

International Federation of National Teaching Fellows



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Welcome

We're excited to share the latest activities of our talented community.

You can also keep up to date by following us on Twitter: @ifntffellows.



Our contributions come from members, so remember to email us if you'd like to share your work: <u>newsletter@ifntf.org</u>.

Daisy Bao

Photos in this newsletter are from: <u>www.canva.com</u>.

Call for Expressions of Interest

COMMUNICATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

We are keen to hear from members who would like to help us communicate our vision and projects.

The activities include:

- Creating social media messages on events and issues our members care about.
- Sourcing and developing content for the IFNTF website.

If you enjoy communicating clearly, accurately, and with empathy, please contact us: ifntf@ifntf.org.

Greeting from The Editor

Daisy Bao (PhD Student at The University of Edinburgh, UK)

- PhD student studying Higher Education ٠
- Student Leadership in U21 (International)
- PGR Student Officer for SGSSS (Scottish Graduate School for Social Science)
- Student Committee Member of RAISE (Research, Advancing & Inspiring Student Engagement, UK)
- PhD researcher in Closing Student Feedback Loop research project

I'm a PhD student at the University of Edinburgh researching on the intersectionality of student engagement, power and relationships with staff in HE. I'm excited to introduce this issue of newsletter appreciate that the IFNTF kindly invited me to be a guest editor for the newsletter. Through editing the newsletter, I have the opportunity to communicate with many excellent teachers and learn more about their passion in teaching.

Ethos of teaching

My interest in student engagement is rooted in the benefits that I have gained from Higher Education as an underrepresented and first-generation student. Influenced by the western and Chinese teaching philosophy, my ethos of teaching addresses the value of students' knowledge and perspectives ('A student is not necessarily inferior to the teacher, nor does a teacher necessarily be more virtuous and talented than the student' -Discussion on Teacher, AC 768-824). This ethos was applied when I was a primary

Photos in this newsletter are from: www.canva.com.



school teacher, and when teaching and researching in Higher Education.

Research Interest

I have been working on supporting student HE experiences for over 6 years. My research interests lie in student-staff partnerships, student engagement, educational technologies (5G network), teacher education, and teacher professional education.

Selected Publication

Lubicz-Nawrocka, T & Bao, X. (2025). Partnership in the Classroom: Engaging Students Through Inclusive Student-Teacher Relationships to Advance Social Justice. Social Sciences, 14 (2). https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci14020075

Bao, X. (2024). Approaches to inclusion, diversity, and partnership: Reflecting on institutional policies of student-staff partnership in research across 15 institutional schemes in the UK. The Journal of Educational Innovation, *Partnership and Change*, 9(1). Retrieved from HERE

LinkedIn: <u>HERE</u> X: @baodaisy2



Resource

IFNTF 6th Global Seminar Series (2024-25)

Intercultural communication between native speakers and non-native speakers

By Dr. Minjie Xing, University of Manchester, UK 27/3/2025, 8pm UK GMT (<u>check time</u> <u>zone</u>)

Learners who are non-native speakers benefit greatly from practicing the language in partnership with native speakers. Dr Xing will share "Study China" a funded program which supported over 6,000 UK students to learn Chinese in China. Dr Xing will drive through a joyful journey.

Powergogy, a power-centred pedagogy

By Dr Pablo Dalby, University of East Anglia, UK

26/2/2025, 12 noon UK GMT (<u>check</u> <u>time zone</u>)

This seminar will explore Powergogy, a power-centred pedagogy developed by Dr Dalby that supports learners and educators to critique, challenge and change relations, systems and structures of power.



How to Find Seminars You Missed or Want to Hear Again

We keep recordings and resources of our seminars on our website. You can find them at: <u>https://www.ifntf.org/page-seminar</u>

We strongly recommend viewing the previous seminars. All have received excellent feedback. Headlines of recent seminars as below:

Working in partnership with students to enhance teaching environments and the learner experience

Dr. Nicholas Weise, University of Manchester (UK)

This workshop explores the myriad of ways in which Dr. Weise and colleagues work in partnership with students to enhance teaching environments and learner experience.

