

Foreword and Acknowledgements

Ruth Kramer, Elizabeth C. Zsiga, and One Tlale Boyer

The 44th Annual Conference on African Linguistics was held on March 7-10, 2013 at Georgetown University, Washington, DC, as a joint meeting with the Georgetown University Roundtable on Languages and Linguistics. The three day conference, whose theme was ‘African Languages: Specifics and Universals,’ featured three pre-conference workshops: ‘Language in African Education,’ ‘Funding for Research on African Languages,’ and ‘African Fieldwork in the 21st Century.’ It also included five plenary presentations: Jason Kandybowicz and Harold Torrence’s “Unweaving the Interrogative Rainbow: The Interplay between Syntax, Semantics and Prosody in Four Tano Languages,” Annie Rialland, Martial Embanga Aborobongui, Martine Adda-Decker and Lori Lamel’s “Phonological Processes and Data Mining in Embosi (Bantu C25),” Katherine Demuth’s “Structural Statistical Learning: Evidence from the Acquisition of Bantu Languages,” Anderson Chebanne’s “Botswana Khoisan: Language and Ethnic Endangerment,” and Mary Paster’s “An i-Language Approach to Interspeaker Variation in Maay.” There were over 110 presentations from the many subdisciplines of African linguistics, with papers and posters on languages from all the regions of Africa. The present volume contains papers based on 26 of the best presentations from the conference.

Like the conference itself, diverse subfields of African linguistics and African languages are represented in the proceedings. The 26 papers are thus organized by author last name, so as not to shoe-horn a particular paper into a particular subfield. Each of the papers submitted to this volume received two reviews, and we would like to thank the many reviewers who donated their time and expertise to help make this volume a success. Although we have endeavored to give each paper a rigorous review, we have also followed Cascadilla’s instructions to leave responsibility for proofreading with the authors in the interest of timely publication.

The conference was made possible by the sponsorship of a number of generous funding bodies: the Georgetown University Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, the Georgetown University Linguistics Department, the University of Maryland Center for the Advanced Study of Language (CASL), the University of Maryland Department of Linguistics, the African Studies Program at Georgetown University, the Georgetown Africa Interest Network, the Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL), and the Mortara Center for International Studies at Georgetown University. We would like to acknowledge the kind and generous support of these units.

We also would like to acknowledge the graduate student assistants whose hard work from the very beginning was key in accomplishing ACAL 44: Colleen Diamond and Corinne Seals. We also acknowledge the many student volunteers who ensured the success of the conference at crunch time: Edvan Brito, Caitlin Elizondo, Andrés A. García, James Gertzog, Dana Hunter, Ava Irani, JJ Johnson, Stephanie Kramer, Sarah Lim, Jessica Man, Stacy Petersen, Kate Riestenberg, Morgan Rood, Rachel Sawyer, Laura Siebecker, Sheena Shah, Daniel Simonson, Esther Surenthiraraj, Brett Sutton, Julia Wiseman, and Shuo Zhang. Last but not least, we offer our sincerest thanks to those students whose help was absolutely vital in the preparation of the proceedings: Lindley Winchester, Jimin Kim and Morgan Rood.

To close, as in previous volumes, we thank all the participants of ACAL 44, who made the conference thrive in so many ways, and to the contributors who have made editing the proceedings a rewarding endeavor.

* All authors affiliated with Georgetown University.

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edited by Ruth Kramer,
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