

SF STATE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT TESOL TALKS

HOW (NOT) TO TEACH VOCABULARY

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL

Teachers often state that they lack an understanding of how to teach vocabulary in a principled, scientifically informed way sensitive to students' needs. Vocabulary teaching tends to be an afterthought; it is often unsystematic and shaped by deeply entrenched beliefs based in opinion or myth. A large amount of research on L2 vocabulary learning and processing is now available. In this presentation, I draw on this body of knowledge to achieve the following: 1) establish how many words learners need to know for different purposes; 2) discuss the scientific evidence for commonly held beliefs about vocabulary teaching; 3) recommend sound, research-informed teaching practices, and 4) refer the audience to several freely available high-quality online lexical tools.

Topics will include: whether extensive reading is sufficient for vocabulary learning; whether guessing meaning from context leads to learning; whether dictionaries should be monolingual or bilingual; whether words with related meanings (e.g., sofa, armchair, loveseat) should be taught together; whether translation has a place in the classroom; what the role of rote memorization is; and how to maximize students' chances of learning the words that are taught.

MONDAY,
MARCH 27, 2023

HUMANITIES
ROOM 401

12:00 - 1:00 PM

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Guest Speaker
**DR. VEDRAN
DRONJIC**

Vedran Dronjic is an Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at Northern Arizona University, where he directs the Language and Memory Lab. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. He uses psycholinguistic and neurolinguistic techniques to investigate morphological learning, representation and processing, morphological awareness, vocabulary, and reading in adults and children.