

Doing the Best You Can – The Power of Teacher-Research

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Definitions

'Teacher-learner autonomy' = 'ability and willingness to take control of one's own *learning as a teacher*, independently and in cooperation with others'

'Continuous professional development (CPD)' = 'a planned, continuous and lifelong process whereby teachers try to develop their personal and professional qualities, and to improve their knowledge, skills and practice, leading to their empowerment and the development of their organizations and their pupils'

'Reflective practice' = reflecting on action so as to engage in a process of continuous learning'

'Research' = 'systematic inquiry made public' / 'formulating questions, gathering data, analysing it and sharing the findings'

'Teacher-research' = 'research which is initiated and carried out by teachers themselves in relation to their own contexts' / 'Addressing questions that arise from your practice by gathering information, analysing and interpreting it, and sharing what you find'

'Exploratory teacher-research' = 'investigating a problem or puzzle in one's teaching thoroughly, from as many angles as possible, in order to develop a deeper *understanding* of the situation'

'Action research' = 'aiming not only for understanding of a problem but also (then?) for *change*, involving a plan of action (a plan to bring about change) and the evaluation of whether / what change occurs'

For more information on and examples of teacher-research, see:

http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/al/staff/teaching/smith/action_research

IATEFL Research SIG Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/iateflresig/>

This and other handouts and information will be placed here:

<http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/richardcsmith/cameroon>

Workshop activities

1) Some of my problems, puzzles and concerns (in relation to teaching)

2) What *questions* do I want to answer (in relation to the above)?

3) How can I get information to answer my questions?

4) Who can help me? / Who can I discuss and share the information with?