

LAGB Annual General Meeting
15 September 2022
Ulster University
Chair: Prof. Caroline Heycock (President)

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- Available online (<http://www.lagb.org.uk/agm-minutes>).
- The minutes were approved without changes.

3. Matters arising

- As agreed last year, LAGB has joined a consortium along with the Institute of Modern Languages Research, UCML and PhilSoc to support the *Language Society and Policy* Journal for an initial period of 3 years, to be reviewed after 2. Dora Alexopoulou, the Chief Editor, thanked LAGB on behalf of the journal. Following a launch this summer, more information is available on the revamped website – www.lspjournal.com. LSP can play an invaluable role in getting our research out to where it can be visible to policy makers, journalists, and others. LAGB members are encouraged to check out the journal and promote it around their networks: Dora will be happy to answer any questions.
- All other points covered in relevant committee reports below.

4. Reports from committee

President's report (Prof. Caroline Heycock)

- CH had written joint and independent letters written to senior management at Roehampton and Huddersfield regarding the closures at those institutions, and many members have participated in petitions and other forms of support.
- CH currently involved in British Academy 'deep dive' into English Studies, producing a report on the state of the discipline in Higher Education. CH and April McMahon are attempting to make sure that English Language is appropriately included
- CH has been talking to the PhilSoc President about an online information session about REF, bringing together panelists who were involved to get feedback and insights on the previous exercises to try and get a better understanding of the process and anything that can be learnt from this. More information to follow, we hope shortly.
- After a lapse of some years, the Siewierska Prize for research in linguistics by an Early Career Researcher is now back. We congratulate the winner this year: Qianping Gu, for the article *Telicization in Mandarin Chinese*.
The Siewierska prize is awarded every two years, for the best paper by an ECR researcher who is a LAGB member that is accepted for publication in the *Journal of Linguistics*. There were 5 eligible papers considered, which were of a very high standard. These were evaluated by external assessors and committee members. ECR members are strongly encouraged to submit their work for this prize (next due to be awarded in 2024); please also advertise to your PG students. Details on our website: [link here](#).

Honorary Secretary's report (Dr Yuni Kim)

- YK attended a REF panel for UCML and found it very informative, so very much supports the idea we should run one focussing on linguistics. Gap between how REF panels assess outputs and current perceptions about who panels assess outputs. Currently a number of open positions for UCML and LAGB members are also encouraged to put themselves forward (Hurry! deadline end of September 2022).
- No standard policy on language A levels; in particular, some universities do not accept A levels in what is perceived to be someone's native language. Ongoing work on this; the LAGB can help with expertise on the concept of "native speaker". A survey will be released on this shortly.
- AHA have included discussions on closures, how to support departments. YK has been looking into collating resources relating to careers and employability for linguistics graduates, collecting links to statements and case studies on individual websites with the goal of having a page on the LAGB website as a centralized resource

Membership Secretary's report (Theresa Biberauer)

- Report pending

Treasurer's report (Dr Rob Truswell)

- RT gave a report on the current financial situation for the LAGB, reporting last year's accounts. He made available a summary
- Balance went up over the last year. The LAGB's reserve had fallen to a very low figure some years ago, and the previous treasurer (Chris Cummins) had proposed that a good goal for the reserve would be £30k. We have not reached that but our reserve has grown considerably mainly due to the absence of any in-person meetings in the last two years. We do not expect to see similar growth over the coming year now that we have returned to in-person conferences; RT advises keeping a watch on how the balance looks over the next 12+ months to see if we have room for more expenditure.

