

33rd Annual APPI Conference – ISCTE - IUL, Lisboa (Portugal) , May 3-5, 2019

The Conference key topic is **“Building Connections”**. This topic calls up multiple meanings and inspires sundry interpretations in the ELT teaching and learning world just to stay inside our common territory. Quoting Lee Watanabe-Crocket: “It’s absolutely impossible for our students to learn without experiencing connections to the concepts we teach them. We can achieve this through providing both context and relevance. Without connection there is no interest, and interest always precedes meaningful and authentic learning. So it’s essential that we are making strong learning connections to help them develop the thinking habits they need to succeed. [...] Connection paves the way for critical thinking, and having a stake in learning concepts that carry both context and relevance.” Low-level connections and high-level connections bring in dramatically different outcomes as every ELT teacher is aware of. All in all, building connections does not only impact on students, but also on teachers!

The Conference Organising Team