

The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas

*** SSILA BULLETIN ***

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

Number 212: August 12, 2004

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212.6 E-Mail Address Updates

212.0 SSILA Business

* Reminder: Abstracts for Annual Meeting due on September 7

Proposals for papers to be given at the January 2005 annual meeting of SSILA in San Francisco must be received by Tuesday, September 7. The Call for Papers, with detailed guidelines for the preparation of

previously undescribed (or scarcely described) language and write a comprehensive grammar of it for their dissertation. We prefer students to work on a language which is still actively spoken, and to establish a field situation within a community in which it is the first language. Fieldwork methodology should be centred on the collection, transcription and analysis of texts, together with participant observation, and -- at a later stage -- judicious grammatical elicitation in the language under description (not through the lingua franca of the country). Our main priority areas are the languages of Amazonia and the Papuan and Austro-nesian languages of New Guinea. We also welcome applications to work on indigenous languages from other areas such as the Aslian language group from Malaysia and the Aboriginal languages of Australia.

Ph.D.s in Australian universities generally involve no coursework, just a substantial dissertation. Candidates must thus have had a thorough coursework training before embarking on this Ph.D. program. This should have included courses on morphology, syntax, semantics, phonology and phonetics and comparative-historical linguistics, taught from a non-formalist perspective. We place emphasis on work that has a sound empirical basis but also shows a firm theoretical orientation (in terms of general typological theory, or what has recently come to be called basic linguistic theory).

The Research Centre for Linguistic Typology consists, at any one time, of about 20 scholars, working on a variety of languages and typological issues. Besides the permanent staff of Prof. R. M. W. Dixon (Director) and Prof. Alexandra Y Aikhenvald (Associate Director) we have an array of Research Fellows and Ph.D. students. Each year a number of senior scholars from across the world spend from three to six months with us as Visiting Fellows. Our personnel this year includes specialists on spoken languages from the following families or areas: Tsimshian, Mayan, Oto-Manguean, Eskimo-Aleut, Arawak, Carib, Arawa, Panoan, Jivaro, Tacanan, Indo-European, Niger-Congo, Chukchee, Afroasiatic, Khoisan, Tai-Kadai, Tibeto-Burman, Austroasiatic, Papuan, Austronesian and Australian.

There is also an excellent Department of Linguistics in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at La Trobe University, whose faculty includes Prof. Randy LaPolla, Associate Prof. David Bradley, and Dr. Hilary Chappell. In addition, there are fine Departments of Linguistics at the University of Melbourne and at Monash University.

The scholarship will be at the standard La Trobe rate, Aust \$17,500 per annum (Aust \$1 = US \$.72). Students coming from overseas are liable for a visa fee (effectively, a tuition fee); we will pay this. A small relocation allowance may be provided on taking up the scholarship. In addition, an appropriate allowance will be made to cover fieldwork expenses. The scholarship is for three years.

Further information about RCLT is at our website:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rclt>

See, in particular, our February 2004 Newsletter, which is available at the website.

Prospective applicants are invited to get in touch with Professor

Aikhenvald at <a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au>, providing details of their background, qualifications and interests.

(2) Two-year postdoctoral research fellowship

The RCLT also invites applications for a two-year Research Fellowship offered by La Trobe University. Applicants should have completed (or submitted) a Ph.D. focused on language description and analysis within a functional-typological framework. Prospective applicants should, in first instance, get in touch with Prof. Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, enclosing their CV and proposed topic for the Fellowship (a.aikhenvald@latrobe.edu.au).

The closing date is 27 August. The application details for the La Trobe Fellowship are available on:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rgso/grants/ltuschemes/index.htm>.

212.4 Upcoming Meetings

* FEL VIII - Linguistic Rights (Barcelona, October 1-3)

From Nicholas Ostler (nostler@chibcha.demon.co.uk) 10 Aug 2004:

A reminder that the 8th International Conference hosted by the Foundation for Endangered Languages will take place in Barcelona, on October 1st through 3rd. With the theme "On the Margins of Nations: Endangered Languages and Linguistic Rights," this year's conference is being co-organized by Institut d'Estudis Catalans.

The conference will take place in central Barcelona, but there will be excursions--29-30 September (Aranese-Occitan in the Val d'Aran) and 4 October (Catalan in French Catalonia).

The website for the conference is at:

<http://www.iecat.net/recerca/centreslabs/8FELConference/8FELConference.htm>

and is also accessible via the FEL website:

<http://www.ogmios.org/>

The site includes conference and registration information, the program, details of excursions and the original call for papers.

If you are planning to come, please register as soon as possible. If you intend to register on site (despite the surcharge), please at least inform the organizers in Barcelona in advance by SENDING AN E-MAIL NOW to: Catedra.Unesco@iecat.net. This is particularly important if you are hoping to come on one of our excursions.

Native American languages
Language acquisition
Computational Linguistics.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is September 3rd, 2004. Abstracts should be sent via e-mail, as an attachment, to <hdls@unm.edu>. Please include the title "HDLS-6 abstract "in the subject line. MS-Word format is preferred or RTF if necessary. The e-mail and attached abstract must include the following:

1. Author's Name(s)
2. Author's Affiliation(s)
3. Title of the Paper
4. E-mail address of the primary author

The abstract should be no more than one page and no less than 11-point font. A second page is permitted for references and/or data. Only two submissions per author will be accepted and we will only consider submissions that conform to the above guidelines. Notification of acceptance will be sent out by the evening of September 5th, 2004

If you have any questions or need for further information please contact us at <hdls@unm.edu> with "HDLS-6 Conference" in the subject line.

