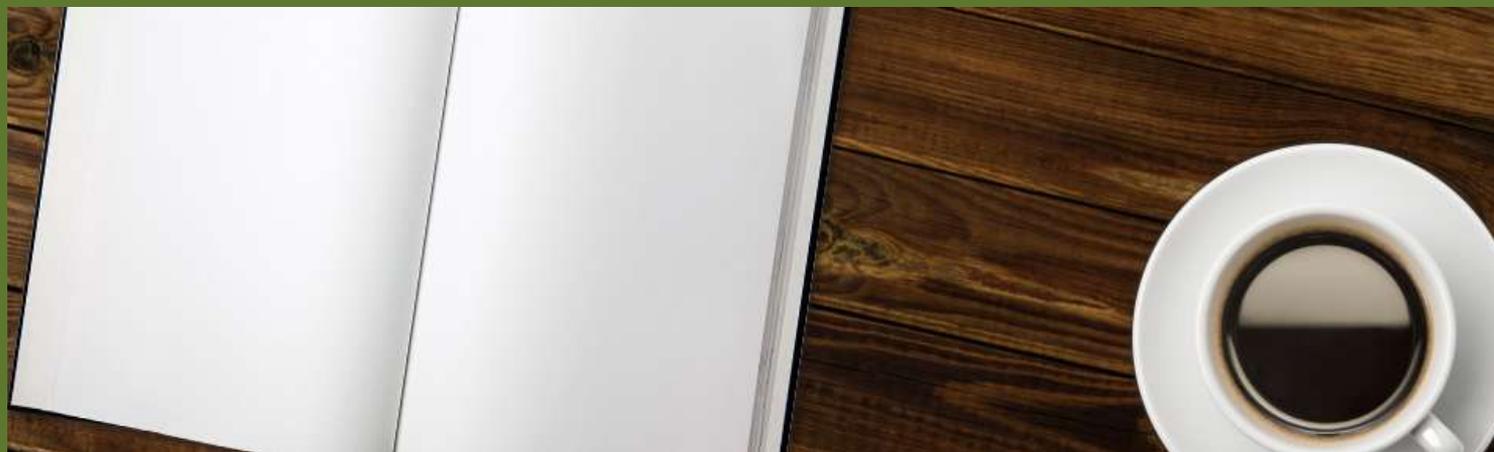




ELT RESEARCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IATEFL RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



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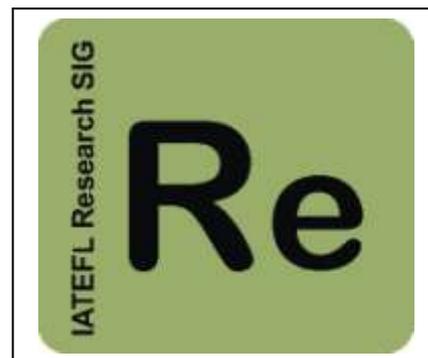
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About the IATEFL Research SIG

The IATEFL Research SIG (ReSIG) is a unique forum for the discussion of issues connected with research into (or relating to) ELT, bringing together teachers, teacher-researchers, teacher educators and researchers from around the world. In this active community, members share their experiences of research, as well as findings from and interpretations of research, and network face-to-face at regular events, online via our discussion list, and in print via *ELT Research*.



If you are a teacher interested in investigating your own practice, a researcher involved in other kinds of ELT inquiry, a teacher educator engaging others in research or not a researcher but curious about what research is and how you can get involved with and in it, then the Research SIG is for you! Our members come from all around the world and we have a large and diverse committee, reflecting our desire to be as open to members' initiative as much as possible. If you enjoy reading this issue and would like to subscribe and/or join us at future events, you can find out more about how to become a member of ReSIG via our website: <http://resig.iatefl.org> (in the section titled 'Join us').

You can renew your membership of IATEFL or become a new member of IATEFL (and the Research SIG) online via www.iatefl.org or you can contact IATEFL Head Office at:

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About *ELT Research*

Submissions for *ELT Research*, published two to three times a year by the IATEFL Research Special Interest Group (SIG), should be sent to resig@iatefl.org. Please visit the SIG website (resig.iatefl.org) for author guidelines (under 'Publications').

