



Name: **Barrie J. Roberts, MA, JD, LLM**

### **Biography**

Barrie J. Roberts has been a public interest lawyer, mediator, ESL instructor and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Administrator for two southern California superior courts. She created Mediation as a Second Language (MSL) to integrate the teaching of conflict resolution and ELT, and has taught variations of this course for undergraduates, LL.M. students, court interpreters and ELT instructors. She has presented MSL workshops at TESOL and various international ESP conferences. Her degrees include a JD; M.A. (TESOL); and LL.M. (Dispute Resolution). Her recent publications include: Roberts, Barrie J. (2018). Using Getting to Yes to Teach English, Negotiation and Other 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, *Journal of Research Institute, Kobe City University of Foreign Studies*, 58 (77).

### **Presentation:**

#### **Mediation as a Second Language: Teaching English Through Conflict Resolution**

### **Abstract:**

Conflict resolution, i.e., negotiation and mediation, is based on the same cross-cultural communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills needed for many ELT purposes. Thus, while teaching ELT, many instructors teach basic cross-cultural conflict resolution skills without even knowing it. In this workshop, the speaker will demonstrate how, with a slight change of focus and a few tweaks, several common ELT-type activities can become engaging lessons in negotiation and mediation, allowing students to negotiate and mediate conflicts of their choice in English while providing key academic, professional and practical life skills in any language. These integrated activities can cover all language skills and can be applied to many academic disciplines in the humanities, social sciences and even science, and to a range of professions including business, law and diplomacy. The presenter's thesis is that with a basic introduction to conflict resolution and a few model integrated conflict resolution and ELT activities, instructors will easily find applications and adaptations for their own teaching purposes, to the tremendous benefit of their students – and themselves.