

Using Alternate Reality Games in the Classroom

By Paul Starr

Alternate Reality Games (ARGs) are a unique blend of interactivity, problem solving, and storytelling spanning a variety of media and real world spaces. They are fictional stories that bleed into the real world and often lead players to decode various puzzles and cooperate with other players to move the story forward. Players often report playing in ARGs is like being in a spy movie in real life. While ARGs have yet to be widely applied to educational settings, this presentation will focus on their potential usefulness in ELT.

This presentation will provide an overview of ARGs and their previous uses as educational tools. The focus will then shift to two recent uses of ARGs by the presenter in EPIK classrooms. There will be discussion of the successes and failures of these examples and the practical lessons learned. Participants will then be asked to design some basic ARG elements for their own learning environments.

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHY

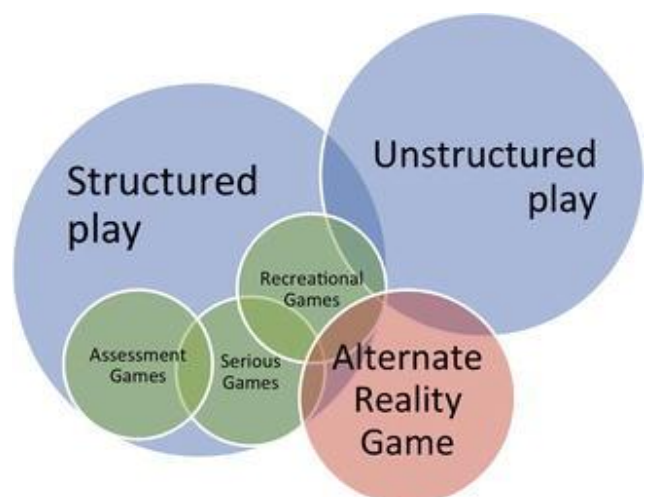
Paul Starr currently teaches at Hanam Middle School in Gwangju with English Program in Korea (EPIK). He came to Korea in 2013, after completing his



Bachelor's in Media Production and earning an MA in Adult and Community Education at Ball State University. During his time at Ball State, he produced a number of Alternate Reality Games, and has presented his work with ARGs in education

at conferences in Kansas and Kentucky.

(Paul Starr will be speaking on classroom use of alternate reality games at the June 20th Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter meeting at Chosun University.)



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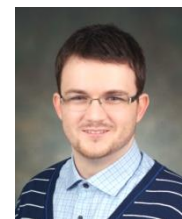
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- Bank transfer to **KOTESOL:** Korea Exchange Bank account number 630-006952-841
- Payment in cash to the Chapter Membership Officer at a Chapter Meeting

PANEL DISCUSSION

Online Professional Development Options

As the field of TESOL develops in Korea, and as young teachers confirm that they wish to make a career of TESOL, the realization is that professional development in the form of formal education will become a requirement. For many teachers, taking a hiatus from teaching to attend a brick-and-mortar institution for a certificate or degree is not an option. However, there are now a variety of online options available. This panel discussion features four EFL instructors who have acquired online professional development degrees from institutions at varied locations around the globe.

MEET THE PANELISTS

Sally Arkley

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE: University of Sunderland, UK (MA TESOL)



Originally hailing from Toronto, Canada, Sally Arkley has been in Gwangju for the past 13 years. She began her EFL career in 2000 as a joint-venture teacher in China with Seneca College in Toronto. In Korea, she has worked in a *hagwon*, at Gwangju National University of Education, and is currently an assistant professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Honam University. She recently completed an online MA TESOL with the University of Sunderland, UK.

Brandon Cameron

ONLINE PD EXPERIENCE: Anaheim University (MA TESOL)



After completing a bachelor's in history and linguistics from the University of Victoria (2006), Brandon Cameron moved to Japan and taught English conversation classes to middle and elementary school students as part of the JET Programme (similar to the EPIK program here in Korea). He taught in Japan for two years before heading to Korea. He landed a job at a university language center in Iksan, Jeollabuk-do, and taught students of all ages and levels for one year. He moved to Gwangju to teach at Chosun University in

2009, and has been here ever since. He began his M.A. in TESOL in 2010 and completed it in November 2012. He and his family are currently in the process of relocating to his wife's hometown in the United States, where he'll continue his teaching career.

Maria Lisak

ONLINE PD EXPERIENCE: Indiana University–Bloomington (MSEd, Instructional Systems Technology)



Maria Lisak is a learner, teacher, trainer, designer, and facilitator. On faculty in the Public Administration and Social Welfare Department at Chosun University in Gwangju, she also has left a legacy of volunteering in her community: Gwangju International Center (GIC), Doori Community CoOp, Birds Korea, Jeolla Safety Alliance, Hollaback Korea (할라백 코리아)! She has focused on training, promotion, and fundraising. Maria is currently working on her EdD in Literacy, Culture, and Language Education through Indiana University. She is researching digital and media technology acquisition and use by low-income senior citizens.

MEET THE FACILITATOR

Lindsay Herron

ONLINE PD EXPERIENCE: Lynda.com (design and typography courses); Indiana University–Bloomington (MSEd, Literacy, Culture, and Language Education; certificate in Learning Sciences, Media, & Technology [in progress]).

Lindsay Herron has been a visiting professor at Gwangju National University of Education since 2008. She has a master's degree in language education from Indiana University–Bloomington, a master's in cinema studies from New York University, bachelor's degrees in English and psychology from Swarthmore College, a CELTA, and the CELTA YL Extension.



Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL June Chapter Meeting

- Time: Saturday, June 20, 2015, 1:45–5:00 p.m.
- Place: Chosun University Main Building (Gwangju), 4th Floor, Room 4211

■ Schedule

Reflective Practice SIG Morning Session

Topic: *Levels of Reflection*

11:00–12:30 pm: Starbucks, Chosun University Branch (back gate area), 2nd Floor.

Chapter Meeting: Main Session

1:45 pm: Sign-in and Meet-and-Greet (Admission is free. Future membership is welcomed.)

2:00 – 3:00 pm: PRESENTATION

Using Alternate Reality Games in the Classroom

Paul Starr (Hanam Middle School, EPIK; Gwangju)

3:00 – 3:20 pm: Refreshment Break

3:20 – 4:20 pm: PANEL DISCUSSION

Online Professional Development Options

Facilitated by Lindsay Herron (Gwangju National University of Education)

4:20 pm: Swap-Shop Session

Everyone is invited to Share one of your Teaching Ideas, Classroom Activities, Games, Books, or other Teaching Wisdom. (Handouts welcomed.)

4:45 pm: Announcements / Drawing for Door Prizes / Closing

6:00 pm: After-Meeting Dinner

Upcoming Chapter Events

July 18, 2015. Monthly Chapter Meeting

August 8, 2015. Monthly Chapter Meeting

Chapter Calendar of Events: <http://koreatesol.org/content/calendar-events-1-gj-chapter>

Upcoming KOTESOL Events

Jeju Chapter Conference

Blending Tradition with Innovation

June 27, 2015; 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Jeju Foreign Language Center, Jeju City, Jeju-do

Korea TESOL Reflective Practice SIG

Day of Reflection

(Plenary: Dr. Thomas Farrell)

August 22, 2015 (1:00–6:00 p.m.), Seoul

KOTESOL Calendar of Events: <http://koreatesol.org/content/1-kotesol-events-major>

Upcoming Korea ELT Events:

Check out the calendar at: <http://www.koreatesol.org/content/2-domestic-elt-events-non-kotesol>