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Threats to Linguistics Funding, Pop-up Mentoring, Centennial Planning Committee, and more!

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LSA Update

**News from the
Linguistic Society of America**

Update #124 - February 15, 2018

Interested in Advancing Your Career? Participate in a COSWL Pop-up Mentoring Event!

[The LSA Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics \(COSWL\)](#) is debuting a series of “pop-up mentoring” events which will take place [at several conferences in Spring 2018](#). These will be 2-hour events in which anyone who wants mentoring on a variety of topics can connect with established people in the field for help.

This pilot program is based on a successful “speed



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mentoring” program that has been run for many years by the American Psychosomatic Society, and is modeled after similar events organized by [Women in Cognitive Science \(WiCS\)](#).

To read more, and to sign up as a mentor or a mentee, [click here](#).

Follow the LSA on

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Take Action Against Renewed Threats to Science and Humanities Funding

The just-released Presidential Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2019 calls for the elimination of numerous programs that fund linguistics and language research. Urge your Members of Congress to oppose these and other proposed cuts! To read more, and to take action, [click here](#).

Concerned About Languages Under Threat from Climate Change? So Is the LSA!

The LSA Executive Committee recently approved an official [statement on Climate Change and Human Languages and Cultures](#) in an effort to highlight the impact that climate change is having on speakers of endangered languages and dialects. The statement outlines a number of approaches that linguists and language advocates can undertake to address these issues.

How Can I Help? LSA to Hold Webinar on Linguistic Advocacy

Are you concerned about ongoing threats to funding for science and the humanities? Not sure how to help? The LSA's next webinar, on linguistic advocacy, will be held on Friday, March 9 from 12:00 - 1:30 PM US EST.

This webinar will be of interest to linguistics scholars, students, and enthusiasts who may be looking to engage in advocacy for the first time or seasoned advocates interested in hearing about the latest strategies for effectively talking about research to policy makers.



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To read more and to sign up for the webinar, [click here](#).

This Month in Linguistics History: Spotighting Pioneering Black Linguists

The LSA's [Committee on Ethnic Diversity in Linguistics](#) (CEDL) and the LSA salute Black History Month 2018 by shining a light on the history of Blacks in linguistics. Most of the work of early Black linguists, as that of other Black scholars, has remained in the shadows of second-class citizenship, even though in a number of instances, their contributions have been foundational, in spite of the many challenges they faced throughout their careers. [Read more about late LSA member Mark Hanna Watkins](#) (Howard University),

LSA Reaffirms Statement on Academic Freedom

Given the climate of current and potential attacks on academic freedom and tenure, the Linguistic Society of America reaffirms its existing endorsement of the [AAUP 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#), as approved by the LSA in 1975. Furthermore, the Linguistic Society of America does not accept job ads from universities that are under AAUP sanction. The recent adoption of an LSA [Civility Policy](#) underscores that the LSA is committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment at our conferences and Institutes, protecting our community's rich diversity of age, ethnicity, gender, physical condition, professional status, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status. Linguistic research has shown that in order to preserve both academic freedom and a safe and welcoming environment, dynamic dialogue is essential. We welcome such dialogue and invite members to share ways in which we can actively foster such an environment for all of our members.

"Talk to Each Other!" Meet the LSA's February Member Spotlight, Susan Fischer

"Things have gotten so fragmented and compartmentalized that the LSA . . . is the only place where you can learn about different areas that just might give you fresh perspectives on your own interests." Susan Fischer (The Graduate Center, CUNY) attended her first LSA meeting in 1966 and has been a member since 1973. In addition to presenting at numerous Annual Meetings, she has taught at three Linguistic Institutes, served on several LSA committees and, most recently, served on the Executive Committee from 2012-15. [Click here](#) for her take on the status of linguistics, advice for students, and the work of the LSA.

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LSA Appoints New Archivist

The LSA is delighted to announce the appointment of Margaret Thomas (Boston College) as LSA Archivist, for an initial term of three years. Dr. Thomas succeeds Brian Joseph (Ohio State University), who was recently elected Vice President of the LSA. The Society thanks Dr. Joseph for his many years of service in this capacity, and welcomes Dr. Thomas into this new role. [Read more about the position of LSA Archivist.](#)

Centennial Planning Committee Approved

The [LSA Executive Committee](#) has approved the constitution of a Centennial Planning Committee, which is charged with planning and assisting with activities surrounding the LSA Centennial in 2024. To read more about the committee, [click here](#).

Linguistics In The News

Some of the most popular recent news articles on linguistic topics:

- "[Why Do Cartoon Villains Speak in Foreign Accents?](#)" *The Atlantic*
- "[Hawaiian Is An Official Language So Why Isn't It Used More?](#)" *Honolulu Civil Beat*
- "[Linguists Discover Previously Unidentified Language in Malaysia](#)" *NPR*

Other LSA Resources

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and other news items of interest. [Submit a conference listing](#) or [contact the LSA](#) with news or other information.

LSA members can cause a portion of any purchase they make on Amazon.com to be donated to the LSA. [Learn more](#), or [make a tax-deductible donation](#).

Subscribe to RSS Feeds for [the latest issue](#) and the [Table of Contents](#) of *Language*.

LSA Student Members can submit their research to the [Student Research Spotlight](#).

Visit the LSA website for information on other LSA resources, including:

- [Linguistics and the News Media: An LSA Guide for Linguists](#)
- [Taking Linguistics to the Public: An Outreach Guide](#)
- [Linguistic Academic Depository](#)
- [LSA Jobs Center](#)

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