

Building Applied Linguistic Historiography

Richard Smith, University of Warwick

Applied Linguistics (AL)

- Establishment as a discipline (1948 / 1957)
- Away from ‘applicationism’ (Widdowson – AL vs. ‘linguistics applied’; AL as mediating, autonomous, theory-building discipline)
- Away from (only) linguistics as source. Cf. Brumfit
- Away from (only) ELT as target; away from need for ‘target’?
- Does ELT need AL? How about ‘ELT research’? ‘Didactologie’ (France)

Historical research within AL

- not established / no clear mandate
- continuing 'paucity of studies' (Stern 1983)
- not 'methodologically informed' – e.g. over-reliant on other secondary sources / over-literal / 'celebratory' or 'partisan'

Historical research within Education and Linguistics

- relatively high status of history in these fields?
- many studies
- (relatively) 'methodologically informed'

History of Education

Journals and Societies:

History of Education (British History of Education Society)

History of Education Quarterly (United States History of Education Society)

History of Education Review (Australian and New Zealand History of Education Society)

Paedagogica Historica (International Standing Conference in the History of Education (ISCHE), based in Continental Europe)

Historical Studies in Education (based in Canada)

History of Linguistics (HoL)

Began to develop in late 1960s

1973 -- *Historiographia Linguistica*

1978 – Société d'Histoire et d'Epistémologie des Sciences du Langage

1978 – First International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences (ICHoLS)

1979 – *Histoire–Epistémologie–Langage*

1984 – The Henry Sweet Society for the History of Linguistic Ideas

1987 – North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences

1991 – *Beiträge zur Geschichte der Sprachwissenschaft*

2009 – *Language and History*

Linguistic historiography (LH)

Koerner's main early arguments concerning 'linguistic historiography':

- (1) need for more history of linguistic ideas
- (2) need for methodologically better-informed historical research
 - critical reference to primary sources
 - avoidance of over-literal / 'celebratory' or 'partisan' history

Towards 'Applied Linguistic Historiography' (ALH)

Panel Discussion on ['Developing the history of applied linguistics'](#), Henry Sweet Society for the History of Linguistic Ideas Annual Symposium, University of Edinburgh, 21 September 2000

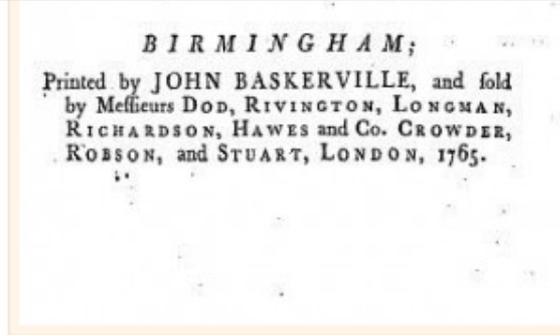
and (lack of?) developments since then
[handout]

‘Developing HoAL’ in the sense of looking further back than 1948/1957 (beyond over-literalism)

A.P.R. Howatt on Henry Sweet



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The theme is The...

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Colloquia

The Society organises a yearly [Colloquium](#). Contributions on any aspect on the history of linguistics are welcome, as are ideas for panel discussions or thematic sessions.

The [2013 Colloquium](#) of the Henry Sweet Society of Linguistic Ideas took place at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, from Thursday 29th August to Saturday 31st August 2013.

[Read more](#)

Grants

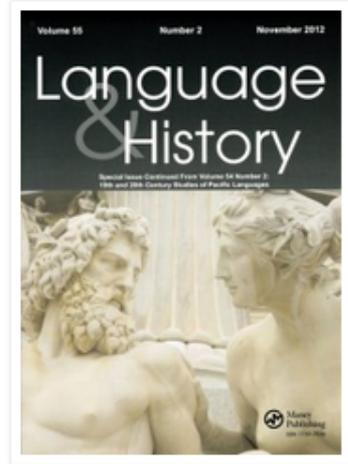
The Society invites applications for small amounts of funding (usually up to a maximum of £500) to support any form of activity which brings together

Academic Journal

[Language and History](#) is the Society's academic journal.

It aims to promote the study of the history of all branches of linguistic thought, theoretical and applied, and including non-European traditions.

Its fields of interest include the history both of the major subject areas of linguistics and also more specialised topics, such as writing systems, literacy, rhetoric, and the application of linguistic ideas within professional and technical fields.



