

## LSA Annual Business Meeting

Friday, January 7, 2022 ~ 6:00 – 7:00pm

### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by LSA President Laurence Horn at 6:05 pm. He began by introducing the former LSA presidents who were present.

The report of the Secretary-Treasurer was delivered by Lenore Grenoble, and served as an overview of her written report, which was published in the online handbook for the Annual Meeting, available [here](#) [PDF, pp. 62-63]. The overview included the report of 2021 Election Results and an In Memoriam observance for the following members who died since the previous observance:

- Robbins Burling (1926-2021)
- Tucker Childs (1948-2021)
- Lila Gleitman (1929-2021)\*
- Victor Golla (1939-2021)
- Jiahui Huang (1991-2021)
- Harriet Klein (1936-2021)
- Gjert Kristoffersen (1949-2021)
- Anthony Kroch (1946-2021)
- Sir John Lyons (1932-2020)
- Marilyn Merritt (1941-2021)
- Pieter Muysken (1950-2021)
- W. Keith Percival (1930-2020)
- Zdenek Salzman (1925-2021)
- Pieter Seuren (1934-2021)

The report of the Program Committee was delivered by Senior co-Chair Ruth Kramer. Please see the online handbook for the Annual Meeting, available [here](#) [PDF, pp. 68-70].

The Editor's Reports were delivered as follows: Language – Andries Coetzee; Semantics & Pragmatics – Lousie McNally; and Phonological Data & Analysis – Matt Gordon [the video recording of his report was not aired due to technical issues]. Please see the online handbook for the Annual Meeting, available [here](#) [PDF, pp. 64-67].

Dr. Horn presented the incoming class of LSA Fellows for 2022:

- [Robert Bayley](#) (University of California, Davis)
- [Diane Brentari](#) (University of Chicago)
- [Anne H. Charity Hudley](#) (Stanford University)
- [Beth Hume](#) (The Ohio State University)
- [Pauline Jacobson](#) (Brown University)
- [Laura A. Michaelis](#) (University of Colorado Boulder)
- [Natalie Schilling](#) (Georgetown University)

On behalf of the Honorary Members Committee, Dr. Horn introduced the nominees, who have already been approved by the Executive Committee, but are subject to a vote of the members present at the Business Meeting.

**Henriëtte de Swart**, a leading figure in formal semantics, is Professor of French Linguistics and Semantics and a member of the Cognitive Artificial Intelligence Program at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Professor de Swart has served as Director of The Netherlands School of Linguistics (LOT) and of the Utrecht Institute of Linguistics (OTS). Professor de Swart is best known for her study of cross-linguistic variation in meaning, most notably in the areas of tense and aspect, the structure of nominals, quantification, and negation. Among the innovative aspects of her research is the development of a methodology called Translation Mining which makes it possible to compare the use of verb forms of different aspects in corpora from a range of languages. While the hallmark of her work is the development of micro-typologies in specific areas of semantic structure, her research extends to the interface of semantics with syntax, with pragmatics, with discourse analysis, with the study of language and cognition, and with the evolution of language. In the latter area, she has analyzed the silent gestures made by adult hearing speakers in describing events as a tool to investigate the origins of word order.

Professor de Swart is author or co-author of five books and of numerous articles in journals including *Linguistics and Philosophy*, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, *Cognition*, *Linguistics*, and *Lingua*. She serves on the editorial board of nine journals and was Associate Editor of *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory* from 2015-18. In 2013 she was elected a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

**Martin Haspelmath** is a senior research scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, as well as being an honorary professor at Leipzig University. One of the world's leading typologists and comparative linguists, he has made major contributions to the understanding of the cross-linguistic properties of causatives, differential object marking, polysynthesis, serial verbs, possessives, and many other constructions.

As co-editor of the *World Atlas of Language Structures*, he has made available to the linguistic public a treasure trove of data from more than a thousand different languages. As a theoretician, he has put forward important hypotheses regarding coding asymmetries, grammaticalization, and how they interact with facts related to frequency of occurrence. Although he is identified with the usage-based tendency in the field, he has always gone out of his way to engage formal linguists in open discussion on matters related to data and theory. In fact, his blog, *Diversity Linguistics Comment*, has featured guest postings by a number of well-known generative grammarians.

