

## NAAHoLS NEWSLETTER

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

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be held in-person in  
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### **NAAHoLS @ LSA**

The 2022 NAAHoLS meeting will again be held in conjunction with the Linguistic Society of America, and also with the American Dialect Society. (We note that several of the other affiliated “sister societies” have decided to meet virtually this year.) Featured plenary speakers at the LSA meeting include Michel DeGraff (MIT), Julie Hochgesang (Gallaudet University), and Tracey Weldon (University of South Carolina).

The conference will take place in Washington, DC from 6-9 January 2022. Further details about our annual meeting are provided in this edition of the newsletter. As usual, we are looking forward to this year’s schedule of presentations, and we hope to see many of you in DC!

This year’s NAAHoLS program will take place at the Washington Hilton, Thursday afternoon (6 January), all day on Friday (7 January), and all day on Saturday (8 January), and we anticipate that virtual/remote options will be available (most likely via synchronous Zoom).

The annual NAAHoLS Business Meeting will be held at 3:15 pm on Saturday (8 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: 96th Annual Meeting\***

**Washington, DC (6-9 January 2022)**

The NAAHoLS meeting will again be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America and the American Dialect Society (while other “sister societies,” such as 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, are meeting virtually this year).

The 96th annual LSA meeting will take place in Washington, DC from 6-9 January 2022. As in recent years, we are anticipating an interesting and engaging three-day schedule of NAAHoLS presentations, and we hope to catch up with everyone in DC!

The upcoming NAAHoLS program is scheduled to take place at the Washington Hilton, on Friday (7 January) and on Saturday (8 January), in the Lincoln West Room (with our joint LSA/NAAHoLS Organized Session taking place on Thursday, in afternoon). Our annual Business Meeting will be held in the late afternoon on Saturday. See you there!

**Hotel Accommodations**

The Washington Hilton (1919 Connecticut Avenue; 800-445-8667) has reserved a block of rooms for those attending the 2022 LSA Annual Meeting.

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

The LSA room rates for the 2022 Annual Meeting are:  
Single/Double: \$139/night (Triple: \$164/night, Quad: \$189/night)

**Advance Registration (via the LSA website)**

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. **(Note that dues-paying NAAHoLS members may preregister at LSA member rates. – Use coupon codes “AM295” for in-person non-student attendees, and “AM95” for student attendees.)**

Preregistration fees for the in-person 2022 Annual Meeting are (through December 15th):

Regular LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$295.00

Student LSA Members (or dues-paying NAAHoLS members): \$95.00

Non-Member (Individual): \$395.00

Non-Member (Student): \$145.00

On-site fees will be higher.

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## NAAHoLS Program (Washington, DC, 2022)

**Thursday, 6 January  
Afternoon**

### **Joint LSA/NAAHoLS Session: The Smithsonian Institution and the Field of American Linguistics**

Organizers: Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State Univ.), Marcin Kilarski (Adam Mickiewicz Univ.)

- 4:45 Welcome and Introductory Remarks
- 4:50 *Ives Goddard (Smithsonian Institution):* The Powell map and its successors: Classifying and mapping the Native languages of North America
- 5:10 *Lucy Thomason (Smithsonian Institution):* 26,000 pages of thoughts in Meskwaki by Meskwakis: The National Anthropological Archives' Truman Michelson Collection
- 5:30 *Mary S. Linn (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage):* The Americanist tradition in programming and education at the Smithsonian
- 5:50 *Igor Krupnik (Smithsonian Institution):* Presentation of the forthcoming Vol. 1 of the *Handbook of North American Indians*
- 5:55 Discussion

**Friday, 7 January  
Morning**

### **Linguists and their Contributions**

Chair: Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)

- 9:00 *Danilo Marcondes (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro):* Jean Le Clerc's theory of language and the *Ars Critica*
- 9:30 *Bernhard Hurch (Universität Graz):* Wilhelm von Humboldt and Basque: An (un-) finished story
- 10:00 *Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute for Human Science), Marcin Kilarski (Adam Mickiewicz University):* Archibald Henry Sayce's approach to linguistic typology and methodology: Initiating a transition from 19th-century comparative philology to 20th-century general linguistics
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 *David Boe (Northern Michigan University):* Sapir on language (and literature)
- 11:15 *Marc Pierce (University of Texas at Austin):* Bloomfield the book review

