

# Sue Leather

## Profile

I am an English Language education consultant with 25+ years' international experience in almost 60 countries. I have a diverse skill-set encompassing teacher and trainer education, programme and project evaluation, curriculum, syllabus and materials design and development. I have presented widely on a number of ELT-related topics. I am an experienced professional writer, development editor and series editor.

Previous clients and employers have included British Council, International House, Open University, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, National Geographic/Cengage Learning and many more.

## Academic qualifications

- MA in Education, Institute of Education, University of London: Distinction 1999
- DELTA (Diploma in English Language Teaching to Adults) Cambridge 1981
- B.A (Hons) in Spanish and French University of Leeds 1977

## Professional qualifications

- Advanced Moodle (online training) course, October-December 2008, Consultants-E
- Neuro-Linguistic Programming Practitioner Certification, Advanced Neuro Dynamics, Seattle, US 2004
- Advanced Presentations course (NLP) ITS Training, London, UK 2002
- Training courses in Neuro-Linguistic Programming, ITS Training, London, UK 1996-2002
- Fundamentals in co-counselling, 1991

## Current consultancies and positions

- Lead Consultant to British Council Iran projects. Trainer Development, Master Trainer Development and online CPD on ITTP project. From November 2011 and ongoing
- Course Developer and Trainer, *Fundamentals of Project Management* online training course, Sue Leather Associates
- Member of Editorial Panel, ELT Journal

## Professional experience: Overview

- Director of Sue Leather Associates, ELT Consultancy & Training. (current)
- Joint Series Editor, 'Page Turners.' A twelve-level series of graded readers for Cengage/National Geographic 2007-2014
- Writer of 25 graded readers for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and Cengage/National Geographic.
- Training Director of own Training Services partnership (Excel Training Services) Based in The Hague, The Netherlands, operating internationally 2000-2004 International teacher trainer and consultant (ELT consultancy) (Based in Cambridge, UK) 1995-2000
- PRESET Trainer (CELTA), Cambridge ESOL 1985-2005
- Director of Education, International House, London UK 1993-1995
- Director of Studies, Cambridge Academy of English, Cambridge UK 1982-1993
- Teacher of English as a Foreign Language, Spain and Cambridge, UK 1975-80

## Professional Experience: Details

- **Consultant for Scoping Visit**, British Council Tunisia, ELSP Programme, February-March 2017 , Writing of technical proposal to obtain funds from FCO; updating of project plans
- **Quality Assurance Advisor** to British Council, Nepal, for NIITE Project, February 2015-November 2016
- **Lead Consultant** to ITTP project, British Council Iran. Comprising face to face courses in Dubai and Turkey in Trainer Development, Materials Development Training, Master Trainer Development and distance CPD support via Moodle. (November 2011 and ongoing)
- **Editor**, Nepal ETTE courses, British Council Nepal, September-October 2014
- **Consultant** to British Council India. ELT Programme Manager, Maharashtra, May 2014-March 2015
- **Researcher**, Leading a team of four conducting Tracer Study into ETTE project in Kazakhstan, Nepal and Pakistan 2011-2014
- **Consultant** to British Council Sudan. Providing consultancy to the English Language Curriculum Reform. Tasks include proposal revision and project planning of a two- year project linked to curriculum reform in Sudan. (January, March 2014)
- **Scoping Visit**, The English Centre, Tomsk Siberia, October 2013
- **Plenary speaker**, BILGI University ELT Conference, BILGI University Students Conference. Istanbul, Turkey, May 2013 Talks: 'Continuous Professional Development in Times of Change' and 'Being a newly-qualified teacher: Challenges and Ways Forward.'

