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## NAAHoLS NEWSLETTER

*The North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences*

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### **NAAHoLS @ LSA**

The 2015 NAAHoLS annual meeting will again be held in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America, the American Dialect Society, the American Name Society, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, and the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics. Featured LSA plenary speakers this year include Bruce Hayes (UCLA), David Poeppl (NYU), Carmen Silva-Corvalán (USC), and Alicia Wassink (University of Washington).

The meeting will take place in Portland, Oregon, from 8-11 January 2015. Further details about the annual meeting are provided in this edition of the newsletter. We are excited about this year's schedule of presentations, and we hope to see you in Portland!

This year's NAAHoLS program will take place at the Portland Hilton, all day on Friday (9 January), and all day on Saturday (10 January).

The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held at 3:30 pm on Saturday (10 January). If there are any items you wish to place on the meeting agenda, please let us know in advance.

For further information, contact: David Boe, Department of English, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855; (906) 227-2677; dboe@nmu.edu

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## NAAHoLS Program (Portland, 2015)

**Friday, 9 January  
Morning**

### **Linguists and Their Activities**

Chair: David Boe (Northern Michigan University)

9:45 Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:00 *Danilo Marcondes (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro):*  
Spinoza's grammar of Hebrew *More Geometrico Demonstrata*

10:30 *Hope C. Dawson (The Ohio State University):* From Toronto to Lahore: The life  
and work of Canadian Indologist A.W. Stratton

11:00 *Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute of Integral Studies):* John Stoddart's  
*Philosophy of Language* (1861): The "last truly universalist work" of nine  
centuries of universal grammar

**Friday, 9 January  
Afternoon**

### **Linguistic Backgrounds and Origins**

Chair: Hope C. Dawson (The Ohio State University)

2:00 *Marcin Kilarski (Adam Mickiewicz University), Piotr Cichocki (Adam Mickiewicz  
University):* The 19th century paradigm shift in the accounts of North American  
Indian languages

2:30 *Giedrius Subačius (University of Illinois-Chicago):* Skill versus innovation in  
Lithuanian orthographic variation: The case of Simonas Daukantas

3:00 *Weiyang Chen (Zhejiang University):* From dependence to independence: A brief  
history of Chinese linguistics from the 19th to the 21st century

3:30 Break

3:45 *Bethany Christiansen (The Ohio State University):* Sexual vocabulary and where  
Old English lexicography has historically gone astray

4:15 *David Boe (Northern Michigan University):* Murray, lexicography, and historical  
principles

**Saturday, 10 January  
Morning**

**Special Session: First-Person Testimonies as Resources in Linguistic Historiography**

Chair: Margaret Thomas (Boston College)

This organized session consists of three presentations. The first provides an overview of recent discussion among critics and historians about revelations and difficulties opened by the use of first-person accounts as primary sources in historiography (Bal, 1993; Eaken, 2004; Lasen, 2007; Popkin, 2005; Sarlo, 2005). Much of this discussion has been provoked by extreme cases of the “public airing of private hurt” (Eaken, 2004, p. 3; e.g., by Holocaust survivors or by Guatemalan activist Rigoberta Menchú). The moral stakes are not as high in modern linguists’ narrations of the development of their subfields; however, a historiographer of linguistics working with first-hand accounts still confronts very complex problems. These issues will be illustrated by an analysis of diverse first-hand accounts of Roman Jakobson’s 1941 immigration to New York and his entry into mid-century American linguistics.

The next two presentations will be by working historians of linguistics who have recently completed major projects that narrate the development of their own sub-fields (for one, applied linguistics/second language acquisition; for another, variationist sociolinguistics), based on first-person narratives or testimonies as constructed by individuals who have been intellectual and organizational leaders in those sub-fields. The two panelists/authors have been invited to discuss how their own research faced some of these problems, including: criteria for selection of interviewees; representation of interviewees’ opinions and experiences; distinction between information offered “off the record” versus information intended for public dissemination; establishing an authorial stance capable of assessing and organizing data that still lets interviewees speak for themselves; issues of historical importance that first-person testimony seems to address successfully, versus issues that posed special challenges to historical research based on first-person testimony.

Each presentation ends with discussion with the audience.

