

Baal News

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British Association for Applied Linguistics

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Promoting understanding of language in use.

<http://www.baal.org.uk>

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

Membership

Individual Membership is open to anyone qualified or active in applied linguistics. Applied linguists who are not normally resident in Great Britain or Northern Ireland are welcome to join, although they will normally be expected to join their local AILA affiliate in addition to BAAL. Associate Membership is available to publishing houses and to other appropriate bodies at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Institution membership entitles up to three people to be full members of BAAL.

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Editorial

Dear Members,

As usual, the autumn issue of BAALnews is packed with reports from the Exec Committee, so as to give you an overview of what has happened over the last 12 months.

In 2011, BAALnews will see its 100th issue. The last year has already seen a move from a printed to an electronic format; and anecdotal feedback from you has led to the Exec discussing the future of our newsletter. My main task over

the next few months is to think about a redevelopment of the concept, and I would like to have your input, too.

So, if you have any feedback, ideas or preferences as to what BAALnews will look like in the future, complete our short online survey at <http://www.tinyurl.com/baalnews>

With best wishes,
Sebastian Rasinger
Newsletter Editor

The association is in good shape. With over 700 members, we are the biggest professional association of linguists in the UK. Our finances are healthy; our publicity is effective; our views are promoted in relevant fora; our SIGs are various and active; BAALmail is an invaluable daily source of information.

We do however need the constant help of the membership in actively promoting the association. I hope that members will communicate our strength and dynamism when opportunities arise in discussions with people outside the association. I hope also that you will tell academic colleagues who might be interested of the many benefits of membership.

We have a number of initiatives to put this strength to good use, concentrating particularly on expanding the activities and scope of the association, providing financial support, and publicising the important potential role of applied linguistics in society at large.

Important current initiatives are: plans to appoint a media officer, increase in scholarships and their funding, invited colloquia at the

annual conference, and the new BAAL Award - Applying Linguistics.

Executive Committee

Many thanks, as always, to the dedicated and hard-working members of our Executive Committee. Particular thanks to Jim Milton who is stepping down as treasurer with effect from this AGM. We hope to appoint a new treasurer at this meeting.

Research Excellence Framework.

Along with other learned societies, BAAL was asked to recommend potential sub-panel members and to encourage individuals to apply to be sub-panel chairs. After discussion at the EC and with our REF expert panel, we made 12 nominations for sub-panels on Education, English Language and Literature, and Modern Languages (which now includes Linguistics). We are pleased to see BAAL nominee Susan Hunston on the English Language and Literature Panel, and BAAL nominees Florence Myles and Jenny Cheshire on the Modern Languages and Linguistics panels. We do have concerns however about the under representation of applied linguistics on the Educa-

tion Panel, for which none of our nominations were accepted, and I have written to the chair of the Education Panel and to the REF administration to express these concerns.

After extensive consultation we also endorsed several applications for panel chairs, including the successful application by Kersti Börjars for the chair of D28, Modern Languages. The word "linguistics" has been added into the name of The Modern Languages and Linguistics Panel after some lobbying by BAAL and other associations.

We shall be replying to the current consultation by the deadline of October 2011.

Media Officer

As members will know from BAALmail, we are seeking to appoint a media officer. The purpose is to increase the profile of the association both within and outside the academic world. Work will include locating areas of public debate and policy to which members of the association might contribute, publicising BAAL activity and members' research through electronic media, press releases etc.

The person appointed will not be an executive committee member, but will attend EC meetings. We initially advertised within the association as the work will need a good understanding of current issues in applied linguistics as well as skills in campaigning and publicity. As this advertisement did not attract many applicants, we shall be re-advertising and our strategy will have been discussed of the executive committee meeting at this conference.

UCGAL

The University Council for General and Applied Linguistics was launched at a pleasant event at the British Academy earlier this year, and the Council, under the able leadership of Ros Mitchell, is already active on behalf of the wider linguistics community on a number of fronts. We are affiliated to the council, wish it success, and look forward to working closely with it.

Academy for the social sciences (AcSS)

Congratulations to BAAL nominee Greg Myers who is now an academician of theAcSS.

AILA

After discussion at the EC it was decided not to engage with the recently founded regional AILA Europe. Our view is that once an international organisation becomes regionalised, it is no longer international by definition, and loses its key function of encouraging members to communicate across rather than within regional boundaries. We have emphasised to AILA Europe that we are keen indeed to make and maintain links with other applied linguistics associations in Europe, but no more or less than with organisations in any other part of the world.

I was unable to attend the AILA conference in Beijing. Alison Sealey will represent BAAL at the Executive Board International Committee (EBIC) there on 23rd August, and a report will be available from her in due course. BAAL member Martin Bygate, who is stepping down as AILA president, will continue to be on both the AILA executive board and the EBIC, and represent BAAL interests on both.

Applied Linguistics Journal.

