

# Teaching English in Large Classes (TELC) Research Project/Network

[copied from [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/telc](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/telc) , 14 April 2011]

Large class size is a challenge faced by many teachers and learners around the world and is a particular issue in many developing countries where teacher recruitment has not kept pace with rapid increases in school enrolments.

## Aims

The TELC research project/network (set up on the initiative of Dr Fauzia Shamim and Dr Richard Smith in 2008) has the following major aims:

- To share and disseminate good practice relating to teaching in large classes / teaching in otherwise 'under-resourced' or 'difficult' circumstances
- To theorize from such practice with a view to identifying common principles
- To promote further exploratory practice and research in such circumstances

## Activities

Initial activities involve:

- Providing links to relevant sources of information and other resources (see below for some links)
- Building up a comprehensive bibliography of recent work in the field
- Encouraging and providing a portal for dissemination of research by staff and students in participating universities and teachers/researchers elsewhere, including research carried out in existing country-wide networks
- Encouraging further research initiatives in the area of large class studies

## Coordinators and committee

The joint coordinators of this research project/network are Dr Fauzia Shamim (Taibah University, Saudi Arabia) and Dr Richard Smith (University of Warwick, UK), with a committee comprising Harry Kuchah (Ministry of Basic Education, Cameroon), Dr Rama Mathew (University of Delhi, India), Dr. Nigussie Negash (Ethiopia), Prem Phyak (Tribhuvan University, Nepal), Shelagh Rixon (University of Warwick, UK), Zakia Sarwar (SPELT, Pakistan) and Dr Wang Qiang (Beijing Normal University, China), advised by Hywel Coleman (formerly University of Leeds).

## Funding

We are currently seeking funding for ongoing and intended research and practical work with teachers, and for further development of this international network

## Participation

We welcome news, views and expressions of interest from researchers (including teacher-researchers) who would like to participate in the project/network.

In October 2009 we set up a discussion group on the British Council's Teaching English website, at: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/group/telc>

If you would like to join the group, please contact Fauzia Shamim or Richard Smith (email addresses under 'Contacts' below), telling them your TeachingEnglish website ID (you have to join this website first, before we can join you to the group).

## Bibliography

In October-November 2010 a small group of TELC network members based at the University of Warwick met to compile [version 1 of a bibliography \(2002+\) on Teaching in Large Classes / Difficult Circumstances](#) (containing some hyperlinks to online publications). We will attempt to keep this updated - please send in any additions / corrections.

## Publications

Selected recent and forthcoming publications by network members:

Coleman, H. 2006. 'Darwin and the large class'. In Gieve, S. and I.K. Miller (eds) *Understanding the Language Classroom*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 115-135.

Kuchah, K. and Smith, R. Forthcoming. 'Pedagogy of autonomy for difficult circumstances: Principles from practice'. *International Journal of Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching*. Draft available on request ([H.Kuchah@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:H.Kuchah@warwick.ac.uk)).

Loo, Angelika. 2007. *Teaching and Learning Modern Languages in Large Classes*. Aachen/Germany: Shaker. ISBN 978-3-8322-6609-7.

Phyak, P.B. 2011. 'Teaching English in large multicultural classes: a narrative enquiry'. In

Pattison, T. (ed.) *IATEFL 2010 Harrogate Conference Selections*. Canterbury: IATEFL.

Shamim, F. 2010. 'Plenary: Teaching and researching English in large classes'. In Beaven, B. (ed.) *IATEFL 2009: Cardiff Conference Selections*. Canterbury: IATEFL, pp. 36-47. Associated talk [here](#).

Smith, R. 2008. 'Taking the bull by its horns: Zakia Sarwar's pro-autonomy approach to large classes in Pakistan (Part I)'. *Independence* 44: 7-13. Also available online: <http://www.learnerautonomy.org/zakiapart1.pdf>

Shamim, F., Negash, N., Chuku, C. and Demewoz, N. 2007. *Maximising Learning in Large Classes: Issues and Options*. Addis Abbaba: The British Council. Available online: <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/teacheng/files/ELT-16-screen.pdf>

Smith, R. 2011. 'Teaching English in difficult circumstances: A new research agenda'. In Pattison, T. (ed.) *IATEFL 2010 Harrogate Conference Selections*. Canterbury: IATEFL. Pre-publication version [here](#). Associated talk [here](#).

## Presentations

Recent conference presentations by network members:

[Talk by Harry Kuchah](#) at conference on 'Learner Autonomy in Language Learning: Widening the Circle', University of Warwick, 2007.

[Plenary talk by Fauzia Shamim](#) on 'Teaching and Researching English in Large Classes' at the IATEFL Conference in Cardiff, 2nd April 2009.

Talk by Richard Smith on '[Teaching English in Difficult Circumstances - A new research agenda](#)' at the IATEFL Conference in Harrogate, 11th April 2010.

## Other links

Institute of Education (London) [Class Size Research Project](#) (1996+)

Benbow, J., Mizrachi, A., Oliver, D. and Said-Moshir, L. 2007. [Large Class Sizes in the Developing World: What Do We Know and What Can We Do?](#). American Institutes for Research under the EQUIP1 LWA.

Australian Universities Teaching Committee (AUTC): [Teaching Large Classes Project](#) (2001)

Hywel Coleman: Learning and Teaching in Large Classes (including Large Class Bibliography,

to 2002). New site under construction:<http://www.hywelcoleman.com/index.html>

Maley, Alan. '[The teaching of English in difficult circumstances: Who needs a health farm when they're starving?](#)'. *Humanising Language Teaching* 3/6 (November 2001).

Pasigna, A. (1997). [Tips on how to manage a large class](#). IEQ project. Institute for International Research.

Shamim, Fauzia. 1993. [Teacher-learner behaviour and classroom processes in large ESL classes in Pakistan](#). Phd thesis, University of Leeds.

SPELT (Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers) Research SIG [blog](#)

Richard Watson Todd (ed.): [Special issue of rEFLECTIONS, on Large Classes](#) (King Mongkut's University of Technology, Thonburi, Thailand; Vol. 9 (2006))

## **Contacts**

TELC joint coordinators: Dr. Fauzia Shamim ([fauzia.shamim@yahoo.com](mailto:fauzia.shamim@yahoo.com)) and Dr. Richard Smith ([R.C.Smith@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:R.C.Smith@warwick.ac.uk))