



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Webinar – May 10<sup>th</sup> 2022, 7.00 pm (Ukrainian time)

**TITLE: ESP for the 21st Century: providing a bridge between university and the workplace: English for Professional Purposes at the University of Verona**

### **ABSTRACT**

One problem related to ESP teaching which has often been underlined is the lack of a systematic framework (Littlewood 2014; Ennis & Petrie 2020). Developing such a framework involves focusing on two major aspects: the curriculum or teaching aims of the course and its pedagogy. This presentation focuses on the case study of 'English for the World of Work', an English for Professional Purposes course designed to improve key language competencies required for the Italian world of work. It is a blended learning course developed at Verona University to meet the needs both of university students and of professional practitioners. In the five editions of the course, productive skills have been promoted. The course, however, aims to go beyond the development of such skills focusing also on the development of learner communication skills from the viewpoint of the multimodal; students have been trained to develop both awareness of and competence in multimodal communication skills related to the visual, gestural, and spatial modes. The presentation illustrates the blended learning framework that was developed, which provides in-class scaffolding and online support; this also fosters learner autonomy for students in their acquisition of key Communication Strategies.

Ennis, M., & Petrie, G. (Eds.). (2020). A response to disparate/desperate circumstances. In M. Ennis & G. Mikel Petrie (Eds.), *Teaching English for Tourism: bridging research and praxis*. (pp. 1–6). Routledge.

Littlewood, W. (2014) Methodology for teaching ESP. In V. Bhatia and S. Bremner (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Professional Communication*, London and New York, Routledge.

### **PRESENTERS' BIOS**

Sharon Hartle is an Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Verona University. She is specialized in English Language Teaching (ELT) pedagogy and didactics and works specifically in the field of English for Specific Purposes (ESP). She has worked for some years in the field of e-learning and specializes in multimedia material development for ELT in Blended Learning contexts. Her research interests also extend to include English Language Assessment and English Medium Instruction (EMI).

Valeria Franceschi is a temporary assistant professor in English Language and Translation at the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures of the University of Verona. Her research focuses on English as a Lingua Franca, especially in relation to plurilingual practices and on the business context (BELF). Her research areas of interest also include corpus linguistics and, more recently, tourism discourse.