Management of the journal has

now passed within Oxford University Press from the ELT section to Oxford Journals, and a new agreement has been drawn up between Oxford University Press and the co-operating associations: BAAL, AILA, and AAAL. I am pleased that BAAL will continue to fill one of the three places on the journal's advisory board, to have a voice in the nomination of editors, and to have a nominated member on the editorial panel.

Bristol Conference

Important new features at this conference are the two invited colloquia, established deliberately to broaden our appeal and scope by supporting areas which have been under-represented at our conferences in the past. This year's colloquia are on Applied Linguistics and Complex Systems and Clinical Linguistics. We also welcome successful applicants for our various scholarships, as this is a particularly important use of BAAL funds. I hope members will take any opportunity which arises to inform potential applicants of the possibilities for funding.

Guy Cook

Chair, BAAL

During the last year I have:

- piloted a new strategy for dealing with written reports at meetings
- initiated a new Actions document to accompany minutes of meetings
- organized changeover of executive membership and helped new members settle into their posts
- responded to applications to the old Applied Linguistics activity fund
- taken forward a proposal for a new BAAL fund: *Applying Linguistics*
- set up an invited colloquium on systemic functional linguistics for the colloquium in September 2011
- dealt with various routine secretarial tasks and queries organized amendments and proposal for amendments to the constitution

Caroline Coffin
Secretary

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2011

The Association made a surplus in the last year. It's slightly larger than in 2010 due to the surplus generated by the Aberdeen conference. The Association now has accumulated credits of approximately £113,000.

It appears that membership subscription has fallen but some of this income is hidden in Miscellaneous Income which has correspondingly risen. We are implementing new methods of payment to make membership payments clearer.

	2011	2010
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership Subscription	17,841	21,854
Bank interest	17	23
Book Prize Entries	1,085	280
Royalties	125	-
Mailing Adverts and Inserts	-	120
Conference & Seminar	28,601	8,444
Miscellaneous Income	7,847	5,687
Donations Re: Cris Brumfit	199	1,305
	<hr/> 55,715	<hr/> 37,713

EXPENDITURE

Grants to SIGs	400	-
Book Prize	200	28
Linguistics Olympiad	-	500
Dovetail Admin Fees & Expenses	8,960	7,583
Executive Committee Meetings expenses	8,498	7,200
AILA/UCML/CLIE & OTHERS - Subs.	3,884	-
CUP/BAAL	2,500	660
Insurance	642	617
Bank Service Charges	679	522
Conference expenses/ scholarship	4,509	2,184
Publication & Printing Costs	7,353	8,441
PGCE Survey	2,000	-
Website Costs	148	54
Accountant's Fees	650	625
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	40,423	28,414
 SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	 15,292	 9,299
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

BAAL 2011 BRISTOL UWE (1ST – 3RD SEPTEMBER)

BAAL 2011 has been organised by the Department of Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies at Bristol UWE, with the support of the Bristol Centre for Linguistics (BCL). Members of the LOC include Jeanine Treffers-Daller, Jo Angouri and Michael Treffers-Daller, all of whom have been working hard to plan and prepare for this year's

conference. Many thanks to the UWE LOC and In Any Event for all of your great work!

Programme

On 15th August, there were approximately 256 registered participants, which is usual for BAAL. In total 320 abstract submissions were received this year, compared with 300 last year. These were as follows (last year's numbers in brackets):

SUBMISSION TYPE	FREQ.	THEME	FREQ.
Colloquia / Panels	4; 16 abstracts (5; 29 abstracts)	Health Communication	1 (5 abstracts)
		Reading	1 (5 abstracts)
		Research methods for applied linguistics	1 (5 abstracts)
		Other	1 (1 abstract)
Poster	23 (29)	No SIG	17
		Intercultural communication	1
		Language learning and teaching	2
		Vocabulary studies	3
Individual Presentation	281 (242)	No SIG	112 (74)
		Language Learning and Teaching	74 (74)
		Corpus Linguistics	22 (23)
		Intercultural communication	17 (19)
		Testing, evaluation and assessment	11 (13)
		Psycholinguistics	10 (8)
		UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum	10 (6)
		Vocabulary Studies	9 (8)
		Language in Africa	8 (6)
		Gender and Language	6 (7)
		Multimodality	2 (4)
	320 (300)		

The LOC at UWE have worked hard to devise a programme which accommodates all papers across a maximum of 11 parallel sessions. In addition to the 265 accepted abstracts, a further 24 delegates were offered the chance to present their papers as posters (13 SIGs, 11 Individual Papers). These were abstracts which scored highly during the vetting stage although they did not make the point threshold required for the conference.

Abstract submission was slightly up compared to the previous year continuing the wave-like pattern that has been witnessed by BAAL over the past few years. There were again five colloquia submissions this year: Clinical Linguistics (an invited colloquium), Complex Systems, Health Communication, Colloquium on Reading and Research Methods. The number of poster submissions was a little down on last year, although given that the additional 24 delegates were given the chance to change their papers to posters, the poster sessions are set to thrive again.

