

**International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Boston, USA, ISFLA45 23-27 July 2018**

**Present:** Kathryn Accurso, Marta Alexandre, Thomas Amandrud, Tom Bartlett, Cristina Boccia, Fausto Caels, Honglin Chen, Frances Christie, Michael Cummings, Yaegan Doran, José Durán, Laura Flores, Maria Freddi, Ruth French, Nancy Fries, Peter Fries, Tammy Gales, Carlos Gouveia, Sue Hood, Sally Humphrey, Natalia Ignatjeva, Helen Jenkinns, Pauline Jones, Janet Joyce, Nihal Khote, Mira Kim, Jim Martin, Anne McCabe, Amy McIntyre, Rosa Medina, Emmanuel Mgqwashu, Estela Moyano, Teresa Oteíza, Stanley Porter, Makoto Sasaki, Beatriz Quiroz, Margarita Vidal, Trish Weekes

**1. Apologies for absence**

Lise Fontaine, Rosemary Huisman, Derek Irwin (Tom Bartlett recording), Norma Barletta Manjarres (ALSFAL represented by Estela Moyano), Alex Peng, Brian Dare (ASFLA represented by Yaegan Doran)

**2. In memoriam: Professor M.A.K. Halliday**

Yaegan Doran spoke on behalf of ASFLA to announce that they will be setting up a Michael Halliday Award for the best theoretical, descriptive or applied publication in SFL each year, to be open to all regions and to books in and on any language. Textbooks are unlikely to be eligible unless they offer something radically new. Nominations can come from one recognized academic plus the author(s). It is likely that a committee comprising a member from each region will make the decision. Exact details are to be established later. The first award is likely to be 2020.

A motion was proposed for ISFLA to support the award.

Proposed Helen Jenkins, seconded Anne McCabe. The motion was approved unanimously.

**3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

These had been posted to Sysfling and minor corrections made.

**4. Matters arising:**

**4.1 Upcoming ISFLA congresses**

2019. Santiago de Chile.  
2020. Guangzhou, China.  
2021. Tunisia.

2023. Cardiff, UK.

A proposal has been received from Mira Kim for NSW, Australia in 2022 and this will be submitted formally soon. The committee will then announce the proposal on Sysfling at least one month before making a decision.

The Pre-Conference Institute in Santiago will be from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and the Congress from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4.2 Proposal for 5 years cycle

To regularize the cycle, the following sequence was proposed:

2024. North America.  
2025. Asia.  
2026. Latin America.  
2027. Australia.  
2028. Europe.

There were no objections to the arrangements in 4.1 and 4.2.

#### 5. Chair's Report: Teresa Oteíza

Incoming Chair gave a brief welcome talk.

#### 6. Report on ISFC 2017, Pauline Jones

Pauline Jones raised the question of what associations were supposed to do with the profits from ISFCs, noting inconsistency in practice and the lack of formal guidelines and pointing out that ASFLA, which passes profits on to ISFLA (Australia) was faced with a problem whenever ISFC was in Australia and so no funds were generated from ASFLA conferences for ASLFA use.

Carlos Gouveia pointed out that ISFLA needs to receive money from ISFCs as it is the only source of funding.

After a discussion of the various ways in which this money had been used it was agreed that a fuller guide to running congresses should be compiled (updating the version by Nan Fries available here: <http://www.isfla.org//Conferences/ISFCSuggestions-rev2008.doc>) and include information of this nature also. It was noted that Maria Herke and Pauline Jones were in the process of making an updated guide and will continue to do so.

At present the situation is that associations should return profits to ISFLA where possible and these funds could then be used for bursaries with applications being made

on a case by case basis. Yaegan Doran stressed the need for any process that will be set out in the forthcoming guide should be suitably flexible.

Thomas Amundrud raised the question of getting legal status for ISFC and the regional organisations. Fran Christie pointed out that such a status was necessary if bursaries were to be offered on a regular rather than ad hoc manner. Thomas Amundrud suggested that the reasons for not having legal status should be recorded, perhaps in the guide under preparation.

7. Report on the Pre-conference Institute and Conference ISFC 2018 (Attached).

8. Motion on accepting Language, context and text: The social semiotics forum as the official publication of ISFLA

The Executive had been asked to put forward a motion from Alex Peng and Seconded by Geoff Williams to accept Language, Text and Context as the official journal of ISFLA.

The executive discussed the issue and decided that this would not be appropriate on the following grounds:

1. We do not think that one single journal should be designated as the official journal of ISFLA. We think that it is important to give space to new journals to appear and that, if we endorse one specific journal, this may prevent this from happening.
2. ISFLA doesn't have membership as such or membership dues and so would not be in a position to financially support an official journal once other funding has come to an end.
3. We also believe, as Jonathan Webster pointed out on Sysfling, that we need "to promote the development of a plurality of resources, respecting their diverse contributions to the goals we all share."

It was also noted that the quality of a journal and its academic impact depend on other factors and not on any endorsement that can be received from ISFLA.

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

10. ISFLA Treasurers' reports

Europe: Carlos Gouveia. Carlos noted ongoing difficulties in transferring the bank account from the UK and in changing signatories. Tom Bartlett and Carlos Gouveia will continue working with Robin Fawcett on this.

## 11. Regional news and welcomes

Makoto Sasaki announced that JASFLA would be holding their conference in Tokyo at the end of August and in Hiroshima in 2019. Makoto also reminded the meeting that the JASFLA Conference publishes proceedings each year and that these will be available online as will the Journal. See JASFLA website for details

## 12. Upcoming events

LinC Summer School and Workshop 2018 - SFL and Register & Context. September 3 to 7, 2018. Aachen University, Germany

2019 European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference, Leiria, Portugal (early July)

2020 European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference, Sheffield, UK, July 1-4.

## 13. Any other business

Tom Bartlett reminded the meeting of the series Text and Social Context and encouraged the submission of proposals.

