

Proposal for a Mellon 23 Faculty Workshop in Linguistics

From 16 schools: Amherst, Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Carleton, Grinnell, Haverford, Macalester, Middlebury, Oberlin, Pomona, Reed, Rhodes, Smith, Swarthmore, Wellesley, Williams (26 faculty members from those schools)

When and where: Oct 2-4, 2009, Swarthmore College

Overall Coordinator: Donna Jo Napoli (Swarthmore)

Panel/Colloquium leaders: Robert Remez (Barnard), Mike Flynn (Carleton), Mary Paster (Pomona), Jill de Villiers (Smith)

Workshop description in a nutshell:

Saturday morning: forum on common curricular and institutional goals (3 panels, run in sequence).

Saturday afternoon: colloquium on faculty-student and student-initiated research.

Sunday morning: discussion of the findings of the workshop, led by Prof. Mark Liberman of the University of Pennsylvania, who has agreed to participate in the workshop, offering an outside critical perspective.

More extended description:

Research in linguistics has been strong in theory (phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics) and applied areas (anthropological linguistics, psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, and more) for decades. But recent interest in documentary linguistics and cognitive linguistics has spawned work in computational linguistics, neuro-linguistics, and other areas. Related to the question of how the academic discipline of linguistics should develop is the question of how the analysis of speech and language generally develops elsewhere in the academy and in society at large. We have much less leverage in the second case than in the first, but the second is of immediate importance. Since what we do discipline-internally is connected to what happens outside the discipline, with influences flowing in both directions, our discussion should take the broader context into account. Among us are scholars of a variety of fields (including anthropology, cognitive sciences, computer science, philosophy, psycholinguistics) to help guide the discussion. We will exchange ideas on how to incorporate these new areas (and ones yet to come) into our curricula without sacrificing work in areas we already cover.

One issue is how to find novel ways to increase linguistic offerings for our students given how small our departments/ programs are (perhaps by tapping into linguists hidden in other depts., cooperation with nearby colleges /universities, and/or tapping into junior year abroad opportunities, etc.). Workshop members hail from different specializations within an inherently interdisciplinary field, so the need for us to get together is keen and the potential for enriching interaction is high.

Additionally, we recognize the need to engage students in original linguistic inquiry. In some theory areas, it takes a great deal of formal preparation before a student can approach original research – yet most of us do not have the staffing to cover relevant advanced and, sometimes, even intermediate courses. We therefore need to share ideas

that have worked on our various campuses to further student-faculty joint research as well as student-initiated, faculty-guided research. The morning brainstorming sessions will be followed by an afternoon research colloquium in which students and faculty present. This way we can see actual examples of how various ones of us have welcomed students into research.

As for institutional goals, we will discuss making bridges with cognate departments, and opportunities for funding of laboratory facilities, research endeavors, and summer fieldwork. Our goal is to establish stability to promote the best teaching and research environments for students and faculty. This is particularly important for linguistics, since linguistic offerings are often not in a linguistics department but in interdepartmental programs or even isolated (tucked in a variety of departments here and there) without a cohesive program.

List of panel members and leaders

Saturday am panel: curriculum (how to meet changing needs, increase offerings, protect the core)

John Rager (Amherst)
Jason Kandybowicz (Bryn Mawr/Haverford/ Swarthmore)
Catherine Fortin (Carleton)
Shizhe Huang (Haverford)
John Spackman (Middlebury)
Kim Faber (Oberlin)
UNNAMED faculty (Oberlin – Anthropology Dept – See note below)
Kim Bruce (Pomona)
Eric Breck (Rhodes)
Sasha Kostina (Rhodes)
Jill de Villiers (Smith) [**leader**]
David Harrison (Swarthmore)
Andrea Levitt (Wellesley)
Nathan Sanders (Williams)

Saturday am panel on getting students involved in research:

Robert Remez (Barnard) [**leader**]
Ann Senghas (Barnard)
Brigitte French (Grinnell)
Christina Esposito (Macalester)
John Haiman (Macalester)
Mary Paster (Pomona)
Sasha Kostina (Rhodes)
Jill de Villiers (Smith)
Peter de Villiers (Smith)
Vera Lee Schoenfeld (Swarthmore)
Andrea Levitt (Wellesley)
Nathan Sanders (Williams)

Saturday am panel on relationships within the institution (including questions of how to fund summer and term research and laboratories):

Robert Remez (Barnard)
Deepak Kumar (Bryn Mawr)
Mike Flynn (Carleton) [**leader**]
Matt Pearson (Reed)
Ted Fernald (Swarthmore)
Donna Jo Napoli (Swarthmore)

Saturday afternoon research colloquium (open to the public):

Mary Paster [**leader**] (Pomona) and Katie Dutcher (Pomona '09) "Contour Tone Distribution in Luganda"

Kim Bruce (Pomona), Chris Weinberg (Pomona '10), John Sloat (Pomona '09) and new student (not yet chosen) "Building context structures for dialogue" (only one of these students will attend)

Luke Lindemann (Pomona '10) field work in Tibet

Peter and Jill de Villers (Smith) and Stacy Diaz (Smith '10), "Conversational Pragmatics in Children with Autism"

