

**Abdolmehdi Riazi**  
Conference Chair

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Fourth TELLSI (Teaching English Language and Literature Society of Iran) Conference. On behalf of conference organizers, I extend a warm welcome to all participants who have traveled from different parts of the country and the globe to join us on this special occasion in Shiraz, a historical and cultural city. Scholars have always been welcomed in this city, and Shiraz University has been very instrumental in disseminating knowledge in different fields and disciplines

and is well-known nationally and internationally in this regard. The field of applied linguistics has expanded vastly in recent decades and brought with itself new directions, scopes, and research horizons. This is partly due to the nature of the field which is interdisciplinary, if not para-disciplinary, requiring us to recognize and use different approaches and methods in research, teaching, and testing. On the other hand, new demands and challenges confronting language learners and teachers necessitates serious and close attention to issues of language teaching and learning on the part of all members of applied linguistics community. The community of English language teachers and learners is growing rapidly in Iran to respond to the needs as the country tries to achieve its defined development goals. As such, teachers and learners face different issues in the process of teaching and learning the language, thus new areas for research and understanding are evolved. This conference is to address some of these issues confronted by the researchers, practitioners, and students to inform all those who are working in this interesting enterprise. One keynote speaker (Alister Cumming from Canada), five plenary sessions (Vivian Cook from England, Hossein Farhady from Iran, Ahmad Kotob from Syria, Amrollah Abjadian and Hossein Payandeh from Iran) along with 123 papers will hopefully inform the participants of the major issues related to English language teaching and learning in Iran. Many people have contributed to this conference in different ways and I take this opportunity to thank them all. I wish all the participants a very nice and pleasant stay in Shiraz and I hope you enjoy the conference.

**Abdolmehdi Riazi**

Abdolmehdi Riazi is associate professor and researcher in Applied Linguistics in the department of foreign languages & linguistics of Shiraz University. His areas of interest include academic writing, research methods, testing, methodology and materials development. He has supervised 8 Ph.D. dissertations and more than 40 MA theses. He is the author of 6 books; has translated 2 books, and has published several articles in different journals.