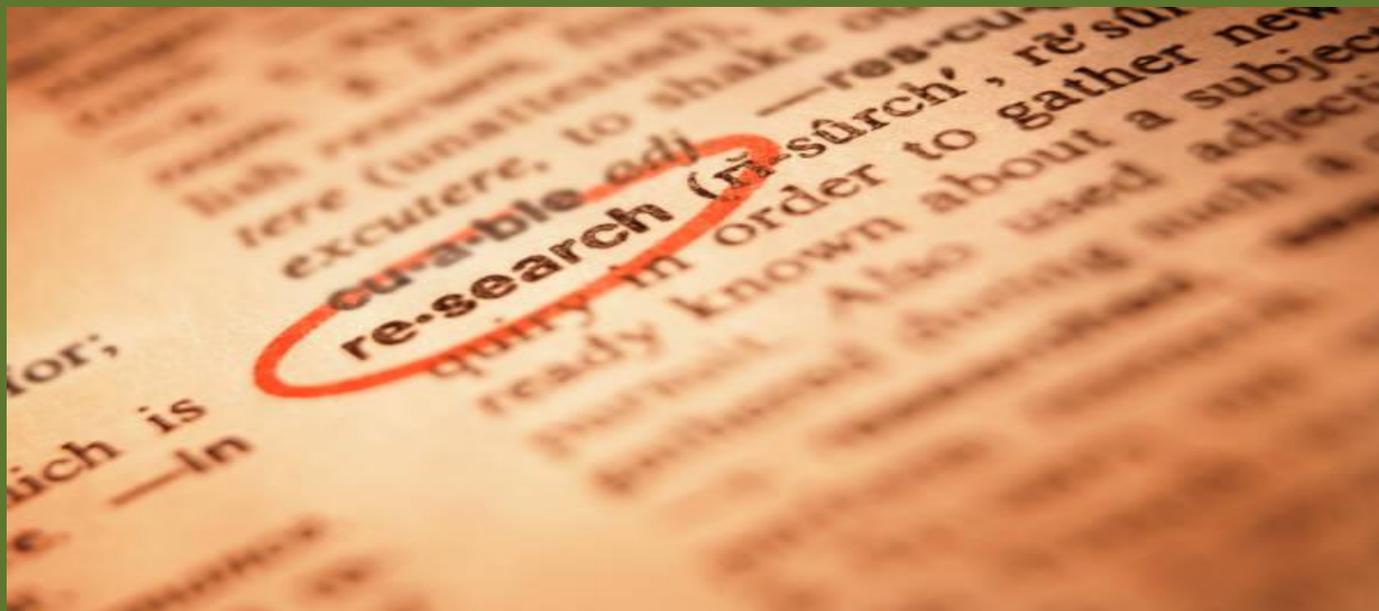




# ELT RESEARCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IATEFL RESEARCH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP



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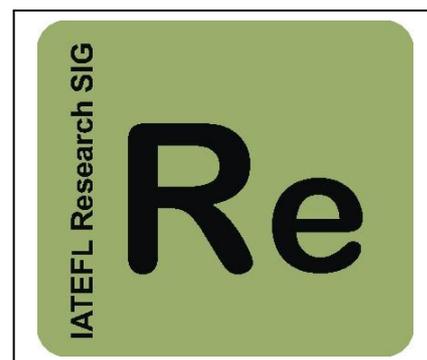
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## About the IATEFL Research SIG

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: [resig.iatefl.org](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](http://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](http://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](mailto:resig@iatefl.org). Please visit the SIG website ([resig.iatefl.org](http://resig.iatefl.org)) for author guidelines (under 'Publications').

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### Editing and layout

This issue was edited by Richard Smith, building on the previous work of Shaida Mohammadi. Formatting and layout were carried out by Gosia Sky.

