

## Seminars 2004

*BAAL Seminars 2004 are sponsored by Cambridge University Press*

BAAL/Cambridge University Press seminars aim to enable discussion in state of the art applied linguistics research. Around 30 participants take part, always including at least two postgraduates. Cooperation with other groups is strongly encouraged.

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**Title: Vocabulary Knowledge and Use: measurements and applications**

**Proposed by: Jeanine Treffers-Daller, Brian Richards, Paul Meara and James Milton.**

**Location: University of the West of England, Bristol, School of Languages and Linguistics.**

**Date: 8-9 January 2004**

**Aims:**

The seminar aims at bringing together researchers from different strands within Applied Linguistics, with a view to exchange ideas about the best ways to measure vocabulary knowledge and use and to evaluate how these measures can be applied in different contexts. These contexts will include research in L1 and L2 acquisition, early language impairment, aphasia, Alzheimer's disease, etc. They organisers intend to create a link with the teaching profession in primary and secondary education, in particular in relation to the teaching of English and modern foreign languages, where knowledge and use of vocabulary are a key issue. Thus, part of the seminar will focus on an exchange of views between researchers and teachers, to facilitate communication in both directions.

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**Title: Language and Identity**

**Proposed by: Paul Kerswill, Julia Sallabank, Arfaan Khan**

**Location: University of Reading**

**Date: 5-6 July 2004**

**Website: [http://www.rdg.ac.uk/slals/identity\\_seminar/](http://www.rdg.ac.uk/slals/identity_seminar/)**

**Aims:**

- To share issues and methodologies in language and identity across the spectrum of applied linguistics, including sociolinguistics;
- To bring together researchers working on language and identity in order to increase understanding of how these factors interact and their practical applications;
- To promote cross-disciplinary communication by comparing research on language and identity in different strands of Applied Linguistics, such as: second/foreign language and mother tongue education, language use in multilingual settings, language variation and change, language contact, discourse analysis, language and gender, linguistic ethnography, and communication studies. To this end, presenters are encouraged to make their papers as relevant as possible to researchers working in other disciplines.

Discussions will include both research methodology and findings. Presenters and discussants will be encouraged to focus on practical outcomes, for example, the educational achievement of minority children or heritage/community language maintenance.

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**Title: Researching Community Languages: educational and social perspectives**

**Proposed by: Joanna McPake, Jo Arthur**

**Location: University of Stirling**

**Date: 21st-22nd June 2004**

**Aims:**

- What are the latest developments in research into the learning, teaching and use of community languages?
- How can we most effectively use research findings about community languages for social intervention?
- Should there be a BAAL Special Interest Group for Community Languages?

This seminar aims to bring together researchers working on issues relevant to community language learning and use. Although this is an integral part of the lives and education of many children and adults in the UK today, community languages have received little research attention to date. Such research has the potential to contribute to a range of issues including the development of plurilingual identities, patterns of language use among plurilinguals, the impact of community language learning on children's maintenance of plurilinguality and on their achievements in mainstream education. The seminar will offer opportunities for developing shared ideas and approaches, and synergy across a range of developments in the field. The establishment of a BAAL SIG, as an outcome of this seminar, will provide ongoing opportunities of this kind and ensure longer-term and wider-ranging consolidation of this work.

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### **Seminar Programme 2003-4: Report to the BAAL Annual General Meeting**

The BAAL/Cambridge University Press seminars aim to promote in-depth discussion and to encourage research meetings which: investigate emergent, timely or relevant methods or topics; are interdisciplinary; provide opportunities for BAAL members to meet people working in their own discipline and other areas; and are small enough to allow in-depth, informal discussion.

The report below summarises my activities as coordinator of the seminar series, since the last AGM. I am happy to discuss any matters raised below or any other aspect of the seminars at the conference and I can also be contacted by email at the address at the end of this report.

The following seminars received funding in the 2003 competition:

- System and Corpus: exploring the connections (University of Liverpool, April)
- Multimodality and Applied Linguistics (University of Reading, July)
- Language, and Economic Development (University of Wales, December)

Informative reports of these seminars have been published in BAAL News and sent to Cambridge University Press.

Five proposals were received for seminars to take place in 2004. A subgroup of members from the Executive Committee, comprising of Esther Daborn, James Simpson and me, reviewed the proposals during November 2003. The proposals were of a very high standard, on interesting and timely topics with focussed and often novel approaches. The subgroup short-listed three proposals and passed a report of their recommendations and comments to the Executive Committee at their December meeting. The Committee accepted the recommendations and the successful organisers were contacted.

All those who had proposed seminars, including those who were not successful, were given feedback.

The seminars funded in 2004 were:

- Vocabulary Knowledge and Use: measurements and applications (University of the West of England, January)
- Researching Community Languages: educational and social perspectives (University of Stirling, June)
- Language and Identity (University of Reading, July)

A report on the first seminar has already been published in BAAL News and reports on the other two will appear in forthcoming issues.

The call for seminar proposals for the 2005 competition has already been circulated via BAAL News and the BAAL email list and BAAL postgraduate email list. A copy of the call for proposals will also be included in the conference pack which delegates at the Annual Meeting will receive.

As a result of the high level of competition for funding, the BAAL Executive Committee are also awarding two additional grants for organisers. This has been advertised on the call for proposals for 2005. These two awards are different from the BAAL/Cambridge University Press awards as they are made at the discretion of the Executive Committee and are totally repayable, acting similarly to a loan to help organisers to get an event under way.

A financial template is now available on the BAAL website: [www.baal.org.uk/sample\\_costings.doc](http://www.baal.org.uk/sample_costings.doc) It is strongly recommended that proposers include a similar financial plan along with their main proposal for the 2005 competition.