

Preface to the 20th Anniversary Issue

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With our Spring 2021 volume, *Studies in Applied Linguistics & TESOL* (SALT) celebrates its twentieth anniversary. The journal was founded in 2001, originally called *Working Papers in TESOL and Applied Linguistics*. In the late 1990s, a young faculty member ZhaoHong Han joined the TESOL and Applied Linguistics Program at Teachers College. Inspired by a journal published by the University of Hawaii called *Working Papers in ESL Studies* -- one that evolved over time into a very influential outlet, Dr. Han wanted to create synergy among doctoral students across the three tracks of SLA, assessment and language use, offering them authentic editorial experience as well as a platform to publish their work-in-progress. The web journal was subsequently founded to be a place of incubation, a venue where students and scholars could experiment with ongoing ideas for their research and receive feedback from multiple perspectives. The journal grew to garner an international reputation over the years and changed its name to SALT in 2019.

Since its inception in 2001, SALT has published 93 original research studies and literature reviews, over 200 forums, 56 book reviews, and 17 interviews with notable names in applied linguistics. In addition, in our commitment to foster discussions within the Applied Linguistics and TESOL community, SALT has regularly hosted academic lectures, presentations, and workshops by established and up-and-coming scholars in the field.

Without a doubt, over the last two decades, there have been many changes to the community of students, educators, and researchers that it serves, and to the field of applied linguistics and TESOL as a whole. Nevertheless, our focus and scope have remained the same: a conceptual framework that values an integration of theory and practice. This 20th anniversary represents an extraordinary milestone, and in the coming years, *Studies in Applied Linguistics & TESOL* will continue to serve as a venue for full-length, peer-reviewed articles dealing, in a principled way, with language, language use, language acquisition, language teaching, and language assessment, and most importantly, it will continue to be a place of incubation where ideas are free to develop and mature.

In closing, this anniversary issue is dedicated to our faculty sponsors both past and present: ZhaoHong Han, Michael Keiffer, Hansun Zhang Waring, and Vivian Lindhardsen; former Editors: Santoi Wagner, Monika Ekiert, Kirby Grabowski-Lim, Adrienne Wai Man Lew, Catherine Box, Yuna Seong, and Nadja Tadic; and to [all of our past book review editors and editorial board members](#).

Lastly, a big thank you for our patrons for your readership!