## NAAHoLS Program (continued)

**Friday, 7 January  
Afternoon**

### **Perspectives on the History of Linguistics**

Chair: Raúl Aranovich (University of California, Davis)

- 2:00 *Hope C. Dawson (The Ohio State University), Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University)*: The demographics of LSA leadership over the years
- 2:30 *Margaret Thomas (Boston College)*: Racism in modern American linguistics: How did we get to where we are?
- 3:00 *Mark Amsler (University of Auckland)*: The history of linguistics is not an end in itself

**Saturday, 8 January  
Morning**

### **Language Description and Classification**

Chair: David Boe (Northern Michigan University)

- 9:00 *Raúl Aranovich (University of California, Davis)*: The hermit language: How western linguistics became acquainted with Korean grammar
- 9:30 *Catherine Fountain (Appalachian State University)*: Descriptions of Spanish-English language contact in the U.S. Southwest, 1900-1950
- 10:00 *Richard D. Janda (Indiana University Bloomington)*: A flawed folk-view of a language change yields to a partly-parallel attested modern case
- 10:30 Break

### **Historical Backgrounds of Writing Systems**

- 10:45 *Karin Michelson (University at Buffalo)*: Mohawk (Kanien'kéha) orthography through the centuries
- 11:15 *Peter T. Daniels (Jersey City, N.J.)*: Interpreting Mesopotamian and Mesoamerican: Parallels and contrasts in the discoveries and decipherments

## NAAHoLS Program (continued)

Saturday, 8 January  
Afternoon

### Resources for the History of Linguistics

Chair: Joseph L. Subbiondo (California Institute for Human Science)

2:00 *Frederick J. Newmeyer (University of Washington):* Archival resources for the study of the historiography of American linguistics

2:30 *Brian D. Joseph (The Ohio State University), Anna Taylor (The Ohio State University):* LingStoryCorps 2021: A progress report on an oral history project

### NAAHoLS Business Meeting

Time: 3:15 - 4:15 PM

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## NAAHoLS Abstracts (Washington, DC, 2022)

**Mark Amsler** (University of Auckland)

*The history of linguistics is not an end in itself*

If we take linguistics and history of linguistics as a critical practice, we need to shift historiographies of linguistics and language study beyond intellectual history or the history of ideas (especially philosophy). Expanding the historical archive to include primary documents related to social, political, or cultural history or literature locates the tensions and potentials within the formation of linguistic ideas, attitudes, and implications for understanding human nature as embodied rather than logos-constrained living. I discuss the cases of Merleau-Ponty's phenomenology and the emergence of missionary linguistics as examples of such critical practice in linguistic historiography.

**Raúl Aranovich** (University of California, Davis)

*The hermit language: How western linguistics became acquainted with Korean grammar*

In 1878, L. de Rosny was still lamenting the lack of sources and trustworthy studies to understand the Korean language and its place among other Oriental languages. By the time the first Korean grammars and dictionaries were published (e.g., Ridel 1880, 1881), some preconceived ideas about the language families of Asia were predominant in the West. I will review Hulbert's (1905) comparative study of Korean and the Dravidian languages, which attempted to lend support to the classification of Korean as a "Turanian" language (cf. Müller 1855).

**David Boe** (Northern Michigan University)  
*Sapir on language (and literature)*

This past year represents the 100th anniversary of the publication of *Language: An Introduction to the Study of Speech* (1921), by the American anthropologist and linguist Edward Sapir (1884-1939). The book is organized as an introductory text in linguistics, and also includes a final chapter (entitled “Language and Literature”) focusing on the use of linguistic perspectives in the examination of poetry and prose. In this presentation, I will provide a centenary reflection on Sapir’s *Language*, with particular attention given to the concluding literary analysis chapter, as contrasted with recent ideas about the relevance of linguistic theory to the study of literature.

