

Call for Papers – Synergy in Action (SynAct) Online Symposium September 16, 2025

organised by

Constanze Dreßler (University of Wuppertal) & Rebecca Schlieckmann (University of Wuppertal)

Keynote speakers:



Julie Choi
(University of Melbourne)



David Nunan
(University of Hong Kong)



Janine Bruns
(QUA-LiS NRW)



Philipp Siepmann
(University of Münster)

The symposium focuses on experiences gained in participating in teacher-researcher collaboration. We use the potential of autoethnography for identifying and reflecting on roles in collaborative settings in language education and turning possible pitfalls into insights and opportunities for transformative moments. Julie Choi & David Nunan will provide an introduction to autoethnography and action research in language education contexts. An introduction to collaborative research will be given by the teacher-researcher team Janine Bruns & Philipp Siepmann.

We warmly invite teachers and researchers who have engaged in collaborative research to share their stories with us — and we especially welcome newcomers curious to explore collaborative efforts and autoethnography. Join us for an online symposium where we come together as equals to reflect, exchange, and celebrate the rich, lived beauty of classroom-based research.

Collaboration between teachers and researchers is essential for bridging the theory and practice gap, fostering innovation, and improving teacher practice and research projects. While it can involve friction, this partnership empowers teachers with research-based insights and offers researchers real-world perspectives. In this context, autoethnography can shed light on pivotal moments, spark deep reflection, and make each other's voices heard – paving the way for meaningful and lasting change.

We extend an invitation to (English) language teachers as well as early-career researchers and more experienced researchers to share their ideas, experiences and critical incidents related to the following topics:

- **Collaborative research** between teachers and researchers (and associated challenges and benefits)
- **Field access** and related consequences for engaging in teacher research (e.g. experiences with Departments of Education, etc.)
- **Research ethics** in collaborative research
- **Reflection on the collaborative research** approach as a **by-product** of the actual research project or teaching practice

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Abstracts (max. 250 words + short biography of 50 words) can be submitted for the following formats:

- 1) **Sharing Stories:** In particular, we invite teachers and researchers to share with us their personal experiences of taking part in research projects, both negative and positive. (15 mins. + 5 mins. for questions)
- 2) **Presentation:** Please outline your insights, experiences and / or critical incidents, either connected to your teaching practice or research project. (20 mins + 10 mins. discussion)

Send your abstract to: dressler@uni-wuppertal.de & schlieckmann@uni-wuppertal.de

Deadline: June 15, 2025