

An overview of the 2021 Mentoring Teacher- Research Support initiative

Richard Smith

How did we get to today's event?





1. Background: Mentoring on the Champion Teachers & ARMS programmes (2013 onwards)

The British Council Champion Teachers programme (Chile, Peru, Colombia, Mexico)



2013–20 (Chile): 164 teachers; 2017–19 (Peru): 94 teachers; 2018–19 (Colombia, Mexico): 119 teachers

Development of *local* mentors becoming a priority

A handbook for *doing* teacher-research (2018)

bit.ly/handbook-EAR



<https://warwick.ac.uk/richardcsmith/resources>

A Handbook for Exploratory Action Research

Richard Smith and Paula Rebolledo





British Council Action Research Mentoring Scheme (ARMS) in India and Nepal

- Twelve-month mentoring scheme started in 2017
- The aim of the scheme was to empower *mentors* to support teachers to investigate their classrooms
- ARMS in India and Nepal (2017–2020) worked with 70+ mentors who supported 400+ teacher-researchers

International Festival of Teacher-research 2017

14) 24 January, 2018 – Getting Started with Action Research. IATEFL Research SIG webinar by Emily Edwards.

15) 28 February, 2018 – Exploratory Practice: integrating research and pedagogy in English for Academic Purposes. IATEFL Research SIG webinar by Judith Hanks

16) 11 March, 2018 – Final mela of the British Council Aptis Action Research Award Scheme (AARMS), India. Ambedkar University,, Delhi.

17) 24 March 2018 – Final, online presentations by participants in the 2018 Electronic Village Online on Classroom-based Research for Professional Development. Recording available here: <http://classroombasedresearch.weebly.com/finally.html>

18) 7 April 2018 – Where next for teacher-research? (online panel discussion). The line-up of speakers included Harry Kuchah, Melba Libia Cardenas, Amy Lightfoot, Richard Smith and Daniel Xerri. This panel discussion marked the end of the International Festival of Teacher-research in ELT.



A handbook for *mentoring* teacher-research (2020)

