

Report of the Research Network on Learner Autonomy in Language Learning Activities 2014-2017

In accordance with the AILA guidelines governing Research Networks, the AILA Research Network on Learner Autonomy (ReNLA) in Language Learning here by submits its report for the period 2014-2017. Prepared by the ReNLA 2014-2017 Conveners, Moira Hobbs mhobbs@unitec.ac.nz, Kerstin Dofs kerstin.Dofs@ara.ac.nz and Alice Chik alice.chik@gmail.com

Scope and Aim of the ReNLA

The ReNLA is a multinational community of more than 500 researchers dedicated to the advancement of the understanding of the role of learner autonomy in language learning. The ReNLA aims to promote research and disseminate findings on 1) the nature of learner autonomy, 2) the conditions under which learner autonomy develops in individuals, and 3) the processes by which teachers or advisors might encourage or enhance learner autonomy in specific learning contexts. In accordance with these aims, the ReNLA seeks to fulfil the following objectives:

- to maintain a data-base of its members and the research projects undertaken by them and other researchers
- to maintain a website and a bibliography of material related to learner autonomy
- to maintain a discussion forum online, AUTO-L
- contribute to AILA newsletters
- to hold forums at the World Congress of AILA and at other appropriate times in which research is presented and discussed.

ReNLA Activities 2014-2017

In fulfilment of its objectives and the AILA guidelines governing ReNs, the ReNLA has engaged in the following activities over the past three years:

Election of Conveners

Following the AILA World Congress 2014 in Brisbane Australia, the ReNLA held properly constituted elections which enabled members to nominate and vote for conveners. As a result, Kerstin Dofs (Ara Institute of Canterbury) and Moira Hobbs (Unitec) both from New Zealand, were elected. To ensure continuity, Alice Chik, (Macquarie University) Australia, was elected for a second term.

Committee Members Reports

Committee positions of responsibility

Discussion list (AUTO-L) administrator - Lucy Cooker

Doctoral theses - Peter Huang, Nana Long

E-bulletin editor - Harry Kuchah Kuchah

Events - Mehmet Boyno

LALL editors - Lucy Cooker, Miroslaw Pawlak

Membership - Alice Chik

Members' publications - N/A

Research agenda - Naoko Aoki with discussion leaders, David Palfreyman, Xuesong (Andy) Gao, Martin Lamb, Terry Lamb, Garold Murray and Alice Chik

Resources for beginners - Naoko Aoki, Sarah Mercer, Kerstin Dofs

Website coordinator - Jo Mynard

Web interactivity - Alice Chik

Members-at-large - Vasumathi Badrinathan, Liliane Sade

E-discussion list

AUTO-L is the ReNLA's e-discussion list. Over the past few years some discussions have been held, either spontaneously or facilitated by the conveners. Recent discussions have focused on suggesting and selecting appropriate themes for the Rio Congress ReNLA symposium. Lucy Cooker is the technical host of the AUTO-L list which is hosted by <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/>. Once you join AILA ReNLA by emailing Alice Chik at alice.chik@gmail.com you will automatically become a member of this AUTO-L discussion list. When you are a member and want to post a message, use this email address AUTO-L@JISCMail.AC.UK

Doctoral Theses

Nothing to report

E-bulletin

Nothing to report

Events, conferences, symposia, and forums

The events list has been updated to include 2018. Over the past three years ReNLA members have organized conferences, symposia, and forums in various parts of the world. A notable example is the Independent Learning Association 2016 ILA Conference in Wuhan, China, organised by Huazhong University of Science & Technology (HUST), with Kerstin Dofs and Moira Hobbs as members of the organising committee. At this conference many ReNLA members presented papers. Another example is the IATEFL SIG on [Learner Autonomy](#) which is coordinated by Christian Ludwig and symposia are held in many parts of the world.

LALL editors

Nothing to report

Membership Database

The ReNLA has maintained a database of members which is constantly updated. As of July, 2014 the ReNLA had 504 members from over 40 countries. Alice Chik is responsible for the membership list.

Members' Publications

Papers from the 2014 AILA Symposium in Brisbane will appear in the book 'Space, Place and Autonomy in Learning and Teaching' published by Routledge and edited by Terry Lamb and Garold Murray. There are many more publications from the last three years to be added after the 2017 congress.

Research Agenda

The book project, Research Agenda, has been on hold for a while, but now it is back on track. Hopefully it will go to the publisher in a couple of months.

Resources for beginners

There have been some alterations in the last three years but needs to be updated.

Website

A ReN website <http://www.ailarenla.org/> was created enabling members—and non-members—to access information on and links to: conferences organized around the world on the theme of learner autonomy, resources related to learner autonomy, related websites for instance AILA, language centres, and organizations focusing on learner autonomy such as the IATEFL SIG on Learner Independence, Professional Language Advisors Network, TESOL Arabia SIG on Learner Independence, the Independent Learning Association (ILA) and the Ciel Language Support Network. Jo Mynard, Director of the SAC at KUIS, in Chiba, Tokyo, designed and rebuilt the site. She is also the website co-ordinator and Alice Chik has the role of web interactivity.

Other Activities

Autonomy Bibliography

Members are invited to submit references to their publications for inclusion in a comprehensive bibliography which can be reached via the ReNLA website <http://www.ailarenla.org/>

Newsletter

The ReNLA produces newsletter updates via the AILA Research Networks Co-ordinator informing members of upcoming events, recent publications, and research projects in the area of learner autonomy. The newsletter also informs members of events that have taken place and ReNLA related business. Notices have been posted regularly in the AILA Matters section of the International Journal of Applied Linguistics e.g.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ijal.12171/full>

Symposium

The current ReNLA is hosting a special symposium at the AILA World Congress 2017 in Rio. The theme of the symposium is Learner Autonomy in Today's Developed and Developing World. Researchers from six different countries will discuss their research. It is noteworthy that—in accordance with AILA ReN guidelines - three of the presenters are new scholars: at least one has recently completed their PhD's and at least two are currently PhD candidates. (See the [2017 symposium programme](#)).