There are 6 SIG sessions running at the conference this year, as follows:

- Corpus Linguistics
- Intercultural Communication
- Language Learning and Teaching
- Testing, Evaluation and Assessment
- UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum
- Vocabulary Studies

Gender and Language, Multimodality, Language in Africa and Psycholinguistics will not be running this year because too few papers that achieved the reviewers 'cut-off' grade (or above) were received for these SIGS and/or the SIG convenor did not feel that the papers pooled for consideration were relevant to the SIG. Each SIG required at least 5 abstracts to run and while some SIGs received a high number of submissions (such as the ever popular Language Learning and Teaching SIG), others did not. The process for selecting SIG papers was changed slightly from previous years. This change is currently under review by the EC and any amendments will be documented in the MS handbook and enforced during the abstract vetting stage for BAAL 2012.

Scholarships

Scholarship applications are significantly higher than they have been over the past few years. This is quite encouraging news. More than double the amount of international scholarship applications have been received (89 this year compared with 40), while the UK submissions have seen a 48% increase (43 this year compared with 29). Winners of the ten UK scholarships for BAAL 2011 are:

Chia-Chun Lai, Lancaster University

Yoko Nogami, University of Essex

Richard Hussey, University of Reading

Janina Iwaniec, Lancaster University

Vasiliki Titina Papafilippou, University of Bristol

Hilde van Zeeland, University of Nottingham

Shuchen Chang, Lancaster University

Anthony Fisher, The University of Nottingham

Mairead McKendry, University of Oxford

Maritza Rosas, University of Liverpool

The two international scholarship winners are:

Zheng Qun, The Graduate University, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Ayesha Kamal, Kuwait University and the University of Kent

Abstract vetting

35 individuals were recruited to help with the abstract reviewing process. A more logical numerical system was employed this year, with abstracts being marked out of 20 (which can be easily multiplied by 5 to give a %) rather than 9, as with last year. This helped us to ensure consistency in the vetting procedures used by each of the reviewers.

Finance

The current budget is not showing a large surplus. The conference will probably break even.

Conference Feedback

In addition to the standard hard (paper) copies of feedback forms for BAAL on online system for conference feedback will be set up (either for BAAL 2011 or BAAL 2012). Link to this will be included in the relevant conference packs

	2005 Sub.	2005 Acc.	2006 Sub.	2006 Acc.	2007 Sub.	2007 Acc.	2008 Sub.	2008 Acc.	2009 Sub.	2009 Acc.	2010 Sub.	2010 Acc.	2011 Sub.	2011 Acc.
Individual	146	92	232	141	277	100	197	127	245	114	74	61	114	85
Colloquia abstracts	41	41	13	13	18	14	8	8	12	12	29	29	16	16
SIGs	29	17	47	24	47	17	72	52	50	30	168	107	167	124
Posters	11	21	11	22	14	10	21	21	29	30	29	28	23	16
TOTAL	227	171	303	200	352	141	298	208	336	186	300	225	320	265

Figure 2: Submitted (sub.) and accepted (acc.) abstracts by category since 2005

and will also be emailed to delegates after the conference (once they have a little more time to sit and 'reflect' on their experiences). This is likely to be hosted on a free site, much like Doodle, and should make the process of gathering/collating data regarding the conference a little more simplistic and hopefully more delegates will be inclined to submit their responses to this.

FUTURE BAAL CONFERENCES

BAAL 2012 - Southampton

The theme for BAAL 2011 will be 'The applied linguistics of multilingualism'. Ros and Alasdair (and their team at the Centre for Applied Language Research, University of Southampton) have a list of plenary speakers in mind and are in the process of getting confirmation from them.

The management of the conference is being supported/coordinated by the in-house conference office in Southampton while registration and abstract submission is likely to be carried out through the use of the Ox-

ford Abstracts utility. The campus is very modern, compact and accessible. It is easily reached from Southampton city centre, so has good connections to the airport, station and motorway. The campus is modern and compact and the conference will feature a large main hub for registration, coffee breaks, publishers and posters, with break-out rooms located in the close vicinity.

Delegates will be put up in halls of residence, all within walking distance to the conference venue (circa 15 minutes from the main campus). Alternative accommodation will also be offered to delegates, which will be listed on the main conference website. More information and a future call for papers can be found on the main BAAL website.

BAAL 2013: Edinburgh, Scotland (Heriot-Watt University in collaboration with the University of Stirling)

The Meeting Secretary will try to arrange a meeting the LOC to discuss further particulars of this conference in the next few months. A

theme for this conference has yet to be decided.

BAAL 2014: Warwick

Warwick University submitted a budget plan and conference proposal to host BAAL in 2013. This was circulated at the Spring EC meeting and full support was given to the proposal. Specific plans for this conference are in process.

