



**35<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Foreign/Second Language Acquisition  
Szczyrk, 23-25 May 2024**

***INSTITUTIONS PROMOTING POSITIVE LANGUAGE  
LEARNING AND TEACHING ENVIRONMENTS***

**FIRST CIRCULAR**

Dear Colleague,

The Institute of Linguistics, School of English at the University of Silesia in Katowice is pleased to announce the *35<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Foreign and Second Language Acquisition (ICFSLA)*. As it has been doing for over thirty years now, this conference will focus on research in second language acquisition and foreign language learning, relating to different aspects of both the teaching and learning of second/foreign languages. This time we have decided to concentrate, among other topics, on institutions promoting positive language learning and teaching environments.

**THE LEADING THEME**

Positive institutions, or “enabling institutions,” have been defined as “organizational structures that enable success and promote positive language learning environments” and “institutions that enable people to flourish” (MacIntyre & Mercer, 2014, pp. 154, 165) Together with emotions and individual characteristics, they are one of the main pillars of positive psychology, which has been currently heavily highlighted and promoted in the context of second language acquisition and foreign language learning. In this conference we would like to focus on all institutional frameworks which, in one way or another, support, facilitate and organise the process of learning/acquiring another language. This institutional support, whether formalised or informal, public or private, can take the form of communities, movements, organisations or even whole educational systems that promote positive language learning and teaching and contribute to their success. Positive institutions enable learners, teachers, and other members of the educational community to broaden their worldview, change ingrained



mindsets, and identify personal strengths, capacity and virtues that might be easily transferrable into their everyday life (James & Seary, 2018). Hence, the aim of the ICFSLA2024 conference is to provide a forum for researchers, teachers and educational representatives who are interested in the exploration and exchange of theory, research findings, experience and perspectives on various aspects of institutions promoting positive language learning and teaching environments.

More specifically, the papers are expected to address the following intersections:

- Pedagogical approaches promoting student and teacher well-being
- Different types of schools and forms of schooling
- Dimensions of enabling at school (various contexts including physical environment, cognitive, psychological, social and emotional factors)
- Agents of enabling and their characteristics (learners, teachers, headmasters)
- Challenges/restrictions to enabling (imposed policies)

However, the submission of other topics for consideration is welcome and we also encourage sessions within and across a variety of disciplines and fields related to Second Language Acquisition for our *varia* session. In other words, please do not hesitate to consider submitting your proposal even if it does not fit the main theme of the conference. The choice of the topic to be presented, as long as it relates to SLA in some way, is no obstacle to its acceptance as a presentation.

Proposals for original and previously unpublished papers (20 minutes for the **presentation** and 10 minutes for questions), **workshops** (45 minutes) reporting on research related to the theme of the conference, or **posters** regarding the issues are welcome for presentation at the conference.

### **PLENARY SPEAKERS**

Currently, we are happy to announce that the following scholars will present the keynote talks at the 35th ICFSLA conference:

- Kata Cszízér Wein (Eötvös Loránd University)
- Melanie Ellis (Silesian University of Technology)
- Steve Killick (University of South Wales)
- Mirosław Pawlak (Adam Mickiewicz University)



University of Silesia in Katowice

- Yolanda Ruiz de Zarobe (University of the Basque Country)

### **PLACE AND DATES**

The location of the conference is in **Szczyrk**, the resort town in the Beskidy Mountains of Southern Poland, well-known to many of our participants. The conference dates are **23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024** (with the usual – and recommended – option of an earlier arrival on Wednesday the **22<sup>nd</sup> May**). The conference venue will be our favourite **Hotel META**. All conference participants can be accommodated there, but if for any reason you prefer to choose different accommodation, you may do so. If you do not require any accommodation, please indicate this on your registration form. Details concerning the conference fee will be announced in the *Second Circular* in February 2024.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Abstracts for presentations should be sent before the **15<sup>th</sup> February 2024** to our e-mail address: [szczyrkconference2024@gmail.com](mailto:szczyrkconference2024@gmail.com)

You will be notified about **acceptance by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024**.

### **REGISTRATION**

You will be informed about the registration system by the end of **November 2023**.

*Not just those wishing to contribute papers but also those wanting to attend the plenary talks and presentations are warmly invited to participate in the conference.*

### **CONTACT DETAILS**

For conference-related matters, please contact the **Conference Organisers**, at the following address:

**Institute of Linguistics, University of Silesia in Katowice**

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**41-205 Sosnowiec**

**Poland**

**tel: +48 32 364 08 57**

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**Conference Organising Committee**

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