

## NAAHoLS NEWSLETTER

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

### NAAHoLS @ LSA

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be held in New  
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The 2019 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 Society for Computation in Linguistics. Featured LSA plenary speakers this year include Diane Lillo-Martin (University of Connecticut), Jennifer Cole (Northwestern University), and Penelope Eckert (Stanford University).

The meeting will take place in New York City from 3-6 January 2019. 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 NYC!

This year's NAAHoLS program will take place at the midtown Sheraton Times Square Hotel, all day on Friday (4 January), and all day on Saturday (5 January).

The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held at 4:15 pm on Saturday (5 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,  
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#### **President**

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**\*Linguistic Society of America: 93rd Annual Meeting\***

**New York City, NY (3-6 January 2019)**

The 2019 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 North American Research Network in Historical Sociolinguistics, the Society for Computation in Linguistics, the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas, and the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics.

The 93rd annual LSA meeting will take place in New York City from 3-6 January 2019. As in recent years, we are anticipating an interesting and engaging two-day schedule of NAAHoLS presentations, and we hope to see you in midtown Manhattan!

The upcoming NAAHoLS program is scheduled to take place at the Sheraton Times Square Hotel, on Friday (4 January) and on Saturday (5 January). The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held in the late afternoon on Saturday.

**Hotel Accommodations**

The Sheraton New York Times Square (811 7th Avenue; 800-325-3535) has reserved a block of rooms for those attending the 2019 LSA Annual Meeting.

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

The LSA room rates for the 2019 Annual Meeting are:  
Single/Double: \$149/night (Triple: \$179/night, Quad: \$209/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 2019 Annual Meeting are (through December 14):

Regular LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$265.00

Student LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$86.00

Non-Member (Individual): \$385.00

Non-Member (Student): \$165.00

On-site fees will be higher.

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## NAAHoLS Program (New York City, 2019)

**Friday, 4 January  
Morning**

### **Linguistics and the City: Reflections on New York City and the History of Linguistics**

Room: New York Ballroom West

Chair: Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University)

8:45 Welcome and Introductory Remarks

8:50 *Ellen Contini-Morava (University of Virginia):* Meaning as explanation: The Columbia School of linguistics

9:15 *Ricardo Otheguy (Graduate Center, CUNY):* Variationist sociolinguistics and Columbia School linguistics in the history of the study of language in New York City

9:40 *A conversation with Dennis R. Preston (Oklahoma State University) and Roger W. Shuy (Georgetown University):* NYC and other urban centers in the development of modern sociolinguistics

10:05 Questions

10:15 Break

### **Theory and Practice in Linguistics**

10:30 *Geoffrey K. Pullum (University of Edinburgh):* One hundred years of “generating” languages

11:00 *Margaret Thomas (Boston College):* The history of monolingual fieldwork as a tool in American linguistics

**Friday, 4 January  
Afternoon**

### **Language and Philosophy**

Room: Madison Square

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

2:00 *Danilo Marcondes (Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro):* Hobbes: From *ars rhetorica* to *scientia civilis*

2:30 *Grant Goodall (University of California, San Diego):* Conlanging in the 19th century: Schleyer’s and Zamenhof’s attempts to create nominal inflection

3:00 *Peter T. Daniels (Jersey City, NJ):* Writing without neologisms: Interpreting W. Haas’s essays on “phono-graphic translation”

### **Studies of Languages in the United States**

3:45 *Marcin Kilarski (Adam Mickiewicz University):* Voices from the background: The contribution of Therese Albertine Louise Robinson (1797-1870) to the study of Native American languages

- 4:15 *Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University): Early descriptions of Spanish in the United States, 1848-1950*
- 4:45 *Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin), Hans C. Boas (University of Texas-Austin), Glen G. Gilbert (Southern Illinois University): Fred Eikel and the study of Texas German*

**Saturday, 5 January  
Morning**

**Linguistic Terms and Symbols**

Room: Madison Square  
Chair: Marcin Kilariski (Adam Mickiewicz University)

- 9:00 *Hunter Lockwood (University of Wisconsin-Madison): Historical notes on the pound sign (#) in linguistic theory*
- 9:30 *Giedrius Subačius (University of Illinois at Chicago): Individual manuscript orthographic peculiarities in 19th century Lithuania*
- 10:00 *Chiara Zanchi (Università di Pavia): “Preverbs”: The history and implications of a terminological challenge*

**Language and Linguistics in Society**

- 10:45 *David Boe (Northern Michigan University): The Johnson column and linguistic popularization*
- 11:15 *Janne Saarikivi (University of Helsinki), Kaius Sinnemäki (University of Helsinki): The concept of sacred language and its relation to linguistic purism*
- 11:45 *Thomas Turk (Phoenix, AZ): Napoleonic Latin inscriptions*

