

LAGB Annual Meeting 2009: University of Edinburgh Fiftieth Anniversary Golden Jubilee Meeting

First Circular and Call for Papers

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain will be the fiftieth anniversary LAGB meeting. The first LAGB meeting was held at SOAS in London from 30th October to 1st November 1959. The Golden Jubilee meeting will be held at the University of Edinburgh, from 6th to 9th September 2009. The local organisers will be **Nikolas Gisborne**, **Patrick Honeybone**, and **Penelope Thompson**. The Meeting will last for four days and will depart from the pattern of recent meetings a little, in order to accommodate a celebration of our fiftieth anniversary. The special events at the meeting are listed below.

For further details of the history of the LAGB, see: <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/lagbhist.htm>
Also, see Hudson, Richard (2009) 'A history of the LAGB: the first fifty years.' *Journal of Linguistics* 45, 1-30.

Special events

1. Rather than inviting speakers to give the Henry Sweet and LAGB lectures, as is normal at LAGB Meetings, the Association has decided, as part of the celebration of 50 years of LAGB meetings, to invite three speakers from the UK linguistic scene (chosen by an LAGB subcommittee established to organise the Jubilee celebrations) and to ask them to speak on a specific topic. They will discuss the past 50 years of developments in key linguistic subfields in Britain, and look forward to the future. The speakers are: **Ronnie Cann** (University of Edinburgh), speaking on developments in Semantics and Pragmatics, **John Harris** (University College London), speaking on Phonetics and Phonology, and **Caroline Heycock** (University of Edinburgh), speaking on Syntax and Morphology. They will all speak at a Fiftieth Anniversary Symposium on the afternoon of Sunday 6th September.
2. Following on from the Symposium, there will be a Golden Jubilee Dinner on the evening of 6th September. This will feature a talk on the history of the LAGB by Dick Hudson.
3. There will be a **Language Tutorial** on **Scottish Gaelic**, by David Adger (Queen Mary, University of London).
4. There will be a session organised by the LAGB's **Education Committee** with the title "Typology for schools." Speakers will probably include Anna Siewierska (University of Lancaster, speaking on syntax) and Greville G. Corbett (University of Surrey, speaking on inflectional categories), each presenting topics and materials that might be used in schools. Further details will soon be made available on this website: www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/dick/ec/ecsessions.htm
5. The *Journal of Linguistics*, the LAGB's journal (published for the Association by Cambridge University Press), is marking its 45th volume in 2009, and this will also be celebrated as part of this year's meeting.

Deadline for abstracts: 5th April. For details of abstract submission, see below. Abstracts should be submitted electronically to lagb.abstracts@gmail.com (see below for full abstract submission details). Sets of abstracts may be submitted together for a themed session of your choice (for further details, see below).

Venue

The University of Edinburgh was founded in 1583, as Scotland's (and Britain's) first civic university. The university's Central Area, where the Meeting will be held, is situated in Edinburgh's remarkable Old Town, a few minutes' walk from the Royal Mile. Edinburgh is the ancient capital of Scotland, and its Old Town and (18th century) New Town form a large UNESCO World Heritage Site. The university's department of Linguistics and English Language (within the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences) is the current home for most linguists at the university, continuing traditions which were formalised in 1948, when Angus McIntosh was appointed to a Chair of English Language and General Linguistics, one of the first Chairs of Linguistics in Britain.

- Further local information will be available on the conference website: www.lel.ac.uk/lagb2009/

Accommodation

Rooms will be available near to the conference venue. Further details will be provided in the second circular.

Travel

Edinburgh is easily accessible by rail, road and air, and the university is within walking distance of the main train station (and the rest of the city centre).

- Basic location information can be found at: www.ed.ac.uk/maps/

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 theoretical framework.

How and when to submit an abstract

Abstracts should be submitted as attachments to an email, and should be formatted as explained below.

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 at this address: lagb.abstracts@gmail.com. In the body of the email that you send the attachments with, you should include the title of the abstract, the names of the authors for multi-authored papers and one address for correspondence. 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/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 (in the email or a letter) 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 ***5th April 2009***. The committee will plan the programme as soon as it has selected the abstracts, so please indicate **in the e-mail that you send with the abstracts** if you cannot present your paper on any particular day in the conference. We apologise, but due to the number of abstracts we receive, we are not in a position to offer feedback to unsuccessful authors.

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 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. If the formatting instructions are not followed an abstract may not be considered. You may use single spacing but type must be no smaller than 12 points. If the paper is accepted, the abstract will be 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)

(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 a 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 cite "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 linguistic subject of their choice. Such groups will normally take up a whole session (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.

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** – you should include the application as another attachment to the email. If you are not submitting an abstract, but are eligible for a bursary, then you are still encouraged to apply (by email, to the President, whose contact details are given below).

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: 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.

Communications with the membership

Website

The LAGB website can be found at www.lagb.org.uk

Mailing list

Details of the LAGB mailing list can be found here: www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/lagb.html

The list is used to disseminate circulars and other information that may be of interest to members and to consult members. 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 will be distributed to the list, once they have been approved by a list moderator. Any member may send messages to the list.

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.

Future Meetings

All meetings are held in late August / early September:

2010 The University of Leeds – 1st-4th September 2010

2011 The University of Manchester – date to be arranged

2012 Your University here ...?

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

Nominations for speakers, workshops and language tutorials (language and/or speaker) at future meetings are also requested; all suggestions should be emailed 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 – Current term: 2008-2011 (second term)

Professor Kersti Börjars,

Faculty of Humanities, School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures,

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www.llc.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/lel/staff/kersti-borjars/

Honorary Secretary – Current term: 2007-2010

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Membership Secretary – Current term: 2007-2010

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Meetings Secretary – Current term: 2006-2009 (second term)

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Treasurer – Current term: 2006-2009

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Assistant Secretary – Current term: 2006-2009 (second term)

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Chair of the LAGB Student Committee – Current term: 2008-2011

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Nominations for the role of Meetings Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer

The terms of office for the Meetings Secretary and Assistant Secretary end this year, so nominations are requested for these positions. Any member may be nominated by any other member, and nominations should be sent to the Assistant Secretary by ****5th April 2009****. The Treasurer's first term of office also ends this year, so nominations are also requested for this position. The LAGB constitution allows committee members to serve for two consecutive terms and the current Treasurer has indicated that he is prepared to stand again, and the committee have thus nominated him for a second term. Further nominations are welcome, however, and any member may be nominated by any other member. Nominations should be sent to the Assistant Secretary by ****5th April 2009****.