

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 12th
ANNUAL PRONUNCIATION IN
SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNING
AND TEACHING CONFERENCE**

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EDITORS

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Virtual PSLLT

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The worldwide pandemic caused numerous changes in almost every aspect of our lives. This was especially true in our inability to meet together in person. Early on during the pandemic, conferences were canceled (as was true of PSLLT in 2020), and later, conferences were held virtually (as happened for PSLLT in 2021), or were offered in hybrid format (with some sessions in person and others held at a distance). The field of pronunciation was also forced to address teaching and sharing research in new ways that were out of our typical comfort zone. While the PSLLT conference was canceled in 2020, following the lead of many large and well-known conferences, the online format was adopted for the first virtual conference in 2021. As Jimmy Dean stated, “I can’t change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination.”

While the change to remote format was inevitable, we learned that change could also mean growth, movement, and endless opportunities for professional development. As Levis and Sonsaat Hegelheimer (2021) wrote, there were silver linings to the clouds of the pandemic. Professional development became more rather than less accessible, leading to a large number of online lectures, webinars, and conferences. These conferences also were often far more affordable, making them

available to researchers and teachers who would not normally be able to take advantage of conference going. Even though we have more recently gone back to in-person conferences, many of these changes show every sign of continuing. The Pronunciation Special Interest Group (PRONSIG) of IATEFL regularly holds online mini-conferences or book studies. Marsha Chan and her colleagues of the Teaching of Pronunciation Interest Group for California TESOL (CATESOL) hold monthly webinars with experts from around the world for a nominal fee to non-CATESOL members. The Speech, Pronunciation, and Listening Interest Section (SPLIS) of International TESOL likewise continues to hold special events online, even within the bounds of the in-person annual convention.

Likewise, we pushed the limits of our creativity and organized not one, but two PSLLT conferences organized by Ron Thomson, Tracey Derwing, and Katarina Hiebert at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario in 2021 ([Virtual PSLLT](#)) and in [2022](#) (an in-person conference). In 2021, we (like conferences everywhere) took a novel approach with prerecorded, virtual presentations and live, virtual question/answer sessions after the presentations. We were also able to open the platform to professionals, scholars, and educators worldwide. Quite honestly, we were not sure how many people would take advantage of this opportunity. Like most things during the pandemic, we were all making it up as we went along. But for those who could not afford the large expenses to travel, the opportunity to attend presentations from world-recognized professionals was now only a click away with a modest fee for becoming part of the conference. The completely unexpected number of 360 attendees (100 more than our previous in-person conference, which was also a record) showed how valuable it was to have increased accessibility to information and widespread interest in pronunciation research during the pandemic. While some challenges and concerns regarding the technology and online platforms existed, it was safe to assume that all attendees would have some type of experience working online during the lockdown and throughout the pandemic.

These proceedings likewise show a larger than usual number of papers. The proceedings include a paper from our invited speaker, Professor Marnie Reed of Boston University, writing about a teacher's view of research. There are 34 articles about empirical research on different aspects of pronunciation in a variety of different languages. These peer-reviewed papers are all around 4,000 words long, and they are eminently accessible by novice and expert readers alike. Following previous PSLLT Proceedings, these proceedings also include a sampling of five papers on teaching tips presented at the conference. Recordings of these and other teaching tips are available at www.pronunciationforteachers.com. Finally, though not part of the conference, the proceedings include several technology reviews written by my (John's) doctoral students at Iowa State University. These reviews may be of interest to others in the field, and it seems that the proceedings are an appropriate place to make them available.

The PSLLT proceedings are now hosted by the Iowa State University Digital Press at <https://www.iastatedigitalpress.com/psllt/>. Each year can be accessed under the Issues tab, with current papers all assigned their own doi number for easy access. It is our plan to do the same with all proceedings papers so that topics can be easily searched within the system. As is always the case with the PSLLT Proceedings, we hope that you find them personally and professionally useful, and we hope to have you join us at a future PSLLT conference. The next conference will be held at Purdue University, September 6-8, 2023. More information can be found at <http://www.purdue.edu/conferences/PSLLT2023>. We also are thankful for our colleagues at Purdue. They originally planned to host PSLLT in 2021 but graciously delayed hosting until we were able to have an in-person conference at Brock University again.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Agata Guskaroska is a Fulbright alumna, currently a Ph.D. candidate in Applied Linguistics and Technology at Iowa State University. She has taught EFL and composition courses, as well as a Global Online Course and MOOC, Using Technology in the English Language Classroom. She has been working as a speaking and writing consultant at the Center for Communication excellence and currently serves as the community manager of the Speech Pronunciation & Listening (SPLIS) interest section. Her research interests include computer-assisted language learning, pronunciation teaching and technology, and sociolinguistics.

John M. Levis is Professor of Applied Linguistics and Technology at Iowa State University. He is founding editor of the *Journal of Second Language Pronunciation* and the founder of the Pronunciation in Second Language Learning and Teaching Conference. He is the author of *Intelligibility, Oral Communication and the Teaching of Pronunciation* and co-editor of several books, including *Second Language Pronunciation: Bridging the Gap Between Research and Practice*. He has also been the primary editor of most years of the PSLLT Proceedings.

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