



*Dear members of the CEFR & LP SIG,*

The summer heat has just lost some of its stronghold and the next Coronavirus-impacted semester will begin soon. We hope that the challenges in this special year worked out for you so far. As for PanSIG 2020, different opinions were discussed – to cancel or to go online or ... – but finally a very engaged group did take up the hat and PanSIG 2020 was rescheduled and was successfully held online. The CEFR& LP SIG took part in it. Going online with events has become a new normal and CEFR & LP SIG held various joint events, thanks to BizCom SIG's Alan Simpson and Nagano Chapter's Jean-Pierre Richard for the inspiring events and wonderful cooperation. Reports on the events will be given in the December-edition of the Newsletter.

This newsletter edition provides some fresh ideas for you to consider and new projects to engage in. Hopefully, you will find something that grasps your interest. The three keywords are research, events, and publications.

*Research:* The **Call for Collaborators** related to the **new Kaken project** begins. Please have a close look at it. We would be happy if you consider taking part in it.

See more details in this Newsletter on page 3 and/ or online <https://cefrjapan.net/kaken-5>

*Events:* On October 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, we will hold a special **Online CEFR and CLIL Symposium & Workshop: The praxis of teaching, learning, and assessment with CEFR and CLIL**. Plenary speakers will be Yue-Li Lo (The University of Hong Kong) and Masashi Negishi (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies).

Find more information on pages 5-6 and/ or online <https://cefrjapan.net/events/22-events/83-cefr-and-clil>

**JALT 2020 International Conference Online** is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. **CEFR & LP SIG will hold a combined SIG Forum and AGM on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 19:45 to 21:15 (online).**

The **CEFR & LP SIG Forum** has the theme *Aligning CEFR to current practices - Identifying needs of learners and teachers in the classroom - First steps for action research*. The outline of the new Kaken project and the Call for Collaborators will be explained.

Find more information on page 7 and/ or online <https://cefrjapan.net/events>

*Publications:* We are happy to announce our new book as an outcome of the former Kaken project was published in July 2020 under the lead of our officer Noriko Nagai: Nagai, Noriko, Gregory C. Birch, Jack V. Bower & Maria Gabriela Schmidt. 2020. *CEFR-informed Teaching, Learning, Assessment – A Practical Guide*. Singapore: Springer.

See more details in this Newsletter on page 5 and/ or online <https://cefrjapan.net/kaken-5>

The **CEFR Journal – Practice and Research** Volume 3 is about to be launched in the beginning of October 2020. The Call for Submissions for Volume 4 is on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. See more on page 9 and/ or online <https://cefrjapan.net/journal>

Hopefully you will find something appealing to you in this Newsletter!

Please stay tuned to the updates of our events: <https://cefrjapan.net/events>

If you would like to organize a joint event with the CEFR&LP SIG, please contact one of our officers. We ask all our members to become involved with organizing meetings and mini-conferences and by contributing to our newsletter. We'd love your cooperation to make this happen.

Thank you for being a member of JALT CEFR&LP SIG!  
宜しくお願い致します。

*Gabriela Schmidt*

Your coordinator on behalf of all officers.

### Contents of Newsletter 29 -September 2020

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## New Kaken research project - Call for Collaboration

In April 2020, we were granted the third JSPS Grant-in-Aid research project (no. 20K00759) directly involving the SIG, and the fifth involving SIG members, on

### Foreign Language Education Reform through Action Research Putting CEFR educational principles into practice

「アクションリサーチの手法を用いた言語教育改善:CEFR の教育理念を参考にして」

The JALT CEFR & LP SIG is looking for researchers to participate in our latest KAKEN JSPS research project.

**The aim of this project is to support numerous small-scale action research (AR) projects related to foreign language teaching in Japan and beyond, in which practitioners reflect on and find ways to improve their teaching practice using the CEFR as a reference tool.**

Each AR team will be provided with support and guidance to ensure that their research is conducted in a systematic way in relation to the AR literature and reflective of CEFR principles. The teams will be grouped thematically around five central themes:

- Designing a curriculum and / or course
- Materials Development
- Assessment
- Learner autonomy and the European Language Portfolio
- Classroom Implementation.