**Regional SFL News (July 2017 – July 2018)**  
**Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China**

**The Functional Linguistics Institute Sun Yat-sen University** has had a very active and fruitful year since the last ISFC was held in Wollongong.

We have held several events including:

**2017**

- The continuation of the 2017 “**Practical Applications of Functional Linguistics and Discourse Analysis Lecture Series**” with lectures by Associate Professor Chang Xinping (Using a Mixed Methods Approach to Discourse-Based Studies), Chang Chenguang (English Medium Instruction in the Medical Sciences), Gao Lining (Experiences of Postpartum Depression among First-time Mothers in Mainland China: A Phenomenological Approach), David Butt (Researching Meaning and Discourse through Systemic Functional Linguistics: Stratification and Variation), Terry Royce (Moving What You Mean: A Functional Linguistic Approach to Realising an Effective Literature Review Synthesis), Terry Royce (Police Hostage Crisis Negotiation: Unpacking Interactive Moves under Pressure), Roslyn Appleby (Researching Gender in Language Education).
- **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Frontiers in Functional Linguistics and Discourse Analysis Symposium (7-8<sup>th</sup> December 2017)**  
SFL Scholars from around mainland China gathered to present their latest research in SFL and Discourse Analysis.

**2018**

- The first half of the 2018 “**Practical Applications of Functional Linguistics and Discourse Analysis Lecture Series**” with lectures by Emilia Djonov (Semiotic Software through the lens of systemic functional multimodal theory), Sumin Zhao (Working with Wechat: Analysing Social Media Discourse in a Multimodal, Multilingual, and Transnational Context), Zhang Yiqiong (Retailing Science: Genre Hybridization in Online Science News Stories).
- **The “Spring Lecture Series 2018”:**  
A series of 8 lectures delivered by Tom Bartlett
- **“The Inaugural New Scholars Forum 2018”**  
A Forum to showcase work by Early Career Researchers from Mainland China and Hong Kong in SFL theory and application.

\*Information about the Functional Linguistics Institute Sun Yat-sen University can be found at the following website: fli.sysu.edu.cn All events are supported by funding from Sun Yat-sen University.

**Other events of an SFL nature held at Sun Yat-sen include:**

- A **Symposium on Corpus Linguistics and Discourse Analysis** (Nov 18-19 2017) held at the Zhuhai Campus, convened by Chang Chenguang.
- **Lecture by Fang Zhihui** (University of Florida). Lecture title: “Academic language in Adolescents’ Informational Writing” held at the South Campus on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

We have a number of events planned for the second half of 2018.

#### **SFL COURSES**

Sun Yat-sen University has a number of SFL-related courses at both undergraduate and graduate level, including: Topics in Systemic Functional Linguistics, Functional Grammar, and Discourse Analysis (with an SFL focus).

**The Halliday Library** at Sun Yat-sen is due to receive several new books this year. \*\*If any ISFLA members would like to contribute books to the library, please get in touch with Wendy Bowcher. We would like the collection to represent as comprehensively as possible work in SFL throughout the world (wendylee@mail.sysu.edu.cn)

*Report prepared by Wendy L. Bowcher (Director of the Functional Linguistics Institute Sun Yat-sen University).*

**ISFLA (EUROPE) TREASURER'S REPORT 2017-18**  
**Summary of the ISFLA (Europe) account with the Co-operative Bank**

AMOUNT: 10,088.60 GBP carried forward from last report

11,297.45 EURO

13,219.53 USD

**Summary of ISFLA (Europe) account**

Through a failure of communication by the Co-op Bank, we have still not succeeded in transferring the signatories for the account from Professor Robin Fawcett to Dr Tom Bartlett and Dr Lise Fontaine. The money is available for use if necessary on the signature of Professor Robin Fawcett. The search for a EU bank and a EU Country where ISFLA may have the account under its name instead of an individual person continues.

Carlos A. M. Gouveia

Boston, 23.07.18

## **Report on 45ISFC in Boston at Boston College, 2018**

The congress took place at Boston College from July 19 to 27, 2018. There were six courses (July 19-21) attended by 85 participants, many of whom took two courses. There were 311 attending the Congress proper. In addition, on Wednesday there were two strands dedicated to teachers presenting their work informed by SFL. An additional 45 people attended that day only.

There were 5 plenaries, 12 invited colloquia, 6 vetted colloquia, and 186 accepted papers. All sessions were very well attended. Feedback received after the congress suggested that attendees were generally satisfied. Below find a couple of quotes reflective of the general sentiments:

*Congratulations of a successful meeting. You have catalysed something really significant for American education!*

*I was greatly heartened by the energy of the younger generation, who are taking the ideas forward in new contexts.*

Jim Martin, professor, Linguistics Department, Sydney University

*Cindy Lundgren and I were talking about the BC SFL conference the other day. Independently of one another, we both arrived at the conclusion that **this conference was one of the best we had ever attended**: Interesting topics, great speakers, and so, so much sharing in the hallways between sessions. It was exciting to be a part of this experience.*

(Lynn Shafer Willner, WIDA at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research, University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Article about the congress

[www.bc.edu/bc-web/bcnews/humanities/language/linguistics-forum.html](http://www.bc.edu/bc-web/bcnews/humanities/language/linguistics-forum.html)