Recommended content

[Grants »](#)

[The Vivien Law Prize »](#)

[Language and History »](#)

[Teaching the History of Linguistics »](#)

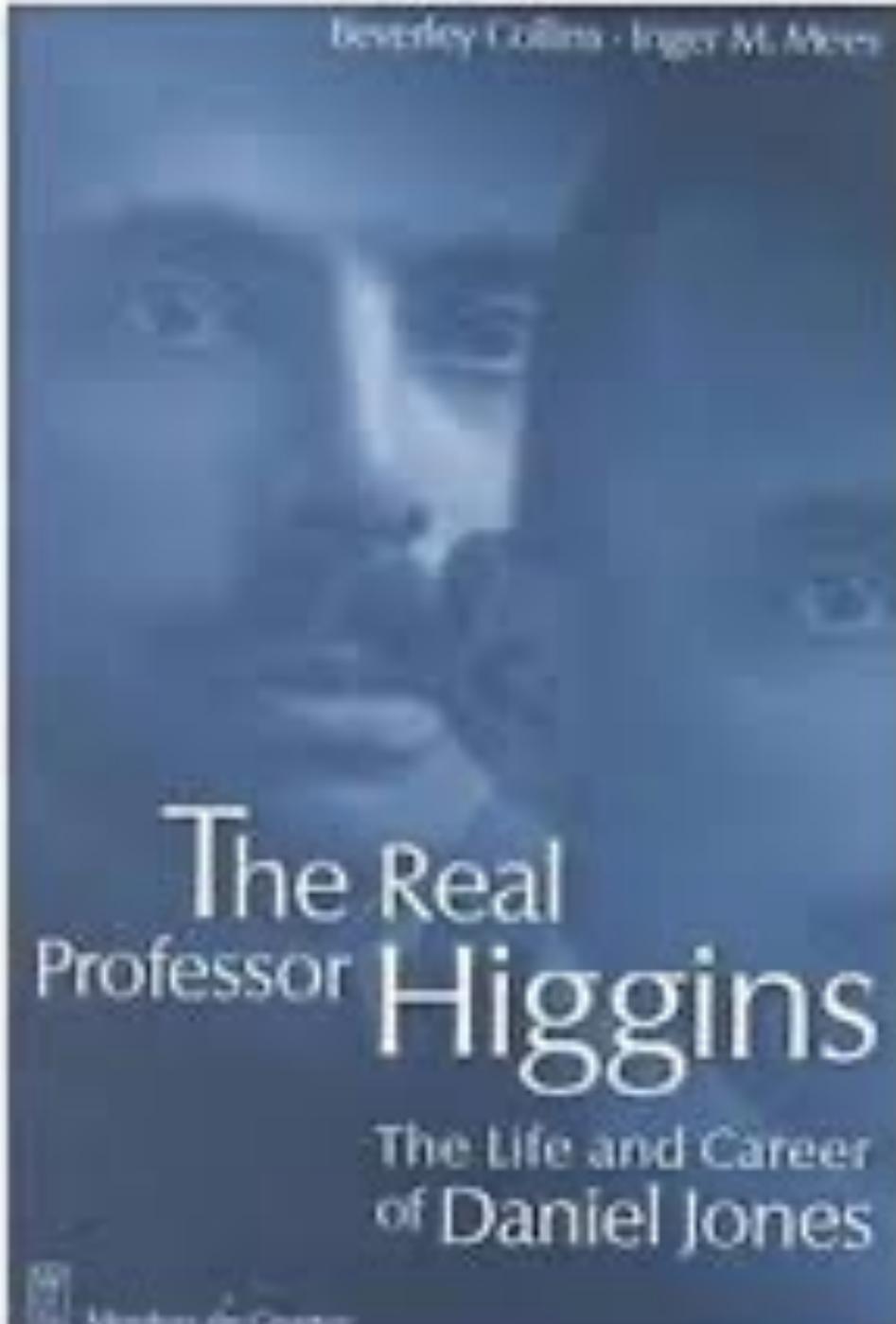
[Colloquium 2014 Nottingham »](#)

‘Developing HoAL’ in the sense of looking further back than 1948/1957 (beyond over-literalism)