These categories roughly follow the chapters of the CEFR & LP SIG's latest publication, *CEFR-informed Learning, Teaching and Assessment: A Practical Guide* (Nagai et al. 2020). The book authors and SIG officers will offer support and guidance in their respective areas of expertise while undertaking their own research projects. Each team will also be provided with a succinct review of the AR literature, and an action research framework to guide their research efforts. Ultimately, we plan to publish these case studies in either an edited volume or our in-house journal: *CEFR JOURNAL - Research and Practice*.

Schedule of the research project:

**2020: Work with CEFR & LP SIG members to identify research foci and to plan AR projects.**

**2021: Carry out action research / Collect and analyze data.**

**2022: Reflect on AR projects and write research up for publication.**

This project is related to the JSPS Kaken project no. 20K00759 「アクションリサーチの手法を用いた言語教育改善: CEFR の教育理念を参考にして」. Taking part in it, presenting and/ or publishing will be acknowledged by including your name in the yearly reports and in the final report of the Kaken as research collaborators (研究協力者) during the research period (2020 - 2022). The names of research collaborators will appear in the final report of the ongoing Kaken project, as shown in the previous Kaken project report (see Kaken database <https://kaken.nii.ac.jp/en/grant/KAKENHI-PROJECT-16K02835/>).

JALT and the CEFR & LP SIG are included explicitly in the research proposal. Being a member is favorable but not mandatory for taking part in the project. As this is a JSPS Kaken project, the outcome aims to contribute substantially to foreign language education (English or other languages) in Japan. Yet, the language for presentations and publications should be either in English or in Japanese. If you are interested in participating, please contact the research team.

For more details, see the special project homepage: <https://cefrjapan.net/kaken-5>  
Contact: jalt.cefrlp.sig {admark} gmail.com

The proposal reads in Japanese as follows:

「本研究では、本申請研究代表者と分担者が所属する全国語学教育学会(これ以降、JALT)の CEFR-LP 研究会 (CEFR&LP SIG) の会員と協働し、アクションリサーチの手法を用い、CEFR の教育理念に基づいた言語教育改善を支援する持続可能なシステムと体制を構築する。そのために、以下のことを行う。

- 1) CEFR の教育理念に照らして、現在多くの教員が抱える課題を調査し、特定する。
- 2) アクションリサーチの手法を明確にした上で、(1)で明らかになる課題を解決するための複数のアクションリサーチを行う。
- 3) アクションリサーチの手法を用いた、CEFR の理念を柱とした言語教育改善を支援する持続可能なシステムと体制を整える。」

## New Kaken research project - Call for Collaboration

For more details, see the special project homepage: <https://cefrjapan.net/kaken-5>

## Outcome of the research project now published

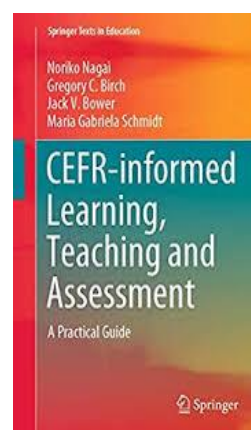
We are happy to announce the outcome of the JSPS Grant-in-Aid research project (no. 16K02835) is the following book published in July 2020:

Nagai, Noriko, Gregory C. Birch, Jack V. Bower & Maria Gabriela Schmidt. 2020.

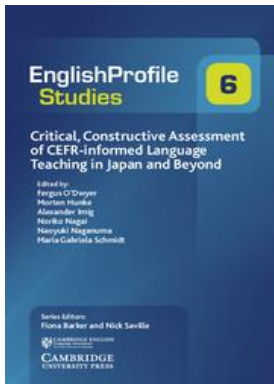
*CEFR-informed Teaching, Learning, Assessment – A Practical Guide.*  
Singapore: Springer.

For more details, see the special book homepage:  
<https://cefrjapan.net/publications/books/85-books-practical-guide>

If you are interested in reviewing this book, please contact the research team.



By the way, another outcome of the JSPS Grant-in-Aid research project (no. 26370624) is the following book with case studies:



O'Dwyer, Fergus, Morten Hunke, Alexander Imig, Noriko Nagai, Naoyuki Naganuma & Maria Gabriela Schmidt (eds.). 2017.

