

# LAGB Annual Meeting 2007: King's College London

## *First Circular and call for papers*

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain will be held at King's College London, from 29th August to 1st September. The local organisers will be Devyani Sharma, Eleni Gregoromichelaki, and Suzanne LaBelle. The Meeting will last four days and will feature several special events, including two invited speakers and an invited Language Tutorial. The meeting will be directly followed by an independently organised **Workshop on Features** – see page 6 of this circular for further details of this.

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### Special events

1. The **Henry Sweet Lecture 2007** will be delivered by Professor **Hans Kamp** (University of Stuttgart) on the evening of 29th August (title to be confirmed).
2. The **Linguistics Association Lecture 2007** will be delivered by Professor **B. Elan Dresher** (University of Toronto) on 1st September, with the title 'The contrastive hierarchy in phonology'.
3. There will also be a **Workshop on Discourse Representation Theory**, related to the Henry Sweet Lecture, on the afternoon of 31st August.
4. There will also be a special **themed session** on 1st September, related to the Linguistics Association Lecture, with the title '**Contrast in Phonology**', for which **abstracts are now invited**. These should be submitted in the same way as abstracts for the general sessions, but should be clearly marked that they are intended for the special session. For further details, see the call for papers for this session on **page 5 of this circular**.
5. There will be a **Language Tutorial on Slavey**, given by Professor **Keren Rice** (University of Toronto).
6. There will be a session organised by the LAGB's **Education Committee** which will feature a discussion of how linguists in Higher Education communicate with teachers and pupils in schools. Details will be announced in the second circular and posted on [www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/ecsessions.htm](http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/ecsessions.htm)
7. There will be a **workshop** on '**Syntactic Microvariation in Dialects of English**', for which **abstracts are now invited**. These should be submitted in the same way as abstracts for the general sessions, but should be clearly marked that they are intended for the workshop. For further details, see the call for papers for this workshop on **page 5 of this circular**.

**Deadline for abstracts: 9th April.** For details of abstract submission, see below – abstracts may be submitted either electronically or in hard copy; sets of abstracts may be submitted together for a themed session of your choice (for further details, see below). Electronic submission of abstracts is preferred.

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### Venue

London is one of the oldest and most vibrant cities in the world. A short walk in any direction affords glimpses of Roman, Medieval, Tudor, Georgian, or Victorian London. The city is dense with museums, galleries, theatres, pubs, and shopping districts, and its mosaic cultural heritage has contributed innumerable cuisines, from afternoon tea at the Ritz to curry festivals in Brick Lane.

King's College London hosts a vibrant community of over 25 linguists in several departments. The conference venue (Waterloo Campus) is situated at the heart of the city on the south bank of the river Thames, beside the famous South Bank Centre (host to the Royal Festival Hall, National Theatre, Hayward Gallery and much more) and a short walk across the river from Covent Garden, Trafalgar Square, and the West End theatre district.

- Further local information will soon be available on the conference website: [www.kcl.ac.uk/lagb](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/lagb)

**Accommodation** will be available in the immediate vicinity of the conference venue. Further details will be provided in the second circular.

**Travel:** London has five airports and fast train connections within Europe. The London Underground train network and an extensive bus network provide transport within the city. Heathrow, Stansted, and Gatwick airports all have express train connections to London Underground stations. Waterloo Station (with local Underground and international Eurostar train links) is two minutes' walk from the conference site. More information on transport and detailed directions will be made available on the conference website. Basic location information can be found at: [www.kcl.ac.uk/about/campuses/waterloo.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/about/campuses/waterloo.html)

## Call for Papers

Both members and non-members are invited to offer papers for the Meeting. The LAGB welcomes submissions on any topic in the field of linguistics; papers are selected on their (perceived) merits, and not according to their subject matter or assumed theoretical framework.

### How and when to submit an abstract

Abstracts may be submitted *either* (i) on paper by post *or* (ii) by email. Abstracts should be formatted as explained below – this is the same for both means of abstract submission. Electronic submission of abstracts is preferred.

(i) For **paper** submissions: FIVE anonymous copies of the abstract, plus ONE with name and affiliation, i.e. CAMERA-READY, should be submitted, and should be sent in the format outlined below to the President by post (see address below). You should write your address for correspondence (email or surface, although email is very much preferred) on the BACK of the camera-ready copy. (Even if several authors are named on the front, there should be only one name and address for correspondence.)

