

NAAHoLS NEWSLETTER

The North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences

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to be held in Salt
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The 2018 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, the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, and the Association for Linguistic Evidence. Featured LSA plenary speakers this year include Karen Emmorey (San Diego State University), Lisa Green (University of Mass, Amherst), Larry Hyman (UC, Berkeley), and Stefanie Shattuck-Hufnagel (MIT).

The meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, from 4-7 January 2018. 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 Salt Lake City!

This year's NAAHoLS program will take place at the Grand America Hotel, all day on Friday (5 January), and all day on Saturday (6 January).

The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held at 4:15 pm on Saturday (6 January). If there are any items you wish to place on the meeting agenda, please let us know in advance.

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Linguistic Society of America: 92nd Annual Meeting

Salt Lake City, Utah (4-7 January 2018)

The 2018 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 92nd Annual LSA meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah from 4-7 January 2018. As in recent years, we are anticipating an interesting and engaging two-day schedule of NAAHoLS presentations, and we hope to see you in Austin.

The upcoming NAAHoLS program is scheduled to take place at the Grand America Hotel, on Friday (5 January) and on Saturday (6 January). The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held in the late afternoon on Saturday.

Hotel Accommodations

The Grand America Salt Lake City (555 South Main Street, SLC, Utah; 800-437-5288) has negotiated a special room rate for those attending the 2018 LSA Annual Meeting.

Hotel reservations are now available on-line and by telephone:

The special LSA room rates for the 2018 Annual Meeting are:
Single/Double: \$124/night (Triple: \$134/night, Quad: \$144/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. (Note that dues-paying NAAHoLS members may preregister at LSA rates.)**

Preregistration fees for the 2018 Annual Meeting are (through December 15):
Regular LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$240.00
Student LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$78.00
Non-Member (Individual): \$350.00
Non-Member (Student): \$150.00
On-site fees will be higher.

NAAHoLS Program (Salt Lake City, 2018)

**Friday, 5 January
Morning**

Linguistic Backgrounds and Origins

Room: Venice (3rd Floor)

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

8:45 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

9:00 *Cristiano Barreto (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro): The Laozi and the Zhuangzi: The importance of Daoism in the history of language ideas in Classical China*

9:30 *David Boe (Northern Michigan University): Marr, Marx, and authoritarian linguistics*

10:00 *Bryan Fleming (Boston College): Looking at language and nationalism through metalinguistic texts*

10:30 Break

11:00 *Monica Lupetti (Università di Pisa), Marco E. L. Guidi (Università di Pisa): Language, empire, and transcultural communication in Adam Smith's *Considerations Concerning the First Formation of Languages**

11:30 *Janne Saarikivi (University of Helsinki), Sampsa Holopainen (University of Helsinki): Uralic-Indo-European loanword studies: Reception of the earliest contacts from the 1980s to the present*

**Friday, 5 January
Afternoon**

Linguists and their Activities

Room: Venice (3rd Floor)

Chair: Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin)

2:00 *Danilo Marcondes (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro): Minerva versus Port Royal*

2:30 *Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University): Aurelio Espinosa, Hispanism, and Hispanic linguistics in the United States*

3:00 *Alan Wong (University of California, Davis), Raúl Aranovich (University of California, Davis): The Sausurrean sign, writing, and theory*

3:30 Break

- 3:45 *Margaret Thomas (Boston College)*: Broca's legacy to the twenty-first century
- 4:15 *Marcin Kilarski (Adam Mickiewicz University)*: Conceptualizing otherness: Absence of abstraction in the Tasmanian languages as a window onto human prehistory

**Saturday, 6 January
Morning**

Language Description and Classification

Room: Venice (3rd Floor)

Chair: David Boe (Northern Michigan University)

- 9:00 *Richard VanNess Simmons (Rutgers University)*: Linguistic description and innovation in Yuán and Míng rime tables: Reflections of dialect diversity and change
- 9:30 *Bernard Hurch (Universität Graz)*: The "review" as a scholarly text in the 19th century linguistic debate
- 10:00 *Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University), Hope C. Dawson (The Ohio State University)*: The development of modern terminology for dichotomies of change
- 10:30 Break
- 11:00 *Doyle Calhoun (Yale University)*: Reading wonder back into the history of linguistics: Curiosity cabinets, collection practices, and missionary linguists
- 11:30 *Frank R. Trechsel (Ball State University)*: Agustín Fischer and the Lord's Prayer in Otomí

**Saturday, 6 January
Afternoon**

Linguistics and Pedagogy

Room: Venice (3rd Floor)

Chair: Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)

