

Promoting research and best practices to improve the use of English in the emerging global knowledge economy of the 21st century

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TIRF TODAY

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Research Organization: Spotlight on CERLL



Editor's note: In this piece, Dr. Alister Cumming, Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and head of CERLL, highlights the work of the Centre.

CERLL (Centre for Educational Research on Languages and Literacies) is the new name for the Modern Language Centre (formerly MLC) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, Canada. The name change reflects an expanded scope and enhanced role of this research-oriented organization.

The Centre conducts research on teaching, learning, curricula, assessment, and policies related to education in languages and literacies in schools as well as in adult education, work, and community contexts. In Ontario, second languages primarily involve English and French, the official languages of the country and dominant languages of the province. However, they also extend to diverse other languages associated with immigrant settlement, international communications, cultural and regional diversity, and aboriginal populations in Canada and around the world. These interests include various issues related to bilingualism, multilingualism, cultural diversity, teacher education, literacy, and new technologies.

The Modern Language Centre was founded in 1968 as one of the first research centres at OISE under the headship of H. H. Stern (until 1981). The Centre established a well recognized program of research, graduate studies, and the development of pedagogical materials, curricula, and assessment

tools. Such resources have been designed to evaluate, improve, and provide theoretical foundations for the teaching of languages, particularly French and English in Ontario schools and other parts of Canada.

The new name, CERLL, was adopted in 2010 to reflect an increasing focus on literacy in relation to language teaching, learning, and educational policies. Like other internally funded Centres at OISE, CERLL brings together professors, graduate students, visiting scholars, and local educators with common interests and expertise. This arrangement provides a context for the development and administration of research grants, ongoing seminars and colloquia, collegial involvement, and professional advancement.

CERLL professors administer numerous grants and contracts for school boards, international organizations, and federal, provincial, and other agencies. The Centre hosts a biweekly colloquium series of public lectures, an informal seminar series among graduate students, and occasional lectures by visiting scholars, as well as co-hosting a conference each spring, Celebrating Linguistic Diversity, with language educators in the Toronto District School Board. These and other activities are documented in annual reports, presented to the Centre's Advisory Committee, which consists of representatives from government agencies, educational institutions, and professional associations.

Within OISE and the University of Toronto, CERLL links closely to and creates a community for the graduate program in Second Language Education. To learn more about CERLL and to get in touch with faculty and staff there, please click here.

TESOL 2013 Annual Convention & English Language Expo

The 2013 International TESOL Convention is scheduled to be held in Dallas, Texas, USA on March 20-23. The theme of next year's conference is "Harmonizing Language, Heritage, and Culture."

For readers who may be unfamiliar with TESOL, Inc., its mission is to advance professional expertise in English language teaching and learning for speakers of other languages worldwide. TESOL annually hosts more than 6,500 people from across the United States and around the world at its international convention. Educators at all levels attend to participate in

an exchange of ideas and information and to feel the embrace of a dynamic professional community.

Registration for the Convention is now open. Reduced rates are available for TESOL members and for those who are able to register before February 1, 2013. Click here to learn more about registration. See you in Dallas!



New Resources on TIRF's Website

We often learn about new journals related to our field or about organizations whose mission is similar to TIRF's. When we do, that information is posted on TIRF's website section, Resources.

The TIRF team also constantly develops new reference lists and updates the existing ones, with the help of our stakeholders. This month, we are pleased to announce that we have just posted reference lists on code-switching, on conversational analysis, and

on the use of handheld mobile devices in language teaching and learning. Our thanks to Michael Carrier, Silvia Kunitz, Numa Markee, and Sarah Springer for sharing their resources with TIRF.

We welcome submissions of reference lists on new topics. We would also like to be notified about appropriate journals and like-minded organizations which are not currently linked to on our website. Many thanks in advance for your contributions!

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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

Marti Estell Joins TIRF Board as US State Department Observer



Marti Estell is the US State Department's new observer to the TIRF Board of Trustees. We welcomed her to our recent Board meeting in White Plains, New York, via Skype. She provided the Trustees a report on a new initiative between the US State Department and the TESOL International Association (highlighted in the piece below).

Marti began her post as the Director of English Language Programs at the State Department's Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs in August 2012. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1990, she has worked in media relations, educational exchanges, and cultural programming in Malaysia, Indonesia, Honduras, Ecuador, Spain, and El Salvador. She is now working with the State Department's Senior Foreign Service.

