

# SPRING WORKSHOP

18th WORKSHOP OF THE RESEARCH GROUP FOR TEACHING ORAL COMMUNICATION IN JAPAN

Saturday, June 6th, 2020

University of Tsukuba, TOKYO CAMPUS  
Subway station: Myogadani (Marunouchi line)

- **REGISTRATION:** vannieu@almalang.com
- Admission is free of charge.
- The 18th Spring Workshop is co-organized by the CEGLOC FD Committee of the University of Tsukuba and sponsored by Alma Publishing.



The Autumn / Spring Workshop is an annual gathering aimed at sharing practical solutions or classroom research on common challenges we face in teaching spoken communication to Japanese students.

Our specific framework for teaching spoken communication includes:

- (1) Building speaking skills for interactive, real-time conversation on everyday life topics
- (2) Regular conversation testing from the beginning of a course
- (3) Raising awareness of the challenges posed by cultural differences in speaking styles and how to overcome them.

Presentations during the Workshop cover these topics from a very practical, "theory-lite" perspective.

## PROGRAM

12:30 - 13:00

Registration

13:00 - 14:30

### *Using cultural codes to our advantage*



Stephen Richmond,  
Kyoto University of  
Advanced Science

Getting poorly-motivated students to speak in large classes isn't an easy feat. Cultural styles of communication affect the typical university foreign language communication class in two ways: classroom interaction and the way students use the target language in conversations. How can we best use our understanding of various cultural factors to avoid problems of miscommunication and deliver successful classes? We will discuss the insights about classroom interaction introduced in *Over the Wall of Silence* and how to help students practice the basic cultural rules of conversation.

14:40 - 16:10

### *Conversation testing... the light way*



Jerry Talandis Jr,  
University of Toyama

Many teachers have told us "I'm thinking about doing conversation testing but I've never done it. It sounds too hard in my context". This is a shame, as they deprive themselves of a great way of holding their students' attention and directing their learning. We will discuss practical ways of testing speaking skills on a regular basis, with a special focus on how to construct an effective marking rubric to assess spoken interaction fairly and consistently.

16:20 - 17:20

### *Using "Conversations in Class, 3rd Edition"*



Bruno Vannieu,  
Laboratoire de la  
Méthode Immédiate

*Conversations in Class* is the result of 15 years of in-class testing in the context of large, low-motivation, lower-level Japanese university classes. Perhaps you've just started using CiC3 and could use some feedback or advice. Maybe you're an experienced user and can share some creative and successful ways you've used this textbook. Or, it might be that you haven't used the book yet and would like to have your questions answered about it from fellow teachers. Participants will share their teaching experiences with this textbook via a mix of small and large-group discussions.

17:45 - 19:45

Dinner party (4000 yen)