Prof. Haspelmath is undoubtedly the most prominent and influential figure in typological studies in Europe, and to a large extent, elsewhere. He has contributed directly to descriptive work in his *Grammar of Lezgian* (still perhaps the best available grammar of a Northeast Caucasian language). He has published widely on a vast range of topics in morphological and syntactic typology, and this work is both referenced and respected by linguists of a variety of theoretical persuasions. He has also provided service to the field in his advocacy of Open Access publishing, and in particular in his organization and direction of *Language Science Press*, which has become the premier open access publisher in our field — largely through his efforts.

**Rajend “Raj” Mesthrie** is the foremost sociolinguist documenting and analyzing language contact and

change in post-apartheid South Africa. He is Professor of Linguistics in the School of African & Gender Studies, Anthropology & Linguistics at the University of Cape Town, and also holds a National Research Foundation Research Chair (Language, Migration & Social Change). He is a past President of the Southern Africa Linguistics and Applied Linguistics Society, and an elected member of the Academy of Science of South Africa. He was organizer and President of the 20th International Congress of Linguists (Cape Town, 2018), the first time this event was held in Africa.

Professor Mesthrie's work emphasizes the significance of sociolinguistics in understanding heritage, culture, and social change in a multilingual society, one in which migration is an important, if not a defining feature. His current research focuses on socio-phonetics, exploring issues of gender and substrate erasure among young, middle-class Black South Africans (with an article in *Language* in 2017), as well as the urban youth varieties that may be labeled *tsotsitaals*. He is also undertaking research into the historical roots of Cape Flats English in relation to earlier languages such as those of the Khoi and San, Creole, Portuguese, Afrikaans, and Indonesian and Indian languages.

He has published widely in the field of sociolinguistics, with special reference to language contact and variation in South Africa. He is editor of the *Cambridge Handbook of Sociolinguistics* and series editor of *Key Topics in Sociolinguistics* (both Cambridge UP). Other major publications include *A Dictionary of South African Indian English* (U Cape Town Press), *Youth Language Practices and Urban Language Contact in Africa*, and the edited volume *Language in South Africa* (both Cambridge UP). Among his most recent publications is an article on how COVID19 is discussed in different languages of South Africa.

**The new class of honorary members for 2022 were approved unanimously.**

#### Resolution of Thanks

A resolution was presented by LSA member Colin Philips:

The LSA relies on the efforts of numerous members and volunteers to organize the Annual Meeting and to conduct its work throughout the year.

Therefore, the following individuals are hereby formally thanked for their contributions to the LSA:

The officers of the LSA, Lenore Grenoble, John Baugh, Marianne Mithun and Larry Horn, for their leadership and service.

Ruth Kramer and Teresa Satterfeld, for leading the program committee in delivering another successful Annual Meeting in very challenging circumstances.

Louise McNally and [Kjell Johan Sæbø](#) for their work as the Editors of *Semantics and Pragmatics*.

Andries Coetzee, John Beavers and Jessi Grieser, for their editorial leadership of *Language*.

Matt Gordon, Laura McPherson and Andrew Nevins for their editorial leadership of the LSA's newest Open Access journal, *Phonological Data and Analysis*.

All of the LSA's various committee chairs and members, as we work together to implement the LSA's

ambitious strategic plan.

The sister societies of the LSA, for their contributions in making the Annual Meeting a more vibrant and dynamic gathering of linguists.

The LSA Executive Committee, including Arthur Spears and Rebecca Scarborough, who are concluding their service at this meeting. And...

The Secretariat staff, Alyson Reed (Executive Director), Angela Schrader (Meetings Associate), Mark Schaefer (Membership Associate) and Beth Riebe (Administrative Assistant), for their outstanding work under very stressful circumstances.

### Appreciation

In pre-recorded remarks, LSA member Deborah Tannen offered the following Appreciation for David Robinson on the Occasion of his Retirement:

For the past 13 years, David has served the Linguistic Society of America (LSA) with great skill, diplomacy, dedication and aplomb. For his unflagging patience, attentiveness, and grace under pressure, we are tremendously grateful. David's extensive experience and his knowledge of the discipline, of the Society's members and leaders, and of the various traditions and folkways of the LSA have been invaluable over the period of his tenure as Director of Membership and Meetings. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, David's steady leadership in planning for our Annual Meeting has been stellar, as have been his efforts to ensure a smooth transition to newer staff members and to provide sage advice and counsel as a Consulting Advisor. He has truly gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that his retirement did not imperil the ability of the LSA Secretariat to advance the mission of the Society.

