

1. Message from the president

The end of 2017 was unusually eventful for ALT. The Association had its first Meeting in Australia, and the southern hemisphere location meant that the meeting took place in December, a different time of year than usual. It thus nearly coincided with another major event for ALT, the transition of the editorship of *Linguistic Typology* from Frans Plank, the founding editor, to Maria Koptjevskaja Tamm at the beginning of 2018. This was recognized at the meeting itself through a plenary session panel on morphosyntactic typology that ended by honoring Frans for his many years of service to the field as Editor of *Linguistic Typology*.

The Meeting in Canberra was a great success, with high attendance and excellent presentations across all areas of typology. The talks on quantitative and areal typology seemed especially well attended, in particular by younger scholars, perhaps suggesting something about where the field is headed. The organizers provided an excellent balance between regular sessions, plenary lectures, and plenary panels, and I appreciated, in particular, their efforts to bring interdisciplinary perspectives to the discussion. The next ALT Meeting is scheduled for early September 2019 in Pavia, and I am looking forward to learning more about the progress of typology there.

As a year between meetings, 2018 will provide the ALT Executive Committee with an opportunity to take up various issues that are important to the governing of the Association but which are best dealt with away from the pressures of the deadlines that necessarily accompany the organization of a major conference. Three issues that I expect to be addressed in particular are improving ALT's system for membership management, updating the ALT website, and revisiting the development of a code of conduct (or something like it) associated with ALT activities. With respect to the last topic, I hope that ALT will be able to build on the work of other scholarly societies in this area to develop a statement that will balance the concerns of as many members as possible.

Jeff Good

2. ALT 12 Conference Report

2.1. Conference Statistics.

The ALT 12 program committee received 298 abstracts. Of these, 121 were accepted as oral presentation, 50 were accepted as a poster, and 43 were accepted to one of the workshops. 43 abstracts were rejected. While there is no attendance record for ALT 12, a total of 245 bookings (student/unwaged and waged combined) were submitted for registration.

2.2. Business Meeting.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Canberra organizing committee, in particular the directors, Wayan Arka, Danielle Barth, Don Daniels (also on the local organizing committee) and Nick Evans, and also to the members of the local organizing committee: David Nash, Jane Simpson, Beth Evans, Leanne Scott, Joanne Allen, Harold Koch, Kyla Quinn, Tina Gregor, and the other volunteers who played a role.

Thanks also go to the program committee: Oliver Bond, Don Daniels, Michael Dunn, Mark Ellison, Bethwyn Evans, Sebastian Fedden, Lauren Gawne, Tina Gregor, Martin Haspelmath, Rachel Hendery, Kristine Hildebrandt, Larry Hyman, Linda Konnerth, Masha Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Silvia Luraghi, Rachel Nordlinger, Uta Reinöhl, Michael Riessler, Adam Schembri, Shahar Shirtz, Hedvig Skirgard, Mark Van de Velde, Alena Witzlack, and Ulrike Zeshan.

2.2.1. Membership

	Regular Members	Student Members	Total
2014	284	35	319
2015	250	30	280
2016	262	28	290
12/8/2017	338	42	380
95 pledged members			475

2.2.2. Finances

2016 beginning balance		12.361,51 €
Action	Amount	
Bank Interest	+23,50	
Banking Cost	-34,60	
Membership	+2710,00	
Legal Help	-603,36	
Leftover EC and board meeting	+1993,95	
2016 end balance		16.721,00 €
2017 beginning balance		16.721,00 €
Action	Amount	
Bank Interest	+7,19	
Banking Costs	-29,22	
Membership	+2816,00	
Legal Help	-100,00	
Estimated Costs	Amount	
Scholarships	-3000	
Awards	-3000	
2017 end balance		≈13.415,00 €

A quick note regarding finances: due to practical reasons, although the conference took place in 2017, our expenses on awards and fellowships for the conference all have been recorded for the calendar year 2018. The actual numbers on awards and fellowships will come when 2018 financial year is finished and recorded. We wish to thank the ALT 12 organizers for their financial efforts and contributions in making this conference a success!

