

**International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association**  
**Annual General Meeting Tuesday 11 July 2017**  
**Wollongong Australia ISFC44 10-15 July 2017**

**Agenda**

Present: Ernest Akerjola, Maria Filipe Alexandre, Gereon Ardivilla, Tom Bartlett, David Butt, Honglin Chen, Chang Chenguang, Lise Fontaine, Carlos Gouveia, Derek Irwin, Helen Jenkins, John Knox, Zhang Lei, Annabelle Lukin, Alison Moore, Yaw Sekyi-baidoo, Ian Siebörger, Zhang Yanjun.

1 *Apologies for absence:* Norma Barletta, Brian Dare, Mick O'Donnell, Jim Martin, Bernie Mohan, Stella Neumann, Teresa Oteiza, Alex Peng, Makoto Sasaki, Elke Teich

2 *In memoriam:* none

3 *Minutes of the 2016 AGM:* These were circulated last year, and a request was sent via the Sysfling listserv for any corrections which had no response. Lise Fontaine moved to accept the minutes, Alison Moore seconded. The minutes were accepted.

4 *Matters arising:*

2016 Minutes §7.5: In regards to ISFC 2019, Beatriz Quiroz had expressed interest in hosting in Chile. The AGM had supported this and encouraged Beatriz to pursue negotiations with her institution and a letter of support has been received by the committee.

5 *Upcoming ISFLA congresses*

5.1 ISFC45 2018 - Boston, USA (North America)

5.2 ISFC46 2019 - Santiago, Chile (Latin America)

5.3 ISFC47 2020 - Guangzhou, China (Asia)

5.4 ISFC 2021 - not yet discussed. The Executive suggests Europe.

5.5 ISFC 2022 - not yet discussed. The Executive suggests Australia.

5.6 ISFC50 2023 - Cardiff, UK (Europe)

*Motion:* Moved by Rosemary Huisman, seconded by Stella Neumann (*in absentia*), that from 2023 the basic rotation sequence of the five SFL regions be Europe (2023), Latin America (2024), Asia (2025), North America (2026), Australia (2027), carrying forward from that time in this order where possible.

This motion was carried.

*Motion:* Moved by Jim Martin, seconded Wang Zhenhua (both *in absentia*), that in future the Executive alert the SFL community via the Sysfling and Sysfunc listservs about bids for hosting ISFC congresses one month before making a decision about that bid.

Lise Fontaine proposed an amendment to the motion that Sysfling would be the most appropriate list, given that it is the international one, therefore Sysfunc should be removed from the motion. This was seconded by Annabelle Lukin. The amendment was carried.

*Amended Motion:* Moved by Alison Moore, seconded Tom Bartlett, that in future the

Executive alert the SFL community via the Sysfling listserv about bids for hosting ISFC congresses one month before making a decision about that bid.  
This motion as amended was carried.

*6 Outgoing Chair's Report: Rosemary Huisman*

As outgoing Chair, this will be my last report to you. I begin with particular thanks to those closely associated with ISFLA during my period of office, 2014-17: first to the members of the Executive Committee of ISFLA, Stella Neumann, Lise Fontaine, Derek Irwin, Carlos Gouveia, Bernie Mohan and Honglin Chen. There was much to-ing and fro-ing of emails. I also benefitted from the careful advice of Huang Guowen, the Chair previous to me.

Secondly, thanks to those hard-working convenors of ISFLA conferences: Stella Neumann for ISFC42 in 2015; Emi Emilia for ISFC43 in 2016; Pauline Jones for ISFC44 in 2017. And many thanks to all the unnamed helpers in Aachen, Bandung and Wollongong over those years. A congress needs a lot of willing hands.

Thirdly, a special thank you to Mick O'Donnell, for maintaining the SFL web pages.

Please remember to consult the two websites:

- the Official webpage of ISFLA:
  - <http://www.isfla.org/>
- and for more information on SFL:
  - <http://www.isfla.org/Systemics/>

As I wrote in my report of 2016, ISFLA continues to see a healthy spread in the practice of systemic functional linguistics around the world. In the United States, after a gap of some thirty years, next year the Congress is to be held in Boston. We must especially congratulate those who have contributed to the spread of SFL in Indonesia and in Latin America, to the extent that Indonesia hosted ISFC for the first time in 2016, and that Latin America is now included as a separate region in the rotation of SFL congresses - thank you especially to Jim Martin for his contribution to this growth.

