

# Preface

**D. K. E. Reisinger and Marianne Huijsmans**

After a one-year hiatus, the *West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics* (WCCFL) was rebooted by the Department of Linguistics at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver on March 6–8, 2020, just days before regular life came to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many of the participants, it would be the last in-person conference for the foreseeable future.

Since the conference was not hosted the year before, the decision was made that the 2020 instantiation of WCCFL should represent both WCCFL 37 and WCCFL 38. This is also reflected in the proceedings, which appear as two separate volumes.

This volume is the first collection of papers that were presented at this conference. It features the proceedings from two plenary talks, five talks from the special session on Western American Indigenous Languages, and 16 poster presentations. The remaining papers appear in the proceedings for WCCFL 38, edited by Rachel Soo, Una Chow, and Sander Nederveen. Regardless of the volume number, however, all papers are prime examples of outstanding research in formal linguistics.

Of course, WCCFL 2020 would never have been the success it was without the help of many wonderful people. In particular, we would like to thank Heidi Harley and Vera Gribanova, who alerted the field to the need to reinstate WCCFL, Anne Michelle Tessier, who took the lead in reviving WCCFL at UBC, as well as the remaining members of the organizing committee: Hotze Rullmann, Chung-Hye Han, Katie Martin, Lisa Matthewson, and Henry Davis. Additional thanks go out to the many student and faculty volunteers from UBC and Simon Fraser University: Jesse Hawker, Laura Griffin, Sarah Lafleur, Kaili Vesik, Khia Johnson, Rachel Soo, Sander Nederveen, Hannah Green, Mifield Xu, and Karalyn Friesen. We are also very grateful to the administrative assistance provided by the staff of the UBC Linguistics department, in particular, Vicki Ferguson, Claudia Chan, and Kate Lewis. We also thank the many anonymous abstract reviewers, as well as session chairs and speakers who participated in this year's conference. Additionally, we are grateful to the financial sponsors of WCCFL 2020, without whom this conference would not have been possible: UBC Linguistics, the Department of Linguistics at Simon Fraser University, a SSHRC Exchange Grant from the UBC Faculty of Arts, the Canadian Linguistic Association, and the Speech and Linguistics Student Association.

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and Marianne Huijsmans

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