



The TESOL Italy Val d'Adige Local Group

cordially invites you to the seminar and panel discussion on:

“Dyslexia and Language Learning”

**in collaboration with the British Council and the Centre for Intercultural Studies
and hosted by the Centro Linguistico di Ateneo**

The purpose of the seminar is to introduce participants to (1) **current understandings of dyslexia**, (2) ways in which **dyslexia impacts language learning**, (3) **legal obligations** to ensure equal access and opportunity for dyslexic learners, and (4) specific **methods for teaching and assessing** dyslexic language learners which will enable teachers to **meet the requirements of the law** while also **meeting the needs of their students**. A series of **expert talks** will serve as a platform for an **open panel discussion** during which all participants may ask questions and share their own perspectives and experiences. The seminar will be of interest to language teachers and subject teachers teaching in a foreign language in all contexts – including primary, secondary, tertiary and life-long education, as well as private language schools and community programs.

THE DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION IS MAY 25.

Saturday - May 30, 2015

9:00 – 13:00

Aula TBA

**Centro Linguistico di Ateneo
Università degli Studi di Verona
Viale dell'Università, n 4 - Verona**

FOR INFORMATION AND PRE-REGISTRATION CONTACT:

Michael Ennis, Val d'Adige Local Group Coordinator

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The event is open to TESOL Italy members. For those who are not TESOL Italy members for the current year, a free, one-time **provisional** membership card will be issued. Conditions of this card will be explained onsite by the local group coordinator. **All participants will receive a certificate of attendance.***



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Speakers

Federica Mantione is a PhD student in the Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics at the University of Verona, where she researches the early development of functional categories (articles, prepositions, clitic pronouns), in particular the production of function words amongst children with specific language impairments and learning disabilities (developmental dyslexia). She has participated in several national and international conferences and workshops, and has led training courses for language teachers at schools and universities. Her presentation will be divided into two parts. First she will present general information about dyslexia and its common symptoms. Then she will discuss the repercussions of dyslexia for language use.

Borbála Kálmos (sponsored by Cambridge University Press) is a PhD student at Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest), where she conducts research on the FL learning processes of dyslexic students. She is an EFL teacher who has worked with dyslexic language learners in various contexts. She is actively involved in teacher training, e.g. the recent [FUTURELEARN](#) course, and has participated in international projects related to dyslexia, e.g. [DYSTEFL](#). The aim of her talk is to familiarize participants with the basic principles of teaching foreign languages to dyslexic students. The presentation will touch upon the difficulties dyslexic students face when learning a foreign language, followed by recommendations on how to help them with these issues, including a summary of the most important teaching methods, assessment techniques, and tips on how to keep students motivated. While the language examples in the talk will be in English, the methods are applicable to teaching other languages.

Gabriella Doderò (sponsored by Macmillan Education) is a professor of computer science and the vice rector of studies at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano (UNIBZ). Since 2010 she has been the “rector’s delegate for student-oriented studies” and is in charge of guaranteeing the “right to education” (*diritto allo studio*) for students with disabilities and learning disabilities, and serves as the university’s representative on the *Conferenza Nazionale dei Delegati per gli Studenti Disabili* ([CNUDD](#)). Her presentation will first describe the safeguards for students with specific learning differences provided by Law 170/2010, with particular reference to the need to adequately manage the frequent obstacles to language assessment caused by dyslexia. Then she will outline the specific procedures in place at UNIBZ, which is a unique situation in Italy due to the fact that it offers trilingual degree programs in which students are required to meet language proficiency requirements in Italian, German and English in order to matriculate, in order to progress from one year to the next, and in order to graduate.

Anna Cardinaletti (sponsored by Cambridge University Press) is a professor of theoretical, applied and clinical linguistics at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice. She studies the applications of linguistic theory to the comprehension of language and communication disorders, and typical and atypical language acquisition. She has directed and participated in many national (PRIN, FIRB, FSE) and international (FP7, LLP, COST) projects. Her talk will discuss specific implications of dyslexia for language learning, in particular the fact that dyslexia may also imply difficulties in oral production and comprehension, which has an impact on approaches to teaching language learners with dyslexia and on the accommodations suggested by Law 170/2010. The importance of the explicit teaching of phonology will be discussed, as well as techniques to raise students’ awareness of the syntactic components of complex structures, which are particularly challenging for students with dyslexia. This may also be useful in the teaching of classical languages.

Bríd Ní Chatháin (sponsored by the British Council and TESOL Italy), originally from Ireland, is currently head of English (primary) at the Nelson Mandela International School in Berlin. In addition to classroom duties, she is responsible for admissions language testing, for learning support, and for individual teaching intervention for learners with dyslexia. She holds an international diploma in Teaching Support for Dyslexia and Literacy. Her presentation will focus on reading. She will discuss practical ways to promote comprehension, to extract information and to structure responses to text. She will also touch on ways in which teachers can construct or present assessments to ease the additional burden on learners with reading difficulties.

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“Dyslexia and Language Learning” May 30, 2015

8:30-9:00 – Registration

9:00-9:30 – Federica Mantione (University of Verona)

9:30-10:00 – Borbála Kálmos (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest)

10:00-10:30 – Gabriella Doderò (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)

10:30-11:00 – Anna Cardinaletti (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

11:00-11:30 – Bríd Ní Chatháin (Nelson Mandela International School, Berlin)

11:30-12:00 – Coffee Break (sponsored by Macmillan Education) and Book Exhibitors (CUP and Macmillan)

12:00-13:00 – Panel Discussion



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TESOL Italy

Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages in Italy

An Affiliate of TESOL International Association

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