bit.ly/mentoring-TR



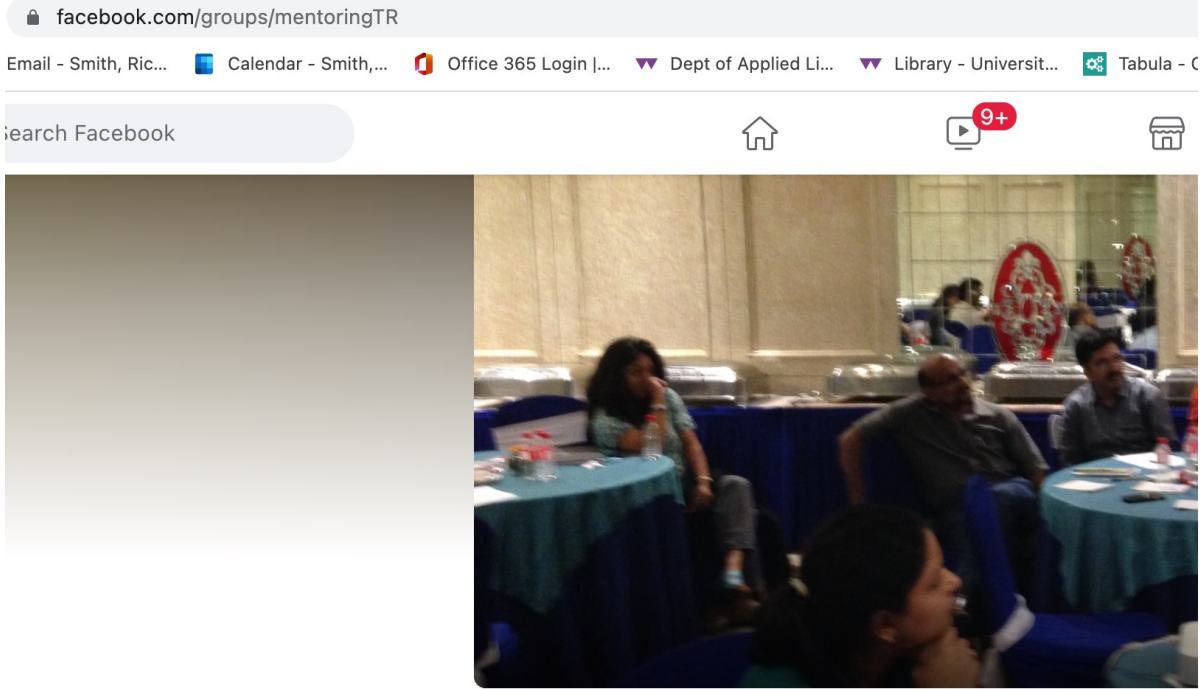
warwick.ac.uk/richardcsmith/resources





2. Building an international community of teacher-research mentors (2019 onwards)

facebook.com/mentoringTR

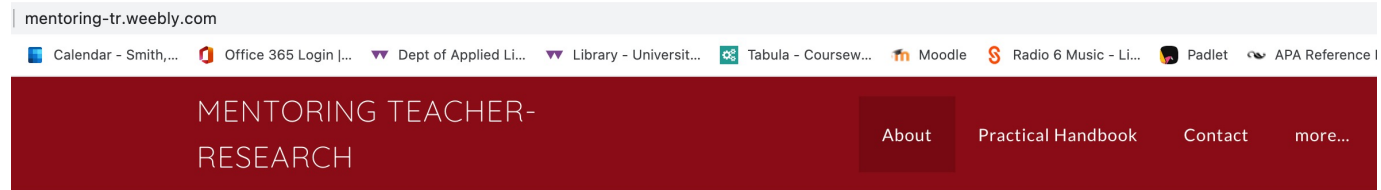


Mentoring-TR

Private group · 300 members



website: mentoring-tr.weebly.com



This is the website for a 'mentoring teacher-research' community of practitioners set up initially by **Richard Smith** in August 2019 in association with a **Facebook group** which all are welcome to join and a British Council India publication, *Mentoring Teachers to Research Their Classrooms: A Practical Handbook* (published in May 2020). The community has been strengthened by means of a series of input sessions and discussions (**EVO2020**) in January–February 2020 and, since May 2021, monthly online support group meetings. Participants' work mentoring teacher-researchers during the pandemic is showcased at an event on 27 November 2021 (poster below; registration link: bit.ly/3Fd9d02). Activity during 2020-21 is supported by a UK Economic and Social Research Council grant (ES/T502054/1).



Electronic Village Online (EVO) on Mentoring teacher-research, Jan.–Feb. 2020

147 registered

EVO 2020

Introduction

With the support of the [TESOL CALL-IS Electronic Village Online \(EVO\)](#) initiative and [IATEFL Research SIG](#), in January and February 2020 Richard Smith (University of Warwick, UK) and Seden Eraldemir Tuyan (Cağ University, Turkey) hosted a series of weekly input sessions and discussions on how to mentor teacher-research. This ran from January 11th to February 15th.

You can watch a [recording of the presentation they gave](#) about this in April 2020, with [further details here](#).



Why this EVO?

Teacher-research can be a powerful process, having a profound impact on teachers and learners. There are now quite a few resources on classroom-based research which are easily available to English language teachers. However, there is a lack of guidance on how to *support* teacher research, particularly as a mentor. Accordingly, this EVO aims to create a community of teacher-research mentors, providing an opportunity to share insights and provide specific guidance to enable mentors and prospective mentors to play what can be a pivotal role in supporting teacher-research.

EVO 2020 follow-up

2020 –Is (Exploratory) Action Research feasible during the pandemic?

Webinars on teaching in difficult circumstances

Enhancement mentoring for teacher-research

2021 – International Festival of teacher-research (for sense of hope)

Aim: organization of Teachers Research: Online 2021 [December 10th-11th]

Mentoring support group – monthly meetings starting in May

2020 – development of ‘enhancement mentoring for teacher-research’



'Enhancement mentoring for teacher-research: a hopeful response to Covid-19'

by Richard Smith, Erzsébet Ágnes Békés, Mariana Serra & Seden Eraldemir Tuyan

16 January 2021

The recording of the webinar can be accessed at rb.gy/6nmgk0

PowerPoint slides (pdf) are [here](#)

Mentimeter feedback from the warm-up activity is [here](#)