To promote wider regional attendance at this congress, five scholarships were awarded. Four travel scholarships were funded through the congress budget and awarded to delegates from Chile, Argentina, Malaysia and China. They are as follows:

**ISFC 2017 Travel Scholarship Recipients:**

Laura Flores (Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago, Chile)

Lucia Rivas (Universidad Nacional de la Pampa, La Pampa, Argentina)

Veronica Charlotte (University of Nottingham, Malaysia campus, Selangor, Malaysia)

Hang Su (Beihang University, Beijing, China)

**Marilyn Mohan Scholarship Recipient:**

Tazanfal Tehseem (University of Sargodha, Sargodha, Pakistan)

The Marilyn Mohan Scholarship, was initiated in 2003 to be awarded to a conference delegate from East Asia; it is awarded for the last time this year to a scholar from Pakistan. The Canadian Foundation administering the Scholarship has been notified and

thanked on your behalf.

Of course growth means it is harder to stay in personal contact with each other. Thank you to all of you who enable the continuing exchange of ideas at a distance, formally and informally: as authors, reviewers and editors, as contributors to the journals, publications and digital exchanges of SFL, including the discussion lists, with many thanks to the moderators of those lists, especially to Lise Fontaine, moderator of the official ISFLA list, sysfling.

See <http://www.isfla.org/Systemics/Lists/index.html> for discussion lists.

Finally, on this theme of growth, for ISFLA itself as an international association, this need for contact at a distance gives increasing importance to the members of the International Committee. I now thank the outgoing members of that committee:

Brian Dare (Australia)  
Peng Xuanwei - Alex (China)  
Elke Teich (Germany)  
Makoto Sasaki (Japan)  
Samiah Hassan (Latin America)  
Bernie Mohan (North America)  
Tom Bartlett (UK) .

I've already been discussing some of the following with these outgoing members: After the 2016 congress in Indonesia, Jim Martin initiated a sequence of emails with the subject "regionalisation". The sequence established that those more distant from the congress location are less likely to attend, typically because of funding constraints, and that modern technology can compensate for but not replace the personal interaction of attending a congress. Given the regional expansion, several questions emerged (and thank you to Lise Fontaine for contributing to this topic):

1. How should the International Committee be constructed in the future?
2. What procedures does your region follow to nominate a representative?
3. How can you ensure ISFC matters are reported back to your region?

On question 1. I'll pass on my suggestions to the incoming full committee for their discussion. These suggestions are as follows:

- Two members from Asia (as at present).
- Two members from Latin America (one, if the region is already represented in the executive, not including Treasurers).
- Two members from North America (one, if the region is already represented in the executive, not including Treasurers).
- Two members from Europe (one, if the region is already represented in the executive, not including Treasurers).
- One member from Australia (as at present).
- As the four members of the executive (excluding treasurers) will always include members from at least two regions (the Chair rotates and the Deputy Chair comes from a different region), the above will usually mean some positions in the nine

member basic committee will be available in any three year period.

**Principles for filling these positions** need to be discussed:

- smaller or newer associations? (eg Indonesia, Tunisia)
- unrepresented areas? (eg Africa, India)

On question 2, this is a matter for discussion by each regional association (I know that Australia, Europe and Latin America nominate the president of their local SFL association).

On question 3 - The role of international reps in reporting back to regional and national associations is important: they need to disseminate the email decisions of the ISFLA Committee to their local association, and - given the problem of regional attendance at ISFC - they especially need to report back to their region when congresses are in a more distant location. It is because of this latter need, that I end this report by moving the following motion:

*Motion:* Moved by Rosemary Huisman, seconded by Lise Fontaine, that where a member of the ISFLA international committee is unable to attend a particular ISFLA congress, she or he will notify the Executive Committee of an Acting Representative who will attend the congress in her or his stead.

Discussion:

John Knox asked for an explanation of the current representation, and Rosemary Huisman explained that the ideas for representation on the committee came about due to looking at the number of countries and language groups, to a degree.

Tom Bartlett asked about European representation, and Rosemary Huisman pointed out that the European Committee would be responsible for deciding procedures and practices.

The motion was carried.

## 7 *Election of new Committee 2017-2020*

### *7.1 Executive Committee*

#### **The Executive Committee**

Every three years the Chair and Deputy Chair rotate between regions, nominations being proposed by a search committee led by the chair preceding the outgoing chair. Previous chairs include Cecilia Colombi (2005-2008, America), Geoff Thompson (2008-2011, Europe), Huang Guowen (2011-2014, Asia), and Rosemary Huisman (2014-2017, Australia). Accordingly, the search committee led by Huang Guowen (with Cecilia Columbi, Rosemary Huisman, and Mick O'Donnell, all of whom deserve our thanks) proposed that the 2017-2020 chair be from Latin America.

