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From: owner-ssila@lists.uoregon.edu on behalf of Scott DeLancey <delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu>

**Sent:** Monday, March 15, 2004 9:34 AM

**To:** ssila@lists.uoregon.edu

**Subject:** ssila: SSILA Bulletin (Special Issue)

The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas

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

An Information Service for SSILA Members

Editor - Victor Golla (golla@ssila.org)
Associate Editor - Scott DeLancey (delancey@darkwing.uoregon.edu)

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

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Special Issue: March 15, 2004

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From Leanne Hinton (hinton@socrates.Berkeley.EDU) 14 Mar 2004:

## **URGENT**

Calling SSILA members for abstract submissions to AAA 2004 in San Francisco!

All submissions need to be done electronically on the AAA website.

You can get detailed instructions there. If you put SSILA as one of the three keywords, we can design a couple of sessions around SSILA.

Your abstract should be 250 words or less. You have to register online as part of the submission process, so have your credit card handy.

Also, I am setting up a volunteered joint SSILA/SLA session called NEW WRITING SYSTEMS. If you would like to volunteer a paper for that session, please send that abstract directly to ME (Leanne Hinton, <hinton@socrates.berkeley.edu> by March 30, to give me a couple of days to get everything together for submission. Also let me know what equipment you need. (An excellent new thing at the AAA this year will be that every room will have an LCD projector -- BYO Computer.) The session abstract for New Writing Systems is below.

(Remember, though, that each person can only give ONE paper at the AAA, so you have to choose whether to apply to present in a general SSILA session or whether to be part of the session on New Writing Systems.)

--Leanne Hinton President, Society for Linguistic Anthropology and SSILA liaison to the AAA

<sup>\*</sup> Call for SSILA papers for the 2004 AAA meeting (San Francisco, November)

[NOTE: This is a call for submissions to the American Anthropological Association's general meeting in San Francisco next November, and \*not\* for submissions to the next annual meeting of SSILA, which will also be held in San Francisco with the LSA, in early January. SSILA no longer holds its regular annual meeting as part of the AAA meeting, as it did in the past.

However, special SSILA-sponsored sessions will be organized at AAA meetings when there is interest in doing so. --Ed.]

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session abstract

New Writing Systems (a joint session of SLA and SSILA)

Indigenous peoples and minority groups are developing new writing systems for their languages, sometimes with linguists, and sometimes on their own. While it might be thought that decisions around the development of a new writing system are primarily about the sounds of the language, in fact such decisions are fraught with great social and political issues. Feeding into the orthographic design are concerns of ethnic identity and alliances, and bias toward or away from writing systems in the dominant language due to political concerns. The specific goals for use of the writing system will also be a factor, such as whether it is for recording of a healthy living language, or for the teaching of an endangered language, and whether there is a large pool of scholarly writing on the language that the community must consult for the sake of language revitalization.

Linguists and language learners may want a system that clearly specifies pronunciation, but speakers don't need every sound specified and may prefer a simpler system, or one that has symbols and spelling rules like a system they are already familiar with. New writing systems may be for indigenous peoples who have traditionally entirely oral means of expression, or may be developed by or for minority groups to replace older writing systems, as an expression of a new kind of ethnic identity or a new relationship to the dominant society. Whose agenda is met by a particular orthographic design, what needs and uses the new writing system fulfils, and how it reverberates in the community it is designed for, is the topic of this session.

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