

# Preface

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In 2004 at the business meeting of GASLA 7 in Bloomington Indiana, we decided that the next conference would be hosted by the University of Calgary. Laurent Dekydsporter and Rex Sprouse had organized a fine conference that would be a hard act to follow, but we wanted to give it a try. Soon, we established a local organizing committee and began the planning exercise. It was decided that the conference would be held in the midst of the Rocky Mountains at the Banff Centre. This is a lovely location, and in late April it's a time of year when people can still take advantage of the wilderness to ski, hike or stroll. Thanks to Shirley Kayama at the Banff Centre for all her help in making sure that our time on site was trouble-free. Even she couldn't have foreseen that we would arrive with a computer that ran only Windows in Chinese and Japanese. Luckily, this was a conference audience for whom this was not a huge problem, and due to the goodwill of our colleagues, things ran smoothly.

Such an event takes a considerable amount of time commitment, and we would like to thank the students who provided such crucial support to the conference:

Antonio Gonzalez

Carly Jaques

Scott Moisik

Christine Shea

We were fortunate to have excellent plenary presentations by Susanne Carroll, William O'Grady and Johanne Paradis. We thank them for accepting our invitations.

Before the conference, there was a one-day workshop on new technologies and second language acquisition research co-organized with the Multilingual Acquisition and Processing group at the University of Potsdam. There we had stimulating presentations by Ian Wilson (Ultrasound technology and SLA) and Yue Wang (fMRI and SLA).

We would like to acknowledge the following agencies and units that provided financial support for the conference:

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Faculty of Humanities

Faculty of Education

Faculty of Social Sciences

Department of Linguistics

Department of French, Italian and Spanish

Department of Germanic, Slavic and East Asian Studies

The Language Research Centre

Finally, we would like to thank Michael Bernstein at Cascadilla Press for his assistance.

We hope that this collection of the papers from GASLA 8 will bring back fond memories for those who were there of Canada, Banff, and the mountains. While we would like to take credit for having the deer turn up to graze during our opening reception, we can't. But that's just the sort of place it is. If you weren't fortunate enough to make it to our GASLA in Banff, we hope to see you at some future GASLA or perhaps in Calgary sometime, where you can keep in touch with all of our exciting research in the field of second language acquisition.

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edited by Mary Grantham O'Brien,  
Christine Shea, and John Archibald

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