- 2:00 *Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin)*: Bloomfield's language textbooks
- 2:30 *McKay Hansen (Brigham Young University)*: The diversification of grammatical terminology in usage texts
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 *Don Chapman (Brigham Young University)*: Fowler's followers: Fowler's influence on the tradition of usage handbooks
- 3:45 *Margaret Thomas (Boston College), Jared Collier (Boston College)*: Wikipedia as an instructional tool in a course on the history of linguistics

NAAHoLS Business Meeting

Room: Venice (3rd Floor)
Time: 4:15 – 5:15 PM

NAAHoLS Abstracts (Salt Lake City, 2018)

Cristiano Barreto (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro)

The Laozi and the Zhuangzi: The importance of Daoism in the history of language ideas in Classical China

The history of language ideas in classical China offers us a scenario with an abundance of stark divergences and compelling parallels with the Western Greco-Roman inheritance. By focusing on the two founding texts of Daoism, the Laozi and the Zhuangzi (c. 5th-3rd century BC), I will introduce a seldom explored source of alternative assessments on language within the Chinese tradition. My attention has been directed towards the representations of language in situations of use, specifically of metalinguistic expressions, in these two Chinese canonical texts and the impact on the Daoist views about the relationship between language, thought, and the phenomenal world.

David Boe (Northern Michigan University)

Marr, Marx, and authoritarian linguistics

This year represents the centenary of the birth of Russian author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008), and the 50th anniversary of the publication of his linguistically-informed novel *The First Circle* (1968), which includes a speculative account of the background of Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's apparent contribution to linguistic theory. In an essay published in *Pravda* in 1950, Stalin attacked the established linguistic ideology of Georgian linguist Nikolay Marr (1864-1934), arguing that his scholarship on the class-based nature of language was erroneous and insufficiently Marxist, thereby diminishing Marr's academic influence. This presentation revisits Stalin's alleged publication, and examines other examples of linguistic authoritarianism, fictional and/or actual.

Doyle Calhoun (Yale University)

Reading wonder back into the history of linguistics: Curiosity cabinets, collection practices, and missionary linguists

Missionaries collected (and in many cases, were instructed to collect) not only linguistic data, but also cultural artifacts and natural scientific specimens of various kinds. In doing so, they became motors of European "arm-chair" science and museum culture, supplying European universities and scientific institutions with curiosities and rarities from the colonies. What is the relationship between colonial collection practices and doing linguistic work? In this presentation, I examine a particular moment in the history of linguistics where the collection of natural scientific, especially botanical, specimens and language study intersected in a powerful way in the extra-linguistic collecting activities of French missionaries in colonial Africa.

Don Chapman (Brigham Young University)

Fowler's followers: Fowler's influence on the tradition of usage handbooks

Within the history of the language sciences, the usage handbook is a relative newcomer, and in scholarly treatments, H. W. Fowler has received the most attention. This paper examines the extent that later usage guides followed Fowler. In short, Fowler was both more and less influential than his reputation might suggest. Fowler is less influential, because he had an inordinately large number of one-offs, that is, usage rules that only he included. Fowler is more influential, because many of those one-offs were not exactly ignored by subsequent editors, but were instead adapted to new concerns.

Bryan Fleming (Boston College)

Looking at language and nationalism through metalinguistic texts

How did nationalism and nation-building in the lands of former Yugoslavia influence the development and history of the languages spoken there? Discussions of nationality often include language as an important component. These views certainly hold true for Yugoslavia and the present-day states it once comprised, where language has played a vital role in their national stories. Language planning decisions had a profound impact not only on the history of the languages, but also on the history of the region itself. In this presentation, I will explore the role grammars and other metalinguistic texts played in nation-building and the bolstering of a particular national identity—and in the history, development, and, arguably, birth of the languages themselves.

Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)

Aurelio Espinosa, Hispanism, and Hispanic linguistics in the United States

Aurelio Macedonio Espinosa (1880-1958) was one of the founding members of the LSA and was one of the first scholars to document and describe the Spanish of the U.S. Southwest, yet his name is largely unknown today among linguists and scholars of Spanish. This study examines Espinosa's life and work and explores several reasons why his research is not more widely recognized or acknowledged. These include Espinosa's strong inclinations towards Hispanism and the fact that his scholarly networks were more Spanish-focused at a time when few American linguists looked to the Spanish-speaking world for collaboration or research.

McKay Hansen (Brigham Young University)

The diversification of grammatical terminology in usage texts

The tradition of written grammars has been largely conservative over the centuries; through the early 1900s, grammarians worked from a fairly coherent system of grammatical terminology. Yet the development of usage guides over the last 250 years would also require a metalanguage like that of the traditional grammars. The question arises: To what extent did this new genre of language texts draw upon traditional grammatical terminology? This corpus-based study undertakes a chronological analysis of grammar terms appearing in usage handbooks since Baker's 1770 work. Findings indicate patterns of departure from uniform grammatical jargon in the incongruent modern discourse on usage.