BAAL 2015: ?

Calls for prospective hosts of the BAAL 2015 conference will be circulated in early Spring 2012.

Further details about future BAAL conferences can be found here:

http://www.baal.org.uk/baal_conf.html

Dawn Knight
Meetings Secretary

BAAL Membership status for 2010-2011

BAAL is the biggest association of linguists in the UK and 700 members have already joined or renewed their membership for 2011 while some colleagues are still in the process of renewing. 507 are full members and 193 paid a reduced rate (150 full time students). 10 associate and 19 institutional members have joined us/renewed their membership for 2011.

The BAAL direct payment became active in 2006 and is becoming increasingly popular amongst BAAL members (many of us are now paying by direct debit. Thank you!)

A warm welcome to all the new members who have joined BAAL over the course of 2011 and all returning colleagues! Your membership also allows you to take advantage of the various discounts available to members. Do take a look at the web site at <http://www.baal.org.uk> for the most up to date information about BAAL events.

We are trying to keep administration costs as low as possible and your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have not renewed your membership yet please do renew as soon as possible. In order to make the best use of our admin-

istrative resources we are keen to encourage membership via direct debit. We would invite you to consider this payment method, if you haven't done so already. We wish to keep the membership fee as low as possible and direct debits allow us to devote more of our resources towards this goal. In addition, a direct debit membership is still being offered at a reduced rate if you pay the full individual rate and have a UK-based bank account. You can email Jeanie Taylor at admin@baal.org.uk to request a direct debit form which can be sent as an email attachment or you can find the form on the membership area on the website (www.baal.org.uk/join.html).

BAAL is keen to keep expanding its membership base and to further strengthen its voice. There is an application form on the membership webpage for a colleague or a student of yours who is not yet a member of BAAL! BAAL always looks at new ways to support its members and the BAAL website is the place to look for benefits of membership (including funding opportunities). Thank you for your continuous support and we hope you enjoy your membership.

Jo Angouri
Membership Secretary

Let me take this opportunity to thank BAAL executive committee and members for your positive and receptive attitude and constructive engagement with whatever I suggested throughout the first year of my term as Postgraduate Development and Liaison Officer and continuing support. What follows is a summary of my action since my election:

- Proposing to set up a best paper award for postgraduate students submissions to BAAL conference (£50 prize approved by committee)
- Proposing to set up a best poster award for postgraduate students submissions to BAAL conference (£50 prize approved by committee)

Introduction of the above awards can help a favorably competitive atmosphere to excel both in terms of academic content and presentation skill. It is a prestigious award that can go in the awardees' CV with only little financial implications for the BAAL conference.

- Developing web activities to achieve the goals of my role through the following:
 1. Running the BAAL PG mailing list, and other online spaces I have access to as well as posting whatever conference and workshop news I received in applied linguistics.
 2. Posting a call for workshop topics in baalmail which met good response and feedback from those whose papers were accepted for presentations in BAAL 2011. After disseminating this call, all respondents agreed with the number 3 (below) so we decided on taking this on.
- Planning a PG event or workshop to run as part of BAAL 2011:
 1. The possibility of having a talk has been explored on 'How to manage referencing using RefWorks/EndNotes/etc. for publication in Applied Linguistics field'. (Advantages: update of new tools as referencing is a universal problem for researchers including PhD students. Disambiguate between different sys-

tems. Also, inviting the speaker has less cost, and can be invited locally. Disadvantage: may be too general, not a special bit that an applied linguistic conference can ideally provide).

2. Alternatively, a talk on research method topic in linguistics and data collection or transcription systems was proposed by Jeanine. (It can be made more fine-tuned to the conference theme).
3. ELAN or PRAAT are the specialist software we might offer training in.

Finally, the last suggestion was approved and implemented, backed by both organisers and views sought from presenters who intend to come to the conference.

Majid Fatahipour
Postgraduate Development and
Liaison Officer

1. BAAL Book Prize 2010.

1.1. A total of 33 books were received from 10 publishers, almost double the entry for last year.

1.2. Each book was reviewed by 2 anonymous reviewers.

1.3. Four books were eventually shortlisted, as shown below.

1.4 These four books were then reviewed by two independent reviewers and an overall winner was agreed. The winner was announced at the conference dinner on Friday.

1.5 New procedures for the book prize were introduced this year:

- In order to ensure fairness and to help standardise the review

Title	Author	Publisher
Conceptualising 'learning' in applied linguistics	Paul Seedhouse, Steve Walsh, Chris Jenks (eds.)	Palgrave Macmillan
Introducing applied linguistics: concepts and skills	Susan Hunston and David Oakey	Routledge
Language as a local practice	Alastair Pennycook	Routledge
The handbook of language and globalisation	Nikolas Coupland (Ed.)	Wiley-Blackwell

process, for every book submitted for the prize, one of the two reviews should be conducted by a member of EC.

