THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF THE INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES OF THE
AMERICAS

\*\*\* SSILA BULLETIN \*\*\*

An Information Service for SSILA Members

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-->> --Correspondence should be directed to the Editor-- <<--

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Number 140: June 15, 2001

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140.0 SSILA BUSINESS

Submissions for the Mary R. Haas Award
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SSILA annually presents the Mary R. Haas Award to a junior scholar
whose unpublished manuscript makes a significant substantive
contribution to our knowledge of native American languages. The
selection committee is now accepting submissions for the Haas Award
for 2001. Submissions should be monographs reflecting substantial
empirical research, including descriptive and issue-oriented grammars,
topical studies, dictionaries, and text collections. No academic
affiliation is required but holders of tenured faculty positions
will not normally be eligible. Submissions must be in English.

The award does not carry a financial stipend, but the winning manu-
script will be eligible for publication under the Society's auspices
in the University of Nebraska Press series "Studies in the Indigenous
Languages of the Americas".

The deadline for receipt of submissions is August 25, 2001. Five full copies of the manuscript should be submitted, accompanied by a short letter indicating whether the work is a dissertation or was prepared under other circumstances. These should be sent to the chair of the Committee:

Sarah Thomason
Department of Linguistics
1076 Frieze Building
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1285

Inquiries should be directed to Prof. Thomason, preferably by e-mail at: thomason@umich.edu

The decision of the 2001 selection committee will be announced at the annual meeting of SSILA in San Francisco January, 2002. In addition to Prof. Thomason the members of the selection committee includes Paul Kroeber, Douglas Parks, Karl V. Teeter, and Anthony C. Woodbury.

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140.1 CORRESPONDENCE


Language identification sought
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From: Peter Bakker (linpb@mail.hum.au.dk) 10 Jun 2001:

Arnold De Lange from the Netherlands recently e-mailed me to ask if I could help him to identify the language of the following text and, if possible, provide a translation. He did not tell me where the text is from, or how accurate the translation is. I hope SSILA members can help him.

This is the text:

Ittokiwih salo ii metsopahwi ! Siso ! Pekossih.

Aykasyi e mohswaka witoh. Kutowi ilohwe nache owkhu e poichow thje.

Ahkiwi

Ohw ahsahki mashewki

Keyochi !

Tachiki e nocho ! Wochwto ?

Please reply to De Lange directly at <adel.1@hetnet.nl>.

--Peter Bakker
Aarhus University, Denmark
(linpb@hum.au.dk)


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140.2 MORE ON WEB PUBLISHING

>From Lev Michael (lmichael@mail.utexas.edu) 31 May 2001:

It might be useful to add a little detail to Doug Whalen's concise
summary of the web- vs. paper-publishing discussion that we had at the
SALSA meeting in April [see SSILA Bulletin #139.3].

Web-publishing is different from paper-based publishing in at least
three significant ways:

1. Paper-based publications are typically distributed in a substan-
tially more restricted manner than web-based ones. In principle, a
web-based publication can be accessed from anywhere with phone service,
and can be "distributed" much more rapidly. I am writing this e-mail
in Pucallpa, a jungle town in Peru, where I can readily access any web-
based publication I want (at 128 kbps!). I cannot, however, access ANY
paper-based publication in anthropology or linguistics.

Ethically, this kind of availablility effects a "phase transition"
in the way information can circulate. Web-based publications cannot
achieve the rapid oblivion and effective secretiveness of a tome lodged
on a musty library shelf. In the organization and execution of the
AILLA project (www.ailla.org), for example, we are acutely aware that
the web-based nature of the archive means that we can be held accountable
by indigenous peoples for materials we archive with an ease that would
have been unimaginable prior to the advent of the web. Similarly, the
representations of languages or societies that we archive are much more
readily available to consumers of information, meaning that, for example,
negative representations (and positive ones also!) can circulate with
considerably greater ease.

2. Paper-based publication allows for reproduction of text and still
images (although this tends to be expensive). Web-based publication
allows, in addition, the reproduction of audio and video files, and

makes the publication of images substantially easier.