A.P.R. Howatt on Henry Sweet

Bev Collins on Daniel Jones

Beverly Collins · Inger M. Allen



The Real
Professor **Higgins**

The Life and Career
of Daniel Jones



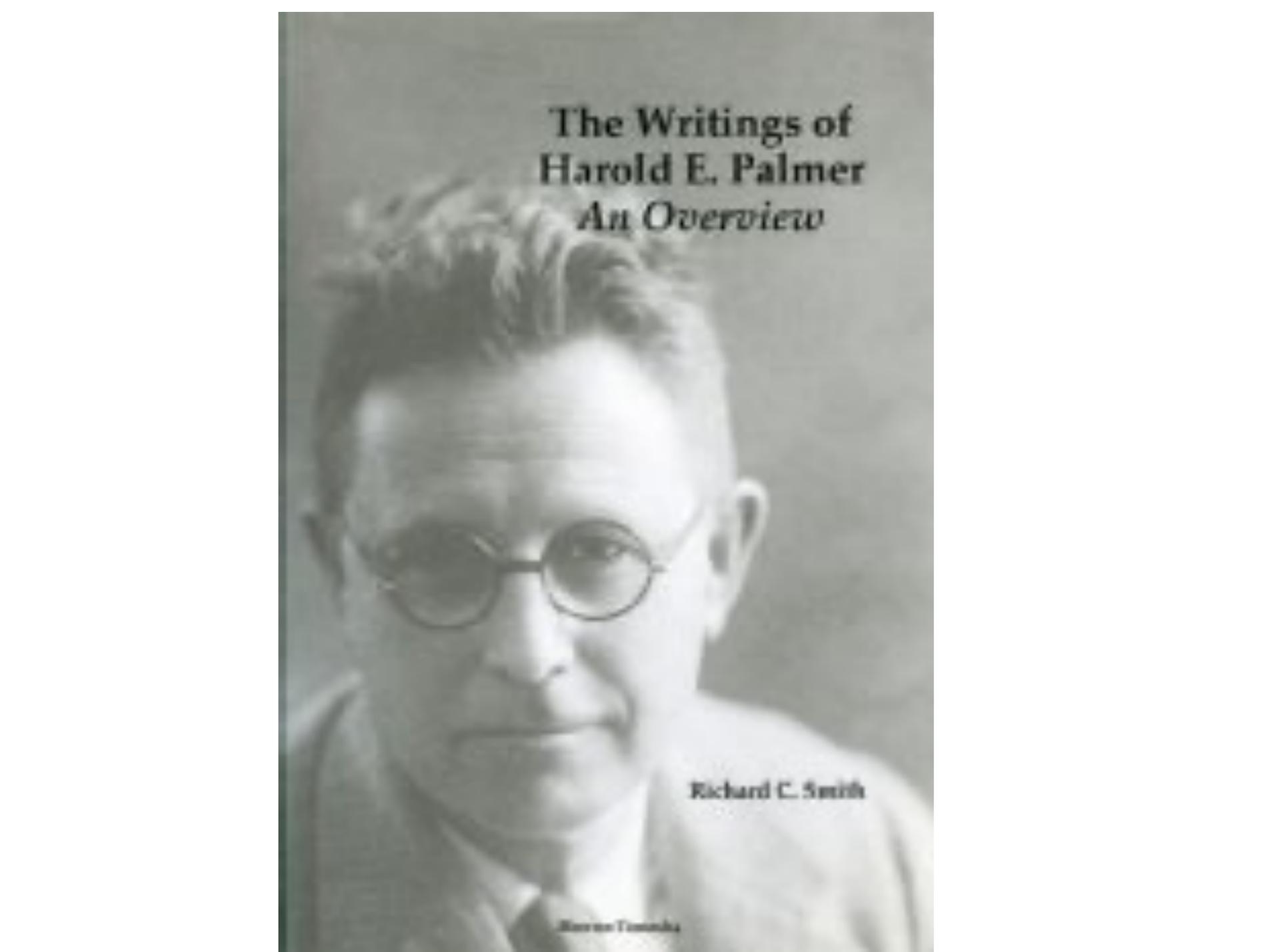
Members of Choice

‘Developing HoAL’ in the sense of looking further back than 1948/1957 (beyond over-literatism)

A.P.R. Howatt on Henry Sweet

Bev Collins on Daniel Jones

Richard Smith on Harold E. Palmer



The Writings of
Harold E. Palmer
An Overview

Richard C. Smith

Harvard University

Centre for Applied Linguistics

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- Short Courses
- People
- CAL Intranet