Meetings Secretary's report (Dr Vahid Parvaresh, Dr Jenny Amos)

- Higher registration of non-members to members for this year's Annual Meeting.
- Abstract deadline extended twice and on the second extension received 50 additional abstracts. 71 accepted, 21 rejected following peer-review. 52 talks not including plenaries and language tutorial. High level of cancellation after acceptance – reasons vary and include visa issues, reduced institutional support and funds
- Recommends upgrading EasyChair license to speed up some of the processes involved in the review process etc.
- Next year's meeting will take place at ARU in Cambridge, current proposed date is the week commencing 4th September 2023.
- Proposals for themed sessions will be invited earlier on and members are encouraged to think about themed sessions or particular topics they would like to see at ARU.
- Thanks to all the local organisers for all their work on preparing for and hosting the conference. Very positive feedback received on the Education Day

Assistant Secretary's report (Dr Hannah Gibson)

- HG oversaw the OUDiL prize, which was given out for the sixth year.
 - We received 9 submissions from 9 institutions
 - Four winners were chosen: Giulia Li Calzi (UCL); Cliodhna Hughes (Edinburgh); Daniel Price (QMUL); Eve Whitaker (Newcastle)

- Again the submissions all of an incredible standard, many including comments that they were being prepared for publication etc
- Many thanks to all reviewers for looking over the submissions and institutions for continuing to nominate students

External Relations Officer's report (Dr Jonathan Kasstan)

- Ongoing communication with the British Academy to support early career researchers and building a ECR network. Members encouraged to contact JK if they have thoughts on that or would like to feed into the network
- Where to study linguistics in the UK page on the website currently being fixed.
- Online resources page on the LAGB website. Would appreciate any additions to the page (via the Forum). Please also share with your networks.
- Updated the conference funding call (in conjunction with the student committee). Encourage you to tell students about the call and encourage submissions.
- CH: Education committee has also put together a great range of resources for school age learners.

Student Committee's report (Dr Marc Olivier)

- Two new members have been recruited to the student committee – 2 England, 2 Scotland, 1 in Northern Ireland.
- 5 events were funded (conferences, printing activities)
 - The committee would like to thank Marc for his service!

Report from Education Committee (Professor Graeme Trousdale)

Committee expanding – Maria Arche will be taking on the role of linking linguistics and STEM, as well as taking up the role of secretary of CLiE.

- Hoping to start a set of workshops for teacher, similar to the EC meeting at the LAGB conference but these will be run online and co-created with teachers (not just attending). Participants would be from both HE and schools.
- UKLO Round 1 attracted a record number of competitors 4979, increase in representation from state schools. Strong success at the international competition. Report available at <https://archives.uklo.org/reports>.
- Knowledge about language and upskilling for teachers, particularly new and practicing teachers.
- Attended the British Academy Summer Showcase
- Common English Forum – small working group looking at paper on the position of English GSCR.

Report from the race and Social Justice Committee (Laura Bailey)

- Been meeting for the last couple of years, meeting every few months.
- Organised a themed session at last year's Annual Meeting.
- All welcome to get in touch with suggestions and ideas, or to join the committee

5. Funding for UKLO

- The LAGB supports UKLO. We are very grateful for all the work they do.
- Vote carried to keep on supporting UKLO with a contribution of £2000 for another year.

6. Promoting linguistics beyond the academy

- Lesley Jeffries, Chair of UCGAL (University Council of General and Applied Linguistics) wants to bring a number of issues relating to promoting linguistics to the attention of the members of LAGB:
 - A new film available which people can use to promote language-related enthusiasm 10th anniversary Babel lecture by Stephen Fry and a great watch: youtu.be/uBl4Smdjvps
 - The Babel editors are always looking for people to write popular versions of their research for the magazine: Details on the website www.babelzine.co.uk
 - What is the enthusiasm of LAGB (both committee and members) for working with other national organisations and individuals on a strategy to raise awareness of - and engagement with - linguistics in all its forms. UCGAL would be interested in ideas and contacts of anyone wanting to help with a few potential ideas, such as a linguistics festival (to be held in different places each year - hosted like conferences, but aimed at the public and school students) - and some kind of 'clearing house' for all the online resources that exist so that people know about them. Contact Lesley Jeffries lesjef56@gmail.com
- It was noted in discussion that there is no single person on the committee with a remit to work on outreach, although this is an increasingly important area.