Bernard Hurch (Universität Graz)

The "review" as a scholarly text in the 19th century linguistic debate

New media require new forms: The expansion of scientific publishing in the 19th century, including a significant number of new journals and increased book production, produced new types of text (e.g., the scientific essay, but also the review). In contrast to today's practice, the writing of reviews became an integral part of the scientific work of linguists. This presentation will briefly clarify the concept of the review, sketch the genesis and the role of this text type in the scientific landscape, discuss the concrete relation of reviewing with other individual scientific works, and illustrate the functioning of networks between authors, publishers, and consumers/readers.

Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University)

Hope C. Dawson (The Ohio State University)

The development of modern terminology for dichotomies of change

A core concept within historical linguistics is the division between "internal" and "external" change. The ways this distinction has been conceptualized have become increasingly fine-grained and detailed over the last century, from Bloomfield's "sound-change" and "analogic change" vs. "linguistic substitution" and "linguistic borrowing", or Hockett's "triad" of sound change, analogy, and borrowing, to Andersen's "evolutive" vs. "adaptative" change, or Labov's "transmission" vs. "diffusion". In this paper, we explore the history of this terminology and the extent to which the various terms reflect essential conceptual differences or subtleties of perspective.

Marcin Kilarski (Adam Mickiewicz University)

Conceptualizing otherness: Absence of abstraction in the Tasmanian languages as a window onto human prehistory

In this presentation, I examine a recurrent motif in the literature on “primitive” languages involving the notion that the Tasmanian languages (usually referred to as a single language) lack the means to convey abstract and generic meanings. I trace the history of the example in mainstream works in linguistics and the social sciences since the 1859 account of the Tasmanian lexicon by Joseph Milligan (1807-1884). In addition, I focus on its historical context with regard to the fate of the languages and their speakers. The persistence of the example, despite the changing views on human prehistory and “primitive” languages, illustrates the interdependence of linguistic descriptions of geographically distant languages and cultures, and the historical, theoretical, and ideological context.

Monica Lupetti (Università di Pisa)

Marco E. L. Guidi (Università di Pisa)

Language, empire, and transcultural communication in Adam Smith’s Considerations Concerning the First Formation of Languages

Considerations Concerning the First Formation of Languages was published by Adam Smith in 1761. This presentation focuses on the Portuguese edition, authored by Francisco Xavier Ribeiro de Sampaio, *Provedor* in Pará and Rio Negro between the 1760s-1770s. Sampaio’s translation is closely related to his experience in the Amazonian provinces, where he observed the complex system of communication between the native nations and the Portuguese conquerors. This situation mirrored Smith’s description of the evolution of “original” into “compounded” languages as a consequence of conquest. Sampaio also admired Smith’s “philosophical” analysis of the universal structures of languages, inherited from the Port Royal School.

Danilo Marcondes (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro)

Minerva versus Port Royale

In his *Cartesian Linguistics* (1966), Chomsky includes the works of Port Royal among his predecessors, due to an initial version of the deep/surface structure distinction found in them, which was central to the theoretical development of his work. Robin Lakoff (1969) disagrees with Chomsky, showing that this distinction is found in the Spanish linguist *Sanctius* (1523-1600), author of *Minerva* (1562). In this paper, I shall concentrate on the epistemological presuppositions of Chomsky’s proposal, based on Descartes’s theory of mind, arguing that these can be found in the works of Port Royal but are absent from *Minerva*.

Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin)

Bloomfield’s language textbooks

Leonard Bloomfield was deeply interested in foreign language pedagogy. In addition to teaching German for many years, Bloomfield published several articles on language pedagogy and wrote three foreign language textbooks (one for German and two for Dutch). In this paper, I evaluate the philosophy of, and the responses to, these works, in order to contextualize them within the history of language pedagogy in North America and within Bloomfield’s intellectual biography. I argue that, despite their flaws, Bloomfield’s language textbooks represent both original, innovative contributions to foreign language pedagogy, and an important part of Bloomfield’s intellectual biography.

Janne Saarikivi (University of Helsinki)

Sampsa Holopainen (University of Helsinki)

Uralic-Indo-European loanword studies: Reception of the earliest contacts from the 1980s to the present

In our presentation, we discuss the reception of research on the early contacts between the Uralic and Indo-European language families, especially the influential work of Jorma Koivulehto (1934-2014). The research on early Indo-European loanwords has had a significant impact on Uralic studies, but it has never been integrated to the mainstream of Indo-European linguistics. In Uralic linguistics, the reception has also been versatile; while the idea of old contacts is widely accepted, the postulation of several archaic Indo-European loanword layers has often been seen as too fantastic by some researchers.

