



## **BAAL AGM**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 5:45-6:45pm**

**BAAL Annual General Meeting**

**Ivor Crewe Auditorium A, University of Essex and Zoom (<https://essex-university.zoom.us/j/99948338615>)**

### **Contents**

Chair's Report.....	2
Secretary's Report .....	8
Treasurer's Report.....	10
Media Coordinator's Report .....	11
Meetings Secretary's Report.....	12
Membership Secretary's Report .....	13
Newsletter Editor's Report .....	14
Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer's Report .....	15
Publications Secretary's Report .....	16
Seminars Coordinator's Report.....	18
SIG Coordinator's Report .....	21
Web Editor's Report .....	23
CLiE Representative's Report .....	25

## Chair's Report

As I conclude my final year as Chair, I continue to lead and oversee the delivery of BAAL's strategic priorities with the invaluable support of the Executive Committee (EC). Our focus has been particularly strong in the areas of 'Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion' and 'Engagement with and Influence on UK Government and Higher Education Policies.' We have also reviewed our activities in response to the insights gathered from the BAAL 55th Anniversary Survey.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support as BAAL members during my term. I stepped into the role of Chair just as we were emerging from the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, and together, we began the journey of recovery and reconnection. In 2021/22, we identified five key strategic priorities and have since energised and directed our activities to align with these goals over the past three years.

BAAL's ethos has always been centred on its members and committed to inclusivity, both in our approach to Applied Linguistics and within our community. Based on your feedback from the Survey, we have made concerted efforts to enhance our inclusivity and support. I hope that you continue to find BAAL to be a community rich with energy, warmth, and inspiring ideas.

Please see below a summary of key activities.

### **AcSS/ESRC Leadership EDI Workshop**

Our joint bid with UKALTA on Developing Emancipatory Academic Leadership with an EDI focus for AcSS ESRC EDI funding was successful. We were awarded £6,500 to host two workshops as part of our associations' annual conference/event. The first one will be hosted in the BAAL annual conference 2024. Full details about the funding success are available on the BAAL website <https://www.baal.org.uk/news/> and the Academy of Social Sciences' website <https://acss.org.uk/news/edi-project-second-round-of-funding-to-support-edi-initiatives-awarded/>

### **REF 2029 Consultation**

I led the BAAL response to the **REF 2028 (now 2029) Initial Decisions and Issues for Further Consultation** with a focus on the Unit of Assessment Question which is of particular relevance to our members. About 10 members responded to my call on the BAAL mailing list. In our response, I highlighted the issues with lack of visibility or recognition of Applied

Linguistics in the current representation with regard to the Units of Assessment and made the following recommendations:

- To formally recognise and represent Applied Linguistics in the panel formation, ensuring that Applied Linguistics is represented as full members on sub-panels;
- To recognise and represent Applied Linguistics in the descriptors of relevant sub-panels which currently include Education, Modern Languages and Linguistics, English Language and Literature, and Area Studies;
- To strengthen and formalise cross-sub-panel collaboration from the start;
- To work closely with learned societies to ensure sufficient representation of Applied Linguistics across panels, and to appoint panel chairs and members that have a broad view of linguistics and appreciate the wider applied nature of the work of Applied Linguists;
- To appoint Applied Linguists as full panel members during the stage of setting criteria and working methods, not added later as output assessors;
- To recognise that in some institutions where Applied Linguists find themselves to be submitted along with other members to a sub-panel where their work may not be directly focused on the core questions of the discipline, procedures need to be in place to make it easier for outputs to be cross-referred to other sub-panels. For example, institutions could be allowed to indicate 'secondary' sub-panels for outputs. This information could assist allocation of cross-referrals and workload planning. The 'interdisciplinary' tag used in REF 2021 was not intended to serve this purpose.

**REF 2029 Open Access Policy consultation.** We were unable to submit a BAAL response, as we received very few responses to our call for input. As I wrote this report, [REF 2029 published some early decisions](#) on Open Access Policy, one of them being that there will be no longform open access mandate for REF2029.

[QAA Linguistics Subject Benchmark Statement](#) was published in September 2023. It contains a definition of Applied linguistics (page 13 and also cited below for ease of reference), but clearly there is still work to do to improve visibility of Applied linguistics.

“Applied linguistics uses insights from linguistics, sociology, education and psychology, and other disciplines to study real-world questions and problems involving language and, in partnership with those involved, to seek practical solutions for them. Areas involved include language learning and teaching, the role of language in education, and communication in professional and public service contexts. Applied linguistics, including critical applied linguistics, problematises traditional approaches to language research, pushes for

methodological and conceptual innovations, and covers a wide range of topics such as World Englishes, social justice, language and symbolic power, multimodal analysis, language coloniality and decolonisation, as well as how language intersects with topics such as gender, sexuality, social class, race and the environment, among many others.”

**Coalition for Language Education.** BAAL has endorsed the Founding Statement of the [Coalition for Language Education](#), an initiative led by Ben Rampton and Mel Cook from King’s College London which ‘facilitates the exchange of ideas and experiences of what works, of what’s challenging, how to overcome obstacles, and how to support cooperation across locations’. This year’s conference features a BAAL-invited colloquium organised by the Coalition. The coalition’s focus on linguistic diversity is in line with BAAL’s stance on multilingualism. Its interest in language education overlaps with the remit of several BAAL SIGs and co-occurs with our members’ request for advocacy for applied linguistics.

### **The BAAL 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Big Survey report and how we are taking your feedback forward**

As you may recall, we briefly reported some of the findings from the BAAL 55th Anniversary Big Survey in last year’s AGM. The full report is available under the Member Resources tab of Member Resources of in the Members’ Area (<https://www.baal.org.uk/member-area>). Our members have asked us to do more on the following areas:

- **Mentoring:** Providing support for early career researchers and new members;
- **Promotion and Advocacy:** Advocating for Applied Linguistics across diverse fields, including education, policy-making and the promotion of language learning
- **Network and Community Building:** Hosting more informal networking events, establishing a mentorship programme, forming interest groups with specific research areas.

