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Welcome to the LSA 2016 Annual Meeting!

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January 6, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I'm writing to welcome you, a few days in advance, to the LSA's 90th Annual Meeting. Please read on for some tips for making the most of the Meeting and of your time in Washington, DC.

#### Local Information

Our headquarters hotel, the Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, is located in a thriving commercial and residential area convenient to public transit, restaurants, and more. For those of you not familiar with the Washington, DC area, locals have prepared a [guide to transportation, dining, sightseeing and nightlife](#), with a focus on areas accessible from the hotel.

#### Weather Forecast

The current local forecast for the dates of the meeting predicts highs from the upper 40s to mid 50s and lows from the mid 30s to mid 40s, and with a decent chance of rain from Saturday into Sunday morning. This type of weather is not unusual for Washington at this time of year. Bring an umbrella and dress appropriately for the expected temperatures if you plan -- as we recommend you do -- on getting out and exploring the city.

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### Lactation Room

We have arranged for a lactation room, located in a parlor on the 2nd floor of the hotel and equipped with a small fridge. Please [email me](#) if you would like to take advantage of this service, and I will arrange for you to have a key to the room.

### Session Chairs Needed

We are in need of a few session chairs due to some late-breaking schedule changes. If you hold a Ph.D. and are interested in chairing a session, please click [here](#) to see a list of sessions for which chairs are needed and to sign up. Session chairs introduce speakers, hold up time cards to remind them how much time left they have to speak, and moderate any ensuing discussion.

### Registration

Those of you arriving on Thursday can pick up your attendee badges, tote bags and handbooks from 12:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the registration counters by the escalators on Meeting Level 2 (M2). For those of you arriving on Friday or Saturday, registration will be available from 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

### Special Activities at the Annual Meeting

In addition to the usual poster and paper, organized, and plenary sessions, there are a number of special sessions to which I would like to draw your attention. In order of occurrence, these are:

#### **First-Time Attendee Orientation**

If you've never been to an LSA Meeting before, plan on attending the orientation session in Salon 1 from 3:00 to 3:45 on Thursday. Hosted by Eric Potsdam (University of Florida) and Lauren B. Collister (University of Pittsburgh).

#### **Special Session on Broadening Connections among Researchers in Linguistics and Human Language Technologies**

This session, held on Friday morning from 7:30 - 9:00 AM in Salon 1, explores the deepening connections between linguistics and HLT. It features speakers from the United States Secret Service, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and the Linguistic Data Consortium. A complete description is available [here](#). Refreshments will be provided.

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### **Special Session in Tribute to Paul Chapin**

Paul Gipson Chapin, a former Secretary-Treasurer of the LSA and known to many from his work at the National Science Foundation (1975-2001), died in 2015. This session, held on Friday from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in the Shaw Room, will feature brief presentations by his colleagues, friends, and those who he helped through his work at the NSF.

### **Wikipedia Edit-a-thon**

Taking place from 2:00 - 5:00 PM in Salon 17 on Friday, the Edit-a-thon is a great chance to become better acquainted with the basics of editing linguistics-related Wikipedia articles.

### **Linguistics Beyond Academia Salon**

This networking event for linguists practicing outside of, or interested in working outside of, academia, will take place on Friday from 3:30 - 5:00 PM in the George Washington University Room.

### **Special Panel on Hate Speech**

This panel, which will take place on Saturday morning from 9:00 - 10:30 AM in the Shaw Room, organized by the Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics (CEDL), explores the characteristics and consequences of hate speech, and features speakers Susan Benesch (Harvard University), William Egginton (Brigham Young University) and Joe Tuman (San Francisco State University). More information is available [here](#).

### **Linguistics Beyond Academia Career Mixer**

This event, held Saturday from 3:30 - 5:00 PM in the George Washington University room, will bring together individuals from all stages professional development for exploratory discussions about career paths.

### **Annual Meeting Handbook**

The Annual Meeting Handbook will be distributed in hard copy at the registration desk near the escalators on Meeting Level 2. A bookmarked .pdf version is available [here](#).

### **Exhibit Hall**

Plan on visiting our exhibitors in the Exhibit Hall in Salon 5. Exhibit hours are

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10:00 AM - 5:30 PM on Friday and Saturday and 8:30 - 11:00 AM on Sunday. Complimentary hot beverages will be available from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM and 3:30 - 4:30 PM on Friday and Saturday and from 8:30 - 11:00 AM on Sunday. We'll be repeating the popular Prize Wheel that we debuted last year: bring the Exhibitor Passport in your registration packet to each exhibitor to be stamped, then bring it to the LSA booth and spin the prize wheel for a chance to win complimentary LSA memberships, meeting registrations, LSA swag, and more.

I look forward to seeing you again (if you're a seasoned Annual Meeting attendee) or to meeting you in person (if this is your first time with us) soon. And I look forward to seeing you in 2017 (Austin, TX), 2018 (Salt Lake City, UT), 2019 (New York City), New Orleans (2020) and beyond!  
Sincerely,

David Robinson  
Director of Membership and Meetings

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