



كلية العلوم الإنسانية والاجتماعية بتونس
FACULTÉ DES SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES DE TUNIS
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AT TUNIS
1958



Call for Papers

**Annual Conference of the Faculty of Humanities at Tunis in
partnership with TESOL Arabia**

Conference Theme:

Change and Innovation in the MENA Teaching/Learning

Settings: Resistance or Receptivity

Dates and venue: 29-30 April 2016, Faculty of Humanities, Tunis, Tunisia

Overview

Following a successful signature of a partnership agreement, the Faculty of Humanities at Tunis, Tunisia, and TESOL Arabia, the UAE, are organizing an international conference on **Change and Innovation in the MENA Teaching/Learning Settings: Resistance or Receptivity**. This international conference will bring together students, teachers, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to discuss issues related to learning and teaching change and innovation in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The conference organizers invite you to take part in this interesting joint event and submit your contribution for presentation.

Call for papers

Several Arab teaching/learning settings are witnessing change and innovation in response to changes in teaching methods and learning theories. These changes are also imposed by the new education policies. It seems that the teaching of foreign languages has to respond to novelty at the linguistic and extralinguistic levels. New theories are informing new teaching practices, and, by extension, assessment methods. It seems that new political and economic realities are putting pressure on linguistic policy decision-makers.

The tendency to make education more pragmatic, to connect the university to the job market has had huge implications on the teaching settings. It seems that teachers are changing from instructors to trainers, universities are service providers more than sites of disseminating knowledge, and students are treated as clients with expectations, likes and dislikes. The teaching sector is adapting to new concepts and demands voiced by society or pressure groups. How do these new realities impact on our mission and how do actors in the Arab teaching sector react to them ?

We are seeing signs of resistance as well as signs of receptivity. Two opposing attitudes are dividing the main actors in the teaching/learning settings, particularly in the MENA region. Internal as well as external factors may explain both attitudes. Rejection or adoption : first, there is the deeprooted tendency of orthodoxy to resist change, but on the other hand there is a pressing need to respond to the sweeping waves of change. How do professionals in the Arab world assess these attitudes in linguistic research, language policy,

teaching conceptions and practices, course design, testing and evaluation, English for Specific Purposes, and classroom management?

More particularly, the conference will address the following questions:

- The underlying reasons for change in the field of teaching languages
- The implications of changes in socio-economic contexts on teaching languages
- The degree of resistance to changes in the MENA teaching/learning settings
- The degree of receptivity of changes in the MENA teaching/learning settings
- Change and innovation as action: the case of textbook making
- The teacher as educator vs. the teacher as trainer
- Promises and challenges of teaching for the job market

Objectives of the conference

The conference aims to:

- discuss the different educational problems and possibly call for remedies,
- look for more insights into the different teaching and learning practices in the MENA context and
- Establish research ties between students, teachers, researchers and educators in the MENA region,
- strengthen the ties between the two conference organizers both in the short and long run.

The conference proceedings will be published by the *Arab Journal of Applied Linguistics* (www.tjaling.org). The proceedings will be edited by: Prof. Tahar Labassi, Dr Sahbi Hidri, Dr Christine Coombe, Dr Naziha Ali and Mohamed Azaza.

Important dates

All submissions, abstracts and full papers will be anonymously reviewed by at least two referees.

Submission of abstracts: **February, 28th, 2016**

Notification of acceptance: **March, 15th, 2016**

Full paper submission: **April, 17th, 2016**

Proceedings publication: **December 2016**

All abstracts will be submitted to the AJAL. Please follow the submission guidelines at:

<http://www.tjaling.org/jor/index.php/tjal/announcement/view/4>

For further details and inquiries, please email us at: change_innovation_elt@yahoo.com



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