Jill and Peter de Villiers (Smith) and Abigail Wilkins (Smith '09), "African American English dialect and narrative development"

Donna Jo Napoli (Swarthmore), Mark Mai (Swarthmore '09), and Nick Gaw (Swarthmore '09) "Primary movement in sign languages: a study of five languages"

Andrea Levitt (Wellesley) with student (both student and title to be supplied in spring)

Nathan Sanders (Williams) with student (both student and title to be supplied in spring)

Unnamed student from Grinnell (will be chosen in spring)

Unnamed student from Macalester (will be chosen in spring)

Unnamed student from Reed (tentative – will be chosen in spring)

Late Saturday afternoon reception for all interested students and faculty funded by the Linguistics Data Consortium at the Univ. of Pennsylvania (thanks to Prof. Mark Liberman).

Sunday am discussion of our findings, led by Prof. Liberman

Budget: travel, food

Timing: People will arrive on the evening of Friday, October 2. We will have a dinner together. Our first session will be Saturday morning, Oct 3. After lunch we'll continue with a research colloquium. Saturday late afternoon we will have a reception followed by dinner. On Sunday morning we'll meet to sum up what we've done and clarify our conclusions. We will have lunch together.

Travel:

Long distance:

John Rager (Amherst) \$375

Ann Senghas (Barnard) \$275

Robert Remez (Barnard) \$275

Catherine Fortin (Carleton) \$425

Mike Flynn (Carleton) \$425
Brigittine French (Grinnell) \$525
Christina Esposito (Macalester) \$425
John Haiman (Macalester) \$425
John Spackman (Middlebury) \$325
Kim Faber (Oberlin) \$375
Unnamed anthropological linguist (Oberlin) \$375
Kim Bruce (Pomona) \$525
Mary Paster (Pomona) \$525
Matt Pearson (Reed) \$425
Sasha Kostina (Rhodes) \$375
Eric Breck (Rhodes) \$375
Jill and Peter de Villiers (Smith) \$400 (drive 560 miles RT, toll roads)
Andrea Levitt (Wellesley) \$275
Nathan Sanders (Williams) \$325

Subtotal long distance travel: \$7450

However, people may find that flights cost more and there might be emergencies where they have to take taxis on their home end. So we ask for a margin of \$550.

New subtotal long distance travel: \$8000.

There are no travel expenses for Mellon for local faculty:

Deepak Kumar (Bryn Mawr)
Jason Kandybowicz (Bryn Mawr/ Haverford/ Swarthmore)
Shizhe Huang (Haverford)
Vera Lee Schoenfeld (Swarthmore)
Ted Fernald (Swarthmore)
David Harrison (Swarthmore)
Donna Jo Napoli (Swarthmore)
Mark Liberman (University of Pennsylvania – outside evaluator)

Student travel – again no expenses for Mellon:

Luke Lindemann, supplied by Pomona Dept of Linguistics
Stacy Diaz and Abigail Wilkins, will travel in car with Smith faculty
The unnamed students from Grinnell (working with Brigittine French), Macalester (working with Christina Esposito), Pomona (working with Kim Bruce), Reed (working with Matt Pearson), Wellesley (working with Andrea Levitt), and Williams (working with Nathan Sanders) will be paid for by their colleges.

Local transportation:

College van rental Friday to pick people up at train station and airport, Saturday to pick them up from the various places they are staying and bringing them back, and Sunday to bring them to the college and then back to the train station and airport. = \$200 (.50/m, \$10 min per day on weekends)

Subtotal local transportation: \$200

Total travel: \$8200

Staff support:

For general help (driving and helping with computer and other tech needs). 2 students for 25 hours each @ \$8.80 = \$440, plus the administrative assistant in linguistics at Swarthmore, to be present throughout the weekend and to help afterhours a few times before and after the conference: 30 hours @ = \$20.33 = \$609.90.

Total: \$1049.90

Administrative expenses:

Mailings and copying of materials for panels and research colloquium

Total: \$200

Food (35 people):

Dinner Friday \$2500

Lunch Saturday \$500

Dinner Saturday \$2500

Lunch Sunday \$500

Dinner Sunday for anyone who leaves late \$300

(Note: Breakfasts are included in the housing.)

Total: \$6300

Lodging: Housing for visiting faculty at Swarthmore College (Ashton House and Cratsley House) and Haverford College (10 Railroad Ave.) has already been reserved. All together, these will accommodate 13 faculty members (using every available bed – so people will share rooms). (Note: Housing at BMC was not available because of a trustee meeting.) So 7 people will be up in local B&Bs for a total of \$2070 for the two nights (\$460 a night for one and \$575 for the other). Swarthmore linguistics students will offer all visiting students crash space in their dorm rooms.

Total: \$2070

Stipends:

for organizer (Donna Jo Napoli): \$1000

for outside participant (Mark Liberman): \$1000

Total: \$2000

Total budget: \$19,819.90

Note: We have one faculty member whose CV and name are not supplied. Prof. Baron Pineda, chair of Anthropology at Oberlin, assures me that they are going to hire a tenure-track anthropological linguist this academic year and he wants that person to participate in this workshop. bpineda@oberlin.edu