- Collections » Warwick ELT Archive » Hall of Fame » Harold E. Palmer » Life Works Archive

Harold E. Palmer (1877-1949)



Life

Works

Archive

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C.K. Ogden (1889-1957)



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A. S. Hornby (1898-1978)



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- Works
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A.P. Cowie on A.S. Hornby

Louis Kelly on some earlier figures

‘Developing HoAL’ also in the sense of establishing its autonomy from HoL (to the extent that AL is not just about ‘applying linguistics’)

'Applied Linguistic Historiography' (1)

LH (Koerner): need for more history of linguistic ideas

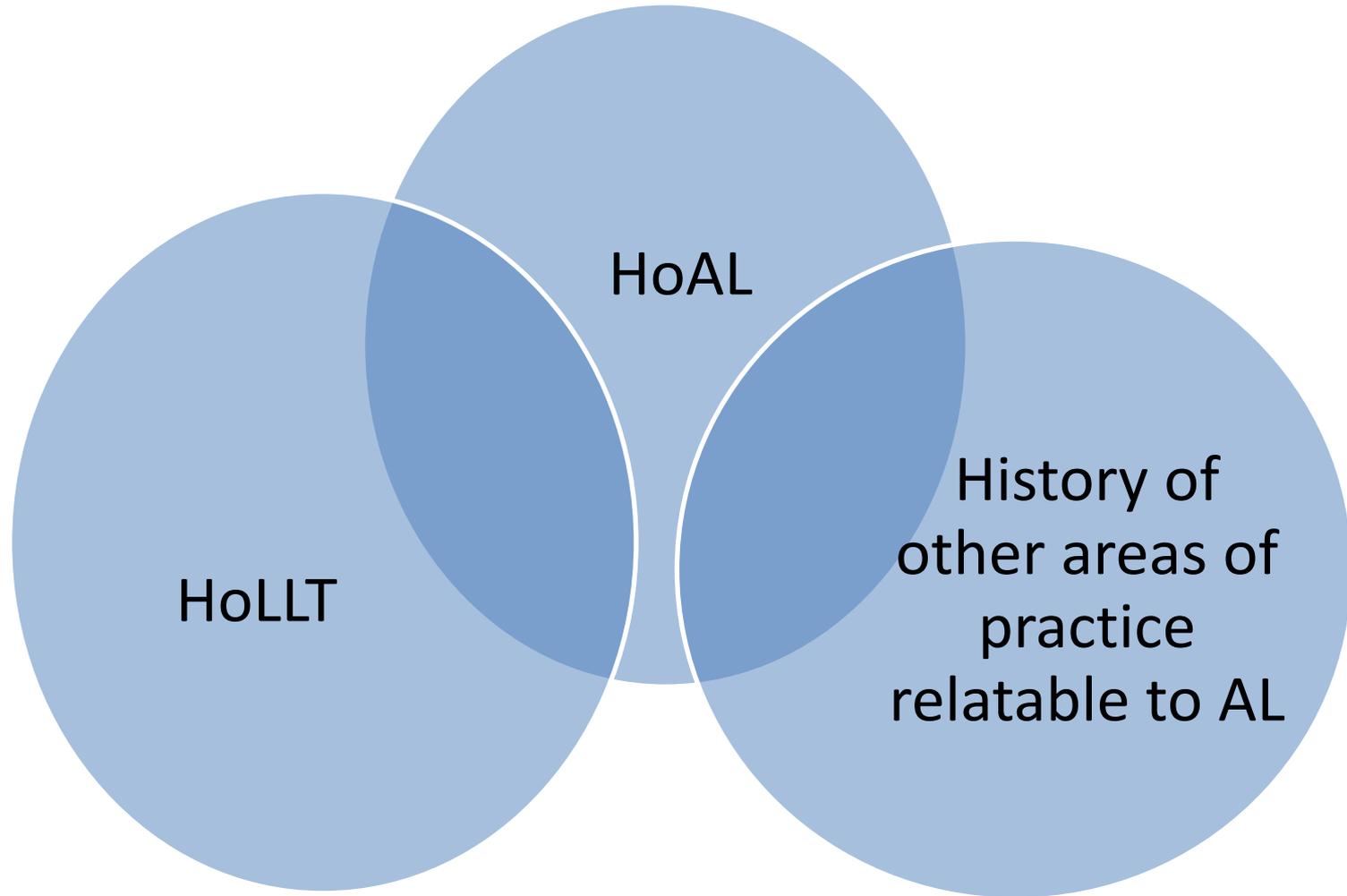
- 'a scientific field reaches its maturity only by becoming aware of its history and by taking a serious interest in having it documented'

ALH: need for more history of 'applied linguistic ideas' [and of AL research] (= HoAL) *and of relatable practices* (e.g. language learning and teaching (= HoLLT)).