- The (revised) form is then sent out: two reviewers per entry, to include one member of EC and one outside reviewer.
- In cases where there is disagreement between reviewers (as to whether a book should be short-listed or not), the opinion of a second EC member should be sought.

1.6. While these procedures did improve this time-consuming and lengthy process, there is still more to be done. In particular, there should be some kind of initial screening to see if all entries are actually applied linguistics books. Some this year, I felt, were not.

1.7. Do the shortlisting criteria need to be changed (see attached)?

1.8. Should we set a limit for each publisher? Some publishers submitted 5 books this year.

1.9. Leftover copies of the books submitted will be sent to the British Council for distribution to libraries

in developing countries. The short-list has been placed on the BAAL web-pages.

1.10. It is hoped that one of the reviews of the winning entry will appear in *Applied Linguistics*.

2. Conference proceedings

2.1 The 2010 conference proceedings have been published, for the first time in electronic format, on the BAAL web-pages. Thanks to Martin Edwardes, Robert Millar and Mercedes Durham for all their hard work on this publication.

2.2. There probably needs to be new guidelines for the submission of extended abstracts to the Conference Proceedings. I am happy to circulate something for EC to comment on.

2.3. The call for submissions to the 2011 proceedings will go out immediately after the conference. Deadline for 1000 word extended abstracts is December 16, 2011.

**BAAL Book Prize:
Shortlisting criteria**

Rate on a scale from 1 to 5:

1. Internal coherence and structure (especially in edited volumes)
2. Coverage (in terms of topics, theoretical frameworks, methodology)
3. The title's standing in relation to other publications in the same field
4. Extent of literature review and contextualisation within field
5. Style and organization (with the designated user group in mind)
6. Quality of production (design, indexing, ease of reference etc)
7. Originality
8. Do you recommend this book to be shortlisted?

Steve Walsh
Publications Secretary

There are currently ten SIGs in BAAL (see table below for names and abbreviations). The two newest SIGs (TEA and IC) are developing well and IC SIG had a very successful conference at Birkbeck College in June. Most other SIGs have had an event in the past year, all of which have been well attended. Three SIGs have been much less active than others in the last few years, Multimodality, Vocabulary and Psycholinguistics. Multimodality held a successful event at the Open University in November 2010 and seemed to be reviving, although they did not receive enough proposals for the AM to run a SIG track in Bristol 2011. If a SIG cannot show the support of at least 15 BAAL members, they risk being closed. BAAL members who wish these SIGs to continue should get in touch with current convenors and the BAAL SIG Coordinator to discuss how to arrange future events for the benefit of that academic field.

Recently we undertook an audit of SIG membership to see how many were BAAL members (table 1). It is clear that BAAL membership is low and dropping in most SIGs where previous numbers are available. The SIG Coordinator will seek ideas from SIG committees as to why this is so and how it may be addressed.

Some SIGs are revisiting their constitutions and proposing changes to outdated wording. Changes should be put to vote of all BAAL members in the SIG. Non-BAAL members do not have voting rights on constitutional issues.

Tilly Harrison
SIG Coordinator

SIG	Member- ship total	BAAL members 2010	BAAL members 2011	Current % of BAAL members
UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum	401	124	91	23%
Corpus Linguistics	110			
Psycholinguistics				
Language Learning and Teaching	137		52	38%
Multimodality				
Language in Africa	24		5	21%
Gender and Language	41	34	24	59%
Vocabulary				
Teaching, Assessment and Evaluation	72	50	32	44%
Intercultural Communication	69		30	43%

Table 1: BAAL membership across SIGs

Every year, BAAL and Cambridge University Press come together to award up to 3 grants (of £750) and 5 repayable floats (of £500) which go towards seminars organised by any BAAL members. For the 2011 series, five proposals were received (in October 2010), from the University of Bristol; Oxford Brookes University; Sheffield Hallam University; Queen Mary, University of London; and the University of Southampton. These were reviewed by four raters, and the outcomes were as follows.

Recommended for funding (£750 + £500 float):

University of Bristol, Oxford Brookes University and Sheffield Hallam University were all recommended for funding (£750 + £500 float).

University of Bristol

European Dialogue for Sign Language Learner Corpora and CEFR

30th June – 2nd July 2011

Dr Maria Mertzani

This is a three-day event which aims at bringing together scholars who have experience and interest in the use of sign language (SL) corpora with learners and teachers

(hearing and/or deaf) of SLs as second languages, and the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Oxford Brookes University

Reflection in the Round: Discourses and Practices of Reflection in HE

24th June 2011

Dr Paul Wickens and Dr Jane Spiro

This one-day seminar seeks to develop a dialogue between practice-based and theoretical-based researchers of reflective practice in the context of UK HE; and to develop an awareness and understanding of the nature of the discourse/s of assessed reflective writing and the practice of such assessment in UK HE pedagogy and in broader national standards and policy.