These findings have been instrumental in guiding the BAAL EC’s planning. The EC reviewed our practices and proposed some new initiatives, as well as ways of consolidating existing activities in the three areas mentioned above. Examples are:

- **Highlighting the existing support** (e.g., on-line open day, dedicated Researcher Development workshops for ECRs, the BAAL Stand and ECR event in the conference, engagement with AILA Europe Junior Researchers’ networks) and making this support more visible (e.g., on the website, Twitter/X account);
- **Offering support sessions for BAAL funding applications.** Good examples are online briefing sessions we introduced this year for BAAL Applied Linguistics Fund,

BAAL/CUP seminars and Researcher Development Workshops prior to the call for applications;

- **Sharing good practices** and formalising an official timeslot for mentorship in the annual conference schedule, and/or workshops, e.g. writing abstracts, writing for publication, building research networks, to be integrated as part of the programme (we have seen some good practices in recent conferences and in the forthcoming one);
- **Increase the visibility** of diversity among EC members and their areas of work within/for BAAL (e.g. through online bios). This is also related to EDI and BAAL priorities, showing diversity within the EC;
- **Offering orientation sessions for new members** of BAAL;
- **Creation of regional BAAL 'hubs'**, with lead hubs hosting regional networking events;
- **Advocating for Applied Linguistics:** Being more proactive in creating opportunities to advocate for the value of Applied Linguistics, campaigning and raising awareness of research impact associated with BAAL member activities.

Learning from the Survey, we also introduced measures to collect information about key characteristics at the point of renewing and signing up. This will help us to capture trends and changes in our members' profiles.

### **Updates from BAAL Affiliates**

#### **Arts and Humanities Alliance (AHA)**

<https://www.artsandhumanitiesalliance.org/>

The Alliance continues to be active in sharing information. Their statements on various job cuts can be found at <https://www.artsandhumanitiesalliance.org/>

#### **AcSS (Academy for Social Sciences, UK)**

AcSS has been very active with several EDI initiatives this year. Please visit their website for information at <https://acss.org.uk/what-is-social-science/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/>

Highlights are:

BAAL features in the latest press release on EDI funding. Along with British Academy of Management, the British International Studies Association, the Development Studies Association, the Royal Economics Society's Discover Economics programme, the Royal

Statistical Society and the Society for the Advancement of Management Studies, the joint bid by BAAL and UKALTA was awarded funding as part of the AcSS/ESRC EDI initiatives.

AcSS published a new report which summarises social science equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) data as part of the Academy's collaborative EDI Project with member learned societies and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The new report draws on 2021/22 Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data to present a top-level summary of EDI data for the social sciences, for both academic and teaching staff and for student populations in UK higher education. The report is available:

<https://acss.org.uk/publications/edi-in-the-social-sciences-summary-data-report/>

Unfortunately, linguistics is not included in the list, as HESA data do not have information about the staff within linguistics category, only the students.

### **AILA (International Association of Applied Linguistics)**

AILA Europe Junior Researcher Meeting this year will take place in Thessalonki, Greece on 11th October 2024. Thanks to Dr Sal Consoli's coordination, we were able to offer one AILA Junior Researchers Scholarship to support our BAAL members to present.

The AILA World Congress 2024 celebrated AILA's 60th Anniversary. Our EC member, Dr Alex Ho-Cheong Leung, represented BAAL in the AILA EBIC meeting held on 11 August. Please see below a report prepared by Alex.

Alex Leung attended the AILA EBIC meeting (Executive Board and International Committee) on the 11th of August in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on behalf of BAAL. At the meeting, matters concerning operations, finances, identity, and inclusion of AILA were discussed. Verbal reports were provided by AILA's executive board members (EBs) to accompany the written ones. The finances of AILA are in a healthy shape, and AILA was able to award solidarity scholarships to 80 AILA 2024 delegates. Discussions around how to ensure the continued financial health of the organisation also took place. This includes exploring the possibility of reducing the investment portfolio and directing more funds to the saving account. There were also discussions about the eligibility criteria for the solidarity award.

Brief reports were provided by representatives of regional AILA clusters including AILA East Asia, AILA ASEAN, AILA Europe, AILA Ibero-America, and AILA Middle East. Updates around AILA's strategic collaboration with external organisations were provided. Work around AILA's Endorsement Committee, the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee and Honorary Award Committee were reported on. Each national affiliate provided brief verbal reports, BAAL shared with the EBIC the recent success of securing

funding together with UKALTA from the Academy of Social Sciences. The EBIC also voted to grant the Hungarian Association for Applied Linguistics a national affiliate status.

Updates for the AILA 2024 Congress in Malaysia, and AILA 2027 in Vancouver were shared. BAAL and the Applied Linguistics Association of Australia (ALAA) presented their bids for the hosting of AILA World Congress 2030. We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the Birmingham consortium led by Susan Hunston and Suganthi John for their sterling effort in preparing for the bid. We congratulate the ALAA team on their success and we look forward to taking part in their Congress.

Also of interest to BAAL members is that in the EBIC officer election for the 2024-27 term coordinated by the past chair and head of the nomination committee, Daniel Perrin, BAAL member Chris Jenks has been elected the Publications Secretary (AILA Review). We wish to congratulate Chris as well other newly elected EBs. BAAL will continue collaborating closely with AILA as part of the EBIC, together with Chris' support as a BAAL representative on the EB.

### **British Academy**

Professor Margot Finn has taken over the role of Vice President (VP) of Research and Higher Education Policy in place of Professor Simon Swain.