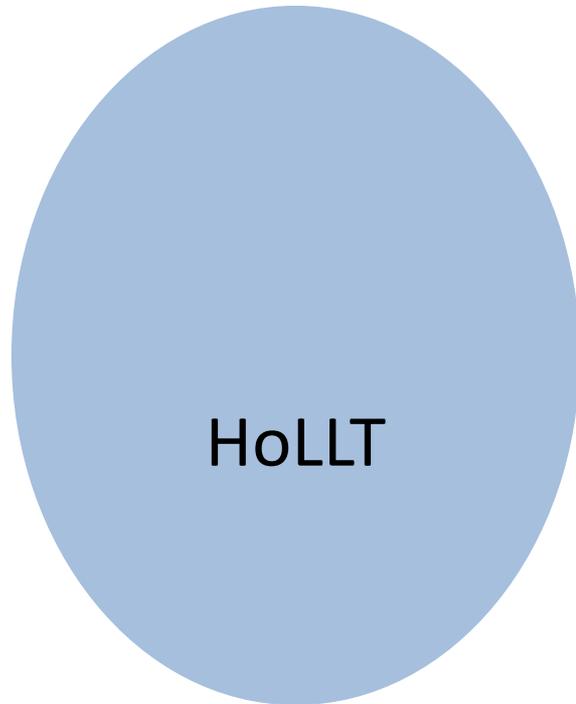
For practical relevance, not just a scholarly pursuit?

Within HoAL, consider *impact* of ideas/research, not just influence on other theorists

ALH coverage – all of this:



But if HoAL can stand free of HoL, can't
HoLLT stand on its own?



HoLLT

- [SIHFLES](#) (Société internationale pour l'histoire du français langue étrangère ou seconde) – 25-year history
- [CIRSIL](#) (Centro Interuniversitario di Ricerca sulla Storia degli Insegnamenti Linguistici)
- [APHELLE](#) (Associação Portuguesa para a História do Ensino das Línguas e Literaturas Extranjeras)
- [PHG](#) (Peeter Heynsgenootschap)
- [SEHEL](#) (Sociedad Española para la Historia de las Enseñanzas Lingüísticas)
- Three pan-European conferences: Granada (2008), Gargnano (2011), Nottingham (2014)

AHRC research network (2012-14) – HoLLT in UK/Europe

Dec. 2012 – Nottingham workshop
(special issue of *Language and History* – in press)

June 2013 – Warwick workshop
(special issue of *Language Learning Journal* – in process)

July 2014 – Nottingham conference
(3 volumes of proceedings projected)

History of Modern Language Learning and Teaching in Britain

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Workshops and Conference funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (Towards a History of Modern Foreign Language Teaching and Learning (MFLTL)' Research Network Grant (15 July 2012 - 14 July 2014; AH/J012475/1 / RGS105262; Dr Nicola McLelland (Nottingham) and Dr Richard Smith (Warwick))

July 2014 Conference: 'Connecting Cultures?: An International Conference on the History of Teaching and Learning Second/Foreign Languages, 1500-2000 (2-5 July 2014, University of Nottingham)

History of ELT

Howatt (1984) *A History of English Language Teaching*; 2nd ed. 2004.

Since then:

Howatt and Smith (2000-2005) – 26 volumes of facsimile reprints (Routledge)

Warwick ELT Archive (2002 onwards)

Centre for Applied Linguistics

The Centre Research Degrees Learn English Short Courses People CAL Intranet

Collections » Warwick ELT Archive » Resources Catalogue Research Publications Hall of Fame Presentations 2005 Archive Launch

The Warwick ELT Archive

The Warwick ELT Archive (www.warwick.ac.uk/elt_archive) is a stand-alone, browsable historical collection of published and unpublished materials relating to the teaching of English as a foreign language and the development of applied linguistics, c.1880–c.1980. Now housed on mobile shelving in the Centre's new Learning Resources Room, this unique collection has been built up gradually by [Dr Richard Smith](#) since 2002, initially on the basis of donations of materials from members and former members of staff in the (then) Centre for English Language Teacher Education (now, Centre for Applied Linguistics), University of Warwick, and latterly on the basis of acquisitions from a wider variety of interested individuals and institutions/organizations (see below for a full list of donors). In March 2005 a substantial existing collection was incorporated, the Edinburgh [Dakin Collection](#), and in December 2010 a significant donation of materials from Dr Charles Forbes (which we have termed the 'Forbes Collection') enhanced our holdings in the areas of U.S. and Middle Eastern publications.

