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TITLE:

**ENHANCING LEARNER AGENCY AND
INCLUSION THROUGH A HYBRID FLEXIBLE
APPROACH TO COURSE DESIGN**

SPEAKER: MICHAEL STOUT

PRESENTATION TYPE: WORKSHOP

Abstract

Several factors compete for our learners' time, including extracurricular activities and family obligations. Physical and mental health issues may also hinder our learners ability to engage fully in our classes. A hybrid flexible (Hyflex) course design can maximise learner agency and inclusion by offering students the opportunity to attend classes in person, join synchronously online, or learn asynchronously.

I will begin the workshop by describing an ongoing action research project at a university in Japan that aims to assess the effectiveness of a Hybrid Flexible (Hyflex) approach to course management. I will demonstrate how I utilise Google Docs, ZOOM, and F2F interaction to enhance student accessibility and engagement with the course materials and their fellow students. I will also share challenges I have encountered in creating tasks for online participation that are equivalent to tasks done F2F in class.

In the last half hour of the workshop, participants will be led through a series of tasks that will help them determine how they can adapt aspects of a Hyflex course design to maximise learner agency and inclusion in their own classes.

Biography

Michael Stout is an English Language Teacher in Japan. He has been teaching English in Japan since 1997. He holds a Master of Education (TESOL) from Temple University. He has taught learners of all ages. Currently, he teaches at Hakuoh University, Keio University and Toyo University. His research interests are reflective practice and learner autonomy.