The Power of Together: Building a Unified SoTL Landscape

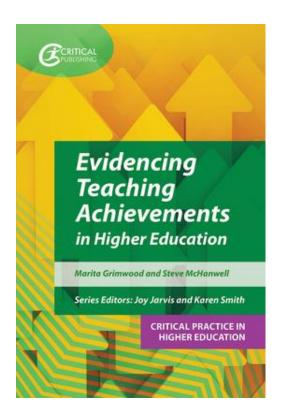
Professor Earle Abrahamson, University of Hertfordshire (UK)

Addressing the SoTL Grand Challenges of identity and the complexities of learning together, the talk highlights how moving beyond isolated, discipline-specific 'silos' fosters a more synchronised, interconnected approach to SoTL.

YOUR NEXT READ...

Evidencing Teaching Achievements in Higher Education

By Marita Grimwood and Steve McHanwell



As the authors, we both had separate moments which sparked the interest and thinking that led to this book.

At a faculty meeting, Marita asked the question: 'What are the measures of excellence for learning and teaching?'. The answers included pedagogical grants and papers, and significant innovations in the classroom. The focus was on the new and engaging. But her second question -'What should promotion for learning and teaching reward?' – brought some very different answers, with the focus on educational quality and the students' experiences of learning. It was felt that promotion should reward those who worked hard to ensure the consistent quality of education for students – the people who made sure programmes were well-designed and well-run. The discussion which followed showed that these were understood to be not necessarily the same people as the innovators and pedagogical scholars who were seen as 'excellent'. The meeting produced, therefore, two very different answers to what might, on the surface, look like two versions of one question

Steve's lightbulb moment occurred during an NTF conference discussing the difficulties in securing parity of esteem, reward and between teaching and research. During a discussion of evidencing teaching achievements, he realised that one necessary precondition for attaining parity of esteem would be a shared institutional understanding as to what such evidence would look like and how its rigour might be established. That in turn gave him the realisation that what he had achieved individually might mean he could be a change agent institutionally.

These lightbulb moments have two things in common. Firstly, they are linked to thinking about teaching effectiveness in the context of academic promotion. There's a good reason for this: discussions of promotion involve scrutinising universities' policies and criteria, as well as the realities of educators' work and factors which shape their careers, bridging the institutional and individual. Academic promotion is, in many ways, an ideal lens through which to understand and unpick a university's understanding of educational excellence. Secondly, these moments both pointed to the gap between ideas of 'excellence' and evidence of effectiveness. This disparity, which Marita's example in particular makes explicit, underlies much of the confusion that surrounds rewarding and recognising learning and teaching.

We are far from the first to note that excellence is a slippery word – it can be defined and redefined in different contexts, to suit different agendas. Thinking about effectiveness, on the other hand, raises productive questions about how we know there is value in a piece of educational work. What have the benefits of a particular project or approach been, and for whom? What evidence do we need in order to make a robust claim that something has achieved the outcomes we hoped for? While these questions have no fixed answers, they open up the potential for discussion that boosts shared understanding of learning and teaching; what expert teaching might look like; and how this improves student learning. The relevance of evidencing effectiveness permeates Higher Education:

from designing programmes and modules, teaching in face-to-face, virtual or hybrid environments, and preventing and addressing problems relating to student retention and attainment.

In the light of this, our book offers practical support to individuals planning their personal learning and career development, including those applying for promotions and awards. The book is also designed to help the institutions that employ them. It explores ways of thinking about the quality of teaching, how to gather and present the evidence of success, and considerations in supporting applicants. We hope it will open conversations that support individual success and institutional change.

Profile of Authors:



Dr. Marita Grimwood - Profile



Prof. Steve McHanwell - Profile



Dr. Nicholas Weise received the

Biochemical Society Teaching Excellence Award 2025



Congratulations to Dr. Nicholas Weise for receiving the Biochemical Society Teaching Excellence Award 2025 - Early Career! These prestigious awards are presented annually to an employee in higher education, in recognition of individual excellence, commitment to continuing professional development, commitment to students and colleagues, and sustained and continued impact.

Nick starts his teacher career as a Peerassisted Study Session (PASS) Leader mentoring 1st year students alongside his study for a BSc in Molecular Biology. Upon completion of his doctoral studies, Nick worked as a Public Engagement Programme Manager for the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology. Following the completion of doctoral studies and taking positions as a senior Lecturer at the University of Manchester. He leads the peer support, employability and learning enhancement portfolios. He is a keen disseminator of both biochemical and educational principles, and has organised and participated in over 90 outreach visits with non-traditional audiences and trained a variety of academic and NHS professionals nationally in pedagogic practice and instructional systems design.

