

IATEFL Research SIG

Daniel Xerri and Sarah Mercer, Joint Coordinators of ReSIG, fill us in a little about ReSIG before our upcoming conference together.

ReSIG's main aim

ReSIG supports and promotes research in English language teaching through a variety of means. These include publishing books and a newsletter, moderating an online discussion list, organising events, offering scholarships, and operating a number of social media platforms. ReSIG has a particular interest in supporting early-stage and practitioner researchers to take their first steps in research, and then helping them sustain their engagement in and with research. However, ReSIG is also a natural home for more experienced researchers within IATEFL.

Throughout the year, ReSIG organises regular webinars led by experts in the field and by those responsible for mentoring teacher-researchers. Earlier this year, Christina Gkonou spoke about using questionnaires in research into emotions in ELT, while Annamaria Pinter focused on children working as co-researchers and researchers. Later this year, Sandie Mourao will discuss research in the primary English classroom, while Scott Thornbury will talk about how research informs the writing of methodology texts.

expertly moderated by Mark Wyatt and a number of renowned guests. One of the discussions held earlier this year explored recent reflective practitioner and practitioner research-oriented Editor's Choice articles in the *ELT Journal*. Those interested in contributing to the SIG's online discussions as well as learning more about previous discussions are invited to join ReSIG's Yahoo! Group.

Other online events organised by ReSIG consist of regular discussions

Besides organising its own events, ReSIG also supports ELT research-oriented events around the world. In 2017 these have included: an online conversation around new books showcasing and

Events

ReSIG organises a number of live and online events focusing on research in English language teaching. The SIG's main event every year is the PCE at the annual IATEFL Conference. This year's PCE focused on researching ELT history and it was led by Richard Smith and Friederike Klippel. Next year's PCE will be organised jointly with the Learner Autonomy SIG and it will focus on the relationship between learner autonomy and practitioner research. The keynote speakers are Phil Benson and Judith Hanks.

Another important event organised by ReSIG is the annual Teachers Research! Conference, which has been held in Turkey for the past three years. Plenary speakers have included Anne Burns and Gary Barkhuizen. This conference serves as a means of supporting the growing international movement of teachers as researchers and knowledge creators for themselves, their students and their schools.



discussing teacher-research; a TESOL Electronic Village on classroom-based research for professional development; the ELT Research in Action Conference in Barcelona; the Second Annual Latin American Conference for Teacher-research in ELT in Buenos Aires; a workshop on systematic informed reflective practice in Macedonia; and a series of international events forming part of the International Festival of Teacher Research in ELT. In November 2017, ReSIG will be supporting the annual BESIG Conference in Malta.

Publications

ReSIG's promotion of research in ELT is also conducted via different publications. Its newsletter, *ELT Research*, is published once a year and contributors benefit from a high level of editorial support. The

newsletter features articles showcasing teacher research, reports on ELT research events, as well as think pieces on current issues in ELT research. Besides its newsletter, ReSIG publishes an e-news that is sent to its members three times a year. In the past few years, the SIG has also published five books featuring contributions by teacher-researchers and academics. The most recent volumes are *Developing as an EFL Researcher: Stories from the Field*, edited by Siân Etherington and Mark Daubney, and *Developing Insights into Teacher-research*, edited by Anne Burns, Kenan Dikilitas, Richard Smith and Mark Wyatt. All ReSIG books are made available as open access publications.

Communication

The website is ReSIG's main means of

communicating with members and the broader ELT research community. In addition to details about publications and forthcoming events, the site includes a vast array of links to online resources. Content is also posted regularly via Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube. Anyone interested in ELT research is invited to follow ReSIG's accounts on these platforms and join the conversation.

ReSIG website: <http://resig.iatefl.org>

ReSIG YouTube channel:

<https://goo.gl/Nin2Nd>

Online discussion forum:

<https://goo.gl/FuKJcs>

Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/groups/iateflresig

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/IATEFLResig>

Email: resig@iatefl.org

Daniel Xerri is a Lecturer in TESOL at the University of Malta, the Joint Co-ordinator of the IATEFL Research SIG, and the Chairperson of the ELT Council within the Ministry for Education and Employment in Malta. Further details: www.danielxerri.com



Sarah Mercer is Professor of Foreign Language Teaching at the University of Graz, Austria, where she is Head of ELT methodology and Deputy Head of the Centre for Teaching and Learning in Arts and Humanities. She is also the Joint Co-ordinator of the IATEFL Research SIG.

Contribute to our Wider Membership Scheme (WMS)

Established over ten years ago, the IATEFL WMS helps the international ELT community reach out to teachers in parts of the world who need additional financial support. It provides teachers with professional development that would otherwise be beyond their means.

Each year IATEFL Associates are invited to apply for a limited number of places on the scheme. An Advisory Committee looks at all the bids and the money available and puts forward suggestions to our Trustees for allocation of the memberships via the WMS. Decisions are based on the position of each country on the HDI list, together with estimated earnings of teachers in that country. Successful Associations are then awarded WMS memberships at a significantly reduced rate which they can allocate to individual teachers. This has led to tangible improvements in English language teaching and learning in parts of the world that need support the most.

The IATEFL Head Office contacts our Associates each year to invite them to put in a bid. If you need more information on how to apply, our criteria and what we can do for your Association please contact membership@iatefl.org.

To donate to the IATEFL WMS please visit the donations section on our website at <https://secure.iatefl.org/onl/donate.php>