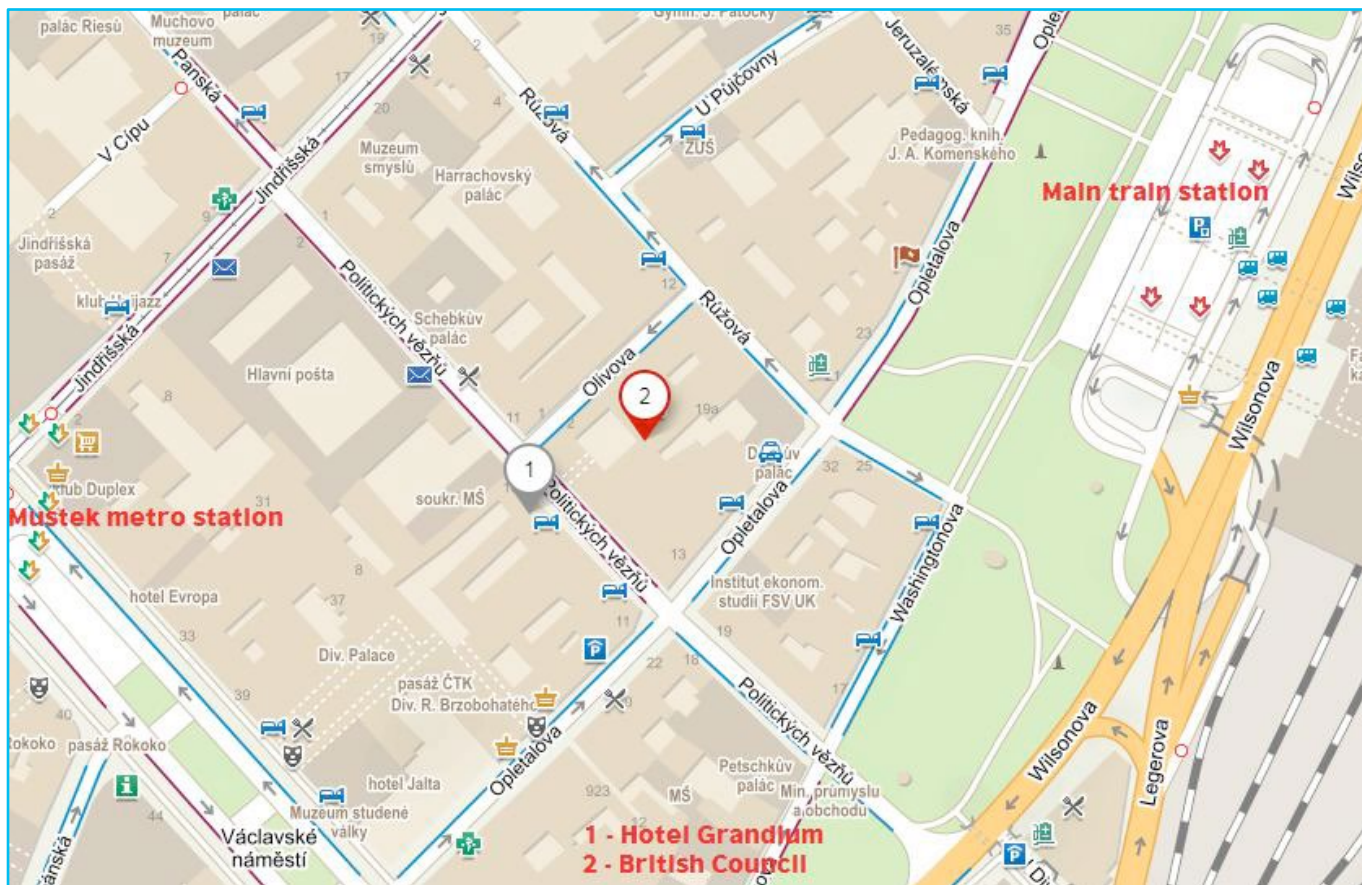
Jarmila Válková

Jarmila teaches general English and Cambridge exams preparation at the British Council to both young learners and adults. She works for Charles University as a lecturer and teacher trainer. She is the author of the book *The Communicative Approach and Textbooks of Czech for Non-native Speakers* (Karolinum 2014).

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DIRECTIONS

CONFERENCE VENUES



EVENING RECEPTION VENUE



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