

**International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**Live plus ZOOM meeting 19 March 2023**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Derek Irwin (chair), Shooshi Dreyfus, Marta Filipe Alexandre, Carlos Gouveia, Nick Moore, Yaegan Doran, Akila Sellami Baklouti, Gail Forey, Lise Fontaine, David Banks, Maria Birlea, Izis Elosza, Stella Neumann, Miriam Taverniers, Manet Mefteh, Emma Fendu, Leila Mahfoudhi, Ahlem Laadhar, Najla Fki, Armeni Hlioui, Cyrine Kortès, Donia Kaffel, Jamila Zghal, Christian Matthiessen, Ahlem Jendoubi, Dalia Elleuch, Nesrine Triki, Ahmed Cheniour, Emma Laadhar, Thea Cameron-Faulkner, Isaac N. Mwinlaaru, Marii Abdeljaoved, Ghada Haji, Wafa Chakroun, Hedi Chanfi, Nadia Abid, Hana ElGhoul, Fatma Benelhadj, , Samira Boukadi Haj Sassi, Dorra Moalla, Faiza Derbel, Kalthoum Kassab, Olfa Ben Amor, Peter Oyenole Makinde, Bea Ghozleu Boutheina, Cinzia Bevitori, Sadok Damak, Hmoud Alotalbi, Myriam Awedi, Benyahia Soumia, Jaoua Yosra, Yosra Baklouti, Fathi Bourmeche, Nour Abdmouleeh, Mouma Ayadi, Mick O'Donnell, Jim Martin, Pauline Jones (minutes)

**Apologies:** Makoto Sasaki, Tom Bartlett, Jose David, Helen Caple

**1 Minutes of the 2022 AGM** were passed as an accurate reflection of the meeting.

**2 Matters arising** nil.

**3 Chair's Report:**

The past three years for which I have served as Chair have been interesting, but I am very happy to see that the first live ISFC since Santiago in 2019 is taking place in Tunisia. I apologise that it hasn't been possible for me to attend due to the timing, as it is mid-semester at my institution. However, I would like to extend my thanks to the Organizing Committee and in particular the Chair, Akila Sellami, for arranging to have a virtual link so that those of us not able to make it in person can still participate. Following the discussion at last year's virtual AGM led by the item from Geoff Williams, I would like to encourage the community to continue to look to forms of online engagement wherever possible; while they are no substitute for in-person interactions (as we all know both as analysts of social semiotics and through personal experience) they do provide access when otherwise it might not be possible.

I'm pleased to report that we have used our Australia funds to make a significant contribution to the Halliday and Hasan Archive project, which is one such SFL resource that should prove invaluable. The SFLIG is also currently organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Online SFLIG Conference, with a fantastic line-up of plenary talks and a call for abstracts open until the end of April. We also used some of our European funds to support this year's ISFC. However, as flagged in my Chair's Report last year, we do need to think about income since currently the only source is from leftover ISFC funds, and as Robin Fawcett pointed out in his tenure as treasurer, this is certainly not a guaranteed source.

We did discuss last year about how to both organise regional and international conferences, and how to boost SFL communities across different forms of communication. It is wonderful to see the regions being able to host in-person conferences again, and the ISFLA website does have some materials available though these could productively be updated by our incoming Committee to deal with the post-pandemic reality. There was also some discussion from the regional groups with ISFLA on the question of International Reps and whether these should automatically be executive members of the Regional Associations; while I don't believe that it is a good idea to be too prescriptive on this front, it is

nevertheless probably helpful that there is a connection between ISFLA and the associations via these representatives. How that is to be instantiated I leave to the incoming committee.

On that note I would like to thank my SFL colleagues for allowing me the honour of serving as Chair for the past three years, and I very much look forward to being involved with ISFLA in some capacity for many years to come.

4 **ISFC Tunisia Report** Akila Sellami reported that the Congress had gone well with approximately 170 participants in the pre-conference workshops and 85 attending the Congress.

5 **Report on the upcoming congresses:**

2024. NSW, Australia (convened by Mira Kim).

2025. Glasgow, UK (convened by Tom Bartlett)

2026. North America (Expression of interest from Jason Mizell, Andrés Ramírez and Sabrina Sembiante in South Miami) – Andres is stepping down as NASFLA chair.

2027. Asia.

2028. Latin America.

2029. Australia.

2030. Europe.

6 **Proposals or Discussion:**

**Election of the new ISFLA Committee** This item facilitated some discussion regarding the importance of the regular recycling of the chair's position through the regions. This is a means of ensuring a democratic process. Considering the upheaval of the pandemic and the subsequent changes to the regional hosting of ISFC, the meeting voted to maintain the current committee and chair until next July (moved Akila Sellami, seconded Mick O'Donnell). In the meantime, the selection committee (chaired by Teresa Oteiza) will reconvene to identify potential candidates for the chair's position, with regional rotation in mind. Importance of interaction with and among regions was raised.

The committee for 2023-24 is as follows:

**Executive Committee**

Chair:	Derek Irwin
Deputy Chair:	Shoshana Dreyfus
Membership Secretary:	Marta Filipe Alexandre
Recording Secretary:	Pauline Jones
Treasurers:	Nick Moore (Europe, nom. Gail Forey, sec. Lise Fontaine)
	N. America likely suspended
	Yaegan Doran (Australia)

**International Committee**

Helen Caple  
Pin Wang  
Carlos Gouveia  
Makoto Sasaki  
José David Herazo  
Andres Ramirez (North America, nominated)

**Ex-Officio Members**

Past Chair: Teresa Oteiza

Upcoming Conference Convenor: Mira Kim  
Past Conference Convenor: Akila Sellami  
Moderator of Syfling: Marta Filipe Alexandre (continuing)  
ISFLA Web manager: Mick O'Donnell (continuing)

## **7 ISFLA Treasurers' reports**

7.1 Tom Bartlett (Europe):

ISFLA (EUROPE) TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

Summary of the ISFLA (Europe) account with the Co-operative Bank

9,588.60 GBP carried forward from last report.

7.2 Bernie Mohan (North America): no report was available and has been some time since ISFLA has received a report. Decision made to leave to executive committee to liaise with NASFLA.

7.3 Yaegan Doran (Australia): \$12,277.46 (AUD)

Point was raised that each account should have a second signature, but only one treasurer. LF suggested second signatory might be an ordinary member of the committee.

## **8 Regional news and welcomes:**

8.1 European SFL conference in Timisoara, Romania in June/July. ESFLA Committee issued a welcome to all.

## **9 Other business**

9.1 Nigeria and West Africa: SFL community in Nigeria is active again and there's a lot of interest in Ghana.

9.2 The importance of offering conferences in hybrid form was raised as an important way to boost access and participation.

Meeting closed.