**Saturday, 5 January  
Afternoon**

**The Evolution of Linguistic Ideas**

Room: Madison Square  
Chair: Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)

- 2:00 *Hans C. Boas (University of Texas-Austin), Hope C. Dawson (The Ohio State University), Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University), Todd Krause (University of Texas-Austin), Marc Pierce (University of Texas-Austin): Capturing the flow of linguistic ideas: The Linguist Family Tree*
- 2:30 *Frank R. Trechsel (Ball State University): Sir Thomas Phillipps’ Mexican manuscripts*
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 *Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute for Human Science): “A philosopher’s grammar”: The evolution of Henry Sweet’s integral grammar*
- 3:45 *Tracey Adams (University of Texas-Austin): What happened to van Coetsem (1988)? How Thomason and Kaufman (1988) overtook the field of contact linguistics*
- 4:15 **NAAHoLS Business Meeting**

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## NAAHoLS Abstracts (New York City, 2019)

**Tracey Adams** (University of Texas-Austin)

*What happened to van Coetsem (1988)? How Thomason and Kaufman (1988) overtook the field of contact linguistics*

Since its publication, Thomason and Kaufman's 1988 book, *Language Contact, Creolization, and Genetic Linguistics*, has been the subject of much debate and praise and has inspired research projects in various areas of linguistics. Another book, however, published in the same year and positing similar theories, has garnered much less attention: van Coetsem's *Loan Phonology and the Two Transfer Types in Language Contact*. This paper addresses the potential causes of the rapid rise in popularity of Thomason & Kaufman's work as opposed to van Coetsem's. I propose that van Coetsem's work was overshadowed by Thomason and Kaufman's in three key ways: linguistic areas in question, reputation, and size of analysis.

**Hans C. Boas** (University of Texas-Austin)

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

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

**Todd Krause** (University of Texas-Austin)

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

*Capturing the flow of linguistic ideas: The Linguist Family Tree*

Conversations with senior linguists frequently indicate that they retain numerous insights beyond what they have imparted to their students or committed to print. Moreover, such researchers may have a unique perspective on the history and shape of the discipline. We have thus started a project aimed at preserving these insights in a freely accessible online repository, while also charting their – and others' – mentor/mentee relationships. This paper presents the first results of our project. It describes our interview protocol, our workflow, how we process the various types of materials, and a prototype of our online repository of senior linguists.

**David Boe** (Northern Michigan University)

*The Johnson column and linguistic popularization*

Established in 1843, *The Economist* is a London-based weekly news magazine, featuring a number of unsigned opinion columns, named after historically-relevant figures. In January of 2016, the "Johnson" column (which references the lexicographer Samuel Johnson, 1709-1784) was (re)introduced, typically appearing fortnightly, providing commentary on language and linguistics, and intended for a non-specialist audience. In this presentation, I will provide an overview of the topic coverage of the first three years of the Johnson column (approx. 70 essays), highlighting recurring perspectives and ideologies, and I will place this series in the broader context of contemporary "linguistic popularization" efforts.

**Ellen Contini-Morava** (University of Virginia)

*Meaning as explanation: The Columbia School of linguistics*

I discuss central ideas of the Columbia School of linguistics, developed by William Diver, Erica García, and their intellectual heirs starting in the 1960s. These ideas include: an inductive stance critiquing *a priori* categories inherited from traditional grammar; reconceptualization of the linguistic sign, comprising semantic substance as well as *valeur*; recognition of the "human factor" (e.g., inference; avoidance of processing complexity) in the deployment and interpretation of linguistic signs; distinction between *meaning* (conceptual content conveyed by a particular signal) and *message* (interpretation of that meaning in contexts of use); use of natural discourse data rather than invented examples; and development of techniques of quantitative validation of meaning hypotheses.

**Peter T. Daniels** (Jersey City, NJ)

*Writing without neologisms: Interpreting W. Haas's essays on "phono-graphic translation"*

W. Haas (1912-1997), originally a linguistic philosopher, who edited *Writing without Letters* (1976), was a then-rare serious writer on writing. His thoughts have had little influence on graphonomy, however, likely because he devised

idiosyncratic terminology for familiar concepts. His contribution was to rethink those concepts and formulate a theory of writing more coherent than any previous one, based on bringing his interpretations of “meaning” and “translating” to “phono-graphic translation” from speech to writing and vice versa. I “translate” his vocabulary into more familiar terms, interpreting his approach, and showing how the study of writing could benefit from assimilating it.

