

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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Research Organization: Spotlight on CAL, University of Warwick



Editor's note: In this piece, Dr. Richard Smith shares information about the Centre for Applied Linguistics at the University of Warwick, with a focus on information and resources related to ELT and TESOL research.

The [Centre for Applied Linguistics \(CAL\) at the University of Warwick](#), UK, was founded in 1983 as the Centre for English Language Teacher Education. Since then, its focus has broadened to include teaching, training, and research in the fields of intercultural communication and discourse analysis. However, many of the Centre's activities still revolve around ELT/TESOL, including a suite of well-established [MA in ELT programmes](#), tailor-made short courses for visiting groups of teachers and students, and English for academic purposes provision for students across the university.

ELT research is carried out by members of the English Language Learning, Teaching, and Assessment Research Group – [ELLTA](#), for short. Generic clusters of interest have included English for academic purposes, innovative methodologies (for both teaching and research), and teacher education and development. Increasingly, we have also become involved as a group in the broad area of English in international development, together with the university's Centre for Education Studies. Below are some key recent achievements and accessible resources in each of these four main areas.

English for Academic Purposes

Based partly on two past large-scale research projects, involving construction of the [British Academic Spoken English Corpus](#) and the [British Academic Written English Corpus](#), we have developed a number of [academic English resources for use by teachers and learners](#). We also have a long tradition of expertise in language testing for academic purposes. One current project (funded by ETS TOEFL) seeks to investigate the predictive validity of TOEFL iBT® scores and their use in informing university policy. To showcase our work in the field of language assessment (including innovative work in the area of assessing intercultural competence), we will be hosting the [11th European Association for Language Testing and Assessment \(EALTA\) conference](#) from 29 May to 1 June 2014.

Teacher Education and Development

Next year, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our open-access, peer-reviewed journal [English Language](#)

Help TIRF Via AmazonSmile

Last year, Amazon started a program in which their customers' every day purchases can help benefit non-profit organizations. The program is called AmazonSmile.

Through this program, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of [eligible AmazonSmile purchases](#) to the charitable organization the customer designates. We are hoping that you will list TIRF as your benefitting charity!

You can learn more about AmazonSmile, including how to select TIRF as your charity, by [clicking here](#).

[Teacher Education and Development \(ELTED\)](#). The journal is targeted at – and open to contributions from – all those involved in English language teacher education and development worldwide. In recent years, ELLTA members have been transforming ideas about [action research and teacher-learner autonomy](#), developed within our own MA programmes, into innovative professional development activities with teachers in Cameroon, Chile, and Nepal.

Innovative Methodologies

ELLTA staff members have played leading roles in the [learner autonomy movement](#), and equally in researching the fields of language learner motivation and English for young learners. We have also made contributions to the field of [history of ELT and applied linguistics](#). One current research project ("[Towards a History of Modern Foreign Language Teaching and Learning](#)") aims to generate interest in historical research into language teaching. Another project ("[Documenting British Council involvement with ELT \(1934-2014\)](#)") will contribute to the evaluation, from historical perspectives, of ELT projects in general. We are also at present developing new tools and approaches for the qualitative evaluation of teacher training interventions.

English in International Development

This area is an emerging priority for CAL, but we have for several years served as the academic hub for a research network on issues in [teaching English in large classes and other difficult circumstances](#), with a focus on developing country contexts. Research students from countries ranging from Cameroon to Syria and Thailand have been active in this area, and several have contributed to freely available [research-based teacher training materials](#). Recently we have developed important linkages with other organizations, in particular with universities in India. Our efforts have led to cooperating with these universities on a Survey of Indian ELT Research (English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad). We are also working on a project engaging teachers and children as co-researchers in large primary classes (with Delhi University). For details of these projects and all others past and present, please see our [website](#).

Important research is undertaken in the above areas by our [current research students](#) as well as by staff. Indeed, we very much welcome applications from suitably qualified people who wish to undertake postgraduate research (PhD, MPhil, MA by Research). In the coming years, the ELLTA Research Group within CAL at the University of Warwick aims to consolidate and strengthen its position as a nationally and internationally recognized research unit. CAL will continue to work toward its goal of impacting in innovative ways English language teaching policy, practice, training, and assessment/evaluation, while extending our remit to include other languages.

MALL Presentation Now Available

TIRF's panel presentation at the 2014 TESOL Convention last month is now available on YouTube. You can [click here](#) to watch the presentation.

For the past several years, we have been using SlideShare to post our presentations; however, this platform will no longer be supporting audio files. All of the presentations that were uploaded to SlideShare have been saved as video files and will soon be available on [TIRF's YouTube channel](#). Stay tuned for more information!

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Kathleen Bailey,
Chair of TIRF

Conference on Heritage/Community Languages Held at UCLA

Editor's note: In this piece, [TIRF Trustee Donna Christian](#) shares information about a conference she recently attended at UCLA. TIRF Trustees travel at no expense to the Foundation.

In our increasingly multilingual societies, heritage and community languages represent a valuable asset for individuals, their communities, and the world, and efforts are needed to maintain, develop, and, if necessary, revitalize them. In early March, the National Heritage Language Resource Center at UCLA organized and hosted the Second International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages, bringing together educators and researchers from many disciplines to talk about heritage/community language studies and education. This event offered the opportunity to attend a rich variety of papers, panels, and poster presentations. Among these talks were several insightful plenary sessions. For example, Marcelo Suárez-Orozco (UCLA) discussed the language and education consequences of mass migration, noting that "the world is on the move." Another plenary, Elana Shohamy (Tel Aviv University), reflected on the ways in which "Linguistic Landscapes" (the multilingual writing and images found in public spaces) reveal power relations, ethnic identities, and the vitality of different languages in a society.