2021 – International Festival of Teacher-research in ELT

The International Festival of Teacher-Research in ELT

Face-to-face and online events promoting teacher-research as an empowering means of professional development for English teachers working in difficult circumstances worldwide

ABOUT · **2021 EVENTS** · RESOURCES · CONTACT · FAQs · 2017 EVENTS

Website: trfestival.wordpress.com/2021-events/

Twitter: @trfestiva

2021 Events

(upcoming and most recent events first)

Friday 10 December – Saturday 11 December 2021 – Drawing the festival to a close, our major event of the year will be the **Teachers Research! Online 2021** conference, co-organized with IATEFL Research SIG and sponsored by the A.S. Hornby Educational Trust Decentring ELT initiative. Join us for a jamboree of 110+ poster presentations over the two days by teacher-researchers from Argentina, Israel, Iraq, Israel, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Peru, Turkey and Uzbekistan. [Register here](#)

Saturday 27 November 2021, 14:00–17:30 GMT ([time where you are here](#)) – **Mentoring teacher-research – in a time of Covid-19** – An interactive event featuring poster presentations and Q&A with an international group of mentors who are participants in an online support group led by Richard Smith, University of Warwick, reflecting on their experiences mentoring teacher-researchers during 2021. Free, but registration is essential,

Search

Search ...

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ELTeacher-research
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Video of the 6 November International Festival of Teacher-research in ELT 2021 event is now available: youtu.be/TYvJMt1cxqU

YouTube @YouTube



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2021 – Mentoring teacher- research support initiative

- Monthly meetings advertised for former EVO participants, May – November
 - 52 registered, from countries ranging from Peru to Cameroon to Nepal to Japan; ave. attendance 30–40
 - Focus on mentoring teachers towards possible presentations at the December 10th–11th Teachers Research! Online 2021 conference
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Sessions	Materials to read	Topics to prepare / discuss
May 29th	Chapters 4 & 5	<p>How to get started</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who will you mentor?• Establishing accurate expectations• Building trust and rapport• Building confidence• Planning an initial orientation session <p>Planning a timeline, <u>communications</u> and record-keeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing structure via a shared timeline• Managing your time and supporting teachers to manage theirs• Deciding on channels of communication• <u>Making a communications plan</u>• Keeping records
June 26th	Chapters 7 & 8	<p>Helping teachers to select a topic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eliciting successes, <u>problems</u> and puzzles• Helping teachers to select one topic from several in their mind

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- Keeping track of progress

Guiding teachers to develop research questions

- Why research questions – and what kind?
- Identifying areas of uncertainty through mentoring dialogue
- From areas of uncertainty to exploratory research questions
- Different types of exploratory research questions
- Effective and ineffective research questions
- Keeping track of progress

July 24th Chapter 9

Preparing teachers to collect data

- Building research into normal teaching
- Introducing teachers to different types of data
- Matching data types to research questions
- Gaining necessary permissions
- Helping teachers to plan a data collection schedule
- Difficulties in data collection
- Keeping track of progress

August 28th Chapter 10

Supporting teachers to analyse and interpret data

- Quantitative and qualitative data
- Coding and categorising qualitative data
- Working with quantitative data
- A mentor's role in helping teachers analyse and interpret data
- Teacher-learning: an emerging research 'finding'

September 25th Chapter 11

Supporting teachers to plan and evaluate change

- Deciding on next steps following exploration
- Sources of appropriate action
- Evaluating change
- Planning a schedule for action and evaluation
- Interpreting findings from the 'action' stage

October 23rd Chapter 12

Helping teachers to share and reflect on their research

- Why should teachers share their research?
- Sharing through presenting
- What should be in a research presentation or write-up?
- Encouraging overall reflection
- Sharing through writing
- Sharing multimodally online


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- Publishing your own experiences and reflections

November 27th

General discussion and reflection

December 10th–11th

Conference: Teachers Research! Online 2021

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- Groups.io forum, sharing experiences, questions, etc.
 - Monthly (90-min.) meeting format:

Topic and stimulus from handbook ->

Discussion in break-out rooms ->

Reporting back re. issues arising

- Thanks to Abdullah Al-Rawahi and Zening Yang
University of Warwick / ESRC grant
(ES/T502054/1)
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