*Critical, Constructive Assessment of CEFR-informed Language Teaching in Japan and Beyond*. English Profile Studies, volume 6. Cambridge (UK): Cambridge University Press.

If you are interested in reviewing this book, please contact the editors of this volume.

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## CEFR & CLIL Symposium & Workshop Online on October 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

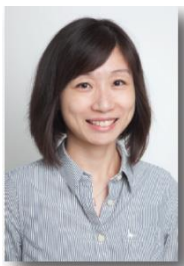
With increased interest in the integration of CEFR and CLIL, the JALT CEFR & LP SIG wants to promote research and practice linking the CEFR and CEFR/CV with CLIL. This international symposium & workshops serve to further the educational discussion within CEFR in all levels of education, with the additional understanding of CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Instruction). Our goal is to create a forum for discussions promoting the understanding of concepts related to, applications of, and future directions of CEFR and CLIL in Japan and beyond. This is a joint event of JALT CEFR & LP SIG, JALT Akita Chapter, and Akita International University (host). The theme is

### **The praxis of teaching, learning, and assessment with CEFR and CLIL**

Invited speakers are

**Dr Masashi Negishi, a professor at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.**

He received his PhD from the University of Reading, UK. He has participated in a number of research projects, including national education surveys and the development of several English proficiency tests in Japan. He heads the CEFR-J Project, and his current interests include the application of the CEFR to language teaching in Japan and the development of the CEFR-J based tests.



**Dr Yuen Yi Lo, an associate professor at the Teacher Education and Learning Leadership (TELL) Unit of the Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong.**

She received her doctorate at the University of Oxford. Her research interests include bilingual education, Medium of Instruction policy and classroom interaction. In recent years, she has been investigating the professional development of teachers in content and language integrated learning (CLIL) and issues related to CLIL assessment. She has recently published her book *“Professional Development of CLIL Teachers”*. Dr Lo is well experienced of running CLIL workshops for teachers in Hong Kong and China, assisting them in applying CLIL in classrooms.

**Date and Time:**

Friday, October 23rd, 2020: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Tokyo, Japan Standard Time

Saturday, October 24th, 2020: 9:00 AM - 6:15 PM JST

Sunday, October 25th, 2020: 9:00 AM - 1:40 PM JST

**Program** (as of September 21<sup>st</sup>)

| <b>Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020</b> |                         | <b>Day 1</b>  |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| 18:30 - 19:00                                | Registration            |   |
| 19:00 - 19:25                                | Welcome<br>Introduction | by the Team<br>Maria Gabriela Schmidt (CEFR & LP SIG) |
| 19:30 - 20:30                                | Workshop                | Mark <b>deBoer</b> & Dmitri <b>Leontjev</b>           |
| 20:30 - 21:00                                | Discussion              | Discussant: Kate Sato                                 |
| 21:00 - 22:00                                | Socializing             |   |

| <b>Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b> |                | <b>Day 2</b>                                  |
|--|----------------|---|
| 08:45 - 9:15                                   | Registration   |   |
| 09:15 - 9:45                                   | Presentation   | Claudia <b>Kunschak</b> (15 min + 15 min Q&A) |
| 10:00 - 10:30                                  | Presentation   | Kate <b>Sato</b> (15 min + 15 min Q&A)        |
| 10:30 - 11:00                                  | Break          |   |
| 11:00 - 12:00                                  | <b>Plenary</b> | Masashi <b>Negishi</b>                        |
| 12:05 - 12:30                                  | Discussion     | Discussant: Mark deBoer                       |
| 12:30 - 14:30                                  | Lunch          | Socializing & Discussion                      |
| 14:30 - 15:00                                  | Presentation   | James <b>Hobbs</b> (15 min + 15 min Q&A)      |
| 15:00 - 15:30                                  | Presentation   | Bob <b>Gettings</b> (15 min + 15 min Q&A)     |
| 15:30 - 16:00                                  | Break          |   |
| 16:00 - 17:00                                  | <b>Plenary</b> | Yuen Yi <b>Lo</b>                             |
| 17:00 - 17:30                                  | Discussion     | Discussant: Dmitri Leontjev                   |
| 17:30 - 20:00                                  | Socializing    |   |