# From the coordinator

Dear RESEARCH SIG members,

Apologies for the delay in getting this issue to you, but I hope you'll agree it's been worth the wait. We have a new name for the newsletter, *ELT Research*, a new look, and a new editing team coming into place to replace Shaida Mohammadi, who has edited the Research SIG newsletter for five years – thank you, Shaida, for all your hard work! Shaida has now taken on a new role as Treasurer of the SIG, indeed, as of Spring 2012, we have a new, expanded, multi-talented committee, consisting of:

Coordinator / Newsletter Co-editor. RICHARD SMITH.  
Conference Organizer. MIROSLAW PAWLAK.  
Development Manager. HARRY KUCHAH.  
Discussion list moderator. ATANU BHATTACHARYA.  
Electronic Manager. ANA d'ALMEIDA.  
Events Coordinator (One-day Workshops). SARAH MERCER.  
Events Coordinator (IATEFL Conference) SARAH BREWER.  
Member-at-large (Facebook, Twitter) YASMIN DAR.  
Member-at-large (Liaison). DEBORAH BULLOCK.  
Member-at-large (Scholarships, Mentoring). LARYSA SANOTSKA.  
Membership Secretary. ANNA BROSZKIEWICZ.  
Newsletter Co-Editor. ANA INÉS SALVI.  
Newsletter Co-Editor. GOSIA SKY.  
Recording Secretary / Elections Officer. SHELAGH RIXON.  
Treasurer. SHAIDA MOHAMMADI.

You can find out more about committee members on our updated website (another new development since the last newsletter), whose URL is:

<http://resig.iatefl.org>

Please check out the website when you can for more information about all of ReSIG's activities.

My thanks go to all the committee and to retiring members Anthony Bruton and Graham Hall for the hard work they've put in and are putting in. There are a lot of achievements to report, including the following:

## Clarifying our identity and mission

Over the last year, we've started to view the SIG as being largely 'about' encouraging and supporting early-stage researchers and promoting teacher-research (research initiated by and for teachers), while not neglecting the needs of later stage researchers or those engaged in relatively academic forms of research. We have also begun to place a particular emphasis on sharing information and experiences about various

research approaches and methods rather than (only) providing a forum for presentation of research *findings*. At the same time, we feel we have a role in helping increase the accessibility of relatively academic research findings to practitioners, in particular via online discussions of research articles and occasional support for conferences.

## Online discussions

In December 2011 we initiated a series of online discussions of articles which have been published in the journal *Language Teaching*. These discussions have been open to all (not only members) via our Yahoo!Group. We have had five lively discussions so far, on topics ranging from the practical relevance of Second Language Acquisition and English as a Lingua Franca research to the benefits of and constraints on teachers' research engagement. We are grateful to Cambridge University Press for making the articles freely available for the duration of the discussions.

## One-day research method workshops

ReSIG workshops since January 2012 have been facilitated by Zoltán Dörnyei on Questionnaire Design and Analysis, David Nunan on Qualitative Research and Dick Allwright, Assia Slimani-Rolls and Judith Hanks on Exploratory Practice. These events have been professionally filmed for the benefit of those unable to attend in person, and a number of edited extracts will be placed online later in the year, courtesy of Coventry University. We are now looking forward to a workshop by Anne Burns on Action Research on 3<sup>rd</sup> November in Reading, UK. For all of these events we are proud to have been able to offer scholarships to SIG members who would otherwise have been unable to attend. We're hoping to organize more events outside the UK in future.

## Looking forward

Our future plans include a Pre-Conference Event on 'Researching Professional Talk' with Steve Walsh and Steve Mann in Liverpool on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 and support for a full-scale conference on Classroom-oriented Research in Poland in October. We are also hoping to extend the benefits we offer to members of the SIG, including building up a mentoring scheme which will bring together relatively experienced researchers and teacher educators with early-stage researchers, sharing of bibliographies and other resources, and enhancement of the space on our web-site which we have dedicated to reports of teacher-research.

**Richard Smith, Research SIG coordinator**