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NEWS RELEASE

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USC Linguistics Professor to Serve on National Board

(Washington, DC) -- [Rachel Walker](#), an Associate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Southern California, will join the Executive Committee of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) for a three-year term on January 11, 2009. The LSA Executive Committee serves as the principal governing board for the Society. The LSA is the largest national organization in the world devoted to advancing the scientific study of language, and is the publisher of the prestigious quarterly journal, *Language*.

Upon her election by the LSA membership, Dr. Walker commented, "My chief goals as a new member of the Executive Committee are to emphasize missions of the LSA in areas of public awareness and outreach and to pursue inquiry into how best to meet the diverse needs of the society's membership."

Dr. Walker's research is in phonology and its interfaces with phonetics and morphology. Theoretical issues surrounding patterns of long-distance assimilation and reduplication, and their interaction with loci of prosodic prominence, serve as a significant area of focus, one which she has approached through case studies in Bantu, Altaic, and Romance languages. She has published in *Language*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Phonology*, *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, *Language and Cognitive Processes*, has authored *Nasalization, Neutral Segments and Opacity Effects* (Garland), and serves on the editorial board of *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* and *Language and Linguistics Compass* (Phonetics and Phonology).

Walker is a member of the Canadian Linguistic Association, and the Acoustical Society of America. Dr. Walker served on the LSA's Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics (COSWL) from 2005-2007 (co-chair 2006-2007, chair 2007-2008). COSWL projects under direction during her term as chair were the (co)organization of a Survival Skills workshop at the LSA Institute and a graduate student workshop at the LSA Annual Meeting. She also initiated the development of a web-based survey of LSA members on challenges facing women in linguistics. At USC, as Director of Graduate Admissions in Linguistics, Dr. Walker has developed outreach efforts for prospective students from under-represented groups.

Dr. Walker joined the faculty of USC in 1998. She earned her MA at the University of Toronto in 1993 and her PhD from UC Santa Cruz in 1998.

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