In her ex-officio position on the TIRF Board, Marti's role is to advise the Foundation on how research findings about language learning and teaching can influence policy makers around the world. She also informs TIRF about State Department activities related to ELT. We are delighted to welcome her to TIRF!

TESOL International Association & US State Department Launch "E²A"

Editor's note: In this piece, John Segota, TESOL Inc.'s Associate Executive Director for Public Policy & Professional Relations, provides information about the English Language Education Alliance.

In November 2011, TESOL International Association announced a collaborative partnership with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State to help connect resources in the United States with ELT needs and opportunities worldwide. The primary goal of the public-private partnership is to utilize each organization's vast networks, expertise, and international resources to bring together those of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), universities, companies, and other key ELT stakeholders. These efforts will respond to the global demand for English language teaching and learning. TIRF is involved and eager to participate in this initiative.

Called the English Language Education Alliance (E²A), the partnership was formally launched with a stakeholder meeting in March at the 2012 TESOL International Convention and English Language Expo in Philadelphia. A subsequent forum was held at TESOL, Inc.'s offices in August to discuss opportunities and to gauge the interest of potential partners.

The Alliance is focusing on four initial domains: (1) technology-supported learning; (2) capacity building; (3) teacher-focused professional development; and (4) learner-focused programs.

Project ideas and resources will be leveraged along the following priorities for the Alliance: (1) connecting resources and expertise to address large-scale ELT needs in resource-challenged contexts; (2) enhancing capacity building to support the development of ELT educators and expertise in EFL contexts; and (3) addressing local and regional needs through the provision of appropriate language education approaches, practices, frameworks, and research

As part of the initial development phase of E²A, potential partners have been asked to identify available resources, their own priorities, and areas where they would be interested in collaborating. For example, TESOL, Inc. has initiated a project to provide and develop resources to support its affiliates, with a specific emphasis on organizational best practices for teacher associations and NGOs. Through the Alliance, the association hopes to work with other partners to connect its affiliates with additional resources, such as leadership programs, institutional resources, and other kinds of expertise to enhance their organizations.

Additional information about the Alliance, including an FAQ section, is available on the [TESOL International Association web site](http://www.tesol.org). If your institution is interested in learning more and getting involved with the English Language Education Alliance, please contact John Segota at jsegota@tesol.org.

Chilean Professors Visit TIRF



A group of professors from the [Universidad Católica del Norte](http://www.ucn.cl) (UCN) in Antofagasta, Chile visited TIRF headquarters in Monterey, CA this October. Professors Esteban Aguilar, Alejandro Guerrero, and Raul Villafane met with TIRF President Kathi Bailey and the Foundation's Executive Assistant, Ryan Damerow, to discuss research initiatives in the teacher training program at the university in Chile.

The professors found information on TIRF's website to be particularly helpful when addressing areas in which they are able to strengthen resources available

to junior and senior researchers at UCN. As an example, the professors thought that the reference lists stored on TIRF's website would be an excellent starting point for students completing MA-level courses in the teaching of English. Additionally, links to journals in the field will be useful, as they can help provide teacher trainees in Chile with access to articles that may help inform their developing knowledge of issues in ELT. Further, the journals listed on TIRF's website can also provide platforms for potential research-based publications.

We look forward to collaborating in the future with the Chilean professors. We are always pleased when we can make connections with colleagues who can benefit from the work of TIRF.

Report from the Chair — Volunteers ARE the Difference all Year Round

Were you aware that October 27th was "Make a Difference Day"? The fourth Saturday in October has been so designated as a way to encourage people to volunteer their services to help others. Personally, I have mixed feelings about just one day being set aside as a time to make a difference as a volunteer. It is great to encourage people to serve as volunteers, but shouldn't

we all be doing some kind of service all the time?

I want to acknowledge the service provided by TIRF's Trustees — busy professionals who give their personal time to support the Foundation. I also want to recognize our 2012 Doctoral Dissertation Grant proposal reviewers, as well as all of TIRF's donors. So in case October 27th passed you by unnoticed, I

hope you will consider making a difference by donating to TIRF. Whether you send a reference list, write a check, or donate online, we hope to hear from you. Your support does make a difference.

Kathi Bailey