

DAVID M. PALFREYMAN

I have been working in ELT and teacher development for more than twenty-five years, and still enjoy it. I have worked with learners aged 8 to 60 in a range of contexts, from asylum seeker programmes in the UK to a military middle school in the desert of the UAE, as well as online doctoral courses. Throughout this time I have aimed to foster and build on the autonomy which I found in all those learners.

My PhD research in the 1990's focused on learner autonomy and curriculum, and in 2003 I co-edited with Richard Smith the collection "Learner Autonomy Across Cultures", which has been cited numerous times. In various articles, book chapters and presentations I have explored how learning and autonomy fit into social, cultural and institutional contexts within which we work. In my present role I am active in teacher-researcher support, and have experience of working with teachers and learners in a range of subject areas in addition to language education.

I have been involved with the AILA Learner Autonomy Scientific Commission and now Research Network since 1999, contributing to the SC's newsletter and to AUTO-L as a discussant and facilitator, and most recently leading the development of a research agenda on learner autonomy and groups, discussed in a presentation at the AILA Congress in Brisbane.

I am keen to continue the valuable work done by the previous convenors to link up professionals across the world and to promote and illuminate the field of learner autonomy through collation of information, events and discussion. I hope that the ReN can develop a vibrant online and offline community which builds on its history (through archiving and review of previous work) and explores new media and means for connecting with the teaching and research interests of its membership.