Some highlights of their activities are:

- Consultation response and position paper on Open Access for REF 2029 reiterating their position and concerns about the potential impacts of the proposed changes: <https://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/documents/5408/British-Academy-responds-Research-Excellence-Framework-2029-open-access-consultation.pdf>
- British Academy and the Campaign for Science and Engineering to assess the economic impact of UK R&D: On 28 June, the Academy announced a major collaboration with the Campaign for Science and Engineering (CaSE) to provide robust and creative analyses of the economic returns of the UK research base. Cambridge Econometrics and Fathom Consulting are commissioned to undertake complementary analyses that will improve understanding of the relationship between research, innovation, and productivity.
- 'UK Young Academy' is now open for applications. The UK Young Academy, an interdisciplinary organisation of UK-based early career researchers, innovators and professionals working to make a positive difference in the UK and globally. The organisation is now accepting applications from enthusiastic and talented emerging

leaders – based in academia, industry, charity or professional sectors – for its third cohort with a deadline of 9 October 2024. Members can get involved with interdisciplinary projects and work programmes, as well as establish and lead their own initiatives, leveraging their expertise to drive innovative solutions and share knowledge across various fields.

**Zhu Hua, August 2024**

## **Secretary's Report**

Over the past twelve months I have dealt with various routine secretarial tasks/queries to BAAL (as per the job description):

- Welcomed new EC members and organised regular BAAL EC meetings
- Checked the minutes and action points from each BAAL EC meeting
- Sent regular updates on our activities to the AcSS for their monthly eBulletins
- Reviewed four books for the annual BAAL book prize
- Coordinated the annual AGM meeting (and notified the membership of this)
- Requested that all members of the EC update their terms of reference in preparation for the upcoming elections (this is required on an annual basis)
- Advertised EC vacancies and solicited nominations – written statements to be shared in advance and elections to be held at the BAAL AGM
- Continued to follow up on the possibility of BAAL's involvement in AILA World Congress 2030
- Updated appendix 2 of the History of BAAL 1967-2017 document
- Helped to drive the EC's development of equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives
- Acted as a point of contact for a range of EC-related questions and queries raised by EC members and general BAAL membership
- Supported the Chair in making various other decisions and carrying out actions.

**BAAL Annual General Meeting 2024:** There are 3 Ordinary Member posts coming up for election in September. The following officer posts are also available:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Media coordinator
- Newsletter editor
- Publications officer
- SIGs coordinator
- Postgraduate liaison and development coordinator



All of the posts have been publicised to the BAAL membership with expressions of interest being sought (see <https://www.baal.org.uk/documents/> for role descriptions). The election will be held at the BAAL AGM. Those officers who have only served one term are permitted to be elected to a second term, if desired (see <https://www.baal.org.uk/committee/> for information on the current committee).

**Thank you:** I would like to say a big thank you to the officers and ordinary members for the hard work and commitment to BAAL during their time on the EC, as well as to Katie Worman and colleagues at Mosaic for their administrative support.

**Caroline Tagg, August 2024**

## Treasurer's Report

### BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2024

	2024		2023
	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership Subscription	51,247		47,513
Bank interest	894		124
Book Prize Entries	800		720
Annual Conference Income	34,140		4,868
Donations	-		49
Net Income - Special Interest Groups	683		-
	<u>87,764</u>		<u>53,274</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Grants to SIGs	320		23
Book / Poster/visual rep./ prizes	50		50
Linguistics Olympiad	4,000		-
BAAL Scholarship	3,695		4,022
Applying Linguistic Fund	6,001		4,352
Net Expenditure - Special Interest group	-		1,110
Mosaic Events - Fees & Expenses	14,312		14,332
Exec. Committee Meetings & Accom. expenses	4,694		4,952
AILA/UCML/CLIE & OTHERS - Subscriptions	8,298		5,229
CUP/BAAL/ESOL/Routledge - Seminars	-		2,621
Insurance	652		709
Bank Direct Debit, collect & Service Charges	159		77
Conference expenses	644		408
Postage, Publication & Printing Costs	-		4
Accountant's Fees	990		975
Sundry expenses (Allowable)	615		525
	<u>44,430</u>		<u>39,389</u>
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<u><b>43,334</b></u>		<u><b>13,885</b></u>

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MAY 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Other debtors		26,487	30,804
Bank deposits		123,855	57,861
Cash at bank		137,035	155,363
		<u>287,377</u>	<u>244,028</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accrued expenses		990	975
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>286,387</u>	<u>243,053</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>286,387</u>	<u>243,053</u>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>			
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>			
Balance brought forward		243,053	229,168
Net surplus for the year		43,334	13,885
Balance carried forward		<u>286,387</u>	<u>243,053</u>

Bettina Beinhoff, August 2024

## Media Coordinator's Report

We continue to use X (formerly Twitter) to promote BAAL-specific funding and events, as well as the activities of the SiGs and of the wider Applied Linguistics community. (The BAAL handle is @\_\_BAAL). The content I have provided on the platform includes promoting the annual conference, the BAAL-CUP seminars and the BAAL book prize shortlist. As of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024, we have 9718 followers, compared with 9584 followers in May 2024 and 9341 in December 2023 – a steady increase, and one that suggests the platform can successfully reach BAAL members and associated individuals and organisations. The suitability of the platform, versus alternative social media channels, is something I have been monitoring

closely over the past year. Further decisions will be made by the next elected Media Coordinator and the new BAAL Executive Committee.

The BAAL YouTube channel also continues to grow as a place for public-facing content e.g. plenary talks and member-only materials (via the members' area of the website). Plenary talks from the 2023 BAAL conference, University of York, have received 500+ views. Recordings of guidance sessions on BAAL funding schemes are also popular, and content has been added throughout the year.

