

NEWSLETTER



Introducing New Faculty Members for Spring 2026

Self-Introduction :

I have taught Korean in Korea, Japan, China, and Vietnam, and I am currently teaching Korean at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. Since my university days, I wanted to teach Korean, so I continued studying toward that goal and, before I knew it, I had earned a Ph.D. Recently, I have taken up a new hobby: miniature painting.



Lecturer
PARK YoungHoon
Center for Language Education

Research Topic(s):

I majored in History of Korean Language Education Research. Using big data, I analyze research trends and identify the latest developments in the field.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad :

I believe that a student's job is to fail. Fail, fail again, and then try once more.

Graduate:

Try to develop a perspective that differs from others and discover your own reasoning that you can truly believe in.

Prospective Students:

I believe that school is a place to learn through failure. It is okay if you are not good enough yet or if you make mistakes. Learn the strength to get back up and try again.

Self-Introduction :

After building a diverse career across multiple sectors, including Japan Airlines, Kyushu Institute of Technology, the Cabinet Office of Japan, and serving as a Deputy Mayor in local government, I joined APU. Currently based in Fukuoka, I shuttle between APU and Fukuoka to create opportunities for students and society to learn from one another, collaborate, and grow together, and to generate social value through cross-sector partnerships among academia, government, industry, healthcare, and financial institutions.

Guided by the Japanese principle of Fueki Ryuko ("the eternal and the ephemeral"), I value maintaining core principles while embracing new values and changes. In my free time, I often spend time in nature. Last year, I challenged myself to climb Mount Fuji. I value the time I spend immersed in the fresh air of the sea and mountains, where I gain new perspectives and ideas.



Specially Appointed Professor
FUJIE Mina
Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University

Research Topic(s):

My research is grounded in educational technology and focuses on adult learning and the social value created through learning. While recognizing the importance of the foundations of recurrent education in Japan, I believe that in an era of rapid change, it is essential to adopt "Learning Augmentation" perspectives, where individuals' accumulated careers and experiences are fully leveraged, and new knowledge and perspectives are built upon them. The concept views existing experience as an asset and focuses on a model of expansion and empowerment, in which new value is built upon what individuals have already learned and experienced. My research and practice focus on designing practical learning ecosystems through collaboration among academia, industry, government, healthcare, and financial institutions, as well as creating learning environments where people from diverse backgrounds can learn from one another. Drawing on practical knowledge and experience, I pursue these initiatives through the mutually reinforcing cycle of practice and research. I see great potential in a multicultural environment at APU, where diverse values and perspectives intersect, creating opportunities for new forms of value creation and co-creative learning.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad:

I encourage you to discover your "strengths" and "core values" through dialogues with your peers from diverse backgrounds.

Graduate:

I hope you will blend your professional experiences and awareness of real-world challenges with academic perspectives to pursue research that brings innovation in society.

Prospective Students:

At APU, you will find a stimulating environment where you learn alongside peers from all over the world and expand your potential. I look forward to meeting you here on campus.

Self-Introduction :

I bring 26 years of teaching experience to APU as a licensed professional English teacher. I hold a master's degree in Linguistics and doctoral units in Educational Management and Leadership. Prior to APU, I taught at universities in the Philippines and South Korea, and most recently at Temple University - Japan.

Outside of work, I love travelling, baking, and spending time in nature. I'm also interested in photography and love finding slow, quiet moments whenever and wherever I can.



Lecturer
HERRERA Girlie Ann R.
Center for Language Education

Research Topic(s):

My research interests focus on linguistics, English education, and inclusive teaching and learning. My latest publication explores multimodal approaches in higher education, while my current project looks into the gaps between student perception and teacher intention in active learning to help make EFL classrooms more effective and inclusive.

Messages to Students:

Undergrad :

University life can be exciting, challenging, and overwhelming, especially in a multicultural environment like APU. My advice is to stay curious, open-minded, and willing to try new experiences.

When it comes to learning English, remember that it is not about being perfect. It's about connecting with others and growing through the experience. APU is such a diverse university, making it the absolute best place to live and learn the language naturally. Make sure to take full advantage of the opportunity you have here.

Graduate:

Balancing research and coursework can be demanding, so please remember to connect with the people around you. Stay resilient, take it one step at a time, and enjoy the journey.

Prospective Students:

Choosing where to study is a big step, and APU is truly a special place to be. Here, the world comes together in one classroom, giving you the chance to gain new perspectives every day. If you want a university experience that challenges you and prepares you for a global future, we can't wait to welcome you!

AP Conference 2026

The international academic conference, AP Conference 2026, organized by the APU Integrated Research Organization (AIRO), will be held on Saturday November 14 and Sunday November 15!

Under the theme: “Beyond Fragmentation: Charting Pathways for Shared Futures”, researchers from all over Japan and abroad will gather at APU to present and share their research findings from a diverse range of research areas and engage in lively discussion.

[Details]

Date and Time: Saturday November 14 and Sunday November 15

Theme: Beyond Fragmentation: Charting Pathways for Shared Futures

Location: APU Green Commons (J-Building)

For more information, please visit the AP Conference website!

<https://en.apu.ac.jp/apconf/>

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!



The poster for the AP Conference 2026 features a light blue background with a faint world map. At the top, a circular inset shows a speaker at a podium in a lecture hall. The main title 'ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below it, the theme 'Beyond Fragmentation: Charting Pathways for Shared Futures' is written in a smaller, italicized font. Two keynote speakers are featured: Dr. Mireya Solís and Dr. Matthew Schenk, each with a circular portrait. Keynote details include dates, times, and themes. A QR code for conference details is on the left, and registration information, including location and panel start times, is on the right. The bottom of the poster encourages staff and students to join as audience members and includes the APU and AIRO logos.

November 14-15, 2026
ASIA PACIFIC CONFERENCE
Beyond Fragmentation: Charting Pathways for Shared Futures

Keynote Speech I (English):
Sat Nov 14, 13:40 p.m. JST (Room J101)
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR. MIREYA SOLÍS
Director, Center for Asia Policy Studies, Knight Chair in Japanese Studies;
Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Program, The Brookings Institution
Theme: "Beyond fragmentation: Towards a grand strategy of connectivity"

Keynote Speech II (English):
Sun Nov 15, 11:10 a.m. JST (Room J101)
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
DR. MATTHEW SCHENK
EdD, President, American University of Phnom Penh
Theme: "Beyond Borders: How Universities Can Build Shared Futures in a Fragmented World"

Conference details:
REGISTRATION
DAY 1 (10:00), DAY 2 (8:30)
1-1 JUMONJIBARU, BEPPU, OITA, JAPAN, APU, J-BUILDING
PANELS
START: DAY 1 (10:55), DAY 2 (9:00)
PANELS IN ENGLISH & JAPANESE

STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN AS AUDIENCE MEMBERS!

APU AIRO

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