(ii) For **electronic** submissions: you will need to send an email with TWO attachments – one of the attached files should be an anonymous copy of the abstract (and should be named yoursurname-anon.pdf, or yoursurname-anon.doc, etc.), and the other should have your name, email address and affiliation, i.e. be CAMERA-READY (and should be named yoursurname-name.pdf, etc.). The abstracts should be sent in the format outlined below, and the email should be sent to the President (to THIS ADDRESS: [abstracts@lagb.org.uk](mailto:abstracts@lagb.org.uk)). In the body of the email that you send the attachments with, you should include your address for correspondence (email and surface); there should be only one name and address for correspondence, even if several authors are named on the abstract. The attached files should be in one of the following formats: pdf (preferred), or Word, or plain text. Any phonetic characters should either be embedded in a pdf file, or be in the Doulos SIL font, which can be downloaded for free from this site:

[http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site\\_id=nrsi&item\\_id=DoulosSIL\\_download](http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=DoulosSIL_download)

Papers for the programme are selected anonymously – only the President knows the name of the authors. If an abstract is accepted for the meeting, the camera-ready copy will be used to produce the abstracts booklet. All abstracts should be accompanied by an account of **any** requirements for audiovisual equipment. While we will make every effort to provide such equipment, we cannot guarantee that it will be available. The normal length for papers delivered at LAGB meetings is 25 minutes (plus 15 minutes discussion).

All abstracts must arrive by or on **\*9th April 2007\***. The committee will plan the programme as soon as it has selected the abstracts, so please indicate on the anonymous abstract if you cannot present your paper on any particular day in the conference. Please indicate **on the anonymous abstract** if your abstract is intended for the themed session on **Contrast in Phonology** or the workshop on **Syntactic Microvariation in Dialects of English**.

### Abstract format

Abstracts must be presented as follows: the complete, camera-ready abstract (i.e. the one containing your name and affiliation) must be no longer than ONE A4 page (or standard ‘American letter’ size if A4 paper is not available to you) with margins of at least 2.5cm on all sides. Only the first page of any abstract submitted will be considered – no appendices or pages for references can be accepted. You may use single spacing but type must be no smaller than 12 points. If the paper is accepted, the abstract will be photocopied and inserted directly into the collection of abstracts given to participants, so the presentation should be clear and clean.

The following layout should be considered as standard:

(title) **Optimality and the Klingon vowel shift**

(speaker and email address) *Clark Kent* ([clark@astro.mars.ac.mars](mailto:clark@astro.mars.ac.mars))

(institution) Department of Astrology, Eastern Mars University

### Content of abstracts

The following guidelines may be useful:

- You should clearly describe the paper’s general topic. (The topic may be a problem of theory or analysis or set of data which have not previously been analysed.)
- You should describe your treatment of the topic, and how it relates to previous work on the same topic. (When referring to previous work, it is enough to quote “Author (Date)” in the body of the abstract without giving full bibliographical details.) It is not acceptable simply to promise a solution.
- You should explain how you will justify your treatment, and cite crucial evidence – you must trust the committee (and other conference attenders) not to steal your ideas before you have presented them. If you are taking a stand on a controversial issue, summarise the arguments which lead you to take up this position.

## Themed sessions

As well as individual abstracts, groups of speakers may submit a set of abstracts for a themed session (or panel) on any subject of their choice. Such groups will normally take up a whole session, and group members may apportion their time within that as they wish (ideal numbers of abstracts for such sessions might be 3, 4, 5 or 6). All the abstracts for such sessions will be considered together, as a group, and one contact for the whole session should be provided. Abstracts for such themed sessions should be submitted together, to the President, with the same format as specified for individual abstracts. Please contact the president directly if you have any questions about this.

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## Conference bursaries for postgraduate students and unwaged members

Up to fifteen bursaries are available for unsalaried members of the Association (e.g. PhD students); preference will be given to those who are presenting a paper, but if there are not fifteen applications from those presenting papers, applications from non-presenting attenders will also be considered. Applications should be sent to the President, and must be received by the deadline for abstracts. If you are submitting an abstract and applying for a bursary, **BOTH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TOGETHER**; if you are submitting your abstract electronically, you should include the application as another attachment to the main message. If you are not submitting an abstract, but are eligible for a bursary, then you are still encouraged to apply (either in hard copy or by email, to the President), as we have sometimes been able to award bursaries to non-presenting postgraduates.

