

July 2011

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1. ALT9 in Hong Kong

1.1. *Conference information*

ALT9 will run from July 21st to July 24th in Hong Kong. General information about the conference can be found at:

<http://www.hku.hk/linguist/alt9/Home.html>

The definitive program and registration details can be accessed at:

http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/alt9/alt9_program.pdf

<http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/alt9/reg.html>

Please note that the deadline for early bird registration has been extended to July 10th.

1.2. *Events at the conference*

There will be two pre-conference workshops, on July 20th and July 21st.

- A workshop on analyticity will be held on the afternoon of July 20th, organized by Umberto Ansaldo. More information:

<http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/alt9/pre1.html>

- A workshop on typological studies of the languages of China will be held on July 21st, organized by Picus Ding. More information:

<http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/ChinaLg/>

At the conference, there will be two plenary lectures by the winners of the Pāṇini Award, setting out the typologically most interesting features of the language described in their dissertation.

- Mark Post's plenary lecture about Galo, a Tibeto-Burman language of North-East India, is scheduled for Friday July 22nd at 2 pm.

- Antoinette Schapper's plenary lecture about Bunaq, a Papuan language of Central Timor, is scheduled for Saturday July 23rd at 2 pm.

Social events at the conference include a welcome reception on Thursday July 21st, and a conference dinner on Saturday July 23rd.

1.3. Business meeting

ALT's business meeting will be held on Sunday July 24th, after the last presentations. We hope that as many members as possible will attend.

We will present a report on ALT's finances and our journal, *Linguistic Typology*, we will launch a call for bids to organize ALT11 in 2015, and we will present the slate for the election of new officers.

We would also like to discuss a number of points that relate to the future development of ALT, which came up during discussions in the executive committee.

(i) The possibility of forging closer links with conference series like *Syntax of the World's Languages* and related conferences.

The majority of the executive committee is in favour, because this would strengthen the link between typology and language description. Some members felt, however, that this would go against the classical understanding of typology.

(ii) The possibility of creating a position of conference manager, an ALT officer who would be a member of the local organizing committee for ALT conferences.

The majority of the executive committee is in favour. This type of position appears to be working well for other linguistics organizations, like the *Societas Linguistica Europaea*. It would allow for some continuity and transfer of experience in the planning and organization of our conferences.

1.4. ALT scholarships

ALT's executive committee awarded 12 scholarships to help students and scholars from developing countries attend the conference in Hong Kong. The scholarships consist of partial reimbursement of travel and accommodation in Hong Kong. The scholarship holders include one MA student, eight PhD students, and three postdoctoral scholars. All scholarship holders will present papers or posters.

2. ALT Awards

2.1. Pāṇini Award 2011

At the conference in Hong Kong, ALT will present its second Pāṇini Award for a grammar passed as a dissertation between January 1st 2007 and December 31st 2010. The award will go to:

- Mark Post (James Cook University, Australia), for *A Grammar of Galo* (La Trobe University, 2007)
- Antoinette Schapper (Leiden University, the Netherlands) for *Bunaq: A Papuan Language of Central Timor* (Australian National University, 2009)

Both winners receive a paid fare to and accommodation and registration at the conference, as well as a collection of grammars. They will also present plenary lectures at the conference (see above under "events").

In addition, the jury singled out five grammars for honorable mention, and short-listed another five, which are mentioned in the jury report below.

We would like to extend our most sincere thanks to the chair, Keren Rice, and all the jury members for their careful reading and evaluation of the grammars submitted for the award. The jury consisted of: Miriam Butt, Michael Cysouw, Scott DeLancey, Mark Donohue, George van Driem, Pattie Epps, Elly van Gelderen, Martin Haspelmath, Christine Hildebrandt, Carmen Jany, Marian Klamer, Nicole Kruspe, Yury Lander, Frank Lichtenberk, Stephen Morey, Toshi Nakayama, Tom Payne, Ger Reesink, Keren Rice, Angela Terrill, Lourens de Vries and Lindsay Whaley. We would also like to thank the grammar-writing PhD graduates for responding en masse to our call for the Pāṇini Award.

2.2. Jury report for the Pāṇini Award 2011

By Keren Rice, jury chair

The 2011 Panini jury considered 23 grammars for the Panini award. The grammars were of excellent quality, and the jury faced a challenge in coming to a decision. Because of the large number of grammars, the jury decided to offer awards to two particularly outstanding grammars, Mark Post's *A grammar of Galo* and Antoinette Schapper's *Bunaq: A Papuan language of Central Timor*. The citations follow.

