

Organization for Fundamental Education

Key words

Motivation, Effective Communication, Goal Setting, Japanese Business Opportunities in the Global Economy, Karate, ESL



Bachelor of Arts / Senior Lecturer

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Education

Edith Cowan University, Perth Western Australia
Bachelor of Arts Japanese Language Studies, Social Science

Professional Background

Former ALT Japanese Ministry of Education JET Program. 20 Year English Teacher at Fukui Senior High School Head Coach FUT Karate Team and Kanai Gakuen Junior Dojo. Founder and Coordinator of the Sister School International Studies Program

Consultations, Lectures, and Collaborative Research Themes

Course Development. Communication Skills. High Context/Low Context Inter-Cultural Communication, Progressive Language Instruction

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Main research themes and their characteristics

「Practical and Effective Life Skills」

Having spent over 20 years in high school as an English teacher and karate team coach (Fukui Senior High School) I was fortunate enough to have the unique opportunity to go deep into the culture of education in Japan, both in the classroom and out. The most rewarding part of the experience was getting to be a founding member of what has become our world-class karate team, which has seen success on the regional, national, and even international stage. I became the first-ever foreign national to receive an All-Japan High School Karate federation A-Rank Referee license, and continue to be a regular referee for final matches at the national inter-high and semibatsu tournaments. I believe that the culture of Japanese bukatsu is very special, and even one that would be worthy of replication overseas. The dedication and skill levels of both the athletes and instructors involved at the top in Japan have both inspired me and shaped my professional life.

On the language front, however, I soon realized that there was some serious need for attention with regards to practical communication skills. The English levels of the bulk of the students were so low and awkward, that I began to believe that the entire approach had to be reexamined and changed. Much more could and should be done. It seemed necessary that we had to bring English 'back to life' for these young students born into an ever-globalizing world. Outdated teach-to-the-test methods with dry, lifeless content needed to be abolished and a more practical, fun, and useful approach realized. Currently, my simple goals are to effectively engage, entertain and inspire the students to WANT TO communicate in the world language. Effective self-expression is a powerful life tool and I work on simple goal setting. For example, being able to hold a decent, relaxed, and free-flowing conversation for five minutes with someone that you have just met. Something that can be practiced and cultivated. This I call the **5 Minute Challenge** and it is within reach for anyone, regardless of level. Competent and authentic communicators make good leaders, and it is my sincere hope that our SPEC Team at FUT can lead the way in creating the next generation of confident and able young people.

