

# Introduction

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The Second Language Studies Ph.D. program at Michigan State University had the honor of hosting the 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Second Language Research Forum (SLRF), October 29 – November 1 of 2009. The conference brought together approximately 400 scholars from across the globe, representing multiple theoretical and methodological spectra and covering a broad scope of research questions, theoretical orientations, and data elicitation techniques to advance our current understanding of SLA. Most notably, the conference was highlighted by plenaries given by Robert DeKeyser, Susan Gass, James Lantolf, and Bonnie Schwartz.

Among the 182 papers and posters presented at SLRF 2009, 13 are included in this volume. They represent some of the latest and most cutting-edge research in the field of SLA, addressing questions that range from syntactic gap processing (Hara) to second language (L2) interaction via computer-mediated communication (Jeong) to pragmatic competence (Lee), thereby connecting to the theme of the conference: *Diverse Contributions to SLA: Integrating the Parts of a Greater Whole*. The articles in this volume exemplify the cross-linguistic nature of SLA and SLRF 2009 in particular, bringing together research across a number of L2s including English, French, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Italian.

Considering the diverse contributions to this volume as well as the goal and theme of the conference of bringing the field together as a whole, we have chosen not to divide the volume into separate sections by creating necessarily overlapping and arguably artificial boundaries between them. Rather, articles appear alphabetically, as a whole.

We would like to thank Cascadilla Proceedings Project, and Jeremy Thorpe and Michael Bernstein in particular, for their unwavering support in publishing this extraordinary collection of papers. And last but not least, our most sincere thanks go out to the 33 area experts who reviewed article submissions and provided careful and insightful feedback: Grace Amuzie, Adolfo Ausín, Jennifer Behney, Zeljko Bošković, Richard Cameron, Robert DeKeyser, Rebecca Foote, Senta Goertler, Stefan Gries, Debra Hardison, Mara Haslam, Rachel Hayes-Harb, Solène Inceoglu, Jimin Kahng, Angelika Kraemer, Junkyu Lee, Yoko Nakano, Nathan Owens, Despina Papadopoulou, Silvia Perpiñán, Christine Shea, Mark Shea, Patti Spinner, Tetyana Sydorenko, Jennifer Thewissen, Jamie Thomas, Nicole Tracy-Ventura, Annie Tremblay, Danijela Trenkic, Emma Trentman, Heidi Vellenga, Benjamin White, and Paula Winke.

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