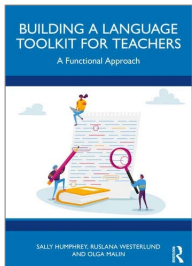


Author-Led Professional Learning Experience

Summer 2026 Book Study Syllabus

June 23 – August 4



Join us for a guided book study to build your pedagogical language knowledge through a functional approach.

This interactive series will support teachers in understanding how language works so that they can create language-centered literacy instruction. Each session will include knowledge building and classroom applications through practical task-based cycles that are informed by functional pedagogical theories.

Book: Humphrey, Westerlund, and Malin (2026). [Building a language toolkit for teachers](#). Routledge

Facilitators

Sally Humphrey, Ruslana Westerlund



Online Class Sessions

Sessions	Outcomes
<p>Tuesday, June 23 6:00-7:30 PM CT</p> <p>Session 1: Introduction to SFL — The Functional Language Toolkit (Chapter 1)</p>	<p>Participants will explore the vital relationship of language to culture and situation through the concepts of genre and register. Participants will be introduced to knowledge building and classroom applications through practical task-based cycles that are informed by functional pedagogical theories.</p>
<p>Tuesday, June 30 6:00-7:30 PM CT</p> <p>Session 2: Language for Disciplinary Learning (Chapter 2)</p>	<p>Participants will understand three interconnected language resources: the technical language of specific content areas, the cross-disciplinary language used across subjects, and the everyday language drawn from students' social lives and lived experiences. This will enable teachers to explain language patterns for disciplinary learning in content areas, making those patterns visible to students.</p>
<p>Tuesday, July 7 6:00-7:30 PM</p> <p>Session 3: School Genres and Their Structures (Chapter 3)</p>	<p>Participants will identify common school genres and understand how genre structures organize knowledge (e.g., classifying reports, causal explanations), their stages and phases, and language features. This will help teachers to teach students how to read, analyze, and produce discipline-specific texts.</p>

7 Sessions

- Tuesday, June 23 | 6:00-7:30 pm CT
- Tuesday, July 7 | 6:00-7:30 pm CT
- Tuesday, July 14 | 6:00-7:30 pm CT
- Tuesday, July 21 | 6:00-7:30 pm CT
- Tuesday, July 28 | 6:00-7:30 pm CT
- Tuesday, August 4 | 6:00-7:30 pm CT

What You'll Gain

An introductory understanding of **Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL)** with implications for K-8 classroom practice

Who Should Participate

- University Professors
- Classroom Teachers
- ESL / Multilingual Specialists
- Instructional Coaches

2026 Book Study Syllabus

Sessions	Outcomes
Tuesday, July 14 6:00-7:30 PM Session 4: Cohesion of Language (Chapter 4)	Participants will recognize how writers connect ideas across stretches of text through signaling across the whole text and through grammatical resources such as reference, repetition, lexical chains, and other cohesive devices.
Tuesday, July 21 6:00-7:30 PM Session 5: Density of Language (Chapter 5)	Participants will understand how lexical density is created by adding ideas to expand noun groups and condensing ideas to create noun groups through nominalization.
Tuesday, July 28 6:00-7:30 PM Session 6: Grammatical Complexity (Chapter 6)	Participants will identify how complex sentences express relationships between ideas, such as cause, condition, and time in disciplinary texts.
Tuesday, August 4 6:00-7:30 PM Session 7: Precision of Language (Chapter 7)	Participants will unpack which language resources create precise and nuanced meanings across disciplines and grammatical levels (nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs) to support students' disciplinary learning and communication.

Registration

\$300 per participant

- ✓ 7 sessions (book not included)
- ✓ 10.5 hours of professional learning
- ✓ Certificate of Completion

To register, visit:

[Westerlund Consulting Professional Learning](#)



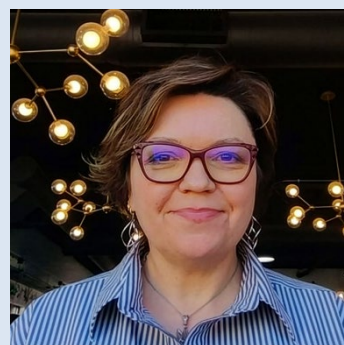
Book Study Leaders

Dr. Sally Humphrey



Sally Humphrey has worked for many years as a TESOL and languages teacher, teacher trainer and educational linguist in Australia and internationally. She has been involved in research using systemic functional linguistics for over thirty years, particularly to describe the literacy demands of a range of educational and social contexts

Dr. Ruslana Westerlund



Dr. Ruslana Westerlund is an educator, researcher, author, and consultant with more than 30 years of experience in multilingual learner education. Her work focuses on advancing disciplinary literacy through Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) and helping teachers make the language of academic disciplines visible so multilingual learners can fully participate in rigorous classroom learning.

Dr. Westerlund contributed to the development of the WIDA 2020 English Language Development Standards Framework during her time as a researcher at WIDA.