Moved by Rosemary Huisman, and seconded by Huang Guowen (*in absentia*), that the executive committee 2017-20 be:

Chair: Teresa Oteiza

Deputy Chair: Tom Bartlett

Membership Secretary: Lise Fontaine  
Correspondence/Recording Secretary: Derek Irwin  
Regional Treasurers: Carlos Gouveia (Europe); Bernie Mohan (North America); Honglin Chen (Australia).

The motion for the Executive Committee 2017-2020 was carried.

**Related issue for discussion** (raised by Honglin Chen):

Two of the five regions now in the ISFC rotation sequence, Asia and Latin America, do not have ISFLA Treasurers. Associations in those regions may want to advise the ISFLA Committee on this matter. Is the AGM happy in principle that additional regional treasurers be added to the executive committee?

This suggestion was accepted in principle.

**7.2 The International Committee** (also referred to as the “Elected Committee” in the constitution). Rosemary Huisman raised issues to do with this committee in the Chair’s Report as above, and encouraged the 2017-20 Committee to continue the discussion. In the constitution, the international committee “will consist of nine members of the Association elected from different regions of the world.”

So far, six members have been proposed for 2017-20:

Brian Dare (Australia)  
Peng Xuanwei (Alex) (China)  
Anne McCabe (Spain/ Europe)  
Makoto Sasaki (Japan/Asia)  
Norma Barletta (Latin America)  
Bernard Mohan (North America)

Post-AGM, any changes to the membership of this committee can be authorised by the Executive Committee and subsequently brought to the next AGM.

This International Committee composition was moved by Honglin Chen, seconded by Lise Fontaine. It was carried.

The acting representatives for the 2017 AGM are as follows:

- Europe: Lise Fontaine for Anne McCabe
- Latin America: Laura Flores for Norma Barletta
- Asia/China: Chang Chenguang for Peng Xuanwei

The Executive and International Members have voting rights. The complete committee includes ex-officio members, who contribute to discussion but, strictly, have no voting rights.

**7.3 Ex-Officio Members of the ISFLA 2017-20 Committee** (by virtue of their roles):

Rosemary Huisman (Past Chair); Pauline Jones (Past Conference Convenor); Maria Brisk (Upcoming Conference Convenor); Lise Fontaine (Moderator of Sysfling); Mick O’Donnell (ISFLA Web Manager).

As the full ISFLA Committee for 2017-20 was constituted, Rosemary Huisman vacated the Chair for the Deputy Chair, Tom Bartlett, who was acting for the incoming Chair, Teresa Oteiza.

**7.4 Thanks to Outgoing Chair.** Moved by Derek Irwin and seconded by Tom Bartlett that the AGM record its thanks for Rosemary Huisman's wonderful work over the past three years. This was enthusiastically carried.

8 *Reports on the Congress Institute and ISFC 2017*

The conference was going very well, though the Congress Institute had not yet occurred. The Secretary requested a report from the Conference Chair, Pauline Jones, once all activities have concluded. This has been appended below.

9 *Reports on SFL (& SFL related) conferences, symposia, colloquia etc*

Europe: ESFLA was a fantastic event in Salamanca. ISFLA issues were discussed at the AGM there. The next event will be in Pavia, Italy. In January there was a symposium in honour of Robin Fawcett. In June next year will be Margaret Berry's Nottingham symposium, and people can register online. LINK summer school will go on the road to Aachen for 2018, then 2020 in Madrid.

China: Last week was the China Functional Congress in Guizhou, next week is a translation symposium at Martin Centre; Beijing will host 2 symposia on textual analysis and then Guangzhou in November 2017.

Australia: Last week LCT conference was held at University of Sydney which hosted a number of SFL scholars and was an excellent event. Next conference in 2 years in Johannesburg.

10 *ISFLA Treasurers' reports*

10.1 Carlos Gouveia (Europe)

Total amount is the same as last year (report attached)

There is a will to transfer the money to an EU account, but there are problems with the banks having an account in the name of an organization.

10.2 Bernie Mohan (North America)

No report has been received.

10.3 Honglin Chen (Australia)

The report is attached.

11 *Regional news and welcomes:* No news.

12 *Any other business*

Lise Fontaine asked about the Membership Secretary role and whether we should sign participants up involuntarily to ISFLA.

Allison Moore informed the AGM that ASFLA's practice was to alert people that they would be added unless asking otherwise.

John Knox pointed out that it is a selling point to tell people that they are members of ISFLA by whit of attending the congress.

It was decided that people must be asked first before being added to this listserv.