Richard VanNess Simmons (Rutgers University)

Linguistic description and innovation in Yuán and Míng rime tables: Reflections of dialect diversity and change

The Yuán (1271-1386), Míng (1368-1644), and Qīng (1644-1911) were periods of remarkable linguistic awareness and discovery in China. Phonological compendiums compiled in these periods can provide many clues to the actual state of spoken dialects in the times and locales of their authors. This presentation examines a representative set of Yuán through Míng period rime books and rime tables to unearth what they reveal about the evolution of linguistic analysis of their time, and to uncover what the phonologies they outline might tell us about the dialects of their authors, of their periods, and of their places.

Margaret Thomas (Boston College)

Broca's legacy to the twenty-first century

This presentation reviews 40 years of reconsideration of the professional reputation of Paul Broca (1824-1880), the French neurosurgeon and physical anthropologist credited with identifying the third frontal convolution of the left hemisphere as a critical brain center for productive language. The data reviewed include a dispute about historical precedence, and three charges that have been brought against Broca's integrity as a scientist on the grounds that he repeatedly sought out and interpreted data to fit his unanalyzed socio-cultural convictions: his famous research on aphasia, his work in the field of physical anthropology, and his analysis of human sensory perception.

Margaret Thomas (Boston College)

Jared Collier (Boston College)

Wikipedia as an instructional tool in a course on the history of linguistics

Although rarely a topic of instruction in the U.S college curriculum, the history of linguistics (HoL) has many positive effects in developing a coherent sense of how and why language matters in both the intellectual world and in public life. We argue that assigning students to research, compose, edit, and post an original Wikipedia article is an accessible and valuable adjunct to a course on HoL. In end-of-semester reflective essays and in interviews conducted six months later, we found that (among other benefits), the assignment brought home to students the interdisciplinary thinking that goes into scientific analysis of language.

Frank R. Treschel (Ball State University)

Agustín Fischer and the Lord's Prayer in Otomí

Agustín Fischer was the confessor and confidante of Emperor Maximilian during the French Intervention in Mexico in 1864-1867. He amassed a large and very important collection of colonial books and manuscripts related to the indigenous languages of Mexico. Included in the collection was a notebook containing manuscript copies of two very early catechisms in Otomí and a heretofore unrecognized version of the Lord's Prayer in the language, with morphological analysis and glossing in German. This presentation reviews the handwriting and other evidence and concludes that Father Fischer was the author of both the translation of the prayer and its analysis.

Alan Wong (University of California, Davis)

Raúl Aranovich (University of California, Davis)

The Saussurean sign, writing, and theory

A Saussurean conception of sign, in which language essentially has two components, *form* and *meaning*, has become the *de facto* working model of semiotics in much linguistics research. This position rests on the assumption that language (*langue*) is a *code*, essentially composed of discrete elements defined by oppositions. We argue that casting language as a code is not only a failure to properly distinguish speech from writing (an issue Saussure had brought much attention to), but also that it does not capture many facts about how language is actually used.

Recent Publications

HISTORIOGRAPHIA LINGUISTICA 44:1 (2017)

ARTICLES / AUFSÄTZE

Weiyang Chen: The development of linguistics in China: A study of the contributions of Yuen Ren Chao and Wang Li (1)

Jacopo D'Alonzo: Ludwig Noiré and the debate on language origins in the 19th century (47)

Zvonko Pandžić: Van Coimbra nach Tobol'sk: Grammatik und Mission in der Slavia (73)

Hana Zabarrah: From description to prescription: The exceptive in Arabic grammatical theory (136)

REVIEWS / COMPTES RENDUS / BESPRECHUNGEN

Eugenio Coseriu, *Geschichte der Sprachphilosophie*, vol. I: *Von Heraklit bis Rousseau*; vol. II: *Von Herder bis Humboldt* (Tübingen, 2015), reviewed by Michael N. Forster (Bonn) (165)

John Considine, *Academy Dictionaries 1600-1800* (Cambridge, 2014), reviewed by Philip Durkin (Oxford) (172)

Maria Patrizia Bologna, *Itinerari ottocenteschi. Tra linguistica storico-comparativa e linguistica generale* (Rome, 2016), reviewed by Stefano Gensini (Rome) (178)

Patrick Sériot & Margarita Schonenberger (Eds.), *Potebnja, langage, pensée* (Lausanne, 2016), reviewed by Vladimir Alpatov (Moscow) (185)

NAAHoLS 2017 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.

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