

# ASFLA NEWS

Australian Systemic Functional Linguistics Association Newsletter

November 2016

## Message from the President

It was a pleasure attending the recent ASFLA conference, both on a professional and personal level. It was a joy for me to catch up with many friends from the SFL community, many of whom were attendees at the early ASFLA conferences. It was also very satisfying to see not only the increasing scope and reach of the SFL work, but to reflect with great pride on the way this work has taken hold through the many and varied contributions of those within our SFL community. A fulsome report on what was an excellent conference follows.

I have mentioned in previous newsletters the special connection ASFLA has with the Society of Pakistan English Language teachers (SPELT). We are proud once again to contribute to that ongoing relationship by supporting Christine Ludwig to attend as one of their major speakers in the conferences held in Karachi and Islamabad. We will no doubt have a detailed report from Christine in the next newsletter on her experiences. I was able to deliver two sessions at the Karachi conference, one last Saturday and the another on Sunday, both through a

webinar. Despite the technology abandoning us there for a while in both sessions, we managed to get through most of the



presentations. One of the joys of working with the SPELT teachers is just how appreciative they are of such contributions. If any of you out there are willing to be part of the SPELT conference next year, please let me know!

As usual, a quick word of thanks to Trish Weekes for her unstinting work in getting out yet another newsletter. Also a quick word of thanks to the ASFLA team. It's been wonderful working with you all over the last year. Thank you so much for your generosity and support.

I hope the end of the year brings you a chance to rest and relax and best wishes for the new year.

Brian  
bdare@lexised.com  
Brian Dare  
*On behalf of the ASFLA Executive Committee*

### In this issue

- Report and lots of photos from ASFLA conference
- Upcoming events - ISFC and LC2
- Useful websites

Please let us know if you have any news that should appear on these pages or if you have any ideas about what you'd like to see:

asflanews@gmail.com

# ASFLA conference report: 2016

## 2016 ASFLA CONFERENCE

Language as social power:  
20th century beginnings,  
21st century futures



Everyone who attended the ASFLA conference in September at ACU North Sydney was in agreement - this year's conference was a cracker! The theme of the conference was 'language as social power' and the conference presentations addressed how SFL has been theorised and applied to help build equity in a range of contexts, particularly in education and in health. The presentations were fascinating, pushing the boundaries of theory and demonstrating the power of a truly 'applicable' linguistics.

We SFL people love a title with a colon, and the sub-theme of the conference was '20th century beginnings, 21st century futures'. Several of the sessions reminded us of the beginnings of socially responsive and equitable social semiotics in Australia, and how those early ideas have borne fruit.

Compelling plenary presentations were given by Jim Martin, Jenny Hammond, Peter Freebody, Elizabeth Armstrong and Suzanne Eggins. There were also several keynote presentations which caused dilemmas for participants - we wanted to go to all of them but we had to choose one out of two in each timeslot. Somehow, we managed to make decisions and headed off to learn about the fascinating work of Shooshi Dreyfus, Bronwyn Parkin, Marie Quinn, Louise Ravelli and Robyn Cox.

An innovative session idea was to have a fireside conversation between Jim Martin, Karl Maton and led by Mary Macken-Horarik. The discussion traversed connections between SFL and Legitimation Code Theory (LCT) and provided perspectives on language and social power from within our field and without.



The interlocutors from the fireside chat (with no fire) - Jim Martin, Mary Macken-Horarik and Karl Maton.

Apart from the keynotes, another session format idea on Day 2 was the forum on genre and discipline learning in secondary schools, with contributions from academics from University of New England, Australian Catholic University, University of Wollongong and also Giuseppe Mammone from the Department of Education in South Australia (DECD).

Before the conference, an Institute was conducted by Len Unsworth on Multimodal Text Analysis and literature in the Australian Curriculum. Apparently Len hopped straight off a plane and into the Institute, so thank you to Len for this big effort.

# ASFLA conference report: 2016 (cont.)

Socialising and chatting (I mean, community building and networking) are very important for the SFL community too. The break sessions were extremely busy times with lots of catching-up and happy times with old and new friends.

Many members of our community were very happy to see our friend Joan Rothery in the room. Joan's contributions to SFL and education were the foundation of many presentations about education and pedagogy at the conference and it was great to see her with us in North Sydney.

Even though the conference was for the Australian SFL community, we were lucky to have several overseas attendees, who were keen to hear about developments and the latest research in Australia. I was lucky to meet Sonja Molnar from Austria, Silvia Pessoa who is working in Qatar as well as Tri Wiratno from Indonesia. And these were only a few of our international guests who all seemed to enjoy the presentations and networking with the ASFLA community.



Above: Joan Rothery with Lucy Macnaught (centre) and Pauline Jones.



Fran Christie with Tri Wiratno, a scholar from Indonesia. Tri received a grant from ASFLA to attend the conference.



Relaxing in the sun before the teacher's day - Marie Quinn (one of our keynote speakers on the left) and Jackie Coleman.



ASFLA President Brian Dare with Damon Thomas from Tasmania.