I am also pleased to note that a new publication was launched at the conference, one which I had the honor of co-editing: *Handbook of Heritage, Community, and Native American Languages in the United States: Research,*

TIRF at IATEFL 2014

Editor's note: In this piece, [TIRF Trustee Michael Carrier](#) shares information about the IATEFL Conference and TIRF Trustees' activities there.

From April 2 to 5, language teachers from around the world gathered in Harrogate in the north of England for the 48th Annual IATEFL Conference. This year's conference was once again completely sold out with over 2,000 delegates from over 100 countries.

The bulk of the proceedings were live-streamed and recorded for teachers around the world to watch – for free! The British Council-sponsored "IATEFL Online" video studio conducted live interviews with a wide range of presenters and ELT specialists. These sessions and interviews can be seen at Harrogate Online by [clicking here](#).

Three TIRF Trustees – [Michael Carrier](#), [Nick Saville](#), and [John Knagg](#) – took part in the conference. Michael's participation involved chairing a Signature Event from Cambridge English Language Assessment on "Learning-Oriented Assessment," and giving a presentation on "Speech Recognition in ELT: Impact on Teachers and Learners." Michael said, "We had a wonderful crowd for the Learning-Oriented Assessment (LOA) event. They asked great questions and provided a lively Q&A to the symposium event."

Nick Saville gave the lead presentation, in which he outlined how LOA is a new assessment paradigm that is embedded into the learning process, so that we can en-

International Conference on World Englishes



The 20th International Conference of the [International Association of World Englishes \(IAWE\)](#) will be held at Amity University, Delhi, India from December 18-20, 2014. This [annual conference](#) started in 1995. It aims to examine the focus and functions of different Englishes stemming from diverse cultural and sociolinguistic contexts. IAWE is committed to the study of the forms and func-

Policy, and Educational Practice (T. Wiley, J. Peyton, D. Christian, S. Moore, & N. Liu, editors; Routledge/Center for Applied Linguistics). A symposium, which featured 20 contributors to the volume, provided a quick overview of its contents. For more information about the book, please [click here](#).

Several sessions also featured award presentations. Richard Brecht (University of Maryland) was honored with the *Joshua Fishman Award for Contribution to the Field of Heritage Language Education* for his outstanding work on heritage language research and policy. Another award was created as a tribute to someone very important to TIRF, Russ Campbell, for his pioneering work in encouraging attention to heritage languages and his extraordinary commitment to teaching and mentoring. Recipients of the *Russ Campbell Young Scholar Awards* (with their paper titles) were (1) Netta Avineri (Monterey Institute of International Studies), *Conflicted Stance Practices Toward Linguistic Alternatives in the Yiddish Metalinguistic Community*; (2) Genevieve Leung (University of San Francisco), *Cantonese HL Development: An Examination of Narratives from Cantonese-speaking Children and Adults*; and (3) Diego Pascual y Cabo (Texas Tech University), *Differences Are Not Deficiencies: Argument Structure Reanalysis in Heritage Speaker Spanish*.

For more information about the conference and about the work of the National Heritage Language Resource Center, please [click here](#).



sure that learners receive more individualised learning pathways and make more rapid progress.

The separate session on Speech Recognition was part of the Learning Technology Special Interest Group sessions. It covered advances in speech recognition engines in language learning, and especially their impact on the use of automatic speech-to-speech translation services, such as Google Translate.

John Knagg chaired the British Council signature event entitled "EMI – Cure or Curse." (EMI stands for English as a medium of instruction.) The panel addressed the driving forces behind the well-documented recent growth in EMI at both school and university levels in the developed and the developing world. Issues addressed included when EMI is appropriate and how it can be made successful, and who the winners and the losers are, in terms of people and languages. Panellists included Jennifer Jenkins, a leading proponent of the English as a Lingua Franca concept, who argued that native speaker norms of English may not be appropriate in EMI contexts.

People are now planning their abstract submissions for IATEFL 2015, to be held in Manchester from April 11 to 15. Next year's conference will again be attended by many TIRF Trustees, spreading the word about the Foundation's activities and contributions to a great global profession.

tions of varieties of Englishes in diverse cultural and sociolinguistic contexts. The organization focuses on global issues relating to three major aspects of World Englishes: language, literature, and pedagogy.

The last date for the submission of abstracts is May 31, 2014. Abstracts can be submitted online by [clicking here](#). If there is a technical error in the online submission of the abstract, please e-mail anamika2503@gmail.com, copied to ravindergargesh@gmail.com.

Chair's Report — TESOL Research Agenda Task Force

TESOL needs your help! The 2014 Research Agenda Task Force welcomes your comments about (1) the content of the draft agenda and (2) ways in which the TESOL International Association can make use of the agenda to advance professional

expertise in English language teaching and learning for speakers of other languages worldwide.

The Task Force members were Neil Anderson, Christine Coombe, Sue Garton, Jun Liu, Guadalupe Valdes, Dudley Reynolds, Lillian Wong,

and me. Please visit the [TESOL International Association Research Agenda 2014](#) to add your feedback.

Kathi Bailey