**Peter T. Daniels** (Jersey City, N.J.)  
*Interpreting Mesopotamian and Mesoamerican: Parallels and contrasts in the discoveries and decipherments*

The discoveries and decipherments of Mesopotamian cuneiform and Mesoamerican glyphs proceeded in surprisingly parallel and sometimes simultaneous achievement, but because of the great gulf, or ocean, fixed between specialists in the two fields, the similarities have been largely unremarked. I lay out on the one hand the two convergent timelines and on the other the two divergent methodologies, suggesting that had the decipherment of cuneiform been properly understood in the mid-20th century, the decipherment of Maya glyphs might have been accomplished more efficiently. An even more recently published “decipherment,” of Aztec glyphs, is brought in as a cautionary tale.

**Hope C. Dawson** (The Ohio State University), **Brian D. Joseph** (The Ohio State University)  
*The demographics of LSA leadership over the years*

In summer 2020, concerns were raised about the leadership of the LSA being out of touch with the Society’s rank-and-file membership. Such claims are by nature subjective and highly politicized, but they raise important questions that call for objective data. We report here on our investigation of the age and gender of LSA officers, Executive Committee members, the Society’s Fellows, and the editors of LSA publications over the lifespan of the Society. Furthermore, to understand better why the leadership demographics are as they are, we add the further metric of the makeup of the Nominating Committee, as it held the greatest power for shaping the composition of the group of LSA officers and Executive Committee.

**Catherine Fountain** (Appalachian State University)  
*Descriptions of Spanish-English language contact in the U.S. Southwest, 1900-1950*

This paper provides an overview and analysis of early accounts of language contact between Spanish and English in the U.S. Southwest. Description of language contact in this region began in the first decades of the 20th century and was largely carried out by linguists, philologists, and folklorists living and working in the area. Apart from the valuable linguistic data they contain, these early works provide insight into a particular period of research on language contact in the United States. While some frame bilingual speech patterns more as a curiosity than a subject worthy of serious study, in others linguistic phenomena are treated systematically and their social functions recognized, revealing themes and topics that would come to define later research in bilingualism and language contact.

**Bernhard Hurch** (Universität Graz)

*Wilhelm von Humboldt and Basque: An (un-)finished story*

The early period of Basque studies was in many ways of crucial importance for Wilhelm von Humboldt's linguistic program. But only after the re-discovery of his unpublished paper legacy in the early 1990s, which for various decades was thought to be lost, was it possible to thoroughly evaluate its real importance. This presentation will aim at giving a survey of the specific innovations of linguistic ideas (as on ergativity, separative marking, among others), together with the introduction of the recently finished three volumes of the Basque section of the new historical-critical edition of Humboldt's linguistic writings.

**Richard D. Janda** (Indiana University Bloomington)

*A flawed folk-view of a language change yields to a partly-parallel attested modern case*

Do scared sycophants ever spread autocrats' linguistic errors? When folk-beliefs about such phenomena yield to documentable cases, historiographers take notice. Claiming that Andalusian /s/ corresponds to Castilian /θ/ because courtiers imitated a lisping monarch is unsustainable: myriad words retain /s/; the one "lisping" Spanish king antedated /θ/'s dominance by 200+ years. Yet Hitler's last-minute edit in a 1941 speech (replacing a preposition without making a dative-to-accusative switch for all relevant case-endings) created ungrammaticality. The accusative case survived, but sampling twenty German publications reveals fifteen (nearer Berlin) reprinting the mistake. Only five (in Austria and neighboring Liechtenstein) corrected or avoided it.

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

**Anna Taylor** (The Ohio State University)

*LingStoryCorps 2021: A progress report on an oral history project*

We give here a progress report on LingStoryCorps, an oral history project that began in 2019 and will debut at the LSA's upcoming centennial (2024-2025). Inspired by the national "StoryCorps" project (storycorps.org) which endeavors "to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people," LingStoryCorps aims to give anyone with an interest/stake in linguistics or a linguistics-adjacent field/career the opportunity to talk on the record about their lives. Audio recordings of approximately 15 minutes in length, of people of all ages and of various stations in life as they talk about their involvement in linguistics *inter alia*, are being undertaken at LSA events and elsewhere, and we expect to extend this program.