Alongside my (social) media responsibilities, I also represent BAAL at the AMLUK meetings. Conversations this year have focussed on the perception and representation of language studies in Higher Education in the UK, and the 2029 UK REF. I have ensured that BAAL has had a voice in the development of AMLUK's policy and practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to be the media coordinator for BAAL. This is my third and final year in the position, and it has been a pleasure to participate on the BAAL committee and support the many activities and events of its members.

**Mel Evans, August 2024**

## **Meetings Secretary's Report**

It has been a busy year since we finished BAAL2023 in York. Thanks again to Zoe Handley and the local team in York for a very successful event. We welcomed Tracey Costley to the executive committee (EC) as the lead for BAAL2024 in Essex. In her second year in the new role as assistant meeting secretary, Gee Macrory has been in touch with the team in Glasgow throughout the year as they prepare for BAAL2025.

I also reviewed two books for the book prize.

### **1. BAAL2024**

Preparations are going well for BAAL2024 at University of Essex. Tracey Costley and the local team have been in touch with the EC regularly and we are on track for a surplus. The theme is 'Applied linguistics in contemporary contexts: practices, approaches and future directions'.

## **2. BAAL2025**

The University of Glasgow team led by Tom Bartlett has been working all year to prepare for BAAL2025. Their working theme is 'Applied linguistics in the face of global challenges and local needs' and they are deciding on plenary speakers. Gee Macrory will be doing a site visit in the Autumn.

## **3. BAAL2026**

I opened a call for bids for BAAL2026 and received three bids to host that event. I have forwarded all the documents to the BAAL EC – we will be reviewing the bids at the EC meeting in September.

**Glenn Hadikin, August 2024**

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

A very warm welcome to all the new members who have joined BAAL over the course of 2023-24 and to all existing colleagues who have renewed their membership!

The membership of BAAL has grown steadily in recent years and the total membership of BAAL in July 2024 stood at 1,422. We remain indebted to the team at Mosaic for their continued high-quality support of the BAAL Executive Committee and membership.

This total number is made up of 648 full-rate (£50) members, 469 reduced-rate (£20) members (i.e. members who are students or are unwaged), 11 individuals nominated under a total of 7 Associate memberships, and 231 individuals nominated under a total of 49 Institutional memberships. There are 7 members in our category of 'solidarity' membership, a fee-free category that was introduced in 2023.

Our membership usually peaks in December/January. In January 2024 we had a total of 1,495 members, compared to 1,521 in January 2023 and 1,456 in January 2022.

BAAL is keen to keep expanding its membership base and to further strengthen its voice. So, if you know of a colleague or student who is not yet a member of BAAL, please encourage them to visit the website and sign up at: <https://www.baal.org.uk/join/>. Our online application form and payment system are integrated on one webpage, making it simple for applied linguists from across the globe to join us. All memberships run for a period of 12 months, with a membership term of January to December. Members who are not resident in the UK are very welcome to join BAAL.

If your institution has yet to join BAAL, why not consider an Institutional membership? The annual subscription for Institutional membership of BAAL is £120 and allows for four individuals from the institution to be nominated as full members. Individual membership subscription is priced at £50 per annum (£20 for full-time students or retired/unwaged members), so Institutional membership represents a 40% discount for each nominated institutional member.

When you join BAAL, you get full access to:

- Special interest Groups
- Seminars in association with Cambridge University Press, with discounted registration
- BAALmail, our membership mailing list
- Special publisher discounts on a range of books and journals, sent via BAALmail
- Our bi-annual BAAL newsletter
- Membership of AILA, the International Association of Applied Linguistics, including a discount for the triennial AILA World Congress
- Opportunities to apply for funding for projects and to host events, such as the BAAL Applying Linguistics Fund and the BAAL/CUP Applied Linguistics Seminar Fund
- A discounted fee for our annual conference (usually held in September)

BAAL is always looking at new ways to support its members, so please feel free to get in touch with me ([r.wicaksono@yorks.ac.uk](mailto:r.wicaksono@yorks.ac.uk)) if I can be of assistance. Thank you for supporting BAAL and we hope you enjoy your membership.

**Rachel Wicaksono, August 2024**

## **Newsletter Editor's Report**

This was the last year of my 3-year term as BAAL Newsletter Editor following a first year as a co-opted member. During this last year, I have built upon my previous 3 years in this role, and have increased the number of contributions from the membership in each new edition of BAAL News.

Over the past four years, BAAL News has evolved into a rich volume, reflecting the diverse expertise, accomplishments, and initiatives of the association's members. I have consistently encouraged contributions from PhD candidates and early career researchers, as well as from more established BAAL members, both within the UK and internationally.

Notably, the newly introduced section, *Multilingualism In Focus*, which invites contributions in languages other than English, has garnered significant engagement. This section has played a pivotal role in advancing BAAL's commitment to multilingual diversity, while also celebrating the richness of our community and honouring our varied linguistic identities.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the contributors, whose efforts have made the past editions of BAAL News both enriching and engaging. I also extend my deep appreciation to the BAAL Executive Committee for their invaluable advice and support throughout my tenure.

BAAL News is for all members, so if you would like to see something in our newsletter, please get in touch with the BAAL Newsletter editor. The call for contributions for the next edition of BAAL News will go out in late October. The deadline for sending contributions is in early January 2025 and the planned publication date is in February 2025.

**Sal Consoli, August 2024**

## **Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer's Report**

**PG/ECR Facebook group** – the membership of the PG and ECR Facebook group continues to grow. We have 2,633 members as of 21 August 2024. I regularly promote the BAAL Researcher Development Workshops and upcoming calls for papers on Facebook.

If any EC members have any information they would like posted in the group, please don't hesitate to contact me. Alternatively, you may join and promote events yourselves. The group can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/40190066151/>.