| <b>Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b> |              | <b>Day 3</b>                                 |
|--|--------------|--|
| 09:00 - 09:10                                | Registration |  |
| 09:10 - 09:30                                | Publication  | Team   |
| 09:30 - 10:30                                | Workshop     | Noriko <b>Nagai</b>                          |
| 10:30 - 11:00                                | Poster       | Julia <b>Christmas</b> (15 min + 15 min Q&A) |
| 11:00 - 11:15                                | Break        |  |
| 11:15 - 12:15                                | Workshop     | Shari Joy <b>Berman</b> , Megumi <b>Tada</b> |
| 12:15 - 13:15                                | Discussion   | all  |
| 13:15  | Closing      |  |

The conference will be held online and will be free of charge.

Yet, **attendance is limited to 100 people on each day on a first-come basis.**

**For signing up:** <https://tinyurl.com/y22g9ev6>

For more details and the detailed program and updates see the special conference homepage:

<https://cefrjapan.net/events/22-events/83-cefr-and-clil>

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## JALT 2020 International Conference Online

**JALT 2020 International Conference will be held  
online on November 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020:**

### **Communities for Teachers and Learners**



For more details see online:

<https://jalt.org/conference/jalt2020>

### **CEFR & LP SIG Forum & AGM**

**on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 19:45 – 21:15 online**

The title for the CEFR&LP SIG Forum at JALT 2020 is

#### **Aligning CEFR to current practices**

**- Identifying needs of learners and teachers in the classroom -  
First steps for action research**

**CEFR & LP SIG Forum held on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 19:45 – 20:45 online**

The CEFR & LP SIG Forum *Aligning CEFR to practices - Action research steps* will discuss how to align the CEFR to current practices for identifying needs of learners and teachers in the classroom by using an action research cycle. We will explain the outline of our new JSPS Kaken research project which explicitly includes the SIG. We are looking for case studies in relation to the CEFR using action research. (See the related **Call for collaborators**).

Maria Gabriela Schmidt, Noriko Nagai, Gregory Birch, Jack Bower, Naoyuki Naganuma

### **CEFR & LP SIG Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

All members of JALT CEFR & LP SIG are kindly invited to the Annual General Meeting on Friday, **November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 held from 20:45 to 21:15** online.

Each member will individually receive an invitation to the AGM with the agenda and the report on SIG activities including a report of all officers.

Maria Gabriela Schmidt (coordinator), Alexander Imig (treasurer), Noriko Nagai (membership), Gregory Birch (program), Jack Bower (publications), Naoyuki Naganuma (research), Mark DeBoer (CEFR & CLIL)



## Preview of CEFR & LP SIG related events at JALT 2020 Online

### **TOEIC L&R and CEFR-J Can-Do Self-Assessment Scores**

Jean-Pierre Joseph Richard (The University of Nagano)

This replication study of Runnels (2016) investigated relationships between TOEIC L&R and CEFR-J can-do self-assessment scores. Participants (N = 54) completed an online-form with the CEFR-J statements. First, CEFR-J levels performed as predicted, with no mismatching but some overlapping of ability levels. Second, weak-to-moderate correlations between TOEIC Reading and reading self-assessment scores were found, and none-to-weak for listening. The results and the implications of these findings, and in relationship to Runnels, are discussed.

### **Academic Writing and Mediation – CEFR-informed**

Alexander Imig (Chukyo University), James D'Angelo (Chukyo University)

After the explanation of the key (academic) writing concepts in context of the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) and the concept of (language) "Mediation" (from the 2018 CEFR Companion volume, a download from the Internet is recommended), the workshop will give participants the opportunity to Mediate concepts themselves or (in another group) to evaluate texts from students in order to familiarize teachers with Mediation strategies.

### **Initiating a CEFR Alignment Project**

Colin Rundle (Soka University), Koki Tomita (Soka University), Tetsuko Fukawa (Soka University)

This presentation reports on the process of aligning an existing freshman English communication course with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). The presenters detail their bottom-up approach, highlighting pitfalls and successes of including instructor and student voices in the alignment process. Actual examples of the new curriculum, input and feedback from instructors, and results of a needs analysis conducted among students will be shared.

