



2025

## TITLE

### Teachers as Thinking Beings: Reflection and Technology in Professional Growth

**Speaker:** Daniel Xerri

**Presentation Type:** Plenary



## Abstract

Respecting teachers' professionalism involves recognizing their potential to reflect on who they are and on what they do. The development of reflective capacity enables teachers to seek answers to their questions and to deliberately think about what occurs in the classroom. This plenary examines how teachers can harness the power of reflection not only to develop their beliefs and practices but also to position themselves as critical evaluators of professional identity and classroom events. Drawing on recent scholarship, it highlights how technology – ranging from video-based tools and digital portfolios to AI-supported platforms – can serve as a critical partner in enhancing reflective practice, provided it is embedded within human-centred, dialogic frameworks. Such tools can help teachers revisit, interrogate, and reimagine their pedagogical decisions, while also supporting metacognition, resilience, and professional agency. At the same time, the plenary foregrounds the importance of ethical and pedagogical safeguards, ensuring that reflection remains authentic, collaborative, and contextually grounded rather than reduced to procedural compliance. Ultimately, it argues for empowering teachers to engage in reflective inquiry that integrates both human and technological dimensions, enabling them to navigate the complexities of contemporary classrooms with insight, adaptability, and care.

## Biography

Daniel Xerri is an Associate Professor in Applied Linguistics and TESOL at the University of Malta, and the Chairperson of the ELT Council. He has published widely on different areas of English language education. He has co-edited nine books and authored over 200 publications. His work has appeared in research anthologies, scholarly journals, magazines and newspapers. His publications have generated a substantial number of citations. He has delivered plenary talks and keynotes in 20 countries and his research has been awarded international prizes. His main research interests are teacher research and professional learning. His most recent book is *Innovative Practices in Early English Language Education* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2023). [www.danielxerri.com](http://www.danielxerri.com)