- **Facilitator**, PEELI project meeting on best practice in Project Management. British Council , Dubai 14-15 March 2013
- **Trainer**, Project Management course (Sue Leather Associates). Participants were British Council staff. Tunis, Tunisia, November-December 2012
- **Trainer**, Project Management course (Sue Leather Associates). Participants were British Embassy and British Council staff. Sarajevo, Bosnia, September 5-7 2012
- **Course Develop and Trainer**, Fundamentals of Project Management. Sue Leather Associates runs three online courses a year. I co-train the course with Andy Hockley.
- **Course Develop and Trainer**, Leading the Team. Sue Leather Associates runs two online courses a year. I co-train the course with Andy Hockley.
- **Trainer Trainer**, British Council Turkey, Istanbul. (July 2012)
- **Consultant** to British Council, India. Consultant editor and materials writer to EU- funded 'Workplace English': Vocational Education and Training for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in India.(August 2011- May 2012)
- **Consultant** to British Council, Kazakhstan. Providing consultancy and support for the development of a distance teacher training course. (July 2011- April 2012)
- **Lead Consultant** to British Council, Central and South Asia) on 'English for Teaching: Teaching for English' (ETTE) project. Involved advising the project manager on overall management of cascade, trainer training, materials development, general professional consultancy and management of project moodle. The project was owned by BC Uzbekistan, but encompassed Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan , Bangladesh and Nepal. (October 2007 -April 2011) Over 700,000 teachers were trained over the four years of the project.
- **Consultant** to British Council, UK. Writing modules of *English for Teachers* training course for teachers (March- November 2011)
- **Consultant** to Open University, UK. Conducting an expert review of primary training materials for English in Action project, Bangladesh (September 2010)
- **Consultant and writer** to British Council, UK. Revising and extending the *Classroom Language* training course for teachers (August, September 2010)
- **Consultant** to British Council, China. Needs analysis, trainer training and support on use of *Classroom Language* global product (July, August 2010)
- **Master Trainer** on the Access English Trainer Training courses for Primary and Secondary Korean teachers of English, British Council, Seoul, South Korea (August 2009.)

- **Consultant** to British Council, Bangladesh on English Language Teacher Certification This involved observations of Bangladeshi primary teachers and detailed recommendations on the development of a two-stepped test of teachers' English. The test was aimed at teachers with low (A1 CEF) levels of English.( with Simon Smith, March- May 2008)
- **Course Director and Trainer**, Hornby School “Developing Teacher trainers: focus on classroom language and interactive methodology ” (Nepal, January 2008)
- **Consultant on Pre-service and In-service training, Teaching and Learning** to British Council, Tunisia, English Teaching and Learning Scoping Mission Report for the Tunisian Ministry of Education and Training. A two-week mission with two other consultants, to scope the present state of ELT in Tunisia.(November, December 2007) The consultancy led to the Tunisian Ministry of Education signing an MOU with British Council  
<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=29798>  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/education/2009/feb/06/tunisia-tefl?INTCMP=SRCH>
- **Teacher Trainer** on GOF ELT Curriculum reform project, British Council Yemen (August 2007)
- **Research Consultant** to British Council, UK. EL consultancy for Global English, researching needs of primary and secondary teachers with lower levels of English, (June, July 2007)
- **Trainer** on British Council course to develop Teachers Associations in Central Asia, Kazakhstan (March-April 2007)
- **Consultant** to British Council, (Latin American Caribbean Region) Conducted an audit of existing up-to-date language development courses, focussing particularly on the needs of primary and secondary school teachers of English. (January, February 2007)
- **Trainer Trainer** on British Council Hornby School “Facing the Reality of Primary School English Language Classes” (Nepal January 2007)
- **Consultant** to British Council Romania on the development of training and training packs for use by newly-qualified teachers in 4 countries in south-east Europe. Involved research into the needs of newly-qualified teachers, writing of manual and trainer training. It also involved research into the way Romanian teachers are trained at PRESET level. (September 2005- through 2006)
- **Trainer & Consultant** to British Council, Serbia, for a Hornby School Seminar, training 25 primary teachers from 8 countries in The Creative Classroom and Assessment (August 2006)
- **Trainer & Consultant** to British Council, Turkey, to develop and run a trainer training course for a group of Turkish primary trainers ( July 2006)