**Catherine Fountain** (Appalachian State University)

*Early descriptions of Spanish in the United States, 1848-1950*

This presentation gives an overview and analysis of the earliest descriptions of Spanish in the United States, including both traditional varieties spoken in the Southwest since the 17th century and newer varieties associated with later immigration. Analysis of these early descriptions finds that research on Southwest varieties began in earnest in the 1900s and 1910s, with descriptions of Spanish in other regions emerging in the 1930s. This study also finds that from the earliest period of research on the topic, Spanish in the US has been framed as both a resource and a hindrance, revealing an ideological divide that persists to this day.

**Grant Goodall** (University of California, San Diego)

*Conlanging in the 19th century: Schleyer's and Zamenhof's attempts to create nominal inflection*

Volapük (Schleyer 1879) and Esperanto (Zamenhof 1887), two of many language construction projects that predate the modern “conlanging” movement, are examined here in terms of their nominal inflection. Both languages use suffixes to mark case and number, but the order of these suffixes in Volapük violates an apparently universal constraint, while Esperanto obeys it. Also, the form of the case suffix in Volapük is less than ideal by current conlanging standards, while in Esperanto it is close to ideal. These linguistic factors may have contributed to the diverging historical fates of the two languages.

**Marcin Kilarski** (Adam Mickiewicz University)

*Voices from the background: The contribution of Therese Albertine Louise Robinson (1797-1870) to the study of Native American languages*

In this paper, I examine the contribution of Therese Albertine Louise Robinson (alias Talvj) (1797-1870) to the study of the languages of Native North America, based on her 1834 translation of John Pickering's (1777-1846) “Indian Languages of America” (Pickering 1831). I show that the translation, including the accompanying notes, testifies to her awareness of the unique properties of Native American languages and, more generally, the different social and cultural contexts of particular languages, an issue that she was familiar with due to her earlier and more well-known interest in the Serbian language and culture.

**Hunter Lockwood** (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

*Historical notes on the pound sign (#) in linguistic theory*

Introductory linguistics classes typically teach that # has two major uses in linguistic theory: first, in (morpho) phonology, as a marker of word boundaries; and second, as a marker of nonsensical, infelicitous, or otherwise semantically or pragmatically unacceptable sentences. As a morphophonological boundary marker, # is rooted in a history of similar uses going back at least to the American structuralists. Conversely, the semantic use of # is relatively recent; linguists even into the 1980s used \* to mark sentences as ungrammatical due to semantic unacceptability. In this paper, I discuss these two uses and their development over time.

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

*Hobbes: From ars rhetorica to scientia civilis*

Thomas Hobbes is the last major philosopher of the early modern age to give importance to rhetoric in his system. Considered of great relevance in ancient philosophy, revived in the Renaissance, rhetoric came under the attack of influential philosophers of the seventeenth century such as Descartes. Hobbes starts by criticizing rhetoric in his early works, but later in works such as the *Leviathan* becomes interested in the “power of speech”. I intend to analyze how Hobbes changed his views, showing how he distinguished rhetoric as an art from politics as a science.

**Ricardo Otheguy** (Graduate Center, CUNY)

*Variationist sociolinguistics and Columbia School linguistics in the history of the study of language in New York City*

Two developments stand out in the linguistic history of New York: the founding of variationist sociolinguistics, associated with the name of William Labov, and the founding of Columbia School linguistics, associated with the name of William Diver. Two other names round off my list of New York City linguistic heroes: Shana Poplack and Ana Celia Zentella who, no less than Diver and Labov, taught us about objectively gathered data on languages in the wild. I offer a brief comparison of variable data of Spanish in New York as seen in a classic Labovian paradigm, and as seen when taking into account the radical Diverian claim that the central unit of morphosyntactic analysis is not the sentence but the sign.

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

**Hans C. Boas** (University of Texas-Austin)

**Glen G. Gilbert** (Southern Illinois University)

*Fred Eikel and the Study of Texas German*

Fred Eikel, Jr. (1909-1967) was the first scholar to investigate Texas German extensively. This presentation assesses Eikel's place in the history of linguistics and of German Studies. We argue that Eikel's work was groundbreaking, yet flawed. It is groundbreaking in that Eikel (1954) is the first large-scale study of Texas German. It is flawed in that his data must sometimes be interpreted with caution. In addition, we contend that the impact of Eikel's work on the field was less than it should (or could) have had.

**Geoffrey K. Pullum** (University of Edinburgh)

*One hundred years of “generating” languages*

References to “generating” natural languages first appear in 1954-1955, in papers by Zellig Harris and Charles Hockett. But the machinery of generative grammars was developed much earlier, a century ago, in the PhD research of the logician Emil Leon Post. Absences of citation obscure this. Repurposed as theories of natural language syntax, generative grammars have certain oddly infelicitous consequences and properties. Alternative formalizations exist, but there too the mathematical foundations remained largely unknown to linguists. Citational discontinuities should not be allowed to mask significant conceptual continuities, and the intellectual debt linguistics indirectly owes to Post should be acknowledged.