The ethical problems raised by images, and by audio and video files, are quite different from those of text alone. The human voice frequently invokes a sense of proprietariness on the part of the speaker that a textualized version does not. This is even more the case with video. Moreover, anonymity can be easily preserved in a text, but it becomes increasingly difficult for audio and video.

Similarly, textual representations allow for kinds of "editing" of embarrassing or even incriminating material. making representations more acceptable for circulation. The "representational faithfulness" of audio and video makes such editing more difficult.

3. Related to the above two points, but somewhat distinct, is the ease with which one can make perfect copies of digital files which can then be easily distributed on a large scale. Similarly, digital files can be altered and reworked in ways that produce files of a quality equal to the original.

This raises serious ethical issues with respect to the intellectual property rights of the people whose voices and images are recorded.

I think these properties of web-based publication will always distinguish it quite markedly from paper-based publication.

I hope this helps.

--Lev Michael
Archive of the Indigenous Languages of Latin America
Dept. of Anthropology, Univ. of Texas, Austin
(www.ailla.org)


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140.3 VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION GRANTS

>From Vera Szoelloesi (szoelloesi@volkswagenstiftung.de) 5 Jun 2001:

Applications are now being accepted for the main phase of the funding program "Documentation of Endangered Languages" of the Volkswagen Foundation, Hanover, Germany. A detailed description of the technical, linguistic, and legal framework of the program is available at:

http://www.mpi.nl/DOBES

The Volkswagen Foundation hopes that this funding initiative will help to stem the irretrievable loss of endangered languages around the world. In view of the fact that some languages will rapidly become extinct within a mere one to two generations, systematic documentation would appear to be the task that most urgently needs to be tackled. Such documentation should be characterized by data orientation, multi-functionality, and general accessibility.

The program is intended not only to to establish high standards of documentation, but to encourage the development and testing of new methods of research, and of the processing and archiving of linguistic and cultural data. The program has a strong interdisciplinary orientation: it not only supports interdisciplinary data collection, it also intends to create opportunities for subsequent multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary utilization of the data gathered.

The MPI for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen (NL) will house the data archive, including audio and video recordings, photos, and various texts and annotations.

The program started with a one-year initial phase, with eight documentation projects and one digital multimedia archive project working out the logistical, technical, linguistic and legal framework of an archive of endangered languages, recognizing that a common electronic archive requires linguistic and technical standardization and that the documentation touches important ethical and legal questions. A detailed description of the standards, recommendations, constraints and contracts is available at the website noted above.

The eight initial-phase documentation projects included:

--Wichita (Caddoan, USA) -- Team: David S. Rood & Mirzayan Armik (Colorado)

--Kuikuro (Cariban, Upper Xingu, central Brazil) -- Team: Bruna Franchetto & Sven Grevald

--Trumai (isolate, Upper Xingu, central Brazil) -- Team: Stephen C. Levinson & Raquel Guirardello (MPI Nijmegen)

--Awetï (Tupian, Upper Xingu, central Brazil) -- Team: Hans-Heinrich Lieb & Sebastian Drude (Freie Universitaet Berlin)

--Ega (Kwa family, Ivory Coast) -- Team: Firmin Ahoua (U de Cocody, Abidjan), Bruce Connell (York U, Toronto) & Dafydd Gibbon (Bielefeld)

--Teop (Austronesian Oceanic, Bougainville, Papua New Guinea) -- Team: Ulrike Mosel, Ruth Saovana Spriggs, Marcia Schwartz & Jessica Reinig

--Salar (Turkic) and Monguor (Mongol) (Qinghai, China) -- Team: Lars Johanson (Mainz) & Arienne M. Dwyer

--Altai-Sayan Language & Ethnography Project (Southern Siberia and northern Mongolia) -- Team: Bernard Comrie (MPI Leipzig), K. David Harrison (Yale), Gregory Anderson (Manchester), Brian Donahoe (Indiana), & Sven Grawunder (Halle).


Applications for projects in the main phase must be made within these guidelines:

* The degree of endangerment of the language which is to be documented must be demonstrated, along with the urgency of the need for its documentation and its comprehensive documentation capacity.

* The qualification of the project members for language documentation purposes should be specified. Project members should be qualified academics, preferably from a variety of disciplines (e.g. ethnology and linguistics), with field research experience. If possible, they should possess knowledge of the relevant contact language. Projects that involve international academic collaboration, particularly including academics from the host country, will be especially welcomed.