- **Consultant** to British Council Ethiopia, to evaluate The English Language Improvement Project (ELIP), a large-scale cascade training programme and to consult on the set-up of three pilot resource centres in Ethiopian universities. It included design of evaluation tools, extensive observation of English teachers and trainers, review of impact through observation, focus groups and documentation. (February & March 2006)
- **Trainer & Consultant** to British Council Tunisia, Training and mentoring of Tunisian School Inspectors in the Teaching and Testing of Reading & the Teaching and Testing of Young Learners (December 2005)
- **Consultant** to British Council Bosnia on Blended Learning Programme Development. This involved writing a four-week blended learning programme for beginner and elementary professional learners of English. (June-July 2005)
- **Consultant** to British Council Yemen for an evaluation of curriculum reform. Included advising the Ministry of Education on age of adoption of English and pre-service training of English teachers to link in to the objectives of the new curriculum. (May- July 2005)
- **Lead Consultant** on two Trainer Training Projects at primary and secondary levels for The British Council, Montenegro. (Outputs were two teacher training manuals) Involved programme design and delivery, liaison with Ministry of Education (co-sponsor), communications and editing and design of training materials. (November 2003- March 2005)
- **Consultant** to YMCA Vancouver on curriculum development, project evaluation & and teacher training. Developed a PRESET course for use in Paraguay. (October 2003- March 2005)
- **Lead Consultant** on two Trainer Training Projects (Secondary and Primary) for British Council, Belgrade (Outputs were two teacher training manuals for Primary and Secondary sectors) Involved programme design and delivery, liaison with Ministry of Education (co-sponsor) on curriculum reform and editing and design of training materials. (October 2002- June 2003)
- **Lead Consultant** on Curriculum Development Project, British Council Kosovo. I headed a team of outside experts and locals which wrote the first English Curriculum for Kosovo from primary level. (February-June 2003)
- **Inspector** for the British Council Recognition Scheme, UK (1999-2004) and for EAQUALS (1999-2004)
- **ELT expert** on a European Union Tacis project with The Republic of Georgia. This involved evaluating national curriculum reform, running the teacher training programme and helping to set up a self-funding ESP centre at the State University of Tbilisi. (October 1998- May 1999)
- **ELT expert** on a European Union Tacis project with Moldova. This involved evaluating curriculum reform, running the teacher training programme and helping to set up a self-funding ESP centre at Kishinev University. (May 1998.)

- **Course Developer and Trainer** of Language and Communications Course : The Saxion Hogeschool Ijselland, Deventer The Netherlands (2000-2003)
- **Consultant** to British Council, Morocco. A feasibility study for a project involving the training of Moroccan executives in Gibraltar. (May 1999.)
- **Consultant/trainer** to Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)/ Guatemalan Armed Forces project in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador (May 1998- January 1999)
- **Consultant** to the Primary Schools, British School in The Netherlands, Curriculum for English as an Additional Language and Assessment of the effectiveness of integrating content with language learning. (1999-2000)
- **Workshop facilitator**, Conference on Tracer Studies in Early Childhood Development, Bernard van Leer Foundation, Kingston, Jamaica, April 2002
- **Training visits** to Tunisia (British Council) Egypt (British Council), Morocco (British Council), Macedonia (British Council), Moldova ( EU Tacis) and Nepal (British Council). (1995-2000)
- **Associate trainer** with Norwich Institute for Language Education, 1997-2001, in Taiwan, Canada, Argentina, Chile, Italy and the UK. Involved training primary and secondary teachers and teacher trainers from all over the world.
- **COTE (Certificate for Overseas Teachers of English)** and CEELT (Certificate in English for English Language Teachers) projects in Serbia , Kosovo and Montenegro ( British Council.) (1996-7)
- **CELTA (Certificate in English Language Teaching for Adults)** Lead Trainer on 25 courses all over the world, from Cambridge UK to Vancouver BC (1985-2005)
- **Director of Education**, International House, London UK 1993-1995 Responsible for the management of the EFL team and department, setting up INSETT training programmes for managers, administrative staff and teachers. Head of teacher observation team. Inspection management. Setting up new feedback system. Project management and evaluation.
- **Director of Studies**, Cambridge Academy of English, Cambridge UK 1982-1993 Overall responsibility for educational side of school, including INSETT and teacher development, curriculum development, in-service training programmes and budgeting.
- **Teacher of English as a Foreign Language**, Spain (2 years) and Cambridge UK (3 years) 1975-80 Teaching, materials production, course directing, teacher training.