Sheffield Hallam

Language, Education and Disadvantage: a response to the deficit model of children's language competence

19th-20th April 2011

Dr Karen Grainger and Dr Peter Jones

The aim of the seminar is to bring together scholars whose research challenges the 'deficit' view of

working class language patterns that were prevalent in the 1960s and 1970s and which have re-emerged in recent trends in linguistic and educational research. When applied to educational policy and practice (as they currently are), they are potentially damaging and need to be challenged. It is the aim of this seminar to be the first step in that direction.

Recommended for £500 float:

Queen Mary, University of London, and the University of Southampton were recommended to receive a £500 repayable float, although only the latter took up the offer.

University of Southampton

Multilingualism in Education

Co-ordinators: Dr Gabriele Budach and Dr Julia Hüttner

20th – 21st May 2011

Schools are a primary locus of multilingualism in two quite diverse ways; on the one hand, they are the place where societal multilingualism meets the monolingual educational system. On the other hand, schools are the place where multilingualism is traditionally first encountered by mainstream children

and teenagers and is overtly fostered through foreign language instruction. Socio-linguistic research has traditionally focused on the lack of representation of societal multilingualism in school settings, whereas research on language learning and teaching has focused on the achievement of multilingual competencies in the languages established in the curriculum. The aim of this seminar is to promote a dialogue between these two areas in order to highlight potential methodological and theoretical synergies.

These seminars have now all been held, and all proved successful and productive. Reports on the seminar can be found in the BAAL newsletter.

The Call for Proposals for the 2012 series was sent out in May, and a reminder will be sent at the beginning of September. In the meantime, for details and criteria, please see the BAAL website (<http://www.baal.org.uk/seminars.html>).

Caroline Tagg

BAAL/CUP seminar coordinator

As you know CLIE (the Committee on Linguistics in Education) is a joint committee of BAAL and LAGB which brings together over fifteen associations and organisations with interests in language and languages in the UK education system.

Apart from sharing information, the main purpose of CLIE is to contribute expertise in linguistics and applied linguistics to the school curriculum and to the professional training of teachers. BAAL has three members on this committee: Caroline Coffin, Urszula Clark, and Simon Coffey (recently joined).

On the CLIE website at <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/clietop.htm> you will find meeting minutes and project reports, along with a list of the organisations who belong to CLIE. Some of the recent and current CLIE projects are:

- A report on the subject knowledge of PGCE English applicants.
- Setting up a permanent committee for the UK Linguistics Olympiad www.uklo.org

- Responses to Government initiatives
 - Response to the consultation on the National Curriculum
 - Comments on the proposed Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

CLIE members have recently been involved with developing unofficial benchmarks for English Language degrees, and are currently involved with DofE and Ofqual initiatives to encourage discussion between HEIs and those involved in setting up A levels to ensure the feeder link is there.

CLIE will have its 100th meeting in February 2012, which means the committee has been active for just over 30 years (3 meetings a year). We plan to have a two-part celebration.

The first would officially mark the 100th meeting in February, and would involve 'stock-taking' and planning for the future. We will extend invitations to past chairs and secretaries of CLIE to join the current committee and the current chairs of LAGB and BAAL for the discussions. We would then go out

for dinner (at our own expense!) to celebrate our centenary.

The second part of our celebration later in the year would mark a 'new departure' for CLIE, in the sense that we might host a conference or meeting in collaboration with other organizations with invited guests from the field, politicians and journalists.

At the moment we are working on a forum proposal for the British Academy. Alternatively, it might

an event in collaboration with the Modern Humanities Research Association, on KAL, English and MFL, especially regarding the connection between HE teaching/research and KAL in school curricula.

Watch this space!

Esther Daborn
CLIE Secretary

Review Activity: A summary of reviewer activity had not been published in recent years, but at the AL editorial panel meeting at AAAL 2010, members voiced concern regarding the increasing number of manuscripts reviewers are being invited to review. The table below demonstrates that reviewers are not uncommonly invited to review more than one manuscript through the course of the year and that they often agree to this. Less

commonly, they are asked to review more than two manuscripts, but rarely agree to these requests.

Routinely, new submissions that have passed the initial in-house review are sent to three external reviewers. Revised submissions are generally sent to two of the original reviewers, with a preference for those who asked for revision and one new or “fresh” reviewer.

	Invited	Declined	Agreed	Avg. turn around
2010	511 reviewers 2x: 104 (20%) 3x+: 55 (10%) 738 invitations	234 reviewers 2x: 40 (17%) 3x+: 8 (3%) 304 declines	317 reviewers 2x: 74 (18%) 3x+: 20 (5%) 434 agrees	30 days

Table 1: Reviewer Activity

Table 1 shows that of the 511 persons asked to review manuscripts in 2010, 20% had already reviewed more than one manuscript, while 10% had already reviewed more than two.