**PGR/ECR events for BAAL 2024** – the event planned for BAAL 2024 is an 80-minute event focusing on how to get published (many thanks to Yi Zhang's help in setting it up). Three major activities of the event are: a group-sharing activity of participants' attitudes and experiences, a panel discussion (Bonny Norton, Julia Snell and Uju Anya), and publisher representatives' suggestions on how to publish a thesis as a book. We will also be allocating prizes for the best PGR seminar presentation and the Richard Pemberton prize later. The shortlist comprises the seven top-scored abstracts of shortlisted seminar presentations, and EC members will make up the judging panel of the seminar presentations at the BAAL annual meeting in September.

If you have any suggestions for future PGR/ECR events, please get in touch.

**Michael, August 2024**

## **Publications Secretary's Report**

It is my pleasure to share the main tasks I have undertaken as the Publications Secretary of BAAL in my final AGM report. My main tasks in this year's work cycle involved enhancing the transparency, inclusivity, and diversity of the book prize, coordinating the book prize review and book prize event at the annual conference, liaising with and maintaining a good working relationship with affiliated publishers. Together with the Secretary and the Chair, we supported the Birmingham consortium in bidding for the hosting right of AILA 2030. I was also involved in discussions around EDI matters and have acted as BAAL's representative at AILA's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) committee. Lastly, I represented our association at the AILA Executive Board and International Committee (EBIC) meeting at the AILA 2024 World Congress. Below I summarise the key elements of my work this year.

### **1. Enhancing transparency, inclusivity, and diversity of the book prize**

Following on from the work we have started last year on enhancing the transparency, inclusivity, and diversity of the book prize, I continue to lead our efforts in refining the book prize reviewing template for the first-round review. I wish to thank EC members and BAAL members who have contributed to the process. We also continue to encourage BAAL members to volunteer their service to support future book prize reviewing. The call for reviewers this year was circulated at the same time as we shared the nomination list in Feb 2024. This is a practice that we will continue to ensure equal participation and an open evaluation process. The incoming Publications Secretary will be sharing relevant information once again for next year's book prize through BAAL's Mailing List in due course.

Details about the book prize can be found in our book prize website:

<https://www.baal.org.uk/what-we-do/book-prize/>

### **2. BAAL Book Prize 2024**

We received 21 nominations from 9 different publishers/nomination bodies for this year's book prize. We are delighted to report that some publishers have re-affiliated with us during this year's cycle, which we believe will enable continued dialogues and interactions with our members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the publishers' continuous support for our book prize (and other BAAL activities and initiatives). Thanks also go to EC members and colleagues who contributed to the reviewing process.



The six titles that have been shortlisted are listed below:

*Engaging Children in Applied Linguistics Research*, Cambridge University Press by Annamaria Pinter

*Language, Discourse and Anxiety*, Cambridge University Press by Luke Collins and Paul Baker

*Multilingual Families in a Digital Age: Mediation Repertoires and Transnational Practices*, Routledge by Kristin Vold Lexander and Jannis Androutsopoulos

*Political Activism in the Linguistic Landscape: Or, how to use Public Space as a Medium for Protest*, Multilingual Matters by Philip Seargeant with Korina Giaxoglou and Frank Monaghan

*Social Justice and the Language Classroom: Reflection, Action, and Transformation*, Edinburgh University Press by Deniz Ortaçtepe Hart

*The Handbook of Linguistic Human Rights*, Wiley by Tove Skutnabb-Kangas and Robert Phillipson (eds.)

The runner-up and winner will be announced at the book prize event at the annual conference to be held in the University of Essex in Sep 2024. I wish to express my thanks for the cooperation of the local organising committee in facilitating the event.

### 3. Representing BAAL at the AILA's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) committee

In addition to our continued commitment to EDI matters and initiatives (e.g. having a rolling agenda item at our EC meetings, dedicated Special Interest Groups), together with the UK Association for Language Testing and Assessment (UKLTA), we have successfully secured funding from the Academy of Social Sciences to run a series of leadership workshops with an EDI focus. Externally, I continue to represent BAAL in AILA's JEDI committee. I attended online meetings throughout the year alongside other representatives from AILA and other counterpart national affiliates. In this year's cycle, we have shared BAAL's ongoing work around EDI and also a summary of our 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary big survey. The committee has agreed to continue to explore ways to advocate for EDI agenda, including ringfencing funds for the AILA solidarity award. We welcome contributions and suggestion from BAAL members, please get in touch with me accordingly. I will continue to feedback to the EC as well as BAAL's membership activities that the committee undertakes.

#### 4. AILA Executive Board and International Committee (EBIC) meeting at the AILA 20024 World Congress

I attended the EBIC meeting (11 Aug 2024) held at the AILA World Congress on behalf of our association. A summary of the meeting has been included in the Chair's report. I also played a supporting role in presenting the AILA 2030 bid with colleagues from the Birmingham consortium. I wish to express my personal thanks to the team led by Susan Hunston and Suganthi John for their dedication and unwavering effort in the endeavour.

That concludes my report for this year. As I come to the end of my term as the Publications Secretary, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my fellow EC members and all BAAL members for your collegiality and cooperation during my term. I wish the incoming Publications Secretary all success. I look forward to continuing interacting with the BAAL community in the future, perhaps in some other capacity. If you have questions about activities I have been involved in as the Publications Secretary, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Alex Ho-Cheong Leung, August 2024**

### **Seminars Coordinator's Report**

The 2023-24 academic year has been extremely productive on the seminar and workshop fronts. As the BAAL Seminar Coordinator, I am most grateful to all BAAL colleagues who invested their time applying for a seminar/workshop grant. We have seen a very much welcomed increase in the number of excellent funding applications, and BAAL has been able to make the most of the funding allocated to support a number of initiatives in the current academic year. This brief report will summarize the activities that have taken place in 2023-24.

