EdYouFest
SINCE 2015
2026



TITLE:

BEYOND POINTS AND BADGES: GAMIFICATION, HUMAN INTELLIGENCE, AND 21ST-CENTURY SKILLS IN EFL EDUCATION

SPEAKER: LHOUSSINE QASSERRAS

PRESENTATION TYPE: PLENARY

Abstract

A game can energize an English classroom, but how can teachers tell whether that energy leads to meaningful language practice? This interactive keynote workshop distinguishes between classroom games, gamification, and game-based learning. It explores how teachers can design activities that give learners opportunities to communicate, collaborate, think critically, and use English creatively.

The workshop draws on a 2023 survey of 107 Moroccan English teachers about their use of online games and a 2026 interview study with 66 Moroccan teachers working in Morocco and Vietnam. Teachers reported opportunities for greater engagement alongside challenges such as classroom noise, time pressure, and unequal participation. Classroom photographs from Vietnam and China illustrate how teachers can offer different ways to participate while keeping the same language goal.

Participants will try a short language game and redesign a familiar activity for their own teaching context. They will leave with a practical template for choosing a language objective, adapting games for mixed-ability classes or classrooms with limited technology, and checking what each learner can do with English after the game ends.

Biography

Dr. Lhoussine Qasserras is a Professor of Applied Linguistics at Hassan First University, Settat, Morocco. He holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics, with a specialisation in quality education and teacher development. He also holds two master's degrees: a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Cardiff Metropolitan University, United Kingdom, and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) from Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco. Dr. Qasserras is an active researcher, teacher educator, and international trainer. He has authored and co-authored more than 20 research articles in the fields of education, English Language Teaching (ELT), and business. His research and professional interests include TESOL/TEFL, applied linguistics, quality education, teacher education, artificial intelligence in education, ICT, soft skills, gamification, and continuous professional development. His academic and professional engagement has a strong international dimension. He has participated in numerous international conferences, seminars, training programmes, and educational events in countries including Morocco, the United Kingdom, Finland, Spain, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Tunisia, France, Egypt, Turkey, and Qatar, among others. Through his teaching, research, training, and international engagement, Dr. Qasserras is committed to bridging the gap between educational research and professional practice, with particular emphasis on improving the quality of teaching, teacher education, and professional development in Morocco and beyond.