A Note from the President

Dear Friends of CSLS,

By all accounts, the last year has been challenging for us all. Although our in-person meetings were canceled, the virtual initiatives delivered by the Society have been successful. Faced with having to pivot our CS events to become online-only, our team of organizers were able to quickly adapt to this new environment imposed on the world. Remarkably, they continue to impress us with their diligence and enthusiasm for creating a meaningful virtual community. Society initiatives that turned virtual during the Covid-19 pandemic include: Society Seminar meetings, virtual mentoring of CS Fellows, and the introductory class titled “Introduction to Columbia School Linguistics” which was successfully organized by Lauren Whitty and held as a distant learning course taught by Ellen Contini-Morava, Nadav Sabar, and Eduardo Ho-Fernández. Our Online Reading Group continued with its pre-existing virtual format.

We are very proud of our accomplishments during this last year. As many of you know, the CS bibliography is now available as a searchable database via the newly redesigned Society website www.csling.org. We encourage you all to access this incredible resource.

As we look forward to the future in these unique times, know that we are making measured decisions by adhering to public health recommendations, absorbing feedback from the community, and thinking deeply about how best to carry out the Society’s mission. Although the global pandemic has affected our community in immeasurable ways, it is thanks to the countless hours of our administrators, members, and executives, that we have managed to continue the Society’s work of advancing, promoting and disseminating the linguistic research established in the teachings and writings of the late William Diver.

I believe as we look back on this period, it will be marked by the strength of our community and remembered as a time where CS members stood together for the greater good. Wishing you and yours a happy and safe holiday season.

All my best,

Joss Sackler, Ph.D.
New this year, we launched an online course, Introduction to Columbia School Linguistics designed by fellow, Lauren Whitty. Instructors Ellen Contini-Morava, Nadav Sabar and Eduardo Ho-Fernández led sessions which allowed students to engage with CS literature.

Readings for the course ranged from William Diver’s “The Dual” (1987), to more contemporary CS analyses, such as Nancy Stern’s “Ourself and Themself: Grammar as expressive choice” (2019). These online sessions were enhanced by group and class discussions which deepened students’ understanding of CS. We are thankful to the instructors of the course and the students for making the class a success.

Benefits:
- Books discounted to **$25 for Members**
- Access to the Member Resources page on the CSLS website
- Members are invited to include PDFs of their dissertations
- Members can apply for the Special Projects Program

Membership Categories

- **$150 Sponsor**
- **$60 Professional**
- **$25 Associate**

(Associate level memberships are available for students, retirees, and others subject to financial considerations)

To become a member or to renew your membership, visit csling.org/membership

www.csling.org
ELLEN CONTINI-MORAVA has been invited to give a keynote address about nominal classification at the 2021 Amazonicas conference in Brazil next June, and to teach a short course on endangered languages at the University of Brasilia. The conference and course will be online due to the pandemic.

This academic year, JOSEPH DAVIS is on sabbatical from The City College of New York, working on gender in Italian. Joseph is mentoring Maximilian Miller and serving as a consulting mentor for Aaron Liebman in their research projects: Time and Probability in English, respectively.

EDUARDO HO-FERNÁNDEZ successfully defended this past September his CUNY Graduate Center dissertation: “The grammatical systems of Attentionworthiness: Positional signals and invariant meanings in Spanish word order”. Two faculty members in the defense committee also belong to the CSLS Executive Committee: Ricardo Otheguy (chair) and Alan Huffman (CS fellowship mentor). After his defense, Eduardo co-taught the first ‘Introduction to Columbia School Linguistics’ online course offered by the Society during the Fall semester 2020.

DAAN VAN SOEREN is teaching a course for the first time at Groningen University. This semester, he is teaching forty bachelors students the basics of historical linguistics, including the comparative method as described by Bloomfield, push and drag chain shifts in Proto-Germanic and Old English; discussing the development of different forms of address in Spanish (e.g. tú, vos, usted, etc.).

BERENICE DARWICH was hired as an Assistant Professor of the Modern Languages Department at the Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, in the fall of 2019. She contributed to the volume Columbia School Linguistics in the 21st Century with her article "La estabilización del tema discursivo: Estrategia de uso de los llamados pronombres personales sujetos en condiciones de correferencia en español".

ANGELITA MARTÍNEZ En el marco de la Maestría en Lingüística de la Universidad Nacional de La Plata se llevó a cabo el “Workshop inter-institucional: Escuela Lingüística de Columbia” sobre Número y género en español. Con el apoyo financiero de la Columbia School Linguistic Society (Programa especial para proyectos) 26,27 y 28 de febrero de 2020

WENDY SCHULTZ, MEd Rutgers 1993 (student of Wallis Reid) continues to teach Spanish and English in public schools, currently in Montana.

NANCY STERN has begun serving a 3-year term as book review editor for the journal Lingua. She is a co-Principal Investigator of the CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY-IIE). This 5-year $6 million initiative is funded by the New York State Education Department to create opportunities for educational stakeholders to learn from immigrant students, families, and educators who are directly impacted by restrictive immigration policies and educational inequality. The project aims to develop resources that center the strengths of immigrant communities across New York State.

Workshop inter-institucional Escuela lingüística de Columbia

The Columbia School group of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina (UNLP) led by Professor Angelita Martínez held a Society-sponsored event on February 26-27, 2020, entitled Workshop inter-institucional Escuela lingüística de Columbia. The well-attended event was held on the campus of the UNLP. In addition to students and faculty from UNLP, there were in attendance students and faculty from the Universidad de Buenos Aires (UBA), the Universidad de San Juan, and from other universities and research centers in Argentina. In attendance were current Society fellows Dolores Álvarez Garriga, Gabriela Bravo de Laguna, Ludmila Novotny and Roxana Risco.

The main sponsor of the workshop was the study group on linguistic diversity (diversidad lingüística in Spanish), which calls itself the group on Diver-sidad. The main topic was Number and Gender in Spanish as seen through the lens of what the Workshop program describes as Diverian epistemology.

As background material in preparation for the event, participants had read Diver (1995 [2012]) and Huffman (2012). Many were also familiar with other Columbia School works, especially those by Erica García, and those by William Diver compiled in Huffman & Davis (2012). The works reviewed and analyzed during the two-day discussion on Gender and Number were, in order of discussion, Reid (2011), Otheguy & Stern (2000) and Reid (2018).

Presenting the material were Angelita Martínez and Ivana Mestriner of the UNLP, and Ricardo Otheguy from the Graduate Center of CUNY.