10:00 *Margaret Thomas (Boston College):* First-person testimonies as resources in linguistic historiography

10:30 *Kees de Bot (University of Groningen):* Using interview data for a history of applied linguistics

11:00 *Sali A. Tagliamonte (University of Toronto):* Off the cuff and from the heart: A history of variationist sociolinguistics from personal narratives

**Saturday, 10 January  
Afternoon**

**Reassessments and Reevaluations in the History of Linguistics**

Chair: Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute of Integral Studies)

2:00 *Rachel S. Burdin (The Ohio State University), David M. Howcroft, (Universität des Saarlandes), Cynthia A. Johnson (The Ohio State University), Rory Turnbull (The Ohio State University): “All models are wrong, but some are useful”: A history of mathematical modeling in historical linguistics*

2:30 *Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin): The “Luther myth” and Anglophone handbooks of the history of German*

3:00 *Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University): Balto-Slavic: What Meillet was thinking, or, What WAS Meillet thinking?!*

**NAAHoLS Business Meeting**

Time: 3:30 - 4:30 PM

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**NAAHoLS Abstracts (Portland, 2015)**

**David Boe** (Northern Michigan University)  
*Murray, lexicography, and historical principles*

This year represents the 100th anniversary of the death of the lexicographer James Murray (1837-1915), who long served as the principle editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. In this presentation, I will revisit the historical orientation of (British) dictionaries, and I will situate the evolution of lexicography in the context of the study of the history of the language sciences. Although figures such as Murray (and Samuel Johnson before him) are not typically viewed as “linguists” per se, I suggest that their philological foundations and their attention to language development and language change place them well within the context of 19th-century diachronic linguistics.

**Rachel S. Burdin** (The Ohio State University), **David M. Howcroft** (Universität des Saarlandes), **Cynthia A. Johnson** (The Ohio State University), **Rory Turnbull** (The Ohio State University)  
*“All models are wrong, but some are useful”: A history of mathematical modeling in historical linguistics*

In this presentation, we provide a history of the application of mathematical modeling within historical linguistics, assessing the degree of empirical success achieved, the reception of the work by the historical linguistics community, and its impact on the field. In particular, we review glottochronology and phylogenetic methods, analogical modeling, and the use of tools from the field of information theory. While modeling has its limits, it is possible that, with careful application, these models can enhance our understanding of language change.

**Weiying Chen** (Zhejiang University)

*From dependence to independence: A brief history of contemporary Chinese linguistics*

In the study of Chinese, there have been three periods leading to Chinese linguists finding an approach that is independent of an Indo-European framework. The first period was initiated by the work done by Ma Jianzhong (1845-1900) and Li Jinxi (1890-1978) at the turn of the 20th century, and it can now be regarded as an infant phase of a systematic and inclusive study of Chinese grammar that was highly dependent upon Indo-European studies. In the second period, during 1970s and 1980s, scholars such as Zhu Dexi (1920-1992) and Lv Shuxiang (1904-1998) objected to applying an Indo-European framework to study Chinese, and they achieved partial independence. In the third period, beginning recently, complete independence is emerging among the work of contemporary scholars such as Shen Jiaxuan and Liu Danqing.

**Bethany Christiansen** (The Ohio State University)

*Sexual vocabulary and where Old English lexicography has historically gone astray*

The foundational lexicographical aids for Old English (OE) were largely created in the Victorian era, a period marked by discomfort with the sexual body. Dictionary-makers of this era provided imprecise definitions of sexual vocabulary that obscured the meaning of the word, either by “defining” an OE word with Latin or by resorting to polite euphemism. In this study, I trace the definitions of several OE words for sexual intercourse – including wifgemana, hæman, unrihtæmed, and gebeddan – through the earliest dictionaries to show how these deficient definitions obscure nuances in meaning, register, and dialectal variation to the detriment of subsequent scholarship.

**Hope C. Dawson** (The Ohio State University)

*From Toronto to Lahore: The life and work of Canadian Indologist A.W. Stratton*

In this presentation, I trace the life and academic career of Alfred William Stratton, who was born in 1866 to a working-class family in Toronto, Canada, and died in Kashmir in 1902 while working at the Oriental College at Lahore and Panjab University. While all that might have been accomplished by Stratton is unfortunately left to speculation, due to his death at a young age, his posthumously published letters provide a fascinating picture of the somewhat unlikely academic career of a young Indologist from Toronto and of life in Lahore for a North American scholar in the early 1900s.

