

Preface

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The papers collected in this volume were presented at the 29th meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, which took place April 22-24th, 2011, at the University of Arizona. The conference would not have occurred (and WCCFL would have been cancelled for two years in a row!) without the goodwill, effort, and financial help of almost the entire language-related community at the U of A, and we are very grateful to everyone who pitched in to make WCCFL 29 a reality. I will therefore take a moment in this space to acknowledge the many donors and volunteers who made the conference possible.

The costs associated with hosting as large a conference as WCCFL are significant, and our WCCFL took place in particularly difficult financial circumstances, during a time when every department, school and college on campus was subject to budgetary cutbacks and recisions. Nonetheless, everyone who had a penny to spare somehow found a way to stretch their budget to provide us with financial support, a reflection of the amazing community spirit we are lucky enough to enjoy at the U of A. Financial support was provided for the conference by the department of Linguistics, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, the Vice President for Research, the Graduate and Professional Students' Council, the American Indian Studies program, the Cognitive Science program, the Office of Student Affairs, the School of Information Science, Technology and Arts, the department of Anthropology, the English Language and Linguistics program, the Second Language Acquisition and Teaching program, the department of Spanish and Portuguese, and the department of Sociology. These donors made it possible for us to offer indispensable cognitive fuel to attendees in the form of beverages and snacks, to provide poster boards for the poster presenters to present their posters on, to pay for the travel, lodgings and honoraria for our distinguished plenary speakers, to rent meeting space and audio-visual equipment from the U of A Student Unions Event Planning office, to provide attendees with programs, name tags, bags and other essential conference-attending equipment, and to invite interested undergraduates to attend the conference free of charge.

If it takes a lot of money to host a WCCFL, it takes even more effort and time on the part of volunteers to make it happen. Almost every single member of the Linguistics department devoted substantial time and energy to the many many chores involved, which include but are not limited to: abstract reviewing, room booking, food organizing, party organizing, website creation and maintenance, speaker hosting, registration packet creation, book room organizing, reception table staffing, equipment wrangling, and last but far far from least, compilation and editing of the proceedings volume you hold in your hands. Departmental faculty members who tirelessly guided and supported these efforts include Diane Ohala, Simin Karimi, Adam Ussishkin, Amy Fountain, Natasha Warner, Tom Bever, Dalila Ayoun, Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini, Andrew Carnie, Janet Nicol, Andy Wedel, Erwin Chan, Stacey Oberley, Rudy Troike, Diana Archangeli, and Mike Hammond. Our inimitable staff members Marian Wiseley, Kimberly Young and Jennifer Columbus took care of a thousand details. But the people who really made the conference possible with their effort, caring and dedication are the University of Arizona Linguistics graduate students, who accomplished wonders. Student participants in the massive volunteer effort include Alex Trueman, Hyun Kyoung Jung, Jaehoon Choi, Sylvia Reed, Megan Stone, Jeff Punske, Kara Hawthorne, Andrea Davis, Deniz Tat, Chenchun E, Dane Bell, Brian Berrellez, Dan Brenner, Zachary Brooks, Lindsay Butler, Rolando Coto, Emma Ehrhardt, Alan Hogue, Bryan James Gordon, Amy LaCross, Lio Mathieu, Jessamyn Schertz, Kevin Schluter, Tatyana Slobodchikoff, Jae-Hyun Sung, Samantha Wray, and Brian Ten Eyck, plus the several others who pitched in to help out with impromptu errands and chores that came

up along the way. They were an amazing conference-organizing crew, and it is thanks to them that this whole event came off so smoothly.

Finally, we of the University of Arizona are particularly grateful to those who provided the conference with its incredibly rich content, which of course is the whole reason we were so eager to make it happen in the first place. Over a hundred external reviewers devoted their time and energy to evaluating abstracts, ensuring once again the very high quality of original research presentations for which WCCFL is famous. Our plenary speakers, Norvin Richards, Susanne Gahl and Tom Bever provided us with extremely stimulating and thought-provoking presentations of their own groundbreaking research. And finally, the many speakers and poster presenters discussed an incredibly interesting and diverse set of results, a selection of which you will find in the volume you are currently reading (and please visit <http://coyotepapers.sbs.arizona.edu> to find the proceedings articles for poster presentations). Thanks very much to each and every one of you for making WCCFL 29 the success that it was!

Heidi Harley, WCCFL meta-facilitator
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