

Ben Naismith

PhD Linguistics Student

English Language Teacher, Teacher Trainer

Writer, and Researcher

location: Pittsburgh, U.S.A.
email: bnaismith@pitt.edu
phone: +1 (412) 863-2539
skype: BenNaismithELT

Profile:

I am a second-year Linguistics PhD student at the University of Pittsburgh as well as an experienced teacher and teacher trainer of English as a Foreign Language (EFL). My professional goal is to continue to develop as a researcher in order to bridge the gap between academics and practitioners in the field of teaching EFL.

Research interests:

Primarily, my research interests relate to the lexical development of adult ESL learners, teacher pedagogy, second language acquisition, and corpus linguistics. These interests have informed my current choice of classes and the planning stages of my dissertation. In addition, I am a member of the University of Pittsburgh English Language Institute Data Mining Group who focus on applying computational methods to the Pitt ELI Corpus (PELIC; <https://github.com/ELI-Data-Mining-Group/Pitt-ELI-Corpus>). My doctoral advisor is Dr. Alan Juffs.

Education:

Sep 2017 – Present	PhD Linguistics	University of Pittsburgh	Pittsburgh, U.S.A
Oct 2012 – Jun 2016	MSc Applied Linguistics	Aston University	Birmingham, England
Sep 2007 – Dec 2007	Cambridge DELTA	Global Village	Vancouver, Canada
Sep 2000 – May 2005	BA Music	Thompson Rivers University	Kamloops, Canada
Sep 1992 – Jun 1999	High School Diploma	St. Michaels University School	Victoria, Canada

Publications:

- Naismith, B. 2018 (accepted). From Rules to Reasons by Danny Norrington-Davies. *Modern English Teacher*.
- Naismith, B. 2018. The Lazy Teacher Trainer's Handbook by Magnus Coney. *BC TEAL Journal*, 3(1): pp 90-92.
- Naismith, B., Han, N.-R., Juffs, A., Hill, B. L., & Zheng, D. 2018. Accurate Measurement of Lexical Sophistication with Reference to ESL Learner Data. *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Educational Data Mining* (Boyer, K.E. and Yudelson, M. Eds.). Buffalo, NY. Pp 259-265.
- Naismith, B. 2017 (accepted). Up in the Cloud: Collocations with "Make" and "Let". *New Ways in Teaching with Corpora*. Maryland: TESOL Press.
- Naismith, B. 2017. Integrating corpus tools on intensive CELTA courses. *ELT Journal*, 71 (3): pp 273-283. doi:10.1093/elt/ccw076.
- Naismith, B. 2017. The Practice of English Language Teaching (4th ed) by Jeremy Harmer. *Modern English Teacher*, 26 (3).
- Naismith, B. and C. Ožóg. 2015. Crazy Ed and the Past Simple Affirmative. *IH Journal Blog*, 21/10/15: Online.
- Naismith, B. 2013. Educational role models. *Gulf News* [Dubai, U.A.E.]. Aug 2013: Print.
- Naismith, B. 2012. Tolerance of Ambiguity. *English Connection KOTESOL*, 16 (4): pp 14-15, 21.
- Naismith, B. 2012. Trainee See, Trainee Do?. *International House Journal*, 33 (2): Online.

Conference presentations:

Apr 2015	<i>Connecting Intuition to Reality</i>	BC TEAL	<i>Vancouver, Canada</i>
May 2013	<i>Freedom Through Restriction</i>	IH World Organization	<i>Online webinar</i>
Jan 2013	<i>Using Corpora in the Classroom</i>	IH DoS conference	<i>London, UK</i>
Mar 2012	<i>Experiential Learning in Teacher Training</i>	TESOL Arabia	<i>Dubai, UAE</i>
Nov 2011	<i>Dealing with Emergent Language</i>	IH World Organization	<i>Online webinar</i>
Sep 2011	<i>Dealing with Stress</i>	Universidad Latina	<i>San José, Costa Rica</i>
Jan 2011	<i>An Introduction to the CEFR</i>	Centro Cultural	<i>San José, Costa Rica</i>
Jun 2010	<i>An Introduction to the CEFR</i>	Universidad Latina	<i>San José, Costa Rica</i>

University teaching and service:

Spring 2019	Teaching Fellow – <i>Introduction to Linguistics</i>
Fall 2018	Teaching Fellow – <i>Morphology; Language, Gender and Society</i>
Fall 2018 – Ongoing	Member of the Department of Linguistics Colloquium Committee
Spring 2005	Teaching Assistant – <i>Jazz Ensemble</i>
Fall 2004	Teaching Assistant – <i>Jazz History</i>

