

# Introduction

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The eleventh conference on Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition (GASLA) took place March 25-27, 2011 at the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle, following earlier meetings at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana (2009) and the University of Iowa (2007). The purpose of this international meeting was to bring together researchers from a variety of institutions and sub-areas within linguistics, second language acquisition, and psycholinguistics to present state-of-the-art work that addresses contemporary insights in generative approaches to second language acquisition. Research in bilingualism and language acquisition are critical for an understanding of linguistic, cultural and political aspects of multilingual societies. The conference hosted participants from around the world and covered a range of bilingual populations. The presentations included discussions of heritage (speakers of Spanish and Hindi) learners, adult and child acquisition of French, and processing of speech in real-time (e.g. reaction time, brain waves). In addition to their theoretical import, the empirical studies presented at the conference may be relevant for language instruction and linguistic integration of bilingual populations.

GASLA-11 received 72 abstracts, from which 25 were selected to be presented as papers and 12 as posters. There were three keynote speakers, Susanne Carroll (University of Calgary), Heather Goad (McGill University) and Lee Osterhout (UW). Of the 37 papers presented, 16 have been submitted to the present volume. The breadth of topics represented at the conference is well reflected in this collection.

The conference and volume could not have been realized without the contributions of many individuals and organizations. The conference benefitted from the support at UW from the Linguistics Department, the College of Arts & Sciences, the Graduate School, the Center for Canadian Studies, the English Department, the Department of Asian Languages & Literatures and the Division of Spanish & Portuguese. Its implementation was made possible through the technical, organizational and professional expertise of David Brodbeck, Russell Hugo, Michael Furr, Joyce Parvi, Rachel Schirra and numerous student volunteers. This volume also owes a debt to its benefactors: the authors who have carefully written and revised their papers; the reviewers who evaluated abstracts to determine the program; John Riebold, the graduate Research Assistant who carefully reviewed formatting of the articles; and especially Michael Bernstein of Cascadilla Press who was always ready to send a prompt email response to any query. We are grateful to all who have lent support to this new volume in the Cascadilla series.

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