# Thanks PETAA!



Sponsors and supporters are very important to help conferences happen and to keep costs down for participants. This year's ASFLA conference was sponsored by PETAA (the Primary English Teachers' Association of Australia). One of the conference convenors, Associate Professor Robyn Cox from ACU is also the Chair of PETAA. The photo above shows Robyn (on the right) with Carmel Leahy. Carmel is the recipient of the Sue Bremner scholarship. Our last newsletter contained a tribute to our friend and colleague Sue Bremner and we also reported that PETAA was generously offering a scholarship for a teacher to attend the ASFLA conference. In honour of Sue Bremner, PETAA provided financial support for Carmel to attend the 2016 ASFLA conference. Carmel teaches Kriol speaking Aboriginal students in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. She currently works at Yiyili Aboriginal Community School.

ASFLA is grateful to our friends at PETAA for providing the scholarship for Carmel, and for being a gold sponsor of the conference this year.



Robyn Topp, Robyn Cox and Stephen Wilson from PETAA.

*Report continues over page*



**Break time!**  
The food was fantastic and the views over Sydney were spectacular, not that we noticed because we were too busy chatting and catching up.





at the  
conference  
dinner



## What does a new PhD look like?

Ask Jennifer Blunden. Twenty minutes before this photo was taken, Jennifer found out that the examiners' reports are in and she's passed her PhD .... Congratulations Jennifer (and snaps to her supervisor Sue Hood)! Thank you to the examiners as well.





*At the conference dinner, we were entertained by the fabulous TRAVELLING CIRCUMSTANCES, featuring special guest Rosie Balcomb on vocals.*



## Thank you to ACU, Sally and Shooshi



May Ortiz (left), the organiser extraordinaire from ACU with conference convenor, Sally Humphrey.

The organisers of the conference did a magnificent job. Anyone who has been involved with a conference knows how much work it is, and this year, Sally Humphrey and the team at ACU did a sterling job in bringing the conference to life. May Ortiz from ACU provided wonderful support in organisation and administration. Shooshi Dreyfus doesn't even work at ACU yet she was indispensable in organising so many aspects of the conference. Sally made special mention of Shooshi's generous contribution in her closing remarks at the conference. Thanks Shooshi! Jodie Martin provided great support with electronic marketing and Twitter. On behalf of the ASFLA community, we thank the committee members for the generous time and effort for helping to make this such a great conference.

# ISFC 2017

July 10 - 14, 2017: Transforming Contexts

University of Wollongong  
July 10-14, 2017  
(Institute July 17-19)

5 Northfields Ave  
Wollongong  
NSW 2552



## Transforming Contexts

Welcome to the 44th International Systemic Functional Linguistics Congress. Systemic Functional Linguistic theory has long been concerned with social transformation through examining the relationship between meaning-making and the social structure; analyzing, critiquing and intervening in educational, professional and therapeutic settings; as well as advancing its very own disciplinary boundaries to understand an ever changing, fracturing world. The theme 'Transforming Contexts' addresses the need to mobilise ideas across the many dimensions of SFL at work in contexts of great significance to social transformation including, but not limited to, political discourse, feminism, media, education, multilingualism, health, ecology and the arts.

Contributions are invited to address the theme through the following conference strands: Advances in Theory; Education; Translating, Interpreting and Multilingualism; Multimodality; Discourses of Change and Professional Practice. Other papers are also welcome.

## key dates

**Abstract submission: now until 15/12/16**  
**Notification of acceptance: by 31/01/17**  
**Registration opens: 31/01/17**  
**Early Bird Registration deadline: 31/4/17**

## institute

**Institute dates: 17/07/16 - 19/07/16**  
**Venue: University of Wollongong**

**[www.isfc2017conference.com](http://www.isfc2017conference.com)**

Abstracts are invited for papers, posters, workshops and colloquia. You can also do a Pecha Kucha (short inspirational talk). See the website for more details and **get your abstracts in by December 15, 2016.**

For other questions and comments email [info@isfc2017conference.com](mailto:info@isfc2017conference.com)



# ISFC 2017

July 10 - 14, 2017: Transforming Contexts

## OUR SPEAKERS



Adolfo M. García  
Universidad Favaloro  
CONICET



James R Martin  
University of Sydney



Debra Myhill  
University of Exeter



Gerard O'Grady  
Cardiff University



Chang Chenguang  
Sun Yat-Sen University



David Butt  
Macquarie University



Kay O'Halloran  
Curtin University



Beatriz Quiroz  
Pontificia Universidad



Lise Fontaine  
Cardiff University



Yaegan Doran  
University of Sydney

**INSTITUTE**  
July 17th - 19th  
workshop (3 x 1/2  
days) \$150  
single day course \$100

Workshops confirmed to date include  
SFL Theory and Practice, Legitimation  
Code Theory (LCT), Appraisal,  
Multimodality in Education, Knowing  
about Language for Teachers. More  
information will available shortly.

**Keep an eye on  
the website for  
more speakers  
and workshops  
to be confirmed.**

and while you're in town for ISFC, come along to....

