

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 13th
ANNUAL PRONUNCIATION IN
SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING
AND TEACHING CONFERENCE**

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Learning and Teaching Pronunciation in Diverse Contexts

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INTRODUCTION

The 2022 PSLLT conference was full of firsts. Most importantly, it was the first in-person conference since the beginning of the pandemic. Ongoing travel restrictions impacted registration, and final numbers remained in flux until the day before the conference as some delegates tested positive for COVID at the last minute, or experienced other restrictions related to the pandemic. Remarkably, no transmission was reported during the conference. Although fewer people attended than in recent years, those who were there really valued the opportunity to see their colleagues and friends in person after a cancelled conference in 2020 and a virtual conference in 2021.

Another first was the introduction of a public lecture at a PSLLT event: Murray Munro presented a highly entertaining and accessible lecture on *Foreign Accents: Their Mystique, Social Meaning and Scientific Significance*.

Although other PSLLT conferences have included presentations on Indigenous language pronunciation, this conference was the first to offer a featured presentation on language revitalization: Sonya Bird and Rae Ann Claxton spoke on *Pronunciation in the context of Hul'q'umi'num' language revitalization*. In addition, Indigenous language scholars were offered complimentary registration to the conference.

The theme of the conference was the same theme proposed for the cancelled 2020 conference: Learning and Teaching Pronunciation in Diverse Contexts. The Organizing Committee consisted of Ron Thomson, Tracey Derwing, Andrew Lee, & John Levis. Katarina Hiebert was the Conference Assistant and the following were student volunteers: Osama Chattha, Caroline Duarte Ramos Avila, Jordan Gallant, Alyssa Gauthier, Xiaojun Liu, Alessandra Perri and Laura Stansfield.

The organizers are grateful to the 36 abstract reviewers for their helpful feedback.

In Salt Lake City, Ames and Flagstaff, pre-conference workshops were offered. The 2022 PSLLT also had two stellar pre-conference workshops. *How to build and contribute to spoken corpora for L2 pronunciation research* was presented by Amanda Huensch (in person) and Romy Ghanem and Shelley Staples (via Zoom). *Investigating the phonological structure of the L2 lexicon: Designing and conducting experiments* was prepared by Rachel Hayes-Harb and Shannon Barrios. Unfortunately, Rachel was unable to attend in person at the last minute, but Shannon did a great job.

It is customary to have a single plenary at PSLLT. Malgorzata (Gosia) Baran-Łuczarska presented a comprehensive examination of individual differences in her talk, entitled '*Show me who you are...*' *Re-examining the role of individual differences in L2 pronunciation learning and teaching*.

Another highly popular featured presentation was offered by Mary Grantham O'Brien, who spoke on *Pronunciation training in the absence of native listeners*.

Following the usual format of PSLLT conferences, the Poster Session was held at lunch time, and conference delegates were offered boxed lunches, so that they could take the time to really closely examine several of the posters.

As usual, the posters and presentations were of very high quality, as was the Teaching Tips session at the end of the conference.

The conference dinner offered another first, in that it was the first banquet to be held in a winery. Conference-goers were shuttled to the venue in disco buses – that was another first and likely a last! An unusual feature of the conference dinner was the inclusion of a presentation given over dessert. This included a video of a man of dubious origins who was somewhat reminiscent of a hoser from the 1970s, judging from his hair and clothing ('hoser' is a Canadian term made popular on SCTV by Bob and Doug McKenzie, meaning 'uncultivated person'). The presentation, *To say PSLLT or PSLLT, that is the question*, started with the following premise: Levis (2016) hypothesizes the existence of a geographically-determined preference for pronouncing PSLLT as [ˈpʰɪsəlt] (as opposed to [ˈpʰɪɛsələlti]). More specifically, his hypothesis claims that this preference is most pronounced (no pun intended) among populations residing north of the 49th parallel. The presenter went on to show that, in fact, the first form is used in many diverse geographical settings, including Melbourne, Australia.

After the presentation, which left all but a few confused people in stitches, Tracey Derwing briefly summarized John Levis' many contributions to the field of L2 pronunciation, and Murray Munro led the banquet attendees in a toast to John. The disco buses then took the attendees to Niagara Falls to see the falls by night.

Following another day of successful presentations, Ron Thomson and Andrew Lee thanked everyone who contributed to a successful 13th annual PSLLT conference. They also acknowledged the sponsors and publishers who offered support:

Sponsors

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THE 13th PROCEEDINGS

As a consequence of the smaller numbers of participants at the 2022 PSLLT Conference, these proceedings contain fewer papers than in previous years. In keeping with the conference theme, however, they represent a remarkably diverse range of topics, including numerous studies utilizing technology to teach L2 pronunciation, in addition to studies of classroom-based instruction and L2 pronunciation learning in informal contexts. One paper argues that we should extend our definition of what constitutes acceptable L2 pronunciation to Expanding Circle World English contexts. Another paper provides an autobiographical sketch of the hazards of learning to pronounce words in a foreign language. In addition to a diversity of topics, the papers in this volume comprise a wider than normal range of L2 pronunciation targets, including English, Mandarin, French, Polish, Arabic, Mohawk and Seneca (the latter two being Indigenous Canadian languages). The volume concludes with four new Teaching Tips for learners of English, Mandarin and German.

The organizers encourage members of the pronunciation community to attend upcoming PSLLT conferences and to contribute if they have research or a teaching tip to offer.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ron Thomson is Professor of Applied Linguistics and TESL at Brock University. His research focuses on the development of L2 pronunciation and oral fluency. He is also the creator of www.englishaccentcoach.com, a freely available pronunciation teaching and research platform, which utilizes High Variability Phonetic Training (HVPT).

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