

Introduction

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The bi-annual Conference on Laboratory Approaches to Spanish Phonology (LASP), inspired by the Laboratory Phonology Conference, brings together experimental researchers working on phonetics, phonology, language acquisition, psycholinguistics, and speech disorders. The conference was first held in 2002 at the University of Minnesota and then subsequently at Indiana University, Bloomington in September 2004. On September 8-10, 2006, researchers from North and South America, Spain and Israel met at Victoria College at the University of Toronto for the third instance of the conference. The program included 16 main session papers, two plenaries presented by John Kingston and Eugenio Martínez-Celdrán, and a workshop on technology including presentations on software, databases, and imaging techniques. This workshop was both a reflection of the interdisciplinary nature of laboratory phonology research and an opportunity for the University of Toronto community to show the strong and fruitful connections among speech researchers from a variety of disciplines.

The papers found within this volume are a selection of those presented at the conference and subsequently submitted to the editors for publication. The first two are plenary talks. The paper by John Kingston re-examines lenition and presents a novel and comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon based on an acoustic analysis of Peruvian Spanish. Martínez Celdrán's contribution challenges three tenets of Spanish phonetics, namely the analysis of the weakened variants of voiced stops as fricatives, the role of voicing, and the classification of [t,d] as apico-alveolars. The remaining papers are grouped under the main themes of liquids – singletons and clusters (Díaz-Campos; Romero; Simonet, Rohena & Paz; Willis & Bradley); vowels (Bressmann; Delforge; Limanni); and prosody (Enbe & Tobin; Ortega-Llebaria; Romera, Salcioli, Fernández-Planas, Carrera & Román).

The conference would not have been the success it was without the help of many groups and people. First, we wish to thank those organizations that provided financial support. Within the University of Toronto, these included the Departments of French, Linguistics, and Spanish & Portuguese as well as Victoria College and the Faculty of Arts & Science. LASP3 was in great part financed by a Conference Organization grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (Grant no. 140544). Second, and no less important, was the help we received from many students and faculty. Immediately preceding and during LASP3, we were assisted by our graduate students Roger Corpas Proenza, Anna Limanni, Irina Marinescu, Natalia Mazzaro, Yasaman Rafat and Jeannette Sánchez, as well as our colleagues Cristina Cuervo, Elan Dresher, Yoonjung Kang, and Keren Rice. We wish to extend special thanks to Alejandro Cuza for his help with all technical matters and to Mike Field for his expert assistance in the design and maintenance of the conference website.

Finally, this volume would have never achieved its present form without the assistance of the following people in reviewing the abstracts for the conference and the papers for the Selected Proceedings: John Archibald, Travis Bradley, Lisa Davidson, Manuel Díaz Campos, David Edington, Paola Escudero, Timothy Face, Sonia Frota, David Heap, José Ignacio Hualde, Anthony Lewis, Geoff Morrison, Holly Nibert, Marta Ortega-Llebaria, Erin O'Rourke, Douglas O'Shaughnessy, Pilar Prieto, Keren Rice, Joaquín Romero, Eric Russell Webb, Maria-Josep Solé, Yishai Tobin, Erik Willis and Ian Wilson. To all of those who helped organize the conference from its inception to the publication of these Proceedings, our most sincere gratitude.

Selected Proceedings of the 3rd Conference on Laboratory Approaches to Spanish Phonology

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Cascadilla Proceedings Project Somerville, MA 2008

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ISBN 1-57473-424-9 library binding

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This paper can be cited as:

Colantoni, Laura and Jeffrey Steele. 2008. Introduction. In *Selected Proceedings of the 3rd Conference on Laboratory Approaches to Spanish Phonology*, ed. Laura Colantoni and Jeffrey Steele, v. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project.

or:

Colantoni, Laura and Jeffrey Steele. 2008. Introduction. In *Selected Proceedings of the 3rd Conference on Laboratory Approaches to Spanish Phonology*, ed. Laura Colantoni and Jeffrey Steele, v. Somerville, MA: Cascadilla Proceedings Project. www.lingref.com, document #1710.