

New Publications

The Heart of the Matter (the great debate and two festschrifts)

[Paperback](#) in large print
or [Kindle](#)

There is an argument to be made that the five individuals featured in this collection personify the very essence of what it means to be a language teacher in the 21st century because of the profound effects their words and actions have had on so many teachers and so many careers in the field of ESL. All of the essays in this book were originally published on web pages in the ESL MiniConference Online newsletter. Steve Krashen, the late Robert O'Neill, and Bill VanPatten debated the nature of the language learning or language acquisition process in a series of exchanges that was instigated by O'Neill, who suggested to ESL MiniConference founding editor Robb Scott that he invite Krashen to respond to statements in which O'Neill challenged the validity of the "natural approach" that Tracy Terrell and Krashen had developed and Krashen had spent a lifetime popularizing. The bait was taken and the resulting exchanges were revealing, to say the least. At one point, Bill VanPatten served as a tag-teammate for Krashen and wrote a truly eloquent defense of unconscious acquisition with a powerful flying metaphor, accentuating significant updates to the Krashen/Terrell model, only to encounter yet further resistance from O'Neill, who drove home his points with obvious feisty pleasure. That memorable debate is just as relevant and thought-provoking today as it was in 2002. Joining Krashen, O'Neill, and VanPatten in the pantheon of ESL/EFL and second language teaching legends are O. Dean Gregory and David B. Hopkins, whose careers in teacher training are feted in two spectacular festschrifts with heart-felt essays from their students and colleagues. Gregory passed away in the year 2000 after a lifetime devoted to ESL program development and university teaching; Hopkins has spent more

than five decades doing program development and teacher training overseas, and is still going strong. A close reading of the "Great Debate" and these two festschrifts -- previously only available online -- will give the reader entry into the philosophical and pedagogical concerns that are at the core of this exciting field of second language learning and teaching.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1091009864>

<https://www.amazon.com/kindle/dp/B07PYK6SYZ>

Cross-Cultural Engineers (all the profiles from ESL MiniConference)

[Paperback](#)

or [Kindle](#)

Through interviews with these 61 teachers, mostly ESL teachers and with varied backgrounds connecting them to a diversity of cultures, languages, countries, and each other on the basis of a shared passion for teaching and learning, the reader embarks on a journey through time that touches on a network of relationships dating back to the very earliest ESL and EFL professionals and trailblazers with names like Fries, Lado, and Pike. These interviews bring to life the motivations that have led these teachers and many of their friends and colleagues to dedicate themselves to developing a deeper understanding of our fellow human beings across language and culture differences. What could possess a person to leave their homeland and travel around the world sharing keys to the use of the English language and empowering their students to become successful in a global and ever-more interconnected society. These are the bridge-builders who believe in reaching across differences of culture and religion to enjoy a shared humanity with anyone anywhere they find themselves. When you read their stories, you too might feel attracted to a career in teaching (and learning) language and culture.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1799276708>

<https://www.amazon.com/kindle/dp/B07PXDYPQ8>

Embracing Life (2015-2018)

[Paperback](#)

or [Kindle](#)

In January of 2015, ESL MiniConference Founding Editor Robb Scott was diagnosed with stage III adenocarcinoma. He spent the rest of that year undergoing radiation and intense chemotherapy, and continued with a lesser regimen of chemotherapy for two more years, until the end of 2017. His brush with cancer has given the author a new appreciation for the miracle of life. Continuing to work full-time while having his cancer treated, Scott has given much less day to day attention to the ESL MiniConference Online newsletter which he founded in late 2001. But the few articles he has written for the newsletter are much more personal than his earlier work, with a new emphasis on the meaning and purpose of life, as well as a deepening awareness of the spiritual nature of human existence and the vital relationships with family, friends, and colleagues that have sustained him and contributed to his continuing survival and recovery. These nine essays seem to foreshadow the end or a new beginning for the ESL MiniConference, and are presented in hopes they can provide encouragement and solace to anyone going through difficult times in their life.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1796616850>

<https://www.amazon.com/kindle/dp/B07PYJ2V3Z>

Defining Moments (2010-2014)

[Paperback](#)

In 2011, ESL MiniConference Founder and Editor Robb Scott completed his dissertation and earned the Doctor of Education in Special Education from Kansas State University. Over the next four years, 2011 to 2014, Dr. Scott continued composing new articles for his beloved online newsletter, all the while being put to work as a teacher, researcher, and teacher educator on a pace beyond anything he had previously experienced in 30+

years as an educator. The stories published in the ESL MiniConference Online during this period are more thoughtful and deliberately crafted and show a deepening awareness of the dynamics of teaching and learning, from a multitude of perspectives. In the fall of 2014, Dr. Scott was honored with the Outstanding Teaching Award by the College of Education at Fort Hays State University. His published articles from the online newsletter are collected in this new publication called "Defining Moments."

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1794208364>

The Manhattan Years (2005-2009)

Paperback

In 2005, ESL MiniConference Founder and Editor Robb Scott moved to Manhattan, Kansas, to work on a doctorate at Kansas State University. During the period of 2005 to 2009, he completed the main coursework for the degree, but continued to write articles for the online newsletter and remained involved in ESL and Kansas TESOL activities. Those 34 articles composed by Robb Scott over this four-year span are collected in this new book, "The Manhattan Years."

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1794079955>

Responding to the 9-11 Attack (2001-2004)

Paperback

This collection of ESL MiniConference reports brings to life feelings experienced by professionals in the field of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. These articles convey the sadness of those first days and weeks, as the extent of our losses on a human and national scale became evident, especially the impact on schools and programs serving international students in the U.S. Hundreds of ESL teachers lost their jobs and were re-trained for other types of work, in a massive restructuring of American higher education. There was also a hesitancy in the first years following 9-11 for teachers to attend regional

and international conferences because of misgivings about the safety of air travel. In this vacuum, the ESL MiniConference Online and its e-mail newsletters with links to new stories and reports from professional events around the world, strived to create a supportive network to inform and encourage teachers living in a changed world and nation. The articles in this collection from the early years of the ESL MiniConference convey a changing dynamic and a profession in transformation, with new causes and challenges to stimulate readers into positive action. Over these four years, from 2001 to 2005, the ESL MiniConference provided a picture of a nation, a global society, and an ESL/EFL profession rebounding with dignity and creativity. That historical arc is presented in these 48 articles included in the present collection.

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/1795242248>

***AUTHOR'S PAGE ON AMAZON FOR
ROBERT BRUCE SCOTT***

<http://www.amazon.com/author/drrobbscott>



Photograph of Robb Scott