

The Fair List

At the IATEFL conference held in Liverpool, in April this year, there was a rather special gathering one evening! About twenty people got together to praise people who had made it onto a list. Playful certificates were given out and there was clapping and photos. Thus *THE FAIR LIST, UK* was launched. So what is this list about?

There are many kinds of excellence in ELT. Some of these are rewarded. For innovation in ELT, for example, we have the ELTons. For those who write good books we have, the Ben Warren Trust, the English Speaking Union and the Extensive Reading Foundation awards. *The Fair List* celebrates excellence of a different kind; the achievement of gender balance in plenary speakers, presenters or speaker panels at ELT events, annually, in the UK.

On *The Fair List* for 2012 are the following:

The IATEFL Research SIG for overall balance in separate events
THE IATEFL Business SIG for their Glasgow pre-conference event
THE IATEFL Leadership and Management SIG for their Glasgow pre-conference event and for their Brighton event held jointly with
The IATEFL Teacher Development SIG
THE IATEFL Testing, Evaluation and Assessment SIG also for their Glasgow pre-conference event.

So, as you can see, the world of IATEFL Special Interest Groups was well-represented. Stars of the show, however, were:

The British Council for their UK seminar series which achieved almost exact parity between women and men speakers over a very busy year of events.

After celebrating the people on the list, the group stayed on to discuss why *The Fair List* matters, what we can do to encourage women to contribute more fully at plenary level and to encourage selectors to consider the gender balance of their own events. I hope that I can come back to *Voices* soon with news of helpful web site!

Tessa Woodward

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