

Conference Reports

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Abstract

Each issue of Hillary Place Papers welcomes reflections by PGR and MA students who have attended conferences. In the first piece, Aimi Nur Mohamad Ramzan considers the impact of Leeds-Hull MA TESOL Conference 2024. In the second, the HPP editorial team outlines how their development work on the journal has informed a series of presentations at conferences across the UK. If you would like to submit a reflection, a book review or other shorter piece for Hillary Place Papers, please look out for our next call for papers, or email the editorial team.

Leeds-Hull MA TESOL Conference 2024

Attending the Leeds-Hull MA TESOL Conference 2024 was a highlight of my postgraduate life at the University of Leeds. As a MA TESOL Studies student, I presented a poster on “Measuring Digital Competence: Pre-service Teachers (PST) Readiness for Online Teaching”, based on a small-scale study I conducted during my BA in Education (TESOL) at the University of Nottingham.

Selecting the most relevant information for the poster was a challenge as I wanted to include everything in one poster. Therefore, I am glad I sent a draft to the conference committee who provided feedback and made amendments before the presentation day. It was nerve-wrecking to present in a face-to-face conference. However, familiar faces in the audience made me feel super relieved and enjoyed the process.

I am glad I decided to present at the conference as it provided a chance for me to meet with a renowned researcher in vocabulary acquisition, Dr Diane Schmitt. Our conversation encouraged me to think and explore on the relationship between Malaysian pre-service teachers’ digital competence and their strategies in using digital technologies to teach vocabulary to their future students. In addition, as I engaged with other researchers who were also researching digital competence, I realised that it is an emerging topic for research globally and this encourages me to pursue my PhD in the related field for teacher education.

Overall, I really enjoyed presenting my poster and meeting other researchers at the conference. I look forward to presenting at more conferences in the future.

Hillary Place Papers on tour

Since the publication of HPP 8, the editorial team have been working on research about student-led journals in higher education. This project has led us to present papers and posters at a number of conferences including the BERA ECR conference in June 2024 (Harwood et al., 2024), our own Research Students’ Education Conference in 2024 in July 2024 (Talbot et al., 2024a) and the International Research Culture Conference at the University of Warwick in September 2024 (Talbot et al, 2024b). We were also pleased to have had an abstract accepted for the upcoming BERA ECR conference.

Keywords

Conference Attendance
TESOL
Pre service teachers
Digital competence
Online teaching
Vocabulary acquisition
Teacher education
PhD Researcher

The lessons learned from the experiences of pulling together these presentations, along with the research which informed them, has led us to overhaul the journal’s purposes and processes. We hope you have noticed some of this work in this issue. All articles now have ISSN numbers and back copies of the journal are held in the British library, the format of the journal has been professionalised and there is lots of ongoing work on widening both the scope and audience of the journal.

Behind the scenes work is ongoing. We look forward to sharing more of this with you in issue 10!

References

- Harwood, A., Talbot, M., Karimova, D., Wainwright, H. & Podesta, E. 2024. Navigating Collective Academic Development: A Case Study of the Activity of the Editorial Board of a Community Academic Journal. Presentation for BERA ECR Annual Conference, 5th June 2024, Leeds. [Link to abstract](#)
- Talbot, M., Harwood, A., Karimova, D., Wainwright, H. & Podesta, E. 2024a. Navigating Collective Academic Development: A Case Study of the Activity of the Editorial Board of a Community Academic Journal. Poster presentation for the Research Students’ Education Conference, 18th July 2024, Leeds.
- Talbot, M., Harwood, A., Karimova, D., Wainwright, H. & Podesta, E. 2024b. Navigating Collective Academic Development: A Case Study of the Activity of the Editorial Board of a Community Academic Journal. Poster presentation for The International Research Culture Conference, 16th September 2024, Warwick.