**Kees de Bot** (University of Groningen)

*Using interview data for a history of applied linguistics*

This presentation reports on a project on the recent history of Applied Linguistics (1980-2010). Sixty leading researchers in the field filled out an electronic questionnaire, and another 40 have been interviewed face-to-face. The interviews were semi-structured and lasted between 30 and 240 minutes. The main problem was to do justice to the rich interview data from so many informants. Should each of the interviewees get equivalent space in the report on the interviews, or should the leading figures or people who were prolific in their statements be front stage? In addition, how can we avoid a “meet my friends” presentation of individuals and their views?

**Brian D. Joseph** (The Ohio State University)

*Balto-Slavic: What Meillet was thinking, or, What WAS Meillet thinking?!*

Antoine Meillet, was as serious an Indo-Europeanist as there ever was, and yet not everything he wrote is uncontroversial. His take on Balto-Slavic, from *Les dialectes indo-européens* (1908, 2nd edn. 1922), is one such case, and specifically Meillet’s claim that there is no compelling evidence for a Balto-Slavic subgroup within Indo-European. I explore here just what Meillet meant by “‘dialect’ of Indo-European” in relation to Balto-Slavic, e.g., what gave rise to the 10 (or so) branches (branches as “dialects”) within the Indo-European family, or dialect variation within Proto-Indo-European itself. Further, in the 1922 “avant-prôpos”, Meillet refers to the Indo-European unity as “national” in nature, raising the question of the relevance of Meillet’s sense of the relationship between language and nation to the issue of a possible Balto-Slavic unity.

**Marcin Kilarski** (Adam Mickiewicz University)

**Piotr Cichocki** (Adam Mickiewicz University)

*The 19th century paradigm shift in the accounts of North American Indian languages*

In this paper, we discuss the preliminary results of an ongoing research project on the functions of accounts of North American Indian languages. Specifically, we examine the descriptions of selected phonological, lexical, and morphosyntactic properties of Algonquian, Iroquoian, and Eskimo languages, as well as secondary references to these descriptions in the humanities and social sciences. Here we focus on the historical context of the emergence of ethnocentric racism in the second half of the 19th century, and the role that such references played in contemporary discussions concerning the correlations between linguistic structure and cognitive competence, culture as well as the construction of social reality.

**Danilo Marcondes** (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro)

*Spinoza's Grammar of Hebrew More Geometrico Demonstrata*

Spinoza's posthumous works published in 1677 included an unfinished text of a Grammar of Hebrew (*Compendium Grammatices Linguae Hebraeae*). The main question to be discussed here is: How does Spinoza apply this notion of *more geometrico* to the study of language? My contention is that it could be understood in the sense of a scientific method for the study of language, following Descartes's definition of a scientific method, but applied to the field of language, something Descartes never did or seem to think possible. Spinoza's aim is the proposal of a rational, we would say today "scientific," study of language.

**Marc Pierce** (University of Texas-Austin)

*The "Luther myth" and Anglophone handbooks of the history of German*

Many laypeople believe that Martin Luther "invented" the modern German language (a misconception hereafter referred to as the "Luther myth"). This idea was once a common feature of handbooks of the history of German, but more recent scholarship generally presents a more nuanced view of Luther's role. I tackle this topic from a historiographical perspective, focusing on the following issues: (1) why did the "Luther myth" develop, (2) how do recent Anglophone handbooks deal with it, and (3) why is it still accepted by some handbooks?

**Giedrius Subačius** (University of Illinois-Chicago)

*Skill versus innovation in orthographic variation: The case of Simonas Daukantas (1793-1864)*

The Lithuanian revivalist Simonas Daukantas (1793–1864) lived before modern Standard Lithuanian emerged in 1880s. Based on his voluminous manuscript *History of Lithuania*, I will classify his major orthographic modifications according to the strength of decision: either weak or strong. Among the variants of a weak decision, one can identify different degrees of deliberateness: low (variants retained because of the writing skill inertia) versus high (new variants, introduced consciously and deliberately). For example, in a sentence with three different variants of the root žin- (žinoti "to know") -- (1) žėna, (2) nežinodamis, and (3) žynowas -- one may tag the variation as (1) inertia, (2) inertia and/or dialect switch, or (3) deliberate innovation.

