Promoting Teacher Development in EAP: Where to begin?

This talk will initially outline the programme of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at the English Language Teaching Centre at the University of Sheffield. This programme involves observations, input sessions, the dissemination of journal and magazine articles, and the promotion of training events and conferences. This programme is promoted in a variety of ways to ensure that as many teachers as possible are able to develop professionally. However, it tends to be the same teachers who make the most use of the opportunities available for CPD. Those teachers not interested in professional development tend to give excuses such as a lack of time, no interest in CPD or, due to their substantial experience in TEFL, no need. I am therefore interested in sharing experiences of promoting programmes of CPD within an EAP context; especially how we can convince teachers that teacher development is something to embrace rather than avoid, and that teaching EAP is not the same as teaching general English.

Nicholas Northall works at the English Language Teaching Centre at the University of Sheffield, where he teaches EAP and contributes to the centre's teacher training and teacher development programmes.