## Selected Talks and Presentations

- 'ETTE: tracing the impacts of a large-scale ELT project' IATEFL Conference, Manchester 2015
- 'Leading questions, leading answers.' IATEFL Conference, Liverpool 2013 (with Andy Hockley, Sue Leather Associates)
- 'What do teacher educators need?' Presentation on the Iranian ITTP Project, British Council Iran. IATEFL Conference, Glasgow 2012 (with Leila Tehrani, British Council Iran)
- 'He said, she said: Writing dialogue for original learner fiction', IATEFL Conference, Brighton April 2011
- 'Improving the skills of teachers in marginalised areas: from research to practice.' International Language and Development Conference, Dhaka, Bangladesh, June 2009
- 'Global Product, local relevance: adapting training materials for specific contexts.' IATEFL Conference, Cardiff, April 2009
- 'ETTE: Professional development for rural teachers of English' Plenary at UzTEA Conference, Tashkent, November 2008
- 'So when you say trainer training...' (with Simon Smith) IATEFL Conference, Exeter, April 2008
- 'Striking an Inset Course while the reforms are hot: Towards strategic capacity building' (with Radmila Popovic) ELTA Conference Belgrade, Serbia May 2004
- 'Motivated Learning and teaching with readers' BC TEAL Conference, Vancouver, BC, May 2004.
- 'Creative Teaching and Learning with readers' IATEFL Conference Slovenia 2002, 2002, IATEFL Brighton 2001, British Council Conference Venice 2001, Dutch Teachers Conference, Zeist 2001 European Platform Conference Rotterdam 2001, British Council, Prague 2001 SLELTA Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka 2000
- 'The story's the thing', IATEFL Conference Slovenia 2002, British Council Zagreb 2002, British Council Belgrade, British Council Conference Venice 2001
- 'English through English: feel the fear, but do it anyway' European Year of Languages Conference, Rotterdam 2000
- 'There is no failure, but there is feedback' IATEFL Conference, Brighton 1998
- 'Teacher training or teacher development?' Keynote speech at British Council Conference Kathmandu, Nepal 1999
- 'Training for the future' Keynote speech at Argentinian teachers' conference, Buenos Aires 1998

- 'The role of the reader in English Language Education' Keynote speech at Ain Shams University ELT Conference, Cairo 1998
- 'The challenge of Japanese learners' Cambridge Teachers Association 1999, Japanese Learners Conference, Reading 1996, IATEFL Conference Brighton 1996
- 'Making change happen' Connecting Women, The Hague, Netherlands 2002
- 'Management-staff relations and channels of communication' Brighton Directors of Studies Association 1996
- 'Motivating experienced teachers' International House Training Conference, London 1995
- 'Starting a Director of Studies Association.' International House Teachers Centre, London 1994, IATEFL Conference 1993
- 'Developing a mission statement' International House Teachers Centre, London 1994 'Time Management' London Director of Studies Association 1993
- 'Stress Management' Cambridge Director of Studies Association 1993 'Women in Management' Women in TEFL Conference, London 1993
- 'Performance Management' ARELS Director of Studies Conference, London 1992

### **Innovation**

- Track record of innovation e.g. founding of own consultancy group, initiation and co- design of online project management and trainer training courses for Sue Leather Associates,
- Founder of Cambridge Director of Studies Association in 1987. This was the first of its kind; there are now associations all over the UK. They provide a support and training forum for academic managers in the EFL profession.
- Founder of the ELT Management Special Interest Group of IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) 1990
- Introduced a 'Learning in the community' curriculum at The Cambridge Academy, by which students would work and volunteer in the local community as part of their studies.
- Introduced training days (CAE/ARELS joint ventures) for teachers from all over UK on 'Teaching Japanese learners'
- Introduction of peer observation programmes and team teaching projects both at CAE and IH London.



## Writing, Editing, Publications

### Books published about writing

- 'How to write Graded Readers' 2013, ELT Teacher 2 Writer
- 'Three ways to help your elementary students enjoy extensive reading' (currently on Cambridge University Press website 'Cambridge Readers')
- 'Four ways to write a really good story' (CUP website)

### Original readers

1. 'Road Trip' 2015, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
2. 'The 400', 2014, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
3. 'The Choice', 2014, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
4. 'Second Chances', 2014, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
5. 'Light', 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
6. 'Bad Blood' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
7. 'Dead Cold' 2006, Cambridge University Press (CUP) *winner of the Intermediate level Extensive Reading Foundation Award, 2005*
8. 'Dirty Money,' 2006, Cambridge University Press
9. 'Hotel Casanova', 2005 Cambridge University Press
10. 'DJ Ambition' 2005, Mary Glasgow Publishers
11. 'The Way Home', 2004, CUP *Nominated for the Language Learner Literature Award, Extensive Reading Foundation, 2005*
12. 'Underground', a short story in the collection '2003, London Tales' ELI, Italy 'The Amsterdam Connection' 2001, CUP.
13. 'The Big Picture', 2001, CUP. *Nominated for the Language Learner Literature Award, Extensive Reading Foundation, 2004*
14. 'Bad Love', 2003, CUP