Increase in Submissions: The rate of submission has increased significantly during the last several years.

In 2010, we received nearly triple the submissions received in 2000. We have seen an increase of 50% since we began using Manuscript Central. Though most of these submissions were new manuscripts, the percentage of submissions that are first revisions (R1) nearly doubled in 2010 from 2009.

	Total Submissions	UK	US
2000	116	59 (51%)	57 (49%)
2001	147	75 (51%)	72 (49%)
2002	134	80 (60%)	54 (40%)
2003	139	81 (58%)	58 (42%)
2004	164	85 (52%)	78 (48%)
2005	142	87 (61%)	55 (39%)
2006	168	91 (54%)	77 (46%)
2007	151	78 (52%)	73 (48%)
2008	192	110 (57%)	82 (43%)
2009	212	112 (52%)	100 (48%)
2010	299	142 (47%)	146 (49%)

Table 2: Submissions

Decisions: The increase in submissions has also led to an increase in decisions. The number of decisions made over the course of 2010 increased substantially since the introduction of Manuscript Central. In 2000, 100 decisions were made; in 2005, 134; in 2008, 161 and in 2010, 278.

The journal's acceptance rate has seen some fluctuation in the last ten years. Aside from a few high-acceptance years (2005, 2008), edi-

tors have accepted approximately 20 manuscripts for publication each year. This was also the case in 2010, despite the lower-than-average acceptance rate.

Volume 31 (2010) was published with 5 issues (5 papers each) to clear a backlog of accepted articles. Volume 32 (2011) will also have 5 issues (4-5 papers each). Our backlog from years with above-average numbers of acceptances has been cleared and we are now accepting

	Accept (a)	Revise (b)	Rework (c)	Reject (d)
2000	17 (17%)	14 (17%)	31 (31%)	38 (38%)
2001	20 (16%)	15 (12%)	30 (23%)	63 (49%)
2002	14 (13%)	8 (7%)	34 (32%)	52 (48%)
2003	12 (11%)	10 (9%)	22 (21%)	64 (59%)
2004	22 (13%)	23 (14%)	54 (33%)	55 (40%)
2005	29 (22%)	7 (5%)	34 (25%)	73 (54%)
2006	23 (14%)	10 (6%)	37 (22%)	98 (58%)
2007	21 (14%)	3 (2%)	39 (27%)	82 (57%)
2008	39 (24%)	5 (3%)	41 (26%)	76 (47%)
2009	23 (10%)	14 (6%)	50 (22%)	77 (33%) + 67 (29%) = 62%
2010	23 (8%)	40 (14%)	58 (22%)	70 (25%)+87 (31%)* * in house rejections

Table 3: Decisions

fewer than 25 manuscripts per year. There is some flexibility as to maintaining a 5-issue volume or reverting to 4 issues (4-5 papers each) for volume 33 (2012).

While the rate of rejection has increased, it should also be noted that the editors are asking substantially more authors to revise and resubmit before final acceptance. This trend is especially pronounced among new submissions.

New Developments: Along with the increase in submissions, we have seen an increasing number of problems with plagiarism and double submissions. In order to tackle the problems of double submission we have joined with journal editors across the field of applied linguistics (whom we communicate with via an email listserv begun by Graeme Porte) in asking authors to verify that their submission is not under review elsewhere. (This is in

addition to the checkboxes on Manuscript Central.) When authors submit a manuscript, they now receive an automated message from us asking them to verify against double submission. The letter has some language in it about how journal editors in Applied Linguistics share information. We do not as a matter of course communicate with the listserv about everything we receive. However, there have been several times in the past year that I (Jane) have notified my editor colleagues about papers found to be plagiarized. In each of my notifications, I attached a copy of the paper for their information (with author's name removed).

As just mentioned, we, with help from external reviewers, identified two submissions that contained substantial amounts of plagiarism. Until recently, we did not have any tools to confront this concern. However, Oxford University Press recently introduced CrossCheck, a plagiarism checking program, into Manuscript Central. Using CrossCheck, we are able to identify if large chunks or sentences in the paper match text in published papers that are available online. This includes journal articles that are available via the Internet. We have run CrossCheck on a handful of papers and have identified one that is suspicious.

Ken Hyland

	Accept (a)	Revise (b)	Rework (c)	Reject (d)
2007	21 (14%)	3 (2%)	39 (27%)	82 (57%)
2008	39 (24%)	5 (3%)	41 (26%)	76 (47%)
2009	23 (10%)	14 (6%)	50 (22%)	77 (33%) + 67 (29%) = 62%
2010	23 (8%)	40 (14%)	58 (22%)	70 (25%)+87 (31%) * = 56% * in house rejections

Table 4: Decisions on New Submissions

7th BAAL Language Learning and Teaching SIG August 2011

The BAAL Language Learning and Teaching SIG held its 7th annual meeting on July 7th-8th at Aston University, Birmingham, organised under the auspices of the Centre for Language Education Research at Aston (CLERA). The theme of the conference, **“Theorising practice and practising theory: developing local pedagogies in language teaching”**, was chosen as a very topical one in the field of language teaching methodology, given the move away from ideas such as ‘best method’.