With regard to the seminars, it has been a pleasure to continue with the successful partnership between BAAL and Cambridge University Press. The funding allocated for seminars has been increased by both sponsors, which means that colleagues can now bid for a maximum of £2,000 per seminar proposal. The amount offered to repayable floats (i.e., the one offered to runners-up) has also been increased to £1,000. The continued investment made by the joint sponsors evidences their commitment to the advancement of Applied Linguistics since the seminars must explore emergent, timely or relevant methods or topics in our field.

Out of the seven seminar applications received in 2023-24, the BAAL Executive Committee (henceforth EC) decided to award seminar funding to the top three applications, making the most of the funding available (i.e., generally only two applications are successful per funding round). The details of these successful seminar applications are provided below. Two of the seminars have already been held, and the final seminar is taking place in early September after this year's BAAL Annual Conference.

- “Multimodality in applied linguistic research: Current trends and methodological implications”, organized by Polina Mesinioti (University of York) and Jo Angouri (University of Warwick) at the University of York on 24 April 2024;
- “Virtual exchange as an EDI-compliant approach to language education: A Global South-North research-informed seminar”, organized by Marina Orsini-Jones (Coventry University) at Coventry University on 14 June 2024; and
- “Practicalities and possibilities: Linguistic approaches to short-form social media”, to be organized by Tamsin Parnell (University of Nottingham) and Katy Humberstone (University of Exeter) at the University of Nottingham on 11 September 2024.

In addition, BAAL has continued to support the development of new generations of applied linguists through its Researcher Development Workshops, which are aimed primarily (but not exclusively) at doctoral students and early-career researchers. The funding available for these workshops also increased in the 2023-24 academic year: BAAL members are now able to bid for a maximum of £1,500 for each workshop. These workshops are only open to BAAL members, who can attend them free of charge, thus being yet another benefit of becoming and continuing to be a member.

The EC has also been pleased with the increased interest in the funding available for workshops in the current year. A total of five applications were received, and it has been possible to fund four of these applications. This is the highest number of workshops that BAAL has funded in a single year, thus increasing considerably the support offered to BAAL members. The list of successful workshop applications can be found in the following bullet list, and all of them have been successfully held.

- “Q methodology for applied linguists: Principles and applications”, an online workshop organized by Nicola Morea (University of Reading) and Xinran Wu (University of Cambridge) on 10, 17 and 24 May 2024;
- “How to use an interdisciplinary approach in applied linguistics research?”, organized by Joana Almeida (University of Warwick) and Yvette (Yitong) Wang (University of Warwick) at the University of Warwick on 21 May 2024;

- “Entering the dragons’ den: Pitching qualitative methods in psychology of language learning and teaching (PLLT) research”, organized by Veronika Derecskey (University of Nottingham), Charlotte Morriss (University of Leicester), Deborah Kelland (Queen Margaret University), Denny Vlaeva (University of Nottingham), Bochra Kouraichi (Ministry of Education Tunisia) and Christine Muir (University of Nottingham) at the University of Nottingham on 10 June 2024; and
- “Researching pedagogy in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL): A methods-sharing event for PhD students”, organized by Kristy Suet-sin Cheung (University College London) at University College London on 22 June 2024.

The funding for the 2024-25 academic year has been confirmed, and new calls will soon be launched. The grants to be offered are detailed below, and applications for lower amounts are equally welcomed.

- BAAL / Cambridge University Press Seminars
  - a. Two £2,000 grants (one paid by BAAL and another paid by Cambridge University Press)
  - b. One repayable float of £1,000 (supported by BAAL)
- BAAL Researcher Development Workshops
  - a. Two £1,500 grants

I would very much encourage all BAAL members to consider making an application for these funding opportunities. I am also very happy to clarify any questions that colleagues may have on the calls and/or their proposals ahead of the submission deadline. To do so, please write to me at [vander.viana@ed.ac.uk](mailto:vander.viana@ed.ac.uk). I will also be at the Annual Conference, and I am very much happy to have a word in person with potential applicants.

The seminars and workshops in the past year have been supported by a number of colleagues, and I would very much like to thank them all:

- Cambridge University Press, our historical funding partner for the seminar series;
- BAAL EC members, who have kindly helped to review seminar and workshop funding applications and who have represented BAAL at this year’s seminars;
- the successful seminar and workshop applicants, who have carefully worked in the design and implementation of these events;
- the seminar and workshop attendees, who have participated so enthusiastically in this year’s events.

**Vander Viana, August 2024**

## SIG Coordinator's Report

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to make an important contribution to BAAL's activities and identity. Three new SIGs were established this year, including *Humans, Machines, Language (HuMaLa)*, *Language Curriculum* and *Asian Language Education in Global Contexts*. The *Language, Learning and Teaching (LLT)* was relaunched with a newly elected Executive Committee. The BAAL EC will review these SIGs' development and activities in one year to confirm their full SIG status.

See below for the full list of BAAL SIGs:

1. Asian Language Education in Global Contexts SIG
2. Corpus linguistics
3. Health and Science Communication
4. Humans, Machines, Language (HuMaLa)
5. Intercultural communication
6. Language and Education for Social Justice (LESJ)
7. Language and New Media
8. Language and Race
9. Language Curriculum
10. Language in Africa
11. Language Policy
12. Language, Gender and Sexuality
13. Language, Learning and Teaching
14. Linguistic Ethnography Forum (LEF)
15. Linguistics and Knowledge about Language in Education (LKALE)
16. Multilingualism
17. Professional, Academic and Work-based Literacies (PAWBL)
18. Research Synthesis in Applied Linguistics
19. Testing, Evaluation and Assessment (TEA)
20. Vocabulary

Annual financial audits were received from all SIGs in June and were submitted to the BAAL accountant. Annual reports have been received from most SIGs. A wide range of face-to-face, online and hybrid activities, including webinars, online reading group, writing retreat, research café, seminars and conferences were organised by the SIGs this year. Please see the BAAL newsletters and individual SIG websites for more information on these events.