# LCTC2 Second International Legitimation Code Theory Conference



The Second International Legitimation Code Theory Conference (LCTC2) will be hosted by the LCT Centre for Knowledge-Building at the University of Sydney **3-7 July 2017**. It includes keynotes from Karl Maton and Jim Martin as well as workshops on using LCT in research and in practice. Papers using LCT and SFL together are welcome and LCTC2 is the week before ISFC 2017 in nearby Wollongong, so you can enjoy two conferences for the price of one!



## LCT CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE-BUILDING

LCTC2 is entirely free for the conference and workshops, including lunch! But you must register soon to secure your place! Register now at

<https://sites.google.com/site/lcttheoryconf/registration!>

For more information:

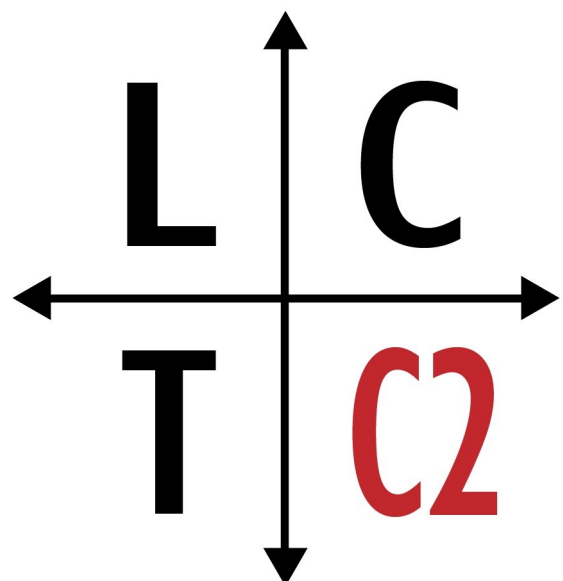
Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/lcttheoryconf>

Email: [LCTtheory.conf@gmail.com](mailto:LCTtheory.conf@gmail.com)

Twitter: [twitter.com/LCT\\_conf](https://twitter.com/LCT_conf) (#LCTC2)

3-7 July, 2017

University of Sydney



# ASFLA WEBSITE

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are four membership types:

Full – \$40

Student – \$25

Life – \$250

School – \$50

### ASFLA membership

If you come to the ASFLA conference, your registration fee includes one year's membership.

### ASFLA website

You can update your membership by visiting the ASFLA website

<https://asfla.net/>

### Life membership

Why not consider taking our life membership? It's good value at \$250. The funds from life membership fees are put into a special long-term deposit account for ASFLA, so that we can fund special projects in the future.



The Educational Semiotics website contains all kinds of useful resources for teachers, teacher-trainers and anyone interested in education. The website contains free PDF downloads of the Write It Write teaching resources from the 1980s and 1990s - that stuff is gold! and it's all there, for free.

<https://educationalsemiotics.wordpress.com/>

## Educational Semiotics



# MORE USEFUL WEBSITES

**Discursive News Values Analysis** - created by Helen Caple and Monika Bednarek

<http://www.newsvaluesanalysis.com/>

NEWSVALUESANALYSIS.COM

HOME

WHAT IS DNVA?

OUR BOOK

RESEARCH MATERIALS

DNVA PUBLICATIONS

CONTACT



**Network Newsletter archives** - SFL newsletters and papers from the vault (1981 onwards)

(thanks to Jim Martin for keeping them safe, Yaegan Doran for scanning them and Lisa Fontaine for uploading them and hosting them).

<http://blogs.cardiff.ac.uk/linc/network-newsletter/>

Featuring oddities and amusements such as this...

## Penguin watch

**WARNING:** Treat networking Penguins with caution. An increasing number read 'Syntax and the Consumer', with tragic consequences.

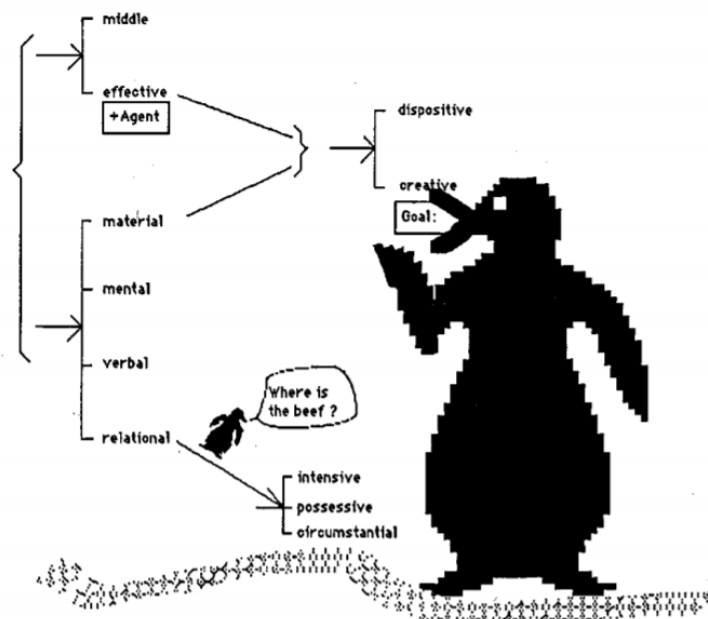