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See tabs above for Catalogue, Hall of Fame, details of Projects and Publications, etc.



[Panel discussion on the History of EAP and of BALEAP](#), BALEAP 2013 Conference, April 2013.

[Interview with John Trim about the History of Modern Language Teaching and Learning](#), 19 September 2013

A Short History of ELT: Talk by

History of ELT

Phd theses –Evans (2003); Smith (2005); Hunter (2009)

Histories of English language testing (Spolsky, 1995; Weir, 2013)

A history of EFL learner dictionaries (Cowie, 1999)

A history of ESOL in the UK (Rosenberg, 2007)

History of ELT

ELT in Germany (in German) – since 1984

Klippel, 1994; Lehberger, 1986, 1990; and Macht, 1986, 1987, 1990.

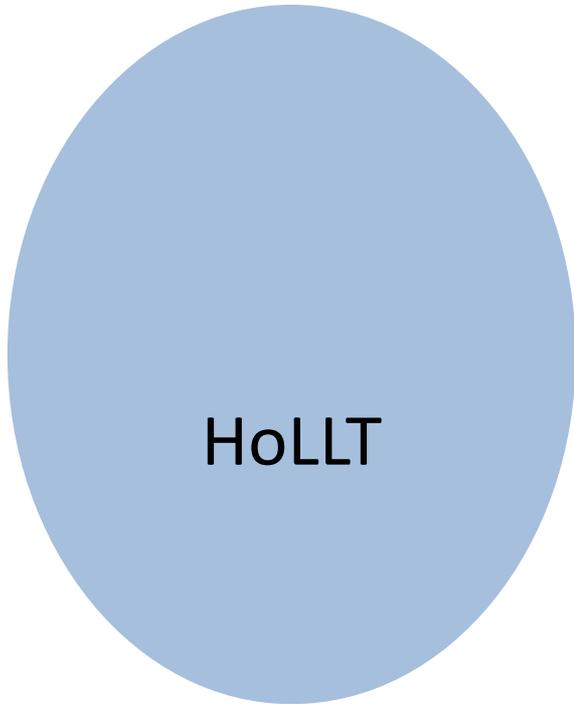
Recent PhDs by Doff 2002, 2008; Franz, 2005; Kolb, 2013; Ruisz, 2014

ELT in Japan (in Japanese):