**Joseph L. Subbiondo** (California Institute for Integral Studies)

*John Stoddart's Philosophy of Language (1861): The "last truly universalist work" of nine centuries of universal grammar*

John Stoddart (1773-1856) wrote *The Philosophy of Language* at the invitation of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834). Stoddart completed the work in two parts: *Universal Grammar* (1849) and *Glossology* (1858). Stoddart's work serves as an impressive final chapter of a long tradition of universal grammar, offering new insights as well as comment on the centuries of scholarship preceding it. While his *Philosophy of Language* is a major contribution to our understanding of universal grammar, it has been overlooked by historians of linguistics.

**Sali A. Tagliamonte** (University of Toronto)

*Off the cuff and from the heart: A history of variationist sociolinguistics from personal narratives*

This presentation reports on a history of variationist sociolinguistics based on interviews with 43 of the major contributors to the field and over 150 hours of in-depth personal reminiscences and stories. The research aims to tap the essence of the discipline, to expose its linguistic insights, social motivations, and the inside story of how it came to be. The goal of the presentation will be to outline the challenges of this type of enterprise, e.g., choice of topics, confidentiality, personalities, and so forth, and to offer the audience a greater understanding of both historiography and the human side to an academic field.

**Margaret Thomas** (Boston College)

*First-person testimonies as resources in linguistic historiography*

First-person narratives, written or oral, by direct participants in the development of the language sciences are essential to our construction of the history of linguistics, as of any field. They add depth and complexity to our understanding—but also introduce intractable problems of research design and interpretation. This presentation reviews recent discussion in historiography about the role of first-person testimonies. To illustrate how participants’ recollections can be both revelatory and distorting, I explore multiple autobiographical reports of Roman Jakobson’s 1941 immigration to New York, then introduce two recent linguistic-historiographical projects based on first-person narratives, presented by their authors in this panel.

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**\*Upcoming Conferences\***

**Colloquium of the Henry Sweet Society of Linguistic Ideas**

**Gargnano del Garda, Italy (16-19 September 2015)**

The 2015 Colloquium of the Henry Sweet Society of Linguistic Ideas will take place at the Palazzo Feltrinelli, Gargnano del Garda (Italy), from Wednesday 16 September to Saturday 19 September. As usual, contributions on any aspect of the history of linguistics are welcome, as are ideas for panel discussions or thematic sessions. Papers dealing with the history of lexicography and lexicology are especially welcome. The annual Leslie Seiffert Memorial Lecture will be given by Professor John Considine (University of Alberta, Edmonton), on the topic “Challenges and boundaries in the universal history of lexicography”.

**Deadline for abstracts:** Please send an email to Giovanni Iamartino (giovanni.iamartino@unimi.it) with an attachment giving the title, type of contribution, and an abstract (max. 250 words). Your name should not appear in the attachment. In the body of your email please indicate your full contact address and the title of your paper, discussion, or thematic session. Papers are expected to be of 20 minutes (+10 minutes discussion time). The deadline for submissions is 31 January 2015. (Notification of acceptance will be made by early March 2015.) Registration will open in Spring 2015.

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**\*Linguistic Society of America: 89th Annual Meeting\***

**Portland, Oregon (8-11 January 2015)**

The 2015 NAAHoLS meeting will again be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America, and the American Dialect Society, the American Name Society, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, the Society for Pidgin & Creole Linguistics, and the Association for Linguistic Evidence.

The 89th Annual LSA meeting will take place in Portland, Oregon from 8-11 January 2015. As usual, we are anticipating an interesting schedule of NAAHoLS presentations, and we hope to see you in Portland.

The upcoming NAAHoLS program is scheduled to take place at the Portland Hilton, on Friday (9 January) and on Saturday (10 January). The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held in the afternoon on Saturday. If there are any items you wish to place on the meeting agenda, please let us know in advance.

**Hotel Accommodations**

The Hilton Portland & Executive Tower (921 SW 6th Avenue; 503-226-1611) has negotiated a special room rate for those attending the 2015 LSA Annual Meeting.