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

*Jean Le Clerc's theory of language and the Ars Critica*

Jean Le Clerc was a major figure in the seventeenth century debate on the study of language and its role in the formulation of a critical method, including a historical analysis having an exegetical dimension, especially in his *Ars Critica* of 1697. This was highly original at that time, anticipating major themes of the Enlightenment and even of Hegelian philosophy of history more than a century later. This method was applied to exegetical analysis of historical texts of the religious tradition which were object of major controversies at that time.

**Karin Michelson** (University at Buffalo)

*Mohawk (Kanien'kéha) orthography through the centuries*

The Kanien'kéha (Mohawk, Iroquoian) language has a long tradition of writing, in an orthography unchanged in its basic form through the centuries. Developed by Roman Catholic missionaries in the 17th century and used extensively in lexical, grammatical, and religious writings, it was, and still is, used by Mohawk writers in vocabularies, recipes, letters, etc. Since French, the language of the missionaries, and Kanien'kéha have different phonological contrasts, some of the orthographic conventions adopted from French, such as digraphs for nasal vowels, lead to ambiguities. This paper investigates the orthography from its beginnings, tracing how certain ambiguities were resolved by modifications to the original system, and how other ambiguities resolved due to relatively recent changes in the phonology.

**Frederick J. Newmeyer** (University of Washington)

*Archival resources for the study of the historiography of American linguistics*

The first part of this talk describes the content of several archives which have relevance to the history of American linguistics. The second part shows how material from these archives has already helped to solve debates about linguistic historiography. This material clarifies Chomsky's early publication attempts, the reception of Roman Jakobson in the United States, Charles Hockett's attempt to resign from the LSA, and the contested LSA presidential election of 1970, among other things.

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

*Bloomfield the book reviewer*

Book reviews can have a considerable impact on the field. Despite this, book reviews are sometimes neglected in discussions of scholar's body of work. This paper therefore describes the book reviews done by Leonard Bloomfield and contextualizes them within Bloomfield's scholarly oeuvre. Bloomfield's reviews both explicate Bloomfield's views on various linguistic questions and allow him the opportunity to engage more directly with other scholars' work. The types of books Bloomfield reviewed reflect his changing scholarly interests, while the amount of book reviews done by Bloomfield show that he saw them as an important scholarly task.

**Joseph L. Subbiondo** (California Institute for Human Science)

**Marcin Kilariski** (Adam Mickiewicz University)

*Archibald Henry Sayce's approach to linguistic typology and methodology: Initiating a transition from 19th-century comparative philology to 20th-century general linguistics*

This paper focuses on Archibald Henry Sayce's (1845-1933) *Principles of Comparative Philology* (1893) in the context of the transition between 19th-century comparative philology and 20th-century general linguistics. We show that while many of Sayce's theoretical and methodological principles relating to the study of linguistic diversity are consistent with those of modern comparative and typological linguistics, his interpretation of examples from the languages of North America, Southern Africa, and Tasmania illustrates common practices in descriptions of 'primitive' languages in the late 19th century, e.g., treating words as an index of civilizational development.

**Margaret Thomas** (Boston College)

*Racism in modern American linguistics: How did we get to where we are?*

A recent upsurge of attention to racism in the discipline of linguistics is both welcome and provocative, but conspicuously lacks historical context. This presentation tries to understand how we got to where we are now. There are reasons to anticipate *more* influence of racist ideology on American linguistics than on other fields, e.g., linguistics' ties to European-based philology; there are also reasons to anticipate *less* influence, e.g., the role of prominent racial-justice campaigner Franz Boas in early 20th century U.S. linguistics—although the limits on Boasian anti-racism may have contributed to linguists' disengagement from racial-justice activism in the 1920s–40s.

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**Upcoming LSA/NAAHoLS Annual Meeting locations/dates:**

**2023** → Denver, Colorado (Hyatt Regency Denver), 5-8 January

**2024** → New York, NY (Sheraton Times Square), 4-7 January

**2025** → To Be Determined

**2026** → To Be Determined

**2027** → San Francisco, California (Marriott Marquis), 7-10 January

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# NAAHoLS 2021 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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

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