7. Speakers for Annual Meeting 2023

- Next meeting to be held at Anglia Ruskin University. Suggestions are received at the current meeting and via email over the next few weeks. There will be an online ballot. In 2018 it was decided that the local organizing committee should have a strong say in the top four who come out of the ballot. The committee also has a say to ensure an overall balance.
- The two invited speakers are currently stated to be overseas speakers. There has been a long pattern of having both speakers coming from North America, but it was agreed two years ago that we should aim to have only one speaker coming on a long-haul flight, keeping in mind budgetary considerations but above all environmental impact of long-haul travel.
- Suggested that previous nominations are rolled forward and can be joined by further suggestions and nominations.
- Suggestion for language tutorial – Uyghur (Tom Meadows would have some resources on this). The decision for this has typically been reached via a combination of local organisers and the committee and depending on broader ideas.

8. Venue for future Annual Meetings (2024 onwards)

- Laura Bailey: possible expression of future event in Kent.
- Jenny Amos: interest in hosting at Suffolk
- Discussion regarding increasing costs of hosting events, increasing registration fees. Room fees charged by universities. Discussion of possibility of introducing a cap on registration fees, or the conference budget not including the costs for invited speakers, approaching sponsors for further support or to cover specific costs (invited speakers etc.). Could also approach other publishers who might have published their work (e.g. MIT Press).
- Discussions at ARU already looking into external funding options.
 - **ACTION:** YK to share previous accounts

- **ACTION:** RT to look at spending trends on the conference
- **ACTION:** Decision on whether costs of invited speakers should be removed from costs of organizing conference and then this can be reassessed
- Members are encouraged to talk about the work that the LAGB is doing and encourage colleagues and students to take out membership. Also linked to broader costs and increasing the membership will help with costs going forward.
- Could circulate information to different departments in the country, prepared slide could be shared to encourage people to join and also better publicise the work of the LAGB. Could also communicate the broader work so that people understand the work that is carried out outside of the Annual Meeting.
 - **ACTION:** All to develop a slide to highlight work of the Association which could be shared with institutions to highlight
 - **ACTION:** CH and JK to disseminate this material

9. Changes to the committee

- HG, TB, CH and MO all stepping down from their roles.
- Student committee have their own process for electing a chair. However, nominations for President, Assistant Secretary and Membership's secretary and open.
- Nominations (including self-nomination) are welcome, these can be shared in person and/or via email to CH. There will be an online vote
 - Thanks to all committee members who are stepping down for all their work!
 - George Tsoulas nominated for President
 - Julie Gerard nominated for Memberships Secretary
 - Beth Cole also happy to be nominated for Membership Secretary or Assistant Secretary
 - **ACTION:** CH to email the membership for nominations, this will also go on the forum

10. AOB

- Discussion of online proceedings perhaps focusing on early career researchers. Could provide a nice forum to get work out and receive external feedback on work. Could provide a incentive for more ECRs to attend the conference. Might also help with applying for future to attend the conference in future years. This could be guest edited by ECRs. Would also increase traffic through the website. Could be linked to JoL as a web supplement. The idea has broad support – remaining questions are how it would be hosted and how it would be edited. Should be an editorial team comprising PhD students and ECRs but should not be stipulated.
 - **ACTION:** MOL to discuss with Student Committee
 - **ACTION:** JK to contact CUP
 - **ACTION:** CH to contact UPenn about how they handled proceedings for their student-run conference, and what the workload has been.
 - **ACTION:** George Tsoulas to investigate further potential free (but stable!) hosting
- Discussion of how long the conference should last. Discussion of having 'alternates' if speakers cancel. Will try and open and close registration etc earlier on in the process. Previous meetings have had more parallel sessions but that's not necessarily the direction we want to go. Would be good to keep an eye on this but too soon to make a strict decision.

Hannah Gibson, Assistant Secretary

(End of minutes)