### **Steps to a Successful CEFR-Aligned Placement Test**

Tyson Rode (Meikai University), Patrizia M.J. Hayashi (Meikai University)

In this presentation, two university educators will discuss from a practical perspective, the methodologies involved in designing, implementing, and evaluating a CEFR-aligned placement test for 1st-year and 2nd-year non-English major students at a Japanese university. This presentation explains the challenges involved and the solutions undertaken in moving from an official third-party exam to an original CEFR-aligned exam.

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## CEFR Journal – Research and Practice

The CEFR Journal launched in May 2019 is developing well with steady progress. We launched the first issue in May 2019 and now Volume 3 is to be published in October 2020 with Alexander Imig as the editor in chief. We have a range of articles spanning around the globe: Cuba, Ireland, Spain, Russia and -of course- Japan. The featured article will be on the European Language Portfolio. Thanks to substantial submissions and an international reviewer and proofreading team, we try to provide substantial peer-support to authors. The next volumes are already envisioned. We are looking forward to Volume 4 with a Call for Proposals and accept proposals by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. For Volume 4, we are pleased to announce Fergus O’Dwyer as editor in chief.

We are growing fast, and we are looking for JALT and CEFR & LP SIG members to get involved in

**reviewing**  
**and**  
**proof-reading.**

By doing so, you will be included in the editing and proofreading team of the journal!

**Join in!**

The journal is available here: <https://cefrjapan.net/journal>.

The editorial team

Maria Gabriela Schmidt, Morten Hunke, Alexander Imig

As a preview, read the first section of the editorial for volume 3 written by Alexander Imig:

“The CEFR and the international CEFR-movement represent an achievement of the emerging world society. Built on a foundation of long-range language policy by the Council of Europe, the CEFR was a European project first. But since then, the project has turned out to be a success story beyond Europe as well; as the volume of Byram and Parmenter (2012) impressively demonstrated. The perspective, however, of their book is in two rather narrow aspects: 1) The case studies of countries offer only a brief outline for these particular countries, which of course cannot be avoided in a mere single volume. 2) The role of networks of teachers and researchers is only touched upon. A systematic analysis of networks could not be carried out within the limited framework of the book. Inquiring into both aspects is in fact the ‘raison d’être’ of the CEFR Journal. The first and second volume of this Journal illustrate amply that practitioners in the field of language learning, teaching, and assessment also successfully act as researchers and offer valuable insights into approaches utilizing the CEFR in different organizations.”

*Read more in Volume 3 coming soon!*

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### Calls, planning and events in 2020 – 2021 - At a glance

| Date   | Event  | Notes   |
|--|--|---|
| October 23 <sup>rd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>        | <b>CEFR &amp; CLIL Symposium<br/>Online</b>                          | Free of charge,<br>Sign up by Oct 21st                                |
| November 20 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>       | <b>JALT 2020 Online</b>  | See details on  |
| Friday, November 20 <sup>th</sup><br>19:45 – 21:15 | <b>CEFR &amp; LP SIG Forum &amp; AGM<br/>at JALT 2020 conference</b> | <a href="https://jalt.org/conference">https://jalt.org/conference</a> |
|  | <b>2021</b>  |   |
| May 2021   | <b>JALT PanSIG</b>   | TBA   |

New Kaken research project - Call for research collaborators!

Call for submission: CEFR Journal – Reserach and Practice Volume 4  
by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Call for submission CEFR & LP SIG Newsletter!  
by December 10th

For the most updated version of the events, please

<https://cefrjapan.net/events>

or

<https://sites.google.com/site/flpsig/home/even>

#### **Links**

CEFR & LP SIG: <https://cefrjapan.net>

CEFR Journal: <https://cefrjapan.net/journal>

CEFR events: <https://cefrjapan.net/events>

JALT: <https://jalt.org/>

Language Portfolio for Japanese University, bilingual (English/Japanese):  
<https://sites.google.com/site/flpsig/flp-sig-home/language-portfolio-for-japanese-university>

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The next NEWSLETTER #30 is planned for December 2020

\* \* \* \* \* Call for submissions by December 10th! \* \* \* \* \*