15. 'Just like a movie', 2000, CUP
16. 'Death in the Dojo' 1999 CUP
17. 'Karateka' (with Marje Brash), 1991, Heinemann 'Desert, Mountain, Sea' 1989, OUP
18. 'Desert Mountain Sea' 1990, Oxford University Press

All the titles below co- written with Julian Thomlinson

1. 'Soccer Crazy' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
2. 'Come Home' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage) 'Roommates' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
3. 'Your just don't know her' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
4. 'Hacker' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
5. 'The Beautiful Game' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
6. 'Running Free' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
7. 'A Kitchen Love Story' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
8. 'The Angels' 2011, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
9. 'Heart of a fighter' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)
10. 'Trust' 2010, Page Turners series (Heinle/Cengage)

**Methodology**

'Safety and Challenge for Japanese Learners of English' (with Peta Gray) a resource book for teachers, published February 1999 (ETP/Delta)

**Internet/Multimedia**

- 'English for Business Travel' and 'Financial English', interactive learning packages for an Austrian Business College.
- Internet readers for young teenagers: 'Grandpa's story' and 'Trouble in Taipei' original stories for a project in Singapore, Federal Publishing, edited by Brian Tomlinson.

**Selected Articles:**

- 'How does a virtual Community of Practice for teacher trainers impact on their professional practice' Upcoming September 2017 Elted Journal  
<http://www.elted.net/>
- 'Effecting methodological change through a trainer training project: a tale of insider- outsider collaboration.' In (Kennedy, C., ed.) *English Language Teaching in the Islamic Republic of Iran: Innovations, Trends, and Challenges*. London: British Council (with Khalil Motallebzadeh) 2015
- 'The English Language Teachers' Association (ELTA) project for newly-qualified teachers in Azerbaijan' A case study published in *Managing Change in ELT* ed. Chris Tribble March 2012
- 'Teacher Plus: Managing your own continuous learning' *English Teaching Professional*, March 2011
- 'Teacher Plus: Writing a graded reader' *English Teaching Professional*, January 2011
- 'Teacher Plus: Getting into ELT management' *English Teaching Professional*, with Andy Hockley, September 2010
- 'Teacher Plus: Writing for publication' *English Teaching Professional*, July 2010
- 'Teacher Plus: Giving a conference presentation' *English Teaching Professional*, May 2010
- 'Teacher Plus: Getting into Teacher Training' *English Teaching Professional*, March 2010
- 'Take nothing for granted.' *English Teaching Professional*, May 2009 (with Simon Smith)
- 'Time for Reflection' *English Teaching Professional*, March 2008(with Radmila Popovic)
- 'Training across cultures: content, process and dialogue' *ELT Journal* July 2001
- 'Taking account of culture, or "It's communicative, so why doesn't it work?" in *Folio (MATSDA journal)* 6/1, Autumn 2000
- 'Distinctions and Dichotomies: Safety and Challenge' in '*English Teaching Professional*' 2000.
- 'Safety and Challenge in Cultural Encounters' in *The Japanese Learner*, Oxford University March 1999.
- 'Reflections on Feedback' *Modern English Teacher* Vol 7/3 July 1998
- 'The application of NLP to management' *ELT Management SIG Newsletter* August 1996
- 'Do you understand? How to communicate effectively with Japanese Learners' *The Japanese Learner*, Oxford University, June 1996

- 'Co-teaching global issues: Teacher Development by stealth' (with Nicky Burbidge)
- TD Newsletter September 1995
- 'Building Students Confidence' (with Marje Brash) Practical classroom techniques for improving students' confidence, published in PET in September 1990.
- 'Letting go of your power' (with Mario Rinvoluceri) an article on negotiating the syllabus published in PET December 1989.
- 'Recording your students' needs' (with Pat Rekarte) an article on Community Language Learning published in Practical English Teaching June 1983.

### **Professional Associations**

- Board member of Extensive Reading Foundation 2009 onwards
- Member of the editorial committee of 'Teaching English to Japanese Students in Britain' 1996-1999
- Member of the ARELS Education Committee 1993-1995
- Coordinator of Women in TEFL 1993-1995
- Founder member of ELT Management Special Interest Group of IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language) UK
- Founder member of Cambridge Directors of Studies Association, UK

### **Interests**

Travel, Languages (Fluent in Spanish, good French and Italian. Elementary Dutch and Japanese) Cultures, Literature, Film

Sport/Health: Keen sportswoman. Trained in karate-do for 9 years. Swimming and yoga. Enthusiastic mountain walker.

### **Professional references**

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