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Editing and layout

This issue was edited by Ana Inés Salvi, Gosia Sky and Richard Smith.

From the coordinator

Dear RESEARCH SIG members,

This pre-conference, spring issue of *ELT Research* gives me the opportunity to reflect on some of the discussion at last year's conference and to ask for your ideas and support for future activities. First, though, a few words about the upcoming April 2013 conference:

IATEFL Conference in Liverpool, 8-12 April 2013

The SIG's 'Open Forum' at the IATEFL annual conference is an important time for members to make their views known about SIG activities, and I encourage all of you who are attending the conference to come along to **this year's Research SIG Open Forum – on Thursday 11 April, 14.45-15.30, in Hall 11a**. Another opportunity for us to get together is on the previous day, Wednesday, 12.15-13.30, when ReSIG committee members will be meeting each other, and hoping to meet you, at the IATEFL stand in the exhibition hall.

We have an exciting programme of events lined up for the conference, starting with a **Pre-conference Workshop on Monday 8 April** led by Steve Walsh and Steve Mann on 'Researching Professional Talk'. There will also be a full programme of selected talks constituting our **'Research SIG Day' on Thursday 11 April, mostly in Hall 11a**. Full details of all these workshops and talks are at the back of this newsletter. If you can't attend the conference but wish to share any views about SIG activities please feel free to email me directly at any time. We will of course be reporting back on conference events via email, the website (<http://resig.iatefl.org>) and future newsletter issues.

Our identity and 'mission'

At last year's Open Forum, on 31 March 2012 in Glasgow, I think we developed some good ideas, and confirmed what at least those present think the Research SIG might be all about. Taking the second point first (i.e. identity and mission of the SIG), there was general support for the idea that the SIG is largely 'about' supporting 'early-stage' researchers and promoting 'teacher-research', while not neglecting needs of later-stage researchers or relatively academic forms of research. In the latter two areas, our particular focus (as agreed at the meeting) is on sharing information, experiences etc. about particular research approaches / methods rather than necessarily providing a forum for presentation of research *findings*. These clarifications helped a lot, I think, in defining the kinds of article we might wish to see in the newsletter and the kinds of event we might wish to put on. However, the identify and 'mission' of the SIG should probably be an item continuously on the agenda, and your views are welcome at any time!

Matters arising from last year's Open Forum

One new idea that came up last year was that we could develop initial bibliographies – and the consensus (relating to the discussion reported above) was that these could relate to particular research methods rather than particular research 'topics' or 'areas'. Sarah Mercer has subsequently taken this idea forward with Anna Broszkiewicz, and you can read more about their work so far at the end of this newsletter.

At last year's Open Forum we also discussed the idea of experimenting with new, relatively informal genres for dissemination of practitioner research. Yasmin Dar, Ana Inés Salvi and Paula Rebolledo have worked on this and created a new 'Teacher-Research Forum' on the website (<http://resig.weebly.com/teacher-research.html>). We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to report on your own teacher-research.

Looking forward

The Research SIG is supporting a full-scale conference on Classroom-oriented Research in Poland in October this year – further details and the Call for Papers are on the back cover of this newsletter. The proceedings will be edited as an electronic version of *ELT Research* and the link will be sent out to all members.

Anne Burns and David Nunan have already agreed to act as mentors / facilitators for our 2014 Pre-conference Event, which we're calling 'Teachers Research'. Please mark the date (1st April 2014) in your diary and think about how you can be there, reporting on a piece of research into your own practice that you'll have done by then (presenters will get a discount on the registration fee). More details will follow, via email and the website

Apart from all we do at present (events, newsletters, online discussions, resources, etc.) we are still hoping to extend the benefits members gain from being part of the Research SIG, including building up a mentoring scheme which would bring together relatively experienced and relatively inexperienced researchers. If you have any ideas about how mentoring could work in practice, please let us know -- we'll be discussing it further at our Open Forum meeting on 11 April.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Ana Inés Salvi and Gosia Sky for their great work as co-editors of this issue, which we hope you'll enjoy reading!

Richard Smith, Research SIG coordinator
(resig@iatefl.org)