Nick said: 'It is an honour to have received this award from the Biochemical Society. I would like to thank all of my collaborative colleagues, mentors and student cocreators for working with me on a variety of initiatives! As an academic on an education track, it is easy to feel that your work is valued less, particularly when a lot of the emphasis for reward and progression at universities is on publication record and grant income. This recognition means a lot and motivates me to keep doing what I am doing.'

Further information about these awards can be found <u>HERE</u>

(developed based on the Award website)

Inspiring Teaching and Learning in Canada: 3M National Fellowships

By Nicola Simmons, drnsimmons@gmail.com



This synopsis of a Canadian study of national Fellows invites you to view the website videos of their teaching, learning, and educational leadership.

Canadian 3M National Student and

Teaching Fellows are educational leaders and act as 'agents of change both within and beyond their institutions' (Acai et al., 2018, p.50). Despite their contributions, little is known about their impact, making it challenging to grow individual practices into inspiring institutional teaching and learning cultures (Simmons & Taylor, 2019).

We (Nicola Simmons, 3M 2016 and Aline Germain-Rutherford, 3M 2005) wanted to highlight 3M Fellows' conceptions of inspiring teaching, learning, and educational leadership; how they enact these practices; and how this contributes to inspiring teaching and learning.

Over the summer of 2020, we conducted online interviews with 30 3M Teaching Fellows and 7 Student Fellows. Thematic analysis of the videos showed that 3M participants, while from multiple perspectives and disciplines, demonstrate three common themes. They (1) use multiple approaches and activities, (2) encourage learning in a community of students and educators, and (3) connect learning to lived experiences (Simmons, Germain-Rutherford, Davis, & Karamifar, 2022). In addition, they all express their authentic selves through their teaching.

One of the joys of the Canadian 3M Fellowship is that Fellows participate in a retreat. Many commented that this "gift" of inspirational community far exceeds the value of any monetary prize.







(LINK to access these clips)

Three things are clear based on our review of the videos: 1) learning is a lifelong co-creative journey, 2) educational leadership and excellence are grounded in holistic and humanistic approaches, and 3) leaders create a spirit of community. We invite you to view the compiled clips, which are organized by theme. We hope you'll be as inspired as we were by their perspectives!

References

- Acai, A., Ahmad, A., Fenton, N., Graystone, L., Phillips, K., Smith, R., & Stockley, D. (2018). The 3M National Teaching Fellowship: A high impact community of practice in higher education. *Teaching and Learning Inquiry*, 6(2), 50-66. <u>https://doi.org/10.20343/teachlearnin</u> <u>qu.6.2.5</u>
- Simmons, N., Germain-Rutherford, A., Davis, A., & Karamifar, B. (2022). 3M National Teaching Fellows: Inspiring

- Postsecondary Teaching and Learning. In D. Stockley, J. Mighty, & J. Christiansen (Eds.), *Taking Stock 2.0.* St. Peter's Bay, PE: Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.
- Simmons, N., & Germain-Rutherford, A. (2022). 3M Fellows: Inspiring teaching and learning/inspirer l'enseignement et l'apprentissage au Canada. <u>https://3mfellowsinspiringteachingandl</u> earning.wordpress.com/
- Simmons, N., & Taylor, K. L. (2019). Leadership for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: Understanding bridges and gaps in practice. *Canadian Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, 10*(1), article 1. <u>https://doi.org/10.5206/cjsotl-</u> <u>rcacea.2019.1.7995</u>

Reminder for Feedback on a Recommender System for

Members Applying for Promotion

We would love to get more feedback on our idea of creating a recommender system for members applying for promotion.

To recap, the idea is to bring together:

- (1) Members who require a professor to evaluate and recommend their teaching.
- (2) Members who are accomplished professors who would be willing to write recommendations.

Our hope is to offset disadvantages that many excellent teachers have in applying for promotion.