2.2.3. Journal

Maria (Masha) Koptjevskaja-Tamm has taken over editorship of *Linguistic Typology*, and she adds some news and information here:

1. Changes in the team

- Three Associate Editors have left the board: Bill Croft (starting Fall 2011), Larry Hyman (starting Fall 1999), Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm (starting Fall 2007). Thank you for all of your hard work!
- Our amazing editorial assistant Wolfgang Schellinger, who has been with the journal since its start, has left the journal
- Two new Associated Editors have joined the board: Dan Dediú and Jean-Christophe Verstraete
- Angela Terrill is the new Assistant Editor

2. Access related issues

- *Linguistic Typology* implements the Hybrid Open Access model (<https://www.degruyter.com/page/560>), meaning that authors of journal articles have the option of making their accepted articles freely accessible on degruyter.com. The price is currently 2,000 Euros; Hybrid Open Access contributions also qualify for Institutional Membership discounts. You can check with your universities if they have any agreements with De Gruyter.
 - We are going to introduce “The editor’s choice” model: the editor chooses one article per issue or possibly two for a special issue for free access - free to read online. The details are under discussion.
 - Note that De Gruyter allows authors the use of the final published version of an article (publisher pdf) for self-archiving (author's personal website) and/or archiving in an institutional repository (on a non-profit server) after an embargo period of 12 months after publication. Also, the Authors may download offprint of the article as a PDF document and send 30 copies of the article to colleagues.
See <https://www.degruyter.com/dg/page/repository-policy> for the publishers’ repository policy.
3. We have been working on updating the mission of the journal, on the list of the genres represented in it and on the new submission guidelines (will soon be published at <https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/lity>)

3.1. New text for the mission of the journal

Aims and Scope

Linguistic Typology provides a forum for all work of relevance to the study of language typology and cross-linguistic variation. It welcomes work taking a typological perspective on all domains of the structure of spoken and signed languages, including historical change, language processing, and sociolinguistics. Diverse descriptive and theoretical frameworks are welcomed so long as they have a clear bearing on the study of cross-linguistic variation. We welcome

cross-disciplinary approaches to the study of linguistic diversity, as well as work dealing with just one or a few languages, as long as it is typologically informed and typologically and theoretically relevant.

3.2. An updated list of genres. Particularly important items (in bold) are accompanied by comments below:

- Research articles
- Target articles with peer commentary *
- **Special issues** *
- Debates *
- **Language profiles, family portraits and areal surveys** **
- Review articles (reviewing two or more books, or a whole subject area)
- Book reviews
- **Methodological contributions** ***
- **Squibs** ****

Special issues, methodological contributions and squibs are additions to the earlier repertoire, while language profiles/family portraits/areal surveys have already been published earlier.

* For special issues, target articles and debates: please contact the editor

** ‘Language / Family / Area Portraits’ emphasize the connection between typology and description/documentation. These should give a profile of the language(s) in typological perspective, with particular attention to the points of greatest typological interest. Examples of previous profiles can be seen here:

- Quesada, J. Diego. 1999. Chibchan, with special reference to participant-highlighting (LT 3 (2), 209 – 257).
- Evans, Nicholas. 2000. Iwaidjan, a very un-Australian language family (LT 4 (1), 91–142)
- François, Alex. 2005. A typological overview of Mwotlap, an Oceanic language of Vanuatu (LT 9 (1), 115–146)
- Epps, Patience. 2008. Hup's typological treasures: Description and explanation in the study of an Amazonian language (LT 12 (2), 169–193)
- Yager, Joanne & Burenhult, Niclas. 2017. Jedek: A newly discovered Aslian variety of Malaysia. (LT 21 (3), 493–545).

We invite prospective authors to use their own creativity in bringing out what is most interesting and unusual in the languages or families they are describing.

*** Methodological contributions include, but are not restricted to reports on and reviews of toolkits, databases, software, collection of texts and corpora, archival collections resulting from fieldwork etc. These should include a discussion of how/why the material is of typological relevance.

*** Squibs are very short and often humorous pieces on a very specific topic intended to encourage debate

Articles can be accompanied by supplementary online materials (e.g., examples, lists of sources, queries to databases, etc., contact the Editor for details). We urge authors to make as much as possible of the primary data, analysis scripts, software, databases, etc. freely available in the supplementary materials or in publicly accessible repositories or archives.