**ISFLA (EUROPE) TREASURER'S REPORT 2016-17**  
**Summary of the ISFLA (Europe) account with the Co-operative Bank**

AMOUNT: 10,088.60 GBP carried forward from last report

11,402.00 EURO

17,083.00 AUD

**Summary of ISFLA (Europe) account**

The account is still held in the UK with the Co-operative Bank. There is a will to transfer it to a EU Country, and have it in Euros but some problematic issues have been raised by the Banks contacted. The search for a EU bank and a EU Country where ISFLA may have the account under its name continues instead of an individual person continues.

Carlos A. M. Gouveia,  
Wollongong, 11.07.17

## ISFLA Account (Australia) Treasurer Report 2017

### ISFLA account

Brought forward (June 30 2016): **\$17,044.70** (AUD)

Balance as at 1 June 2017: **\$17,044.70** (AUD)

Outgoing after 1 June 2017: \$310.9 (top-up of Mohan Helena Scholarship 2017)

### The Maria Helena Foundation

Brought forward (10 July 2015): **\$1612.67** (AUD)

Balance as at 31 March 2017: **\$1624.11** (AUD)

Mohan Helena Scholarship 2017:

- \$1395 (airfare)
- \$540
- Total: \$1,935 (1935-1624.11= **-310.9**, covered the ISFLA Australian account)

Report prepared by Honglin Chen, ISFLA Treasurer (Australia)  
10/07/2017

## ISFC 2017 report

ISFC 2017 was held at the University of Wollongong over 5 days from July 10-14<sup>th</sup>. The Congress attracted over 250 delegates from 23 countries: Denmark, Hong Kong, Brazil, China, Canada, Japan, Chile, South Africa, UK, Argentina, Mexico, Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore, Germany, USA, Ukraine, Thailand, New Zealand, Portugal, Ghana, Vietnam, as well as Australia.

### *Program*

The invited speakers were very well received. Plenaries included Kay O'Halloran, David Butt, Adolfo Garcia, Debra Myhill, Mary Macken-Horarik, Gerard O'Grady, Jim Martin and Karl Maton. Keynotes were presented by Lise Fontaine, Beatriz Quiroz, Alice Caffarel-Cayron, Honglin Chen, Chang Chenguang, Yaegan Doran and Susan Feez. Together, these scholars represented a range of SFL perspectives and associated theories and stimulated a good deal of discussion among participants.

Approximately 260 presentations addressing the theme 'Transforming Contexts' were delivered in the busy parallel papers program. A flavour of the program can be seen in the proceedings edited by Phil Chappell and John Knox, and available at <https://www.isfc2017conference.com/confproceedings>. An added bonus was our connection with the 2<sup>nd</sup> LCT conference, held the week before ISFC at USyd. A number of scholars attended both conferences.

The 2017 Institute (July 17 to 19) offered 6 courses attended by 71 participants. Other events included the conference dinner (featuring the 'Straitened Circumstances'), the book launch and the book swap. Two satellite events – The Therapeutic Conversation and Movable Mutables – were organized by Alison Moore in parallel to the conference. This initiative was important in facilitating dialogue with colleagues from outside of SFL community. A fuller conference report with photos can be found in the ASFLA newsletter, which is also available on the ISFC 2017 website.

### *Scholarships and awards:*

We thank the ISFC committee for its support with respect to the Marilyn Mohan scholarship winner: Tazanfal Tehseem (University of Sargodha, Sargodha Pakistan).

Because of the support provided by the University of Wollongong, the conference committee was able to award \$500 travel scholarships to the following attendees:

- Laura Flores (Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile, Santiago, Chile)
- Lucia Rivas (Universidad Nacional de la Pampa, La Pampa, Argentina)
- Veronica Charlotte (University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus, Selangor, Malaysia)
- Hang Su (Beihang University, Beijing, China).

ISFC 2017 was also the occasion for awarding the inaugural Ruqaiya Hasan Prize, an initiative of ASFLA. The winners were Neda Karimi and Kristin Khoo, who are emerging scholars working with Hasan's ideas and methods.

### *Organising committee*

Thanks to our conference organising committee: Nadia Abdulridha Sakran Al-Esi, Adele Beck Meeta Chatterjee-Padmanabhan, Honglin Chen, Janine Delahunty, Ika Lestari Damayanti,

Beverly Derewianka, Shoshana Dreyfus, Mahmud Hutashut, Claire Kembrey, Najme Kheradparvar, Helen Lewis, Erika Matruglio (program chair), Alison Moore, Emily Purser, Emma Rutherford Vale, Annette Turney, Joyce Voerman, Katina Zammit.

And a special thanks to Erika Matruglio (program chair), Honglin Chen (for taking care of the budget) and Claire Kembrey (our administrative officer).

Our task was made so much easier by the support of cooperation of the wider ISFC community – this was significant in making the conference a successful event.

Pauline Jones (conference committee chair)