

## **Keynote Speech I**

### **Innovating English teaching: A new approach to EAP**

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In 2012 Hong Kong totally reformed its educational system by removing a year from students' school experience and adding it to their time at university. For those of us responsible for English language provision it presented an opportunity to reconsider the kind of English that we should be teaching and how we might create courses which best prepared students for their studies. At Hong Kong University we decided to redesign our courses to focus on "English in the Discipline". This recognizes that because the conventions of academic communication differ considerably across disciplines, identifying the particular language features, discourse practices, and communicative skills of target groups becomes central to teaching English in universities. Teachers therefore had to become researchers of the genres they teach and to devise courses around the principle of 'specificity'. In this presentation I talk a little about this process, but mainly discuss the principles of disciplinary specific language on which it is based, drawing on my research over the last decade to highlight the disciplinary-specific nature of writing and argue for a specific view of teaching EAP.