3.3. LT is adding the transcription of the contributors' names as obligatory component. We are also adding a statement on the contribution of each author in co-authored works (ideally with a clarification re the ordering of their names).

3.4. We are also adding the transcription of the language names – in those cases where the contribution focuses on one or a few languages.

4. Challenges for the journal:

4.1. We regularly have problems with filling the journal, even though we always succeed in the end. Why? What can we do for attracting more high-quality contributions? Conversely, it seems that few people outside of the field read the journal. Again why? What can we do for attracting readers to the journal? We need to make the journal more relevant to the members of the ALT community, but also enhance the dialogue with theoretical linguists, anthropologists, psychologists, etc. ANY IDEAS ARE WELCOME!!!

4.2. There is a significant geographic/linguistic bias in the contributions published by the journal. Among the different reasons for this one is particularly relevant, namely, the challenge of writing a decent journal paper in Academic English. This is a real and big problem the magnitude of which native speakers of English are probably not aware of. And the ALT, whose primary focus is on linguistic diversity, should take this challenge seriously and try to come up with practical measures for ensuring that also linguists with a weaker English language background can make their way to “Linguistic Typology” – or to other English speaking academic fora.

4.3. There is also a noticeable gender imbalance in the debates that have been published in *Linguistic Typology*. This is of course not truly representative of the ALT community of the whole, as all of us know (also exemplified by the two most recent award winners, Diana Forker and Ksenia Shagal – and by the composition of the Editorial Board of the journal). This imbalance is most probably a reflection of the general debate climate on LingTyp – and on many other discussion lists – indicating that we should be more active in inviting female researchers to participate in future debates.

Please contact the editor (lt@degruyter.com) for any comments, ideas, suggestions, reactions etc.!

5. Table of contents for *Linguistic Typology* 2018 (1)

(1) From the Editors (Frans Plank, Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm)

Articles

- (2) Sonja Riesberg - Optional ergative, agentivity and discourse prominence: Evidence from Yali (Trans-New Guinea)
- (3) Yuèyuán Lǐ and Dan Ponsford - Predicative reduplication: Functions, their relationships and iconicities – THE EDITOR’S CHOICE (freely accessible)!
- (4) Cynthia Hansen - Defining the parameters for subordinate and interrogative clause negation in Iquito (Zaparoan)

Book reviews

- (5) Nina Dobrushina - Review of Boye, K. & Kehayov, P. (Eds.) (2016). *Complementizer Semantics in European Languages*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.

Obituary

- (6) Pavel Iosad, Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm, Alexander Piperski, Dmitry Sitchinava -
 - a. Depth, brilliancy, clarity: Andrey Anatolyevich Zaliznyak (1935 – 2017)

2.2.4. Elections

The ALT EC elected three new members: Mark Dingemanse, Rachel Nordlinger, Ljuba Veselinova.

Thank you to the outgoing EC members: Felix Ameka, Isabel Bril, and Keren Rice!

2.2.5. Future Meetings

ALT 13, September 4-6, 2019, Pavia, Italy.

The conference web site is now up, and will be developed as more information comes together:
<https://sites.google.com/universitadipavia.it/alt2019/home>

The organizers are also planning a number of teach-ins for September 3, so participants should keep this date in mind, as well.

We encourage potential host venues for ALT 14 (North/South America?) to begin thinking about submitting a bid in late 2018.

2.2.6. Awards (the jury report was in Newsletter 53)

The Joseph Greenberg award for the best typological dissertation defended between 2015-2016: Ksenia Shagal, of the University of Helsinki, delivered a presentation on her thesis “Towards a typology of participles”.

The Georg von der Gabelentz award for achievements in language documentation through the writing of reference grammars: Diana Forker delivered a presentation on her published grammar, *A Grammar of Hinuq* (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/203728>)

The jury reports were published in Newsletter 53, November 2017.

We wish to once again thank the chairs and committees for their work: Toshihide Nakayama and Sonia Cristofaro (chairs), and also Bernard Comrie, Denis Creissels, Volker Gast , Ekaterina Gruzdeva, Bernd Heine, Johanna Nichols, Doris Payne, Maria Polinsky, Jean-Christophe Verstraete, Bernhard Wälchli, and Honore Watanabe (jury members).