On behalf of the LSA membership and with great appreciation for his outstanding service, we are forever grateful.

Laurence R. Horn  
President

January 6, 2022

In pre-recorded remarks, David Robinson thanked Drs. Tannen and Horn, along with the LSA membership and staff.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

\*Dr. Gleitman's death was inadvertently omitted from the list of names reported during the meeting.

Note: Questions posed to those making reports in the virtual online chat forum for the meeting are appended to this page, with answers provided by those reporting following the meeting.

## Questions from the LSA 2022 Annual Meeting: Business Meeting

As of 10:00am Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

1. Given the Annual Meeting as a revenue source, what is being spent on the virtual/hybrid platform for this year?

The final bills have not yet been received, but the estimated expenses are approximately \$140,000, of which \$40,000 is for wifi in the meeting rooms. This latter item was to be provided for free by the hotel if the LSA met its obligations for hotel sleeping rooms, which we did not.

2. With regards to elections, are they able to share vote counts publicly? How many people voted in total, and how many votes did each candidate receive?

In the past, it has been the policy of the LSA to refrain from reporting specific numbers for each candidate so as to minimize perceptions of a “popularity contest”. The total number of votes case in 2021 was 386.

3. Re: new officers, will they be completing the current term, or starting a new full term? (e.g. Fritz’s term as Secretary-Treasurer since Lenore is stepping down early).

The terms of all LSA officers begin and end on the final day of the Annual Meeting, whether for a three-year or five-year term, unless they step down before their term expires, as in the case of Lenore.

4. Is the penalty because of cancellations or because of less-than-expected reserved-in-the-first-place? In other words, was there any point at which we were reserving the pre-pandemic estimate of room nights?

The short answer is both. We signed the original contract with the hotel in 2018 (?). When the pandemic struck, we attempted to negotiate a reduction in rooms with the Hilton hotel, which took many months because of resistance on their part. In September 2021, we were finally able to negotiate a 50% room reduction in exchange for booking a future meeting in 2028 on the same terms as the original contract for 2022. We also have to give up the free meeting room wifi (see answer to #1) as part of this amended contract. Even at 50% reduction, the last-minute cancellations took us well below this mark (we are still awaiting a final tabulation from the hotel).

5. What steps are in place to ensure cohesion between any in person and hybrid features of the Annual Meeting for 2023? What can members do to improve experiences in scholarly communication next year?

There will be an extensive debriefing process with all key stakeholders following the meeting to identify all pertinent issues with cohesion and arrive at a comprehensive plan for next year. This will include the hiring of a permanent staff position as Meetings Manager as soon as practical.

6. Will the new Program Committee members have experience in hybrid conferences? Will they have experience in making conferences accessible to all?

The experience of volunteer members of the Program Committee with different conference formats is variable. We welcome expressions of interest by LSA members in serving on the PC. A call for

nominations for all LSA committees will be circulated early this Spring.

7. Please provide more information about the room estimates. What are the terms of the contract and is the LSA facing a penalty because of Omicron-induced cancellations or because they were estimating based on pre-pandemic attendance?

Please see the answer to question 4 above. It is both. The terms of the contract are too extensive and complex to outline here but interested members may contact the Secretariat for more details.

8. Is there a quorum requirement for the business meeting?

There is none stated in the Bylaws.

9. Do the LSA's bylaws allow for remote voting?

Yes, the Bylaws allow remote voting on candidates, amendments, and resolutions. These mechanisms have been in place since at least 2009.

10. Should there be time in the Business Meeting set aside for questions on both old business/reports and new business?

Yes, and we can lengthen the duration of future business meetings for this purpose, keeping in mind that ADS' WOTY typically happens concurrently with the Business Meeting, which is immediately followed by the LSA's popular 5ML event.

11. Did the LSA check to make sure that the nominations for Honorary Membership are unlikely to bring the LSA into disrepute? What is the nomination and selection process?

Yes, to the extent practical, this is the charge of the Honorary Members Committee. More information about this process may be found here:

<https://www.linguisticsociety.org/about/who-we-are/honorary-members>