The BAAL annual conference for 2024 (organised and hosted by University of Essex) is scheduled to take place in person on 5-7 September 2024. Over 180 abstracts were

submitted to SIG tracks. A hybrid SIG convenors' meeting will take place during the conference. For the second year, the LOC provides one £50 registration discount to support the Convenor (or a representative) from each SIG to attend the annual conference. The BAAL EC is also looking to trial providing additional support (£50) to SIGs which require it.

Based on the feedback from SIG convenors and members, the BAAL EC is making a few adjustments to SIG business:

- (1) The application of new SIGs is due annually in December to be considered in the next January EC meeting. The BAAL EC has trialled this on a case-by-case basis to allow submissions to be considered at the May/September EC meetings. We will review this practice next year.
- (2) Based on past experiences, SIGs are encouraged to specify, where they can, the role (and responsibilities) of their ordinary members, especially when there are more than one ordinary member on the EC.

It is worth highlighting some good practice among the SIGs. There have been good initiatives to support early career researchers, such as providing a dedicated slot, mentoring, networking opportunities at SIG events.

In addition to websites and mailing lists, some SIGs have established a strong online presence, utilising various methods, including Facebook group, X and blog posts.

There has been a higher tendency to organise online or hybrid SIG events due to reasons including a wider reach, practicality, budgetary constraints and increasing workload in British academia. While there are many advantages of online/hybrid events, SIGs are encouraged to organise at least one face-to-face event each year (most SIGs would have a SIG track at the in-person annual conference). Some SIGs, e.g. the Language and Health Communication and the Language and New Media SIGs, co-hosted joint events this year and had great success. To promote collaboration among SIGs, it is hoped that we can create a shared events calendar this year.

There has been an increased awareness of the importance of promoting a general code of conduct among SIG members to cultivate a professional and inclusive environment. The newly established Language and Education for Social Justice (LESJ) SIG has published a general [code of conduct](#) which serves as a useful reference for those SIGs who would like to develop a similar code. Other SIGs such as [the Language Policy SIG](#) have previously published their codes of conduct.

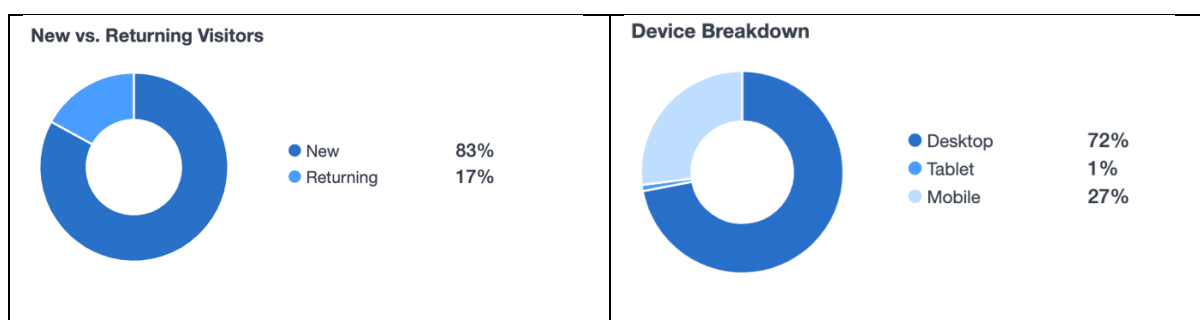
A big thank-you to all SIG convenors and EC members for your passion, hard work and perseverance last year.

**Sathena Chan, August 2024**

## Web Editor's Report

Over the past 12 months, the website has undergone routine updates to inform the community of various events and news in the field of Applied Linguistics. This has included updating the website with the relevant newsletters, news and announcements, information about the 2024 conference, book prizes and new Special Interest Groups. Analytics for the website are outlined below.

In the last 30 days, visits to the website are via desktop computers rather than mobile devices and tablets (Figure 1). Additionally, the overwhelming number of visits to the website are unique rather than return visits. This suggests that most visitors to the website are searching for specific information. This statistic does not account for people visiting on different devices, computers or whether visitors clear their browser cache between visits, however, so may not be reliable.



**Figure 1.** New vs. returning visitors & device breakdown (last 30 days)

The fact that people visit to search for specific information is backed up by their engagement once they land on the homepage. Over the past 30 days (as of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2024), there have been 3,231 visits and 6,953 page views. This means that the majority of visitors view two pages, including the homepage. Additionally, each visit typically lasts just 43 seconds, meaning that visitors tend to leave quickly once they have identified the information they need. The most popular page is the Conferences page, which indicates that most visitors are looking for information about the present or past BAAL conferences. The second most popular page is the homepage. Visitors also look for information on BAAL 2024 Conference Call for Papers, Member Area, and Sociolinguistic Events Calendar (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Top 10 pages (last 30 days)

Conferences	1,224
Homepage	1,205

BAAL 2024 Conference Call for Papers	997
Member Area	275
Sociolinguistic Events Calendar	185
Documents	174
Join	167
Committee	154
BAAL membership benefits	134
SIGs	112

In addition to search engines such as Yandex, Yahoo, and Bing, most visitors come from X (formerly Twitter). This is followed by the website of Dicle Üniversitesi, a Turkish university, and LinkedIn. For other referrals, see Table 2.

**Table 2.** Top 10 referrals (last 30 days)

twitter.com	106
yandex.ru	34
dicle.edu.tr	13
uk.search.yahoo.com	13
linkedin.com	12
mail.google.com	12
yandex.com.tr	12
mercator-research.eu	11
iclave12.dioe.at	8
cn.bing.com	7



The majority of visitors to the site are based in the United Kingdom. The second-most common country to access BAAL from is the United States. The third most popular is Japan. For the rest, refer to Table 3.

