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TITLE:

AGENCY WITHOUT AUTHORITY: FINDING YOUR VOICE AS AN ELT TEACHER

SPEAKER: STEFANELLE CACHIA

PRESENTATION TYPE: WORKSHOP

Abstract

Agency is often associated (or mistaken) with autonomy, choice and the ability to shape our own practice. Yet we rarely operate with complete freedom. So, where does agency lie when we cannot simply change the systems and expectations around us? This interactive workshop explores the relationship between professional identity, agency and emotion when teachers encounter situations that challenge their values, beliefs or sense of who they are as educators. Through practical scenarios and collaborative reflection, participants will consider what lies within their control, what they can influence, and how they can communicate it. Participants will leave with practical frameworks for recognising and exercising agency, communicating more effectively, and navigating professional challenges without losing sight of the teacher they want to be.

Biography

Stefanelle Cachia is the Director of Studies at GV Malta English Centre and has worked in ELT since 2017. Her multifaceted professional background spans language education, interdisciplinary arts, cultural policy, events administration, organising dance educational outreach programmes, and working within the Office of the President of Malta. She holds a Master's degree in Culture, Policy and Management from City St George's, University of London, and gained her CELTA in 2019 and DELTA in 2025. Drawing on experience across different sectors, she brings an interdisciplinary perspective to academic leadership and is particularly interested in teacher development and teacher training in the ELT.