



ELT RESEARCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IATEFL RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



January 2014 Issue 29

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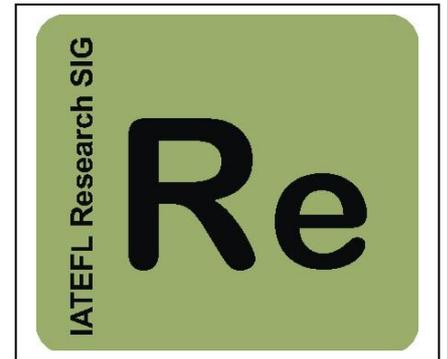
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About the IATEFL Research SIG

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: 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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For more information about ReSIG see our website: resig.iatefl.org

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. Picture on the cover by Guillermina Victoria, reproduced with kind permission of the artist (<http://wilhelmina18.wix.com/arte-victoria>).

From the coordinator

Dear RESEARCH SIG members,

As you'll have seen if you've joined the Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/iateflresig/) or Yahoo!group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/resig/info/>), the SIG has been quite active since the last issue of *ELT Research*, though this one has been rather long in the making. The Facebook group has rapidly grown in membership – it now has 250 members -- and has served as a useful means for exchanging information about resources, upcoming events, and so on. There've also been some informative discussions of research articles in the Yahoo!Group (450+ members), led by Sarah Mercer (on using language learner histories), Preet Hiradhar (on CALL research) and Graham Hall (on own-language use in language teaching). Our first Yahoo!Group discussion of the year was a follow-up to a webinar by Harry Kuchah and Annamaria Pinter on 'Researching with Children'. The discussion was written up and published in the October 2013 issue of *ELT Journal* (67/4). Please do join our Facebook and Yahoo!Group if you haven't already done so! And if you'd like to lead a research-related discussion on our Yahoo!Group any time, or if you have any ideas for webinars we could organize in the future, please send in your ideas to: resig@iatefl.org!

Membership of the Research SIG itself brings added benefits including receipt of this newsletter, reduced admission to SIG events and the opportunity to apply for scholarships to attend events. Figures for November 2013 showed 276 members – membership has increased gradually since 2010 (there were just over 200 members at that time) and is now above the previous (2005) peak of 268. It is the middlemost SIG (8th out of 15) in terms of size and has healthy reserves though it is not rich, only rarely receiving sponsorship or advertising revenue from publishers as some SIGs regularly do (if you can think of – or are! -- a willing sponsor or advertiser, let us know!).

Since our last newsletter appeared we have organized a successful IATEFL Pre-Conference Event led by Steve Walsh and Steve Mann (see reports on pp. 26-28) and a Research SIG Day of presentations (for two interesting articles arising from the latter see pp. 19-24). At the same conference (in Liverpool in April 2013) we were surprised and happy to receive an award from the 'Fair List' (<http://thefairlist.org/history/>) for the overall gender balance of speakers at our one-day workshops in 2012,

Research SIG also has a diverse and dynamic committee – for full details see <http://resig.weebly.com/committee.html>. For 2013-14 Siân Etherington and Sandie Mourão have stepped in to replace Shaida Mohammadi and Anna Broszkiewicz

as Treasurer and Membership Coordinator, respectively. Yasmin Dar also left the committee, while Deb Bullock and Mark Daubney have joined. Many thanks to those mentioned and to all the committee for their continuing hard work! If you are interested in joining the Research SIG committee please contact me at any time via resig@iatefl.org.

The committee has been discussing how to internationalize SIG activities, and one outcome has been to offer support to events beyond the UK and Europe. Please see the back of this issue for details of events planned for the first half of 2014 – In India and Turkey as well as at the IATEFL conference in Harrogate. As you will see, we are continuing and strengthening our focus on supporting practitioner-research, as was discussed at our committee and Open Forum meetings in Liverpool last year. It's pleasing to see that a number of the twenty-two poster presentations accepted for our 'Teachers Research!' PCE on 1st April have been submitted by SIG members who attended one of our workshops on practitioner research in 2012. We are supporting the June conference in Izmir, Turkey by offering a travel scholarship for one SIG member (application deadline: 30th April) and by providing support for two of the main speakers. Please see the report of my interview with Kenan Dikilitaş, the main organizer of the conference, on pp.16-18. And if you and your institution would like to organize a ReSIG event in the second half of 2014 or in 2015 please get in touch. Another way we have 'internationalized' has involved liaising with the TESOL Research Standing Committee, building on links nurtured by Sarah Mercer and Miroslaw Pawlak earlier this year (see their report on p. 25).

A further new development, as reported on in the latest issue of IATEFL's *Voices* (January-February 2014) – see 'From the Associates' – has been an agreement to provide seed-funding of £200 for a project to be carried out by the Cameroon English Language and Literature Teachers' Association (CAMELTA) in collaboration with ReSIG. In brief, this pioneering example of what we are calling 'teacher association research' will involve 500-1000 CAMELTA members writing reflectively about issues that concern them and reporting on teaching practices that have proved their contextual worth to them.. ReSIG committee members will help with the qualitative analysis of this writing, which will have been typed up with the ReSIG funding. The research will be reported on at the next CAMELTA conference and via *ELT Research*. To our knowledge this is the first research project ever to have been sponsored by the SIG and we shall monitor carefully. If any SIG members would like to join in with analysis of the data please make contact via resig@iatefl.org.

Finally, let me wish you a very happy and richly productive 2014!

Richard Smith, Research SIG coordinator