If you are interested and/or would like to share your thoughts about the idea, please contact us at: <u>ifntf@ifntf.org</u>

Prof. Earle Abrahamson, University of Hertfordshire



Position and Responsibility

- Professor in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).
- Leading initiatives that foster collaborative research and innovative teaching strategies; bridging disciplines and promoting pedagogical excellence.
- Serving as co-editor of Teaching & Learning Inquiry (TLI), the ISSOTL journal, and co-leads the ISSOTL Advocacy Committee, where he advocates for globally inclusive SoTL practices. Co-lead the Advance HE TEAL network.

Year of National Teaching Fellowship award

National Teaching Fellowship 2020

What are your interests and expertise in HE learning and teaching?

I am passionate about advancing collaborative, cross-disciplinary approaches in SoTL. My work focuses on enhancing student engagement through peer mentoring, improving teaching methodologies, and promoting reflective, inclusive educational practices that align with SoTL Grand Challenges, particularly in identity and the complexities of learning together.

Research interests

My research interests include collaborative SoTL frameworks, reflective and inclusive pedagogies, and the role of identity in learning. I am currently focused on addressing SoTL challenges through international, multi-disciplinary research.

Has the Teaching Fellowship award made a difference to your work and life? If yes, in what ways?

Yes, the award has expanded my influence in shaping SoTL both nationally and internationally. It has provided a platform to engage with a wider network of educators, allowing me to lead innovative projects and contribute more significantly to global pedagogical conversations.

What inspires you in your teaching?

I find inspiration in the potential for learning to transform lives and communities. Engaging with students and seeing their growth fuels my dedication to creating impactful, inclusive learning environments. I worked across countries, cultures, communities, continents and curricula.



- Earle is in the ISSOTL
- 2023 Podcast

What influences your pedagogic work?

My work is driven by a commitment to inclusivity and a belief in the power of

diverse perspectives. I am deeply influenced by Vailes (2017) on how students flourish as well as collaborative initiatives, international insights, and the evolving needs of students and educators across diverse educational contexts.

Wider interests and activities?

An advocate for health and well-being in educational contexts, I further engage with professional organisations focused on sports therapy and medical education – currently leading the pedagogical framework for the new University of Hertfordshire Medical School.

Publications: Published widely on topics including reflective practice, interdisciplinary SoTL, and collaborative learning models.
X / website links
Twitter: LINK
LinkedIn: LINK
UH profile: LINK
The ISSOTL 2023 Podcast Series: LINK

Dr. Pablo Dalby, University of East Anglia (UEA)

Position and Responsibility

- Learning Enhancement Tutor (Inclusive Education).
- Founder and leader of cross-institutional Inclusivity Network (IN).
- Provide Continual Professional Development to staff through training guidance and support to help colleagues enhance their inclusive practice.



Year of National Teaching Fellowship award

National Teaching Fellowship 2024

What are your interests and expertise in HE learning and teaching?

- Powergogy (power-centred pedagogy).
- Equality, diversity and inclusion, with an emphasis on inclusive practice (especially inclusive assessment and feedback).
- Transformative pedagogy.
- Global (citizenship) education/learning.



Has the Teaching Fellowship award made a difference to your work and life? If yes, in what ways?

Yes, it's:

- Given me a boost of energy, satisfaction and confidence. Although part of me would like to pretend that external recognition is less important to me than it is, another part says 'why'?

- Opened doors to new opportunities to share my work, and to learn and develop with people who are passionate, skilful educators.

 Meant that things I say and do apparently carry a bit more weight than they did before!!! Some people now respond differently to the same ideas!

What influences your pedagogic work?

Many things, including:

- The people I teach and learn with, colleagues and students alike.

 The literature, especially in these areas:
 Scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL); Inclusive education; Critical pedagogy; Transformative learning;
 Sociology of education; Political science/power theorists; Pedagogy for the privileged; Critical geography; Global (citizenship) education/learning.

- My mental health struggles. I live with a form of Obsessive Compulsive Disorder that profoundly influences everything I do, especially my work. I am obsessed with inclusivity and power! I tend to be thorough, with an attention to the important 'details' of inclusive practice.

- My loved ones – especially my parents.

What inspires you in your teaching?

Several things inspire me. Here are some:

- Wanting to contribute as best I can to progressive social change.