**Janne Saarikivi** (University of Helsinki)

**Kaius Sinnemäki** (University of Helsinki)

*The concept of sacred language and its relation to linguistic purism*

Our paper deals with the concept of sacred language and its transformation from a theological to a nationalist concept in the post-reformatory Europe. We aim to demonstrate (a) the sacred character of many national languages in European nation states associated with modern nationalism; (b) that this sacredness derives from the sacred church languages in medieval Europe; and that (c) the most important way the sacredness of nationalist languages is reflected in modern secular communities are purist ideologies of language use. We illustrate these theses with examples from different European contexts including Finnish, Swedish, and Saami, but also French and Russian.

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

*Individual manuscript orthographic peculiarities in 19th century Lithuania*

In 19th century prestandard Lithuanian manuscripts, certain orthographic peculiarities are both individual and uncharacteristic to printing. J. Pabrėža (1771-1849) developed his *two* simultaneous *orthographies*: one for his standard secular writings (for more educated readers), another—for religious texts. S. Daukantas (1793-1864) chose a *single capital letter* <J> [y] to mark both vowel [i] and consonant [y]; it was duty of a printer to split <J> into two in print. Daukantas also *correlated graphemes* by their shape; after the letters with long ascenders and descenders <l, p, t> he often chose visually long <y> and <j> in digraphs “to match” them.

**Joseph L. Subbiondo** (California Institute for Human Science)  
*“A philosopher’s grammar”: The evolution of Henry Sweet’s integral grammar*

Henry Sweet (1845-1912) developed an integral grammar based on the interrelationship of form and meaning. He integrated theoretical and practical grammatical concepts, past and emerging, from several academic disciplines and linguistic traditions. He claimed that “phonetics and psychology do not constitute the science of language, being only preparations for it: language and grammar are concerned not with form and meaning separately, but with the connections between them, these being the real phenomena of language” (1892: 6-7). This paper traces the evolution of Sweet’s grammar in “Words, Logic, and Grammar” (1876), *A New English Grammar* (1892), and *The History of Language* (1900).

**Margaret Thomas** (Boston College)  
*The history of monolingual fieldwork as a tool in American linguistics*

Following Malinowski (1922), American anthropological linguists self-consciously adopted monolingual fieldwork techniques *i.e.* (near-)exclusive use of the target language to communicate with a linguistic consultant (*cf.* bilingual fieldwork, which employs a lingua franca). The practice was challenged in the 1930s in a famous controversy about its efficacy (Mead 1939; Lowie 1941). The valuing, de-valuing, and re-valuing of monolingual fieldwork shadows the circuitous path of linguists’ relationships with the people whose languages they study, leaving its imprint on the elicited corpus. Close inspection of monolingual elicitation videotapes by Kenneth Pike (c. 1979) and by Dan Everett (2013) grounds the analysis.

**Frank R. Treschel** (Ball State University)  
*Sir Thomas Phillipps’ Mexican manuscripts*

Sir Thomas Phillipps was a noted bibliophile in England in the 19th century. In 1869, he purchased the bulk of the library of Agustín Fischer, which included many of the most important early books and manuscripts written in or on the native languages of Mexico and Guatemala. The purpose of the present paper is to identify the Fischer manuscripts in Phillipps’ collection and to document both their acquisition and dispersal. The peregrinations of these manuscripts reveal much about the appropriation and exploitation of Mexican linguistic artifacts by both Europeans and Americans in the early 20th century.

**Thomas Turk** (Phoenix, AZ)  
Napoleonic Latin Inscriptions

Even though Napoleon Bonaparte was a mediocre Latin student, he increased the public display of that language throughout the French Empire more than anyone since the Roman emperors. This is the story of how a very intelligent ruler, along with his highly educated advisors, tried to use specific Latin inscriptions to unify a politically confused and illiterate population in the face of huge linguistic obstacles. Knowledge of Latin not required, but curiosity welcome.

**Chiara Zanchi** (Università di Pavia)  
*“Preverbs”: The history and implications of a terminological challenge*

This paper reviews the labels that Indoeuropeanists and, later, typologists have assigned to the uninflected morphemes known now as *pre-verbs* “(those elements that occur) before verbs”. The variable, and sometimes inadequate, terminology referring to IE preverbs is explained as resulting from various factors: (a) pre-verbs being named after their alleged positioning; (b) preverbs’ disputed origin in PIE; (c) the numerous facets of their behavior in daughter languages; (d) the inconsistency of the linguistic traditions of specific IE branches. Recently, outside IE, the terminological variation has become wider: in some language families, preverbs exhibit even more varied origins and functions, and are accordingly assigned more inconsistent labels.

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# NAAHoLS 2018 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

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