

# Preface

**Robert E. Santana-LaBarge**

Arizona State University is proud to have hosted the 31st meeting of the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics, which was held at our Tempe campus from February 7th-9th, 2013. This is an exciting time to be doing graduate studies in linguistics at ASU, and having had the chance to interact with scholars from around the world who challenged us with new and innovative ideas will not soon be forgotten. We are grateful to all those who participated, especially the presenters, who graciously shared their research with us and patiently fielded our seemingly never-ending questions, and to our three plenary speakers, Diana Archangeli, Hilda Koopman, and Lisa Matthewson, for providing us with stimulating (and controversial!) discussions on the cutting edge of the field.

The papers collected here represent the bulk of what was presented at the conference. They are without exception all prime examples of excellent research in formal linguistics, which we define, for the most part, as phonology/phonetics, syntax, and semantics in the generative tradition. The selection committee set out to choose works that represented a wide range of subdisciplines and languages, but the astute reader may notice a certain unintentional preponderance towards syntax among the papers here. Although I won't pretend that I myself am not excited about this fact, we do hope that WCCFL in the future is increasingly hospitable towards phonology/phonetics and formal semantics.

That being said, many individuals – teachers, staff, and students alike – were helpful in making the technical aspects of WCCFL 31 a success, but among them two were absolutely integral: our dedicated chairs, Elly van Gelderen and Carrie Gillon. Indeed, formal linguistics as a discipline at our university owes much of its debt of gratitude to these two professors. So Elly and Carrie, on behalf of everyone, I've said it before and I'm sure to say it again: thank you – for everything. None of us would be where we are today without you.

As for everyone else who volunteered, a big “thank you” is of course necessary as well! From chairing sessions and registering presenters to introducing plenary speakers, WCCFL 31 could not have been done without those dedicated to linguistics at ASU and our friends who helped: Mariana Bahtchevanova, Andy Barss, Omar Beas, Andrew Carnie, Alvaro Cerron-Palomino, Naomi Danton, Simin Karimi, Daniela Kostadinovska, Roy Major, Victor Parra-Guinaldo, Jerzy Nykiel, Helene Ossipov, Claire Renaud, Uthairat Rogers, Anne Walton-Ramirez, Amy Dawn Shinabarger, Lynn Sims, Ebru Turker, Johanna Wood, and Hui-Ling Yang. Special thanks to ASU's Department of English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and School of International Letters and Cultures for providing much needed funding, and to John Benjamins Publishing and Cambridge University Press for stocking our book table.

On a semi-personal note – thanks to my mom and dad's business and their employees (especially my cousin Shannon) for fielding all the incoming papers for this volume. I'm not sure my humble mailbox would have been up for the task. Last but not least, to my wonderful wife Tina, whose love and support has kept me relatively sane throughout and continues to make me a better person daily, thank you most of all.

R. E. S-L.  
Mesa, AZ  
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