

Preface

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Ryan Smith, and Heidi Harley**

The 2021 West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL 39) was hosted by the Department of Linguistics at the University of Arizona in a virtual format on April 8-11, 2021.

39 papers and 45 posters were accepted in the main session, and there were two special sessions. The first, on Language Reclamation, featured 6 papers and 9 posters, and the second, on Roots, featured 6 papers and 16 posters. It also featured plenary talks given by Noam Chomsky, Keren Rice and Andrew McKenzie. We had 293 abstracts submitted, representing the work of 437 authors from 28 countries and 151 institutions. 567 people attended the conference.

We would like to thank the many, many people who contributed to making WCCFL 2021 happen, in the middle of the COVID-19 global pandemic: 245 abstract reviewers, first and foremost, who put in their time and mental energy to help us construct the fantastic program; the faculty and students who chaired each session and moderated in the challenging zoom environment with barely a hiccup; the INCREDIBLE tech team who made sure that we had all the information we needed to successfully master the zoom hosting experience, led by Damian Romero and Kristina Mihajlovic and supported by Patricia Lee; Ryan Walter Smith and Jianrong Yu for Tetris-ing the program into shape; Jianrong Yu for creating and maintaining the beautiful web page; Tianyi Ni for his work organizing the registration procedure; Kristina Mihajlovic for leading our merch effort and Robert Henderson for his beautiful conference cactus design; Lucy Hall Hartley for managing our social media; Robert Henderson for his work as Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator; Mike Hammond, Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini, Robert Henderson and Rebecca Whitney for participating on the program committee; Mosiah Bluecloud and Meg Harvey for coordinating with SAIL, and our other volunteers taking care of every other aspect of running a huge virtual conference—for example, the sheer volume of email involved boggles the mind: Gabriela de la Cruz Sanchez, Janet Nicol, Dan Siddiqi, Alice Kwak, Remo Nitschke, Luis Irizarry, Natasha Warner, Jeffrey Punske, Amy Fountain, John Powell, Diana Archangeli, Isabel McKay and Gaby Vargas. Especially thanks to everyone for their genius ideas for making entertaining and engaging virtual social events, and to the Wonder platform for providing a very positive hosting experience for those events.

This unique online event gave us a sense of connectedness to our community of linguistics scholars during a very challenging period of isolation and significant stress. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to offer it, and although we're happy WCCFL is back to its in-person norm, it is reassuring to know that the field is resilient and motivated enough to carry on exchanging scholarship and ideas even in extremely challenging societal circumstances.

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edited by Robert Autry,
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