Mark Post's *A Grammar of Galo* (Tibeto-Burman), the first comprehensive grammar of the language, provides a brilliant and insightful description of the language. Based on approximately fourteen months of fieldwork, it includes a synchronic grammar, an overview of historical developments, a glossary, and texts. The text is to the point and richly cross-referenced so that even a casual reader can start reading in the middle. It is noteworthy for its 'extras' - discussion of historical aspects of the language, a rich and detailed introduction, discussion of phonetics, a chapter on the possible fate of the language - as well as for its ample and rich discourse-based examples, its general comprehensiveness, and its attention to detail. The jury found it to be extremely impressive work.

Antoinette Schapper's *Bunaq: A Papuan Language of Central Timor*, is an impressive grammar of excellent breadth and depth. There is little previous work on this language, and this contribution, based on approximately ten months of fieldwork, adds greatly to the understanding of the language. The grammar is clearly written, perspicuous, and concise, with careful consideration of current theoretical and typological concerns. The author skillfully guides the reader through the various subfields, with the grammar standing out in its organization, presentation, and user friendliness, as well as its texts. The jury deemed it to be excellent work of outstanding quality.

In addition, the jury gives honorable mention to the following five grammars.

- Kofi Yakpo. *A grammar of Pichi. Equatorial Guinea Creole*
- Seino van Breugel. *A grammar of Atong*
- René Lacroix. *Description du dialecte laze d'Arhavi (caucasique du sud, Turquie). Grammaire et textes*
- Rosa Vallejos Yopán. *A grammar of Kokama-Kokamilla*
- Claudia Wegener. *A grammar of Savosavo, a Papuan language of the Solomon islands*

Finally, the following were short-listed.

- Robyn Loughnane. *A grammar of Oksapmin*
- Simon E. Overall. *A grammar of Aguaruna*
- Liisa Berghäll. *Mauwake reference grammar*
- Lynda J. de Jong Boudreault. *A grammar of Sierra Popoluca (Soteapanec, a Mixe-Zoquean language)*
- Sebastian Nordhoff. *A grammar of Upcountry Sri Lanka Malay*

2.3. Greenberg Award 2011

The jury of the Greenberg Award decided to postpone the award to 2013, because of the small number of valid submissions for the 2011 round. (A similar decision was made in 2003, when the award was postponed to 2005.) Persons who submitted their award for this round will of course be considered in the next round.

We would like to thank Isabelle Bril and the Greenberg jury for taking on this important role and very much hope that they will be able to reconstitute to assess the next round of applicants in 2013. The jury consisted of: Martin Haspelmath, Larry Hyman, Edith Moravcsik, Jae Jung Song and Denis Creissels.

2.4. Calls for the next round of awards

In view of the large number of submissions for this year's Pāṇini Award, the jury proposed that the prize be awarded every two years instead of every four years, at least for the time being. The executive committee agreed, which means that there will be calls for three awards in 2013 (Greenberg, Pāṇini and Gabelentz), all to be awarded at ALT10 in Leipzig.

3. Elections

After the conference, ALT will organize elections for a number of positions whose term ends in the fall of 2011. According to the statutes, ALT needs to elect a president, editor-in-chief, secretary-treasurer, four members of the executive committee and three members of LT's editorial board.

The nominating committee (Sonia Cristofaro, Denis Creissels and Rachel Nordlinger, chaired by Spike Gildea) has prepared the following slate for the elections. After the conference, all members will be invited to vote electronically.

President: Johanna Nichols (Berkeley)

Editor *Linguistic Typology*: Frans Plank (Konstanz)

Secretary-Treasurer: Jean-Christophe Verstraete (Leuven)

Executive Committee:

Kees Hengeveld (Amsterdam)

Ritsuko Kikusawa (Osaka)

Anna Siewierska (Lancaster)

Editorial Board:

Ian Maddieson (Albuquerque)

Jae Jung Song (Otago)

The nominating committee made two recommendations, both of which were accepted by the executive committee:

- One is an extra term for one member of the executive committee. This would allow ALT to return to an election of three new members for the executive committee in each round, instead of having to elect four new members in this round and two new members in the next. The nominating committee asked Nick Evans (Canberra) to continue.

- The other is that Larry Hyman (Berkeley), who finished two terms, remain on the editorial board of *Linguistic Typology*.

We thank the nominating committee for their careful work in preparing the slate for the elections.