* In addition, a willingness to process data in accordance with the three key terms of data orientation, multifunctionality and general accessibility is considered to be a prerequisite. Following the completion of the project, the project members will be granted the sole right of access to their data material for a period of up to three years for the purpose of achieving and presenting their own research results, e.g. in the form of a doctoral thesis.

* A willingness to accept the linguistic, technical and legal framework defined by the goals of a central digital archive for endangered languages.

* When an application is submitted, official research permission and the consent of the relevant speech community to the documentation of its language should have been obtained.

* The institutional prerequisites for the organizational implementation of the documentation project for which an application is submitted should be in place. Centralized archiving notwithstanding, responsibility for

the general accessibility of the documentation and continued data
maintenance will lie with the applicants.

* A willingness to attend conferences and to participate in training
courses within the framework of the program will be assumed, provided
that such meetings do not clash with field visits.


Further information about the application process can be obtained from
the office of the Volkswagen Foundation in Hannover, Germany. Contact:

Dr. Vera Szoelloesi-Brenig
Volkswagen Stiftung Hannover
Kastanienallee 35
30519 Hannover
(szoelloesi@volkswagenstiftung.de)
tel +49-511-8381-218
fax +49-511-8381-4218

For technical information please contact:

Peter Wittenburg
Max-Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen
(peter.wittenburg@mpi.nl)
tel +31-21-352 1113
fax +31-24-352 1213


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140.4 POSITIONS OPEN


* Linguistic anthropologist at Binghamton
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>From Robin Barron (rbarron@binghamton.edu) 7 Jun 2001:

Binghamton University (SUNY) seeks a linguistic anthropologist for a
two-year temporary assistant professor appointment beginning Fall 2001,
with the likelihood that the department will begin an open search for
a tenure-track opening for Fall 2003.

Applicants should have demonstrable expertise in linguistic anthropology;
show promise of success in external funding; be able to contribute to
Binghamton's four-field programs; and exhibit ability to teach linguis-
tics, including Binghamton's freshman-level Language, Culture, and
Communication in the US, and the department's graduate-level offerings in

linguistic anthropology (http://anthro.adm.binghamton.edu/). Experience in college-level teaching and in fieldwork-based research are required, as are an interest in innovative pedagogy and a capacity to direct outstanding graduate-level research. PhD at time of appointment is strongly preferred but ABDs will be considered.

To be assured full consideration, applications must arrive by June 29, 2001, but the search will remain open until the position is filled.

Send letter of application, a curriculum vitae, and the names, phone number, and e-mail addresses of three references to:

Linguistic Anthropology Search Committee
Department of Anthropology
Binghamton University
PO Box 6000
Binghamton, NY 13902-6000

Binghamton University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

* One year position in linguistic anthropology at UCLA
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>From Alessandro Duranti (aduranti@ucla.edu) 11 Jun 2001:

The UCLA Department of Anthropology has a one year opening, starting September 2001, for a Visiting Assistant Professor who would be teaching the following courses in linguistic anthropology over three quarters (each quarter is 10 weeks):

1. Anthropology 33: Culture and Communication, a large lower division class with Teaching Assistants and an honors section for the instructor to teach (additional 50 minutes per week) (see website http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/anthro/faculty/duranti/anthro33/)

2. Anthropology 140: Language in Culture (upper division)

3. Anthropology 141: The Ethnography of Everyday Speech: Theory and Practicum (upper division)

4. Two other courses to be agreed upon. (A possible course is Topics in Linguistic Anthropology; topics in the past have included: language socialization, language and education, language & politics, conflict talk, language & identity.)

Please send a letter outlining your expertise and previous teaching experience, names of three referees (with e-mail addresses) and a CV to:

Alessandro Duranti
Linguistic Anthropology Search
Department of Anthropology
UCLA
Box 951553
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1553


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140.5 E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

Booker, Karen .................kbooker@ku.edu
Fernandez Garay, Ana ...........anafg@ciudad.com.ar
Mason, Jim (Rosetta Project)....jimmason@longnow.org
Mason, Tom ....................ctm@ctmason.com
Wash, Suzanne .................suzannewash@yahoo.com




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