

# **The importance of small things: Improving language learning experiences and outcomes**

**Date:** 26 April 2024 (Friday)

**Time:** 18:30-20:00

**Venue:** E33-2036, Faculty of Education

**Language:** English

**Registration:** Online Registration (<https://go.um.edu.mo/b9nfakfo> or  )

**Enquiries:** Mr. Brendan LEI (Email: [fed\\_event@um.edu.mo](mailto:fed_event@um.edu.mo) / Tel: 8822-4210)

## **Speaker:**

Prof. John Sinclair MACALISTER is an Emeritus Professor of Applied Linguistics at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand and co-author of *Language Curriculum Design and Teaching EFL/ESL Reading and Writing* published by Routledge. Prof. Macalister is a former President of Applied Linguistics in Aotearoa New Zealand (ALANZ) and former co-editor of *Reading in a Foreign Language*.

## **Abstract:**

The literature around language learning and teaching can often make for depressing reading. There are too many accounts of innovations that have failed, classrooms that remain teacher-dominated, and disengaged learners. Too often teachers comment on how the demands of the curriculum, of assessment, and of tradition act as constraints on innovation. Yet it does not need to be like this.

In this talk, Prof. Macalister suggests that if teachers have at least a passing familiarity with a conceptual framework that explains decision-making options in the classroom, change becomes more possible. Prof. Macalister will introduce one such framework, based on curriculum design, and draw on recent research to illustrate the power of small change in promoting engagement and developing language proficiency in the language classroom.