**Hotel reservations are now available on-line and by telephone (1-800-HILTONS):**

The special LSA room rates for the 2015 Annual Meeting are:

Single/Double/Triple/Quad: \$119/night

**Advance Registration**

Everyone attending the meeting is expected to register. Compliance is important for keeping LSA fees affordable. Only those who register will be allowed to present papers, use the Job Placement Service, or attend plenary presentations. **LSA members planning on attending the Annual Meeting may preregister on-line beginning October 1, 2014. (Note that dues-paying NAAHoLS members may preregister at LSA rates.)**

Preregistration fees for the 2015 Annual Meeting are (through December 19):

Regular LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$190.00

Student LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$70.00

Non-Member (Individual): \$290.00

Non-Member (Student): \$115.00

On-site fees will be higher.

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## \*Recent Publications\*

### *HISTORIOGRAPHIA LINGUISTICA* 41:2/3 (2014)

#### ARTICLES / AUFSÄTZE

- Barry Heselwood and Janet C. E. Watson (Leeds) & Reem Maghrabi (Jeddah, Saudi Arabia):  
The Ancient Greek *μιλά-δασέα* distinction as a possible source for the *mağhūr-mahmūs*  
distinction in Sbawayhi's *Kitāb* ..... 193
- Margareta Fredborg (Copenhagen): Medieval Commentators on the Notion "persona agentis"  
in Priscian's Syntactic Theory ..... 219
- Otto Zwartjes (Amsterdam): More on "Arabic Linguistic Terminology in Pedro de Alcalá" .. 247
- Huiling Yang (Beijing): The Making of the First Chinese-English Dictionary: Robert  
Morrison's *Dictionary of the Chinese Language in Three Parts* (1815–1823) ..... 299
- Mårten Söderblom Saarela (Princeton, N.J.): The Qīng Tradition and the Return of Manchu  
Lexicography to China (1970s–1990s): The example of alphabetical order ..... 323

#### REVIEW ARTICLE / RAPPORT CRITIQUE / FORSCHUNGSBERICHT

- Christian Kay (Glasgow): English Lexicographers and their Achievements ..... 355

#### REVIEWS / COMPTES RENDUS / BESPRECHUNGEN

- Marcin Kilarski, *Nominal Classification: A history of its study from the classical period to  
the present* (Amsterdam, 2013), reviewed by Keith Allan (Melbourne) ..... 369
- Rosane Rocher & Ludo Rocher, *Founders of Western Indology: August Wilhelm von Schlegel  
and Henry Thomas Colebrooke in Correspondence 1820–1837* (Wiesbaden, 2013),  
reviewed by Leonid Kulikov (Ghent) ..... 375
- Haruko Momma, *From Philology to English Studies: Language and culture in the nineteenth  
century* (Cambridge, 2012), reviewed by Lynda Mugglestone (Oxford) ..... 380
- Stephanie Hackert, *The Emergence of the English Native Speaker: A chapter in nineteenth-  
century linguistic thought* (Berlin, 2012), reviewed by Andrew R. Linn (Sheffield) ..... 387
- Daniela Pirazzini, *Theorien und Methoden der romanischen Sprachwissenschaft* (Berlin, 2013),  
rezensiert von Reinhard Meisterfeld (Tübingen) ..... 391
- Pierre Yves Testenoire (ed.), *Anagrammes homériques de Ferdinand de Saussure* and idem,  
*Ferdinand de Saussure à la recherche des anagrammes* (Limoges, 2013), reviewed by John  
E. Joseph (Edinburgh) ..... 398
- Ferdinand de Saussure, *Grundzüge der Sprachwissenschaft*. Neue Übersetzung von Peter  
Wunderli (Tübingen, 2013), rezensiert von Christian Stetter (Aachen) ..... 402
- Koerner's Korner** ..... 407

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# NAAHoLS 2014 DUES

**Yearly Membership: \$20 (US)**

**Lifetime Membership: \$250 (US)**

**Please make your check out to "NAAHoLS" and send it to:** David Boe,  
Department of English, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI 49855.

**Members from outside the United States:** Our treasurer regrets that we are no longer able to accept checks written in currencies other than US Dollars. The cost of bank exchange is more than the cost of membership. We ask that those members send a check written on a US bank or pay their dues by some other means that arrives in US Dollars. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_