

Professional Growth and Development in EAP

Exploring Current Practices and Imagining Future Possibilities

BALEAP *slow* PIM: June 2025

2-19 June – asynchronous open access releases

20 June – live online event

KEYNOTE

We are very pleased to announce that the keynote at our live event on the 20th of June will be delivered by [Professor Alex Ding](#), in collaboration with two EAP practitioners, Catherine Macbean and Daniel O’Sullivan.

Title: Developing Practitioners to Develop the Field

Abstract: The development of practitioners is doubly important. Firstly, as there are no pre-requisite qualifications to enter EAP, development of and by practitioners is essential to make sense of and to operationalise a complex and fragmented knowledge-base effectively. Secondly, because practitioners enter the field, and mostly continue to practice in the field, with little cultural capital, development is also essential to accrue sufficient recognition more widely to obtain legitimation and power to influence language-related policies and practices within universities. For both epistemological and sociological reasons, it is essential to develop a specialised lens on EAP, disciplinary fields, and higher education.

This plenary discusses just how important it is for the field to develop for reflexive, educational and legitimation reasons. It will touch on our practices, the power of theory and the politics of legitimation. It will outline the obstacles to development and limitations in the field and then present case studies of development to understand and attempt to overcome these obstacles. Two colleagues, Cat Macbean and Daniel O’Sullivan, will also briefly reflect on how they have engaged with theory to better understand academic practices and the field of EAP respectively. Individual efforts can make a difference and can inspire, but lasting change will only be achieved collectively.