English Language Teaching experience:

2012 – Ongoing <i>Freelance ELT work</i> – <i>teacher training</i> – <i>international examining</i> – <i>materials development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online tutor and assessor for IH World teacher training courses• Cambridge Delta and CELTA tutor and assessor• IELTS Senior Examiner and Examiner for IELTS IDP• Materials developer and editor for Cambridge University Press, Macmillan Education, Cloud 9 ESL, and ABAX Publishing
Dec 2014 – Dec 2016 <i>Head of Teacher Training</i> <i>IH Vancouver</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivery and administration of Delta and CELTA• Creating and gaining approval and accreditation for Delta program• Developmental observations of teachers and teacher trainers
Jun 2012 – Nov 2014 <i>Director of Studies</i> <i>IH Dubai</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality management of all aspects of language department• Recruitment, supervision, and professional development of teaching staff• Teacher training including CELTA, workshops and courses for clients
Feb 2006 – Jun 2012 <i>Various positions</i> <i>IH San José</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director of Studies (2.5 years)• Teacher Training Coordinator (2 years)• English Language Teacher (2 years)
Jan 2004 – May 2005 <i>Academic English Tutor</i> <i>Humber College</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutor in college writing centre for 20 hours per week• Academic English tutorials to improve college writing skills• Delivered workshops to Writing Centre staff
Nov 2002 – Jul 2003 <i>English Language Teacher</i> <i>ECC Lampang</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EFL teacher of young learners and adults of varying levels• General English, Business English, and IELTS preparation• Class sizes of 1-30 learners

Volunteer teaching:

Mar 2012 – Jun 2012

English Language Teacher

- Organized and taught free English classes to learners in San José, Costa Rica who could not otherwise afford classes

Dec 2002 – Jun 2003

English Language Teacher

- Travelled and taught free English classes to learners in rural Lampang, Thailand who could not otherwise afford classes

Materials development:

2018	<i>New 19: First (working title)</i>	Cambridge English	<i>Content editor</i>
2018	<i>Academic Listening and Speaking</i>	ABAX ELT Publishers	<i>Material writer</i>
2018	<i>Inside Out 4th Edition</i>	Macmillan	<i>Material writer</i>
2018	<i>World Voices</i>	ABAX ELT Publishers	<i>Material writer / Editor</i>
2017	<i>Asian Issues 2</i>	ABAX ELT Publishers	<i>Content / Copy Editor</i>
2017	<i>Empower</i>	Cambridge English	<i>Copy editor</i>
2016	<i>Cloud 9 ESL Program</i>	Cloud 9 Education Group	<i>Material writer / Content Editor</i>
2013	<i>Teacher Training Course</i>	International House Online	<i>Material writer</i>

Awards and honours:

Dec 2018	Albert H. Marckwardt Travel Grant	<i>TESOL International Association</i>
Nov 2018	Linguistics Student Conference Participation Grant	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>
Apr 2018	School of Arts & Sciences Summer Fellowship	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>
Jan 2018	Trudeau Foundation Scholar nominee	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>
Apr 2017	Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship	<i>University of Pittsburgh</i>
Jan 2017	'Merit' for MSc in Applied Linguistics	<i>Aston University</i>
May 2005	'Distinction' for BA in Music	<i>Thompson Rivers University</i>
Jul 1999	Passport to Education Award	<i>Canadian Provincial Government</i>

Professional memberships:

- IATEFL member (Research SIG)
- BC TEAL member
- TESL Canada accredited (level 3)
- Oxford Journals – Applied Linguistics Review Board
- International House Journal Review Board
- BC TEAL Journal Review Board

Additional qualifications:

Teacher Training

- Delta tutor/assessor
- CELTA tutor/assessor
- ICALT tutor
- IH CYL tutor
- TKT assessor
- LAC tutor
- CAM tutor
- TTC tutor

International Examining

- IELTS online senior examiner
- IELTS examiner trainer
- IELTS examiner
- Cambridge English Team Leader (2012-2014)
- Cambridge English Speaking Examiner (2006-2014)

Other

- TESOL Cert. (TEFL International)
- IH Director of Studies Skills Cert.
- IH COLT (Cert. in Online Tutoring)
- IH FCE Skills Course Cert.
- Net languages on-line tutor
- Advanced Spanish (C1 on CEFR)
- Elementary French (A2 on CEFR)
- Beginner ASL (A1 on CEFR)

References, details of past teaching experience, and documentation are available upon request.