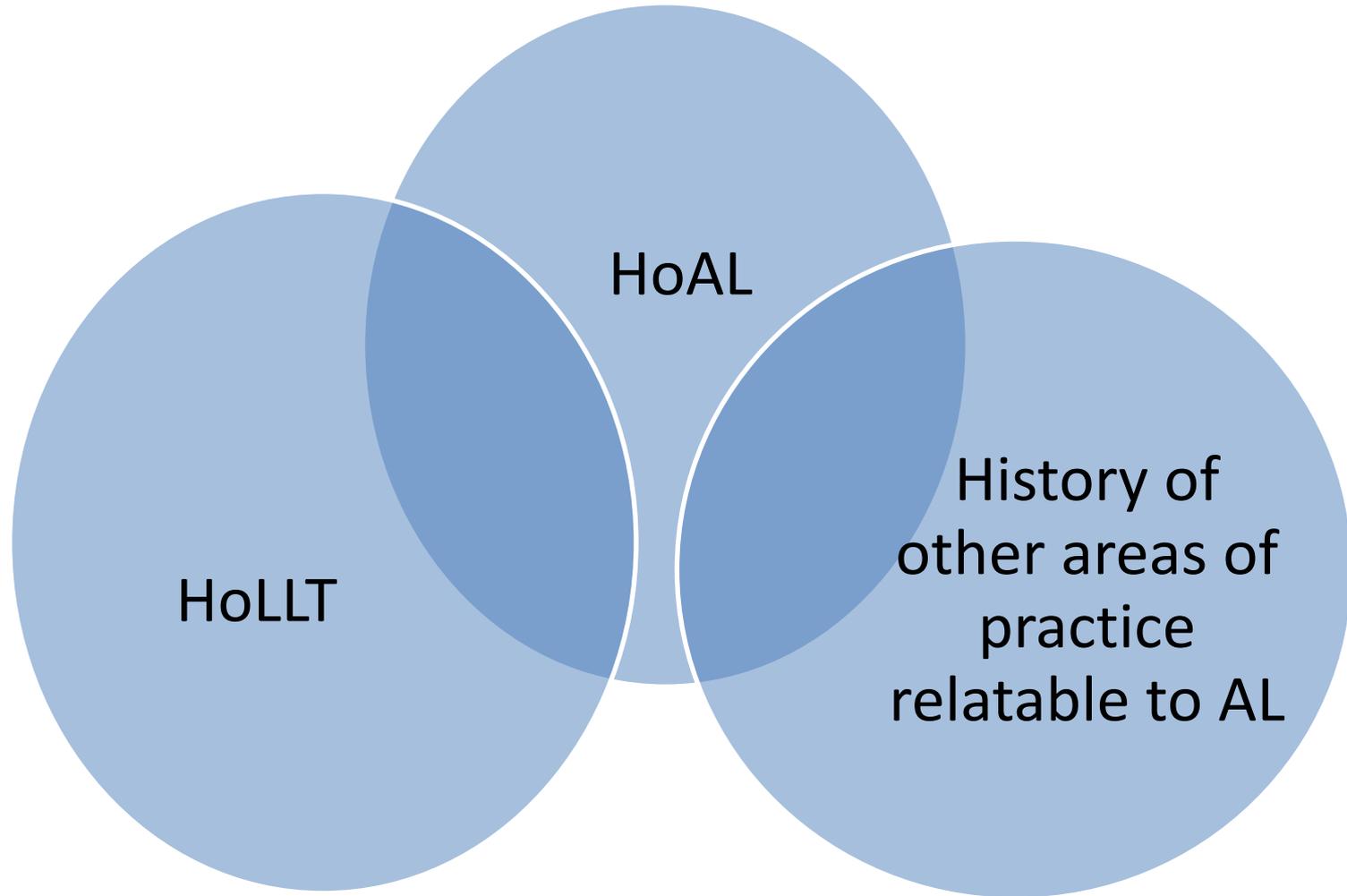
Nihon eigakushi gakkai (The Historical Society of English Studies in Japan)

Nihon eigokyoikushi gakkai (The Historical Society of English Teaching in Japan).

So, if HoAL can stand free of HoL, can't
HoLLT stand on its own?



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'Applied Linguistic Historiography' (1) - repeat

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For practical relevance, not just a scholarly pursuit?

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'Applied Linguistic Historiography' (2)

LH: need for methodologically better-informed historical research

- critical reference to primary sources
- avoidance of over-literal / 'celebratory' or 'partisan' history

ALH: need for methodologically better-informed historical research

- critical reference to primary sources, *including representations of practice*
- avoidance of *universalist* / over-literal / 'celebratory' or 'partisan' history

Example (1): HoAL

Vs. over-literalism (e.g. Catford 1998): investigation of pre-1948/1957 developments in the area now covered by (different versions of) applied linguistics

e.g.:

- Claude Marcel's 'educational science applied'
- The Reform Movement – effects on practice
- Harold E. Palmer's 'multiple line of approach'



Example (2): HoLLT

Vs. method-based ‘potted histories’ of ELT which are too focused on theory, presented as universal, and over-reliant on existing secondary accounts:

- Roots and continuity of ELT UK (e.g. Smith 2003, 2005; Hunter 2009; Howatt and Smith forthcoming); traditions in other countries (e.g. Smith with Imura 2004).

Final remarks

‘Applied linguistic historiography’:

- need for history of ‘applied linguistic ideas/research’ *and* related practices (e.g. language teaching, learning and assessment practices not just theories)
- need for methodologically better-informed historical research – primary sources to include representations of practice, where possible
- a final, additional prospect: use of applied linguistic tools in the study of history

Historical research within AL:

- not established / no clear mandate – *are* HoAL and HoLLT needed? If so, why?
- continuing ‘paucity of studies’ (Stern 1983) – how to motivate more HoAL and HoLLT research?
- not methodologically well-informed - how to improve this situation for HoAL and HoLLT?