

## **Bios of workshop presenters (By alphabetical order of the last name)**

**Dr Vahid Aryadoust**, PhD, is Assistant Professor in the English Language and Literature Academic Group of the National Institute of Education, Singapore. He has led multiple local and international assessment projects and published extensively in, e.g., *Language Testing*, *Language Assessment Quarterly*, *Assessing Writing*, *Educational Assessment*, *Educational Psychology*, and *Computer Assisted Language Learning*. He has (co)authored multiple book chapters and books published by, e.g., Cambridge University Press, Springer, Routledge, Wiley Blackwell etc. He is also the (Co)Principle Guest Editor of two special issues for *Educational Psychology* and *the International Journal of Listening*. Dr Aryadoust serves as the member of the Advisory Board of seven international journals such as *Language Testing*, *Language Assessment Quarterly*, etc.

**Dr Suzanne Choo** is Assistant Professor in the English Language and Literature Academic Group at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Her book, *Reading the world, the globe, and the cosmos: Approaches to teaching literature for the twenty-first century* (Peter Lang, 2013) was awarded the 2014 Critics Choice Book Award by the American Educational Studies Association. She has written numerous books on literary analysis that are used widely in Singapore schools as well as edited a short story anthology titled *Cross-Worlds: Short stories on global themes* (Marshall Cavendish, 2015) containing short stories by award-winning Booker and Nobel authors around the world with each story exploring a key global issue such as modern-day slavery, terrorism, refugees, consumerism, global warming etc. In 2016, she was awarded the Excellence in Teaching Commendation award by the National Institute of Education.

**Ms Chuah Cheng Kim** teaches upper secondary English in MGS. She loves cartoons and comic books. As a child, the cartoons and comics in *The Sunday Times* persuaded her to read. On looking back, it was painless mastery of comprehension skills for without teaching, she was taught; without learning, she learnt.

**Ms Lau Bee Juan** is an English and Literature teacher at Queensway Secondary School. She hopes that words and stories can be a means to help students arrive at a deeper understanding of the human condition and the fast-changing, chaotic world.

**Mr Ken Mizusawa** is a Lecturer at the National Institute of Education and a drama practitioner and playwright represented by Playmarket, New Zealand. He is the author of a collection of plays, *The Boy Who Caused 9/11 and Other Plays* (2013), and co-author of the two-volume textbook series, *Integrating Language and Literature* (2016). His latest textbook, *Mastering Visual Literacy*, will be released later in the year. He is also the editor of an upcoming collection of Singapore plays for lower secondary students designed in collaboration with CPDD.

**Ms Lorraine Ng** had the opportunity to lead and restructure the Normal (Technical) EL curriculum as the course coordinator. She oversaw the development and evolution of the use of novels in NT EL classrooms over the years. She experienced and observed how teachers greatly benefit from the enhanced curriculum and how it offers a refreshing approach to making the Normal Technical EL classroom a more enjoyable one.

**Mrs Janey Sim** is an English Language teacher in Methodist Girls' School. She took a hiatus from teaching to develop curriculum for multimedia learning, and write scripts for corporate clients. Her projects include collaborations with publishers Dorling Kindersley (UK) and Oxford University Press (Hong Kong).

**Ms Buganeish Squires** is Head of Department of English Language and Literature at Queensway Secondary School. She believes that in the globalising world, our students can use their knowledge of English to better communicate with the people around them, appreciate the various cultures that exist and understand the power of words.

**Ms Valane Tnee** is the Subject Head of Literature and Drama, and Covering Year Head for Upper Secondary students at Clementi Town Secondary School. She has a fierce belief that all students should be given a chance to study Literature and a mad commitment to show her students the steps to the stage, where they get to learn precious lessons about sensitivity, love, empathy and respect. With these she has pushed for the school's NT students to study Literature, and started the school's musical journey in 2009 where in this year the students will put up CT's sixth biennial musical.

**Dr Pat Wong** teaches Literature, multicultural studies and creative writing at the National Institute of Education, where she has been awarded both the Nanyang Education Award for teaching and the Koh Boon Hwee Award. Her collection of short stories, *Going Home* was awarded the Commendation prize in the Singapore Literature Prize.

**Dr Dennis Yeo** has taught at primary, secondary, junior college and tertiary levels. His positions include Subject Head (Literature), Head of Department (Pastoral Care & Career Guidance) and Vice-Principal of Pioneer Junior College. He is currently with the English Language and Literature Academic Group at the National Institute of Education. His research interests include Gothic film, popular culture and literature pedagogy. He is the author of *Telltale 11 Stories: A Study Companion* and the editor of *Ku\*lit: Asian Literature for the Language Classroom*.

**Ms Anne Yong** had the privilege of working with a team of English teachers to develop NT EL materials based on local poems from "Little Things - an anthology of poems" and had firsthand experience of using the materials in the classrooms. As the Subject Head for Literature, she has witnessed the benefits of infusing poetry into English curriculum to both teachers and students, and in extending this approach to both Express and Normal (Academic) courses.