Applicants for bursaries must be members of the Association, although applications for membership may be submitted at the same time as applications for bursaries (applications for membership should be sent to the Membership Secretary, address below). The application form for the bursaries can be downloaded from the LAGB website from this address: <http://www.lagb.org.uk/sponsorships.htm>

The bursary normally covers the conference registration fee and travel within the UK, but not accommodation costs. Those presenting a paper will receive an additional amount of £40.00 as a contribution to other costs.

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## Communications with the membership

Website: The LAGB website can be found at [www.lagb.org.uk](http://www.lagb.org.uk).

Mailing list: It was decided at the 2006 Annual General Meeting at Newcastle that the LAGB would launch a new mailing list, which should include all and only LAGB members. It was felt that the old list included too few members and too many non-members. The new list has been launched, and details can be found here: [www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/lagb.html](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/lagb.html)

The list is to be used to disseminate circulars and other information that may be of interest to members and to consult members quickly. You will be subscribed to the list by the membership secretary, but may ask to be unsubscribed, if you so choose. Messages sent to [lagb@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:lagb@jiscmail.ac.uk) will be distributed to the list, once they have been approved by a list moderator.

Changes of address: members are reminded to send notification of changes of address to the Membership Secretary (for contact details see below). An institutional address is preferred.

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## Future Meetings

All meetings are held in late August / early September:

2008 University of Surrey: 20-23 August 2008

2009 University of Edinburgh: 50th anniversary meeting

2010 Your university here...?

**The Meetings Secretary would very much like to receive offers of future venues, particularly from institutions which the LAGB has not previously visited, or has not visited for a while.**

Nominations for speakers, workshops and language tutorials (language and/or speaker) at future meetings are also requested; all suggestions should be sent to the Honorary Secretary. The nominations collected will be voted on by the membership at the Annual General Meeting, which is held as part of the Annual meeting.

## The LAGB committee

### President

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## Nominations for a new Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Secretary's term of office ends this year, so nominations are requested for a replacement. Any member may be nominated by any other member. Nominations should be sent to the Assistant Secretary by **\*\*9th April 2006\*\***.

**Call for papers** for the themed session at the 2007 LAGB meeting, related to the Linguistics Association Lecture by **B. Elan Dresher** on ‘**Contrast in Phonology**’.

It is a phonological commonplace that contrast is fundamental to phonology, but quite how this should be implemented in phonological theory remains contentious. Abstracts would be welcome which connect in any way with the issues that arise from a consideration of the role of contrast (and of contrasts of different types) in phonology.

Some relevant questions are (in part adapted from the material written by B. Elan Dresher and Keren Rice, and available here: [www.chass.utoronto.ca/~contrast/](http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~contrast/))...

- How should the role of contrast be conceived in phonology? How should it be represented?
- Is there a relation between the amount of segmental complexity a system allows and the number and nature of contrasts it has?
- Which features and contrasts are marked and which are unmarked, and what diagnostics should we use to decide this question?
- Do noncontrastive features play any role in the phonology of a language?

**Abstracts are now invited for this session. They should be submitted in the same way as abstracts for the general sessions, but should be clearly marked that they are intended for this special themed session.**

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**Call for papers** for the workshop at the 2007 LAGB meeting on ‘**Syntactic Microvariation in Dialects of English**’, organised by Marika Lekakou and Karen Corrigan

In the recent past the study of dialect syntax has received renewed interest from different perspectives (sociolinguistics, theoretical linguistics, language typology, traditional dialectology, historical linguistics). Particularly exciting is the recent development of extended co-operation among scholars within these fields, which has led to a more interdisciplinary approach to the study of the syntactic properties of dialects. This new development is reflected in, among other things, the contributions in Cornips and Corrigan (eds), *Syntax and Variation: Reconciling the Biological and the Social*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2005.

