



AIELOC and Women of Color in ELT Conference Recorded Sessions

Julia E. Torres is a nationally recognized veteran language arts teacher-librarian in Denver, Colorado. Julia facilitates teacher development workshops rooted in the areas of anti-racist education, equity and access in literacy and librarianship, and education as a practice of liberation. Julia's work has been featured on NPR, AlJazeera's The Stream, PBS Education, KQED's MindShift, Rethinking Schools, Learning for Justice Magazine, and many more. She is a current Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award committee member, a member of the ALAN board of directors, and a co-founder of DisruptTexts.

Libraries as Liberatory Spaces: Transforming Literacy Education Through Inclusion and Collaboration

Though many educators do have the will to advocate for the adoption of culturally responsive texts and stories into school curriculum, efforts to do so are often barred by policies, lack of information, and occasionally community backlash. Concurrently, libraries and librarian positions are being removed from educational spaces throughout the United States and the world. In this session, Denver, Colorado librarian, scholar, and language arts teacher Julia E. Torres will share advocacy, pedagogy, and practical instruction inspiration for transforming learning spaces into liberatory places where literacy educators, librarians, and students can work together to transform the educational experience for the betterment of all.

Caroline Davis has over 20 years of experience of working with diverse groups within the field of education in the UK and internationally (Asia, Europe and North America) and has been based in Singapore since 2007. She currently teaches Language and Literature and English Language for middle school at an international School.

As a biracial working mother, she has clear understanding of the need to develop DEI awareness and practice, and to address the barriers that marginalised groups face in achieving their potentials in different arenas.

An avid lifelong learner, Caroline holds a BA in Social Science, an MA in Educational Leadership and Management, as well as Postgraduate certificates for teaching in both further and international education. She has recently completed a Diploma in Learning



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and Development, which has furthered her knowledge and interest in workplace learning, training and development.

She takes an active interest in DEI locally and internationally, has led International Women's Day events, and worked with gender equality advocacy groups in Singapore to raise the profile of women. She was an active member of the Singapore British Chamber of Commerce, Women in Business committee and led DEI initiatives for the British Council.

Is your DEI team an unhealthy microcosm of your school or organisation? How you can journey through and learn from the process, in order to inform your future practice.

In this session, I will share my experience of working on DEI initiatives where there was evidence of clearly inauthentic and tokenistic practice to achieve certain targets and tick box exercises. My journey is one of discovery to disruption to learning and exiting one educational organisation's version of cultural relations and DEI work.