* Aboriginal Oral Traditions (Halifax, April 21-23, 2005)

From Robert M Leavitt (rleavitt@unb.ca) July 2, 2004:

A conference on "Aboriginal Oral Traditions: Theory, Practice, and Ethics" will be held at the Gorsebrook Research Institute, St. Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on April 21-23, 2005

The increasing emphasis on traditional Indigenous knowledge in a number of academic disciplines calls for new ways of understanding how Aboriginal communities produce and preserve knowledge. Contemporary environmental, social, and cultural studies of collective knowledge communicated through oral tradition encourage collaboration between researchers inside and outside aboriginal communities. While these partnerships are important in the sharing of knowledge within and beyond communities, they also present challenges. Who should interpret and disseminate such knowledge? For what purpose?

This interdisciplinary conference will explore theory and practice, as well as aspects of research ethics, regarding oral traditions in an Aboriginal context. We welcome proposals from all disciplines on diverse topics, including:

- archival research on collections of oral narratives
- intellectual property rights and the repatriation of stories
- the importance of oral traditions in contemporary Aboriginal literatures
- storytelling in Aboriginal communities today
- the role of electronic media in the dissemination of oral narratives
- partnership between community and university researchers

- the role of stories in environmental studies
- the role of stories in economic development

The conference will be held at the Gorsebrook Institute, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in partnership with the Native Studies Department of the University of Manitoba and the Mi'kmaq-Maliseet Institute of the University of New Brunswick, and with the participation of the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq.

The Gorsebrook Institute is dedicated primarily to promoting and supporting interdisciplinary research on Atlantic Canada. While we welcome proposals on a range of topics on Aboriginal oral traditions in any community, a special focus of the conference will be work being done by, with, and in the Aboriginal communities of Atlantic Canada, especially Mi'kmaq communities. The program will include invited Mi'kmaq speakers, a trip to the archives of Acadia University (Silas T. Rand collection), as well as a workshop on Silas Rand's "Legends of the Micmac."

If you are interested in participating, please e-mail a proposal (250-300 words), an abstract (50 words), and a short biographical note (100 words) by September 10, 2004 to:

gorsebrook@smu.ca

* Typology of Stative-Active Languages (Leipzig, May 20-22, 2005)

From Soeren Wichmann (sa_conf@eva.mpg.de) July 9, 2004:

A conference on the Typology of Stative-Active Languages will be held at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, May 20-22, 2005. The aim of the conference is to explore similarities and differences among languages of the stative-active (or split intransitive, agent-patient, agentive, etc.) type of marking. Particularly welcome are papers that address argument structure and phenomena related to voice or valency in these languages -- the areas where stative-active languages are likely to show common behavior distinct from languages without stative-active morphology. Papers can be language-specific, reporting on field research on individual stative-active languages, or might directly address typological issues from a broader perspective. English is the preferred language at the conference.

Invited speakers will include Johanna Nichols (UC Berkeley), Marianne Mithun (UC Santa Barbara), and Marian Klamer (Leiden). The conference organizers are Mark Donohue (Singapore) and Søren Wichmann (MPI EVA).

A one-page abstract should be e-mailed (sa_conf@eva.mpg.de) no later than December 1, 2004. The title of the paper, the name(s) of the author(s), and one mailing address, with telephone, fax, and e-mail address as available, should be included in the body of the e-mail, and not be included on the abstract. Authors will be notified of their acceptance by January 1, 2005. Abstracts may also be snail-mailed or faxed to:

Søren Wichmann
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
Deutscher Platz 6

launching the site. The original design was Doug Whalen's.)

* "Oregon" article posted
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From Ives Goddard (goddard.ives@nmnh.si.edu) July 14, 2004:

The full text of Tom Love's and my article on "Oregon", as published in the summer issue of the Oregon Historical Quarterly, is now accessible online in pdf format at:

[http://www.ohs.org/publications/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&](http://www.ohs.org/publications/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=14865)

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* The Omushkego Oral History Project
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The "OurVoices.ca" website, supported by a Canadian government grant, has recently been established to provide access to audio material on the history and culture of the people of Canada. The website features the Omushkego Oral History Project, a permanent digital record of Louis Bird's extensive collection of audiotapes documenting Swampy Cree legends and oral history. The URL is:

<http://www.ourvoices.ca/>

212.6 E-Mail Address Updates

The following additions or changes have been made to the SSILA e-mail list since the last Bulletin:

Dunn, John jpadunn@earthlink.net
Enrico, John abaco@eburg.com
Gehr, Susan (Smith) sgehr@karuk.us
Henne, Rich..... rhenne@indiana.edu
Mattina, Anthony anthony.mattina@montana.edu
Messineo, Cristina..... cmessine@mail.retina.ar
Mora-Marin, David davidmm@email.unc.edu
Olbertz, Hella hella.olbertz@kb.nl
Schultze-Berndt, Eva schultze-berndt@ling.uni-graz.at
Shoaps, Robin shoaps@comm.umass.edu
Thomas, William Joseph thomasw@mail.ecu.edu
Thomason, Lucy Thomason.Lucy@nmnh.si.edu
Tonhauser, Judith juditht@stanford.edu
van Gijn, Rik R.v.Gijn@let.ru.nl [from Sept. 1]

When your e-mail address changes, please notify us (golla@ssila.org).

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE AMERICAS

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