Concomitantly, a number of dialect syntax projects have already been launched or even completed across Europe, which have the property of combining different theoretical backgrounds (for example, theoretical linguistics employing sociolinguistically informed methodology of data collection). Examples of this European tendency can be found in for instance Italy (ASIS, <http://asis-cnr.unipd.it/index.en.html>), Portugal (CORDIAL-SIN, [http://www.clul.ul.pt/english/sectores/cordialsin/projecto\\_cordialsin.html](http://www.clul.ul.pt/english/sectores/cordialsin/projecto_cordialsin.html)), Scandinavia (ScanDiaSyn, <http://uit.no/scandiasyn/?Language=en>), and the Netherlands and Belgium (SAND, [www.meertens.nl/sand](http://www.meertens.nl/sand)). The Netherlands is also the home of the currently running ESF-funded Edisyn project ([www.meertens.nl/projecten/edisyn](http://www.meertens.nl/projecten/edisyn)). The Edisyn aspires to set up, extend and develop co-operation among dialect syntax projects in Europe, thus yielding a European network of dialect syntacticians that use similar standards with respect to methodology of data collection, data storage and annotation, data retrieval and cartography.

Currently, existing dialectal variation in varieties of English has not been explored in a systematic way, in the sense that a large-scale dialect syntax project has not yet been undertaken (the FRED project (<http://www.anglistik.uni-freiburg.de/institut/Iskortmann/>) which ran at the University of Freiburg has resulted in a corpus of dialect data from previous generations). We aim to host a workshop with the aim of bringing together scholars who are interested in collaboration that will ultimately lead to the launch of a UK and Ireland branch of the Edisyn project. We therefore invite contributions on any aspect of the syntax of English dialects.

**Abstracts are now invited for this session. They should be submitted in the same way as abstracts for the general sessions, but should be clearly marked that they are intended for this workshop.**

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This year’s LAGB meeting overlaps with the second conference of the UK Cognitive Linguistics Association. If members would like to attend both, the committee will be sure to take this into account, if necessary, when scheduling talks. If this is likely to affect you, please indicate this in the message accompanying your abstract.

## **Workshop on Features, 1-2 September 2007**

King's College London

in association with the 2007 LAGB meeting

Linguistic fields: General Linguistics, Computational Linguistics, Language Description, Linguistic Theories, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics, Typology

### **Meeting Summary**

The Workshop on FEATURES (1-2 September 2007) will be associated with and will directly follow the LAGB 2007 conference at King's College London. Abstracts should be submitted, and will be considered separately to those intended for the LAGB meeting. The Workshop will bring together linguists who have grappled with features as a component of theoretical models together with others who have considered their range and variability in the world's languages.

### **Details**

In attempting to understand language, a central notion is features. Examples are person (1st, 2nd, 3rd), number (singular, plural, dual...) tense (present, past...), and inflectional class (I, II, III, IV...). Features have proven invaluable for analysis and description, and have a major role in contemporary linguistics, right across the range of the discipline. Yet little is firmly established about features: we have no readily available inventory of which features are found in the world's languages, no generally agreed account of how they operate across different components of language and no certainty on how they interact. Features are widely used, but are little discussed. The workshop will therefore bring together linguists who have grappled with features as a component of theoretical models together with others who have considered their range and variability in the world's languages.

There will be six guest speakers who have agreed to talk on the following topics:

- David Adger 'Features and functional categories'
- Peter Austin 'Features and clause linkage'
- Ann Copestake 'Features and computational semantics'
- Ron Kaplan 'Formal aspects of underspecified features'
- Maria Polinsky 'Featural asymmetries in long-distance agreement: why gender is different from person'
- Ivan Sag 'Feature geometry and predictions of locality'

The programme organisers of the Workshop are Greville Corbett and Anna Kibort, Surrey Morphology Group ([www.surrey.ac.uk/LIS/SMG/](http://www.surrey.ac.uk/LIS/SMG/)). The Workshop is supported by the ESRC, within a project on Grammatical Features (grant number RES-051-27-0122). The local organisers of the LAGB meeting at King's College London, Devyani Sharma and Eleni Gregoromichelaki, have kindly agreed to take on the local arrangements.

Contact: Anna Kibort

Contact e-mail: [a.kibort@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:a.kibort@surrey.ac.uk)

Abstracts should be submitted in the same format as that described for abstracts which are to be submitted for the LAGB meeting on page 2 of this circular. They should **not** be sent to the same address as abstracts meant for the LAGB meeting, but should be emailed to Anna Kibort ([a.kibort@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:a.kibort@surrey.ac.uk)), by or on **\*9th April 2007\***