

## **FED-CLLED Seminar: “GenAI Chatbot vs. Human Peer: EFL Learners’ Interactional Competence Development”**

**Date:** 10 October 2025 (Friday)

**Time:** 14:00-15:00

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

**Language:** English

**Registration:** <https://go.um.edu.mo/15phsb3o>

**Enquiries:** Mr. Harvey LO (Email: FED\_Event@um.edu.mo / Tel: 8822-4593)

### **Speaker:**

Prof. Yaru MENG is a Professor at the School of Foreign Studies, Xi'an Jiaotong University, China. Her expertises include diagnostic language assessment (DLA), technology-mediated language teaching, and teacher education. She published widely in high-impact journals such as the Modern Language Journal, Language Learning & Technology, System, Language Assessment Quarterly and Assessment & Evaluation in Higher Education and etc. She has also led several national and provincial research projects, mainly on innovative methods for diagnosing and enhancing language learning through the use of advanced technologies.

### **Abstract:**

Interactional competence (IC) focuses on the pragmatic dimensions of oral communication. However, the lack of interlocutors and an interactive environment bothers both EFL learners and teachers. The advent of GenAI-empowered chatbots makes alternative interlocutors easily accessible, but to what extent chatbots can elicit learners' IC and support its development in comparison with peer interactions remains underexplored. This talk will report on an eight-week comparative intervention experiment of a chatbot group (CG) and a face-to-face peer group (PG). The purpose is to see how the two treatments affect the two groups' IC development. The study is significant both for the future IC assessment and instruction.