**Table 3.** Top 10 countries/regions (last 30 days)

United Kingdom	1,229
United States	288
Japan	245
China	177
Hong Kong*	120
Italy	88
Turkey	78
Saudi Arabia	71
Germany	58
India	50

\*Data for Hong Kong is recorded separately by the software used for compiling these statistics.

**Sin Wang Chong, August 2024**

## **CLiE Representative's Report**

CLiE has met three times this academic year, as in previous years: October 2023, February 2024 and June 2024. The first two meetings were held online, and the June meeting was held at Chandler House in London. We had Judith Rifesser from NCLE attend the first meeting to discuss the language hubs being set up and Emma Marsden joined us for the February meeting to discuss the new GCSE in languages due to be implemented in Sept 2024.

Bernadette Holmes was our invited guest for the June meeting to address questions related to NCLE and the new exams. However, she was unable to attend due to illness.

CLIE are operating various subprojects. Reports from activities and working groups to note include what follows.

## **1. UKLO**

In June Dick Hudson reported that this had been a very good year overall, although work remains to be done to expand coverage. Participants had found out about UKLO mainly through MFL, maths and Latin subjects. BAAL and LAGB are now both contributing £2,000 each which proves very beneficial to UKLO. In Round 1 there were 5,301 entries in total – a record number, and 100 more than last year. The main growth was in the Advanced competition, while the three lower levels were roughly static. As usual, the youngest competitor was in Year 4! Perhaps the most remarkable figure from Round 1 is the emerging gender-ratio for the Advanced entries, which has hovered around 50:50 since 2016 and which this year hit a fluke of exactly 50:50! For round 2, we once again followed the new pattern with the round held in schools for everyone who won a Gold in the Round 1 Advanced competition. It went smoothly, with 88 candidates, and allowed us to select 8 candidates for the camp. The camp was hosted by Magdalen College Oxford and was generally agreed to have been a success. The tutors were Graeme Trousdale, Simi Hellsten and Daniel Turaev, of whom Simi and Daniel will act as leaders for the IOL squad.

## **2. GCSE working groups**

There have been several meetings of both the English GCSE working group (chaired by Jenny Amos) and the MFL GCSE working group (chaired by Gee Macrory). The English working group is focussing on the reform of the English language GCSE exam. The aim is to approach examining bodies with evidence from prior research and practically reworked examples in order to highlight the discrepancies between the current exam structure and the aims set out within the national curriculum. The group is in contact with AQA and an OCR working group lead and conversations are promising. Under discussion in the group is the questions and marking schemes used by the boards. A report including an analysis of the questions, marking scheme and specific proposals to reformulate questions has been prepared to be presented at the meeting of the English Association at the Globe in September 2024. The MFL working group is focussing on the new GCSE in languages and has constructed a questionnaire to be passed to teachers when resources allow. In the meantime, an article for The Conversation is under consideration with the aim of engaging teachers' interest and seeking to compare the status quo with the emerging new curriculum.

### 3. KAL upskilling project

Work has continued on the upskilling project (chaired by Eva Eppler) and a final questionnaire is nearly ready. A subsidiary theme here is the issue of phonics and a paper by Willem Hollmann, Cathie Wallace and Gee Macrory was published in *The Conversation* in April 2024 (see <https://theconversation.com/phonics-isnt-working-for-childrens-reading-to-improve-they-need-to-learn-to-love-stories-226573> ) and an interview with Willem by SA radio followed. A longer version of the article is under review at *English in Education*.

### 4. CLiE at BAAL

Gee Macrory, Eva Eppler and Maria Arche gave a presentation at BAAL 24th August 2023 on three of the topics that had been discussed at CLiE over the previous year: Ofsted reports (GM), Manifesto on language abilities (MA) and the project on endangered languages (EE). There was a fair turnout and lively discussion, but it was agreed that a presentation focused on a single topic may be better and would be considered for next year. This year at BAAL 2024, Cathie Wallace and Gee Macrory will lead the CLiE discussion forum on Friday 6 September on the topic of phonics and bilingual learners.

### 5. Other news

#### **ATLAS LEIDEN Declaration—*Think Language First***

CLiE was delighted to endorse the ATLAS Leiden Declaration *Think Language First!*, which was launched at the House of Lords in January 2024 by (inter alia) Maria Arche (see <https://www.gre.ac.uk/articles/public-relations/the-atlas-think-language-first-manifesto-launched-at-the-house-of-lords> )

#### **Heritage/community languages GCSE/A-levels**

Zarah Fahim, Yuni Kim and Eva Eppler co-authored a paper on the uptake of heritage/community languages entitled '[Diverse tongues, unheard voices. Barriers to mainstream uptake of heritage languages in England](#)' for BERA *Research Intelligence*. They are preparing a longer paper in which they review the status of native speaker A-Levels in the UK university admission process for a special collection of [Languages, Society and Policy \(LSP\)](#).

### 6. Membership

It was agreed at the June meeting that WOLLOW (<https://theworldoflanguages.co.uk/>) would be invited to join CLiE and send a representative. It was also decided at the June

meeting that in future, brief reports from member organisations should be sent ahead of each CLiE meeting to keep members informed about their respective activities.

A pressing matter is to discuss the place of a BAAL representative.

### **7. Meetings for 2024-2025**

- October, February, June
- Dates TBC
- 2 online, 1 hybrid

### **8. Specific points from the Education Committee (EC) for BAAL/LAGB AGM reports**

The EC is expanding its membership to include more teachers.

The EC constitution dates from 2000 and will be updated in relation to the format of the LAGB EC session and the EC's scope and remit. The organisation of the EC session at the annual LAGB conference will primarily rest with the local organiser, who can potentially use the session to showcase their own work in the area of language education, and the EC is broadening its scope and remit to non-primary and secondary education.

**Maria Arche, Secretary of CLiE, August 2024**