- Knowing that there are loads of people around the world working hard to make the world a better place, without knowing who most of them are.

- Getting feedback from people I work with, both positive and negative/criticalconstructive. Especially learning from others if my work has impacted them positively and contributed to changing and developing their practice.

Again, my loved ones – especially my parents!

Research interests

These align closely with my interests and expertise (see section 5), and also

incorporate associated research methodologies such as:

- Participatory Action Research.
- Critical ethnography.

I am increasingly interested in researching power and inclusion in relation to artificial intelligence.

Wider interests and activities?

 Making cocktails in my makeshift kitchen cocktail bar. I got into mixology during the COVID lockdown and never looked back.

- Swimming, and generally just being in and near water. I love going into coldwater (for a short time!).

 Playing games. I love all kinds of games, especially board games. I'm not a hardcore gamer though and prefer something quick with simple rules yet plenty of depth.

- Cycling. I'm afraid I am one of the MAMILs (Middle Aged Men in Lycra)!

Selected publications:

- Dalby, P. (2024). 'Let's teach and learn about power! Introducing Powergogy! AdvanceHE.
- Dalby, P. (2022). 'Revolving roles: creating inclusive, engaging, participantled learning activities'. Times Higher Education (THE) Campus.
- Access to Pablo's <u>LinkedIn</u> profile for more

Social media / website links:

- Pablo's AdvanceHE profile
- Overview of Powergogy on Microsoft
 Sway
- Inclusivity Network TV YouTube channel
- <u>Pablo on X</u>: @PabloDalby

Dr. Claire Goode, Otago Polytechnic



Position and Responsibility

- Principal Lecturer, Learning and Teaching Development
- I support the institution's goals by working alongside academic staff to build their capabilities in multiple aspects of pedagogical practice. This includes programme and course design, assessment strategies, technology-enhanced learning, blended delivery, the development of resources for lifelong learning, and continuing professional development; all of this to ensure the best possible experience and outcomes for our learners. I have also represented the Learning & Teaching Development team on the Staff Committee (2021–2023), and been an elected staff representative on the Polytechnic's Leadership Council (2019-2021).
- For me, this role brings together skills, knowledge, and practice acquired throughout more than twenty-seven years' experience in education, in different contexts including university and foundation programmes, prison education, and secondary schools, in New Zealand, France, and the UK.

Year of National Teaching Fellowship award

National Teaching Fellowship 2024

What are your interests and expertise in HE learning and teaching?

Interests: Teaching excellence, teacher development, teacher identity, scholarship of teaching and learning

Expertise: Teaching excellence, teacher

development, research writing, curriculum development, learning design and development, TESOL

Has the Teaching Fellowship award made a difference to your work and life? If yes, in what ways?

It's very recent, so difficult to say at the moment! I would say it's a huge honour and I am very grateful for the recognition.

What inspires you in your teaching?

Making a difference, seeing learners grow in confidence.

What influences your pedagogic work?

The cornerstone of my approach originates from my initial teacher training in the UK (1996-1997), seeing teaching as a blend of facilitation and participation in learning. I also learned to reflect on my effectiveness, and how practice could be adjusted for better outcomes. Over time, my approach has focused on putting myself in the learner's shoes, thinking about their learner experience.

Four elements drive my approach, all guided by reflection:

1. Building relationships has always been important to me. Strong relationships contribute to successful learning outcomes and meaningful reciprocal connections.

2. I always want to make a difference for my learners and empower them to be independent.

3. By providing opportunities for growth, I want the staff I work with to feel confident as collaborative practitioners and be the best educators possible; they are at the heart of my role.

4. I always seek to create positive and safe learning spaces, through authentic, warm, and open communication. My use of props, music, video, and group or team activities in my teaching practice, complemented by stories from my own life and gentle humour, all contribute to this.

Research interests

Teaching excellence, teacher development, teacher identity, scholarship of teaching and learning

Wider interests and activities?

Languages, music, reading.



Working with our Head of Fieldwork (Occupational Therapy) at Otago Polytechnic

Selected Publications:

Goode, C. (2024). An excellent adventure: Telling the stories of Tertiary Teaching Excellence Award winners. Otago Polytechnic Press. LINK

Goode, C. (2024). On questions asked about the keys to teaching excellence. *Educational Developments*, *25*(2), 26–28. <u>LINK</u>

Selected Presentations:

Goode, C. (2024, July 1-4). *The keys to teaching excellence: Cultivating excellent practice in educators and mentors*. ANZAHPE 2024: Cultivating Innovation. Adelaide, Australia. <u>LINK</u>

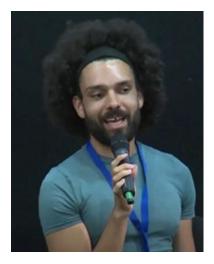
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X / website links

LinkedIn: LINK

ORCID: LINKUH profile: LINK

Dr. Nick Weise, University of Manchester



Position and Responsibility

- Senior Lecturer
- Faculty Lead for Student Experience & Inclusion
- Departmental Lead for Teaching & Learning Enhancement
- Head of Employability (Chemistry discipline)
- Academic Coordinator for Commuter Peer Mentoring (university-wide)

Year of National Teaching Fellowship award

National Teaching Fellowship 2025

What are your interests and expertise in HE learning and teaching?

Peer learning, student partnership, technology-enhanced learning, instructional systems design, applied psychology in pedagogic development, public engagement with research, community outreach.

Research interests

I am on a teaching-focussed contract and so am not involved in research.

Has the Teaching Fellowship award made a difference to your work and life? If yes, in what ways?

The award has made me more sure of my work and assertive in doing it. Before, I had not been recognised through promotion and other reward mechanisms at my university due to an over-reliance on publications, grant income and speaking at conference as ways to measure academic achievement. As such, it was nice to be recognised for actually doing work with and for students, rather than shying away from them to chase career advancement. It has emphasised to me that this is the right thing to do and that I will continue doing it as it is at least recognised somewhere!

What inspires you in your teaching?

Being able to make a difference to those who need it, be they members of the general public without access to scientific knowledge, students who think just because they are not good at memorisation they will make bad scientists or colleagues involved in teaching who fall back on researcher-like approaches to transferring knowledge (passive presentations and writing articles, etc.) It is great to see the moment people like this realise something new and see a way forward that they did not before!



Nick is doing some outreach at the Amildham Tamil School in Timperley.

What influences your pedagogic work?

Person-centred approaches to psychotherapy as related to learnercentred development. Facilitation of active learning and drawing on learners as experts by experience to help them educate each other (as well as myself!)

Wider interests and activities?

Music theory, languages / linguistics, applied psychology and working with local mental health service providers.

Selected Publications:

Multilingual Community Engagement: partnering bilingual international researchers with local groups for science outreach across Greater Manchester.

Festival of Libraries - Blackout the Jargon: erasure poetry using recently-published articles guided by the authors to engage the general public with research outputs.

International Mother Language Day -Biochemical Etymology: engaging members of the general public with the origins of words and names of different biotechnologically-relevant molecules.

RSC Manchester & District's ChemQuiz: local competition engaging 30-40 schools annually in the chemical sciences.

New Scientist Live!: national outreach event attracting over 40,000 people annually to engage in all areas of science and engineering.

X / website links

University profile: LINK

Dr. Minjie Xing, University of Manchester



Position and Responsibility

- Senior Lecturer in Chinese, PFHEA
- Program Director for Joint Degrees of Modern Languages, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester

Year of National Teaching Fellowship award

National Teaching Fellowship 2024

What are your interests and expertise in HE learning and teaching?

Language Teaching, Multimodality in Language Teaching, Business Chinese, Intercultural Communication.

Research interests

Language Teaching, Multimodality in Language Teaching, Business Chinese, Intercultural Communication.

Has the Teaching Fellowship award made a difference to your work and life? If yes, in what ways?

Yes, more language tutors are inspired to make progress in their language teaching.

What inspires you in your teaching?

Students' progress. When I see students making progress with my pedagogical approach, I have a sense of achievement.

What influences your pedagogic work?

I expand the impact by design a new course 'Professional Language in the Digital World', aiming for students across all disciplines at the university, and the curriculum will be used for all languages.

Wider interests and activities?

Singing and dancing in local community.



Minjie and Duncan

Selected Publications:

Xing, M. (2004). *Multimedia in Language and Culture*. Liverpool: Manutius Press.

Access to this LINK for more.