

2016 FAAPI Conference: 'ELT as a multidisciplinary endeavour: Growing through collaboration ". A.S.J.P.I, San Juan, 2016.

# Conference Report: ELT as a multidisciplinary endeavour: Growing through collaboration.

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## Conference Report

### **2016 FAAPI Conference: 'ELT as a multidisciplinary endeavour: Growing through collaboration "**

**San Juan, September 15th-17th**

**Organised by A.S.J.P.I.**

**Selected papers published at**

**<http://www.faapi.org.ar/congreso-faapi/publicaciones/>**

By María Carla Abbati <sup>1</sup>

For the first time in many years, I was the lucky one to win the free ticket to the FAAPI Conference. At first, owing to my busy lifestyle, I doubted whether I would be able to attend. Then, as the excitement took hold, I invited a close friend to join me and off we went. This ticket was a springboard towards an incredibly enriching experience.

FAAPI 2016 was unlike any other before - it was one with a difference. It was the special 41st edition, since many dates coincided: 25 years of the first FAAPI in San Juan, 200 years of our Bicentenary as a nation and 400 years of Shakespeare's death.

As the logo shows, the triangular figure consists of an arrangement of small triangles that interact in a variety of hues of colours, signifying collaboration and multidisciplinary work: "Growth through co-operation". This image creates an arrow head which symbolizes the idea of growth, while resembling the mountainous landscape in San Juan.



I really consider that this logo represents what this 41st FAAPI edition was all about: a great variety of academically well-prepared plenaries and semi plenaries, concurrent sessions, commercial presentations and sponsored workshops.

Noteworthy among the excellent national and international speakers present at this event were: Silvana Richardson, Claudia Ferradas and Malena Solda, Luke Prodromou, Aziz Abu Sarah, Len Unsworth, Jair Félix, Lucy Crichton and Dave Alan.

Some of the presentations that affected me strongly were:

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<sup>1</sup> APRIR member María Carla Abbati was the winner of the draw for a Free Pass for this Conference.

- ✚ Claudia Ferradas' lecture which commemorated the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and dramatized a series of scenes from Shakespeare's plays as well as a sonnet together with Malena Sola. It was an authentic delight for Shakespeare lovers.
- ✚ Aziz Abu Sarah's presentation exploring the power of education to heal conflicts between hostile communities in the ELT class was a spine-chilling experience for all the attendees - he received a warm and spontaneous standing ovation.
- ✚ Jair Félix's speech focusing on how to help students develop awareness of the wider world and their own role as world citizens held a clear message that language teachers should integrate global issues into their ELT class.
- ✚ Luke Prodromou's plenary presenting techniques to develop 21st century skills was thoroughly motivating and encouraged us to put them into practice as soon as possible.
- ✚ Mónica Rodríguez Salvo's concurrent session on "Mindfulness for Educators" provided a practical guide to discover how Mindfulness can improve students' and our academic outcomes in addition to our well being.

The array of venues, which were within a wide walking distance of each other, provided us with the opportunity to take in the fresh air as we strolled through "Parque de Mayo". Most of the facilities have been built in the last few years, and have new and modern infrastructure with well-equipped conference rooms featuring state-of-the-art technology.

I would like to draw attention to the kindness and hospitality of the members of ASJPI ("Asociación San Juan de Profesores de Inglés"), who made the most of the everyday racing chain of lectures. They provided an ideal example of a collaborative team, an example that should be followed in the future. Also, behind them was the current Organising Committee, who were seen both on and off stage during the whole Conference, and who showed great commitment towards the organization of the event.

I would like to thank my dearest friend and colleague Jorgelina Arregui for having shared this enriching experience with me, the Rosario delegation for being so friendly and open to us and, of course, APRIR, which gave me the opportunity to attend this 41st FAAPI, which has once again allowed my passion for teaching to blossom.

*"Don't let your learning lead to knowledge. Let your learning lead to action". Jim Rohn.*