## Kinesthetic Learning: Teaching and Learning Language Through Movement

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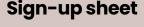
Theatre Studies, National University of Singapore



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Room 109 of Humanities Building, NTPU





## **Abstract:**

Language pedagogy is most effective when it actively engages the full body. In this interactive workshop, the facilitator will take the participants through a series of movement-based exercises and games that can be used to enhance language instruction and learning. These exercises and games are drawn from and inspired by a wide array of applied theatre approaches. These include Augusto Boal's Image Theatre, Playback Theatre, and Improvisation. These theatre approaches were primarily developed in the post-World War II era between the 1950s and the 1970s. Closely tied to various social and civil rights movements around the globe, their practitioners sought to democratize existing social structures by engaging non-professionally trained individuals to tell their stories, identify issues, and come up with possible solutions through action. In this workshop, I suggest that language teaching and learning needs to take place in context. The use of movement-based exercises enables the participants to co-construct a context in which language use is encouraged and sustained. In addition, through the act of context co-construction, critical and reflexive thinking skills are cultivated as the learners acquire the language. Language acquisition should ultimately lead to a heightened social and cultural awareness. Please come dressed for movement and be ready to interact with other participants and the facilitator.