We received over 70 abstracts and a review panel was set up, consisting of the four conference organisers and four other colleagues. All abstracts were blind reviewed by two members of the panel and papers were selected on the basis of their adherence to the conference theme, the coherence of the content and their inherent potential interest to delegates.

There were three invited plenary speakers: B. Kumaravadivelu (San Jose University California), Juliane House (Universität Hamburg, Ger-

many) and Anne Burns (Aston University/University of New South Wales).

B. Kumaravadivelu’s talk on *Transforming teachers, transforming teacher education* started from the premise that we need to transform teacher education in order to prepare teachers who are able to theorize from their classrooms. He proposed a modular model of teacher which would allow teachers to develop a holistic understanding of what happens in the language classroom, enabling them to theorise what they practice and practice what they theorise. Juliane House’s talk on *Using the L1 and Translation to Develop Intercultural Competence* looked at translation as a form of intercultural communication and the role it plays in achieving intercultural competence and managing intercultural understanding. She argued for the role of translation and the L1 to develop intercultural competence in the foreign language through the ‘enlightened use of translation as a cognitive-communicative strategy to develop intercultural competence’. In her talk, *Investigating local pedagogies*, Anne Burns focused

on the role of action research in contributing to practitioner understanding and the development of local practices. She also argued for the wider significance of action research that can help to generate models and practical teaching theories that may have wider currency within educational system.

Julian Edge (University of Manchester) was also invited as a plenary speaker, but was unable to participate due to a clash with other commitments. However, he sent his plenary talk in the form of a DVD and copies of this and an accompanying handout were put into conference bags for delegates. Since the conference, Julian has also made the talk available on <http://stream.manchester.ac.uk/Play.aspx?VideoId=7901>

Following the good response to the call for papers, 30 proposals were accepted and organised into 10 sessions, with three concurrent papers in each session. Papers were presented by BAAL members who are not only full-time academics but also PhD students, together with a number of researchers and practitioners from different contexts

worldwide, with presenters from 10 different countries. Just some examples of areas addressed in presentations were teacher beliefs and practices, the relationship between practitioners and researchers, context-appropriate pedagogy, the practice of teacher research and bilingualism. Most of the presentations concerned English language teaching and those which did concern languages other than English were much appreciated. We would have liked to see more presentations about languages other than English.

There was also a plenary session by Emma Marsden who presented IRIS (A Digital Repository of Instruments for Second Language Research), and a reception sponsored by the British Council to launch the 2009-2010 Directory of ELT Research with a joint presentation by the British Council and the University of Warwick. The conference ended with summary reflections from B Kumaravadivelu and Anne Burns and a discussion session which provided an opportunity to reflect on the conference theme.

The conference attracted around 65 participants, many of them from outside BAAL. Given the conference theme, it was remarked that there were few practitioners and few delegates from the UK MFL sector. However, financial constraints are likely to be a problem for those who work outside the university sector, and even within universities financial constraints seem to be increasing. There was a strong international presence, however, with delegates from China (Hong Kong), Cyprus, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the USA, as well as a number of international PhD students studying in the UK.

Feedback received has been very positive about the quality of the conference presentations. During the discussion, there was a suggestion that there should be more alternative forms of presentation such as panels or colloquia and this is something next year's organisers may wish to consider. It was also suggested that the conference theme was too narrow and that future conferences may consider not having a theme at all. However, this was greatly outweighed

by very positive feedback about the overall coherence of the programme and the relevance of the theme to the field and of the presentations to the theme. These aspects were identified as the key strengths of the conference (together with the food!).

There was no official conference dinner as this would have increased the conference fee. Moreover, it was felt that delegates generally like to get out of the conference centre in the evening but arranging an external conference dinner involves considerable extra organisation. Instead, the organisers booked a city centre restaurant for all the invited guests and gave the name and number of the restaurant to all conference delegates with the invitation to make their own bookings. About 20 people came in total and enjoyed a walk through the centre of Birmingham and a good meal. This arrangement had been tried at a previous conference at Aston and was felt to represent a compromise solution, which does not involve excessive extra work on the part of the organisers.

The conference was organised by Sue Garton, Fiona Copland, Nur

Kurtoglu-Hooton and Muna Morris-Adams, with a great deal of support from colleagues and MA students in the School of Languages and Social Sciences. (UKPOLLS)

Please submit your contributions to
BAALNews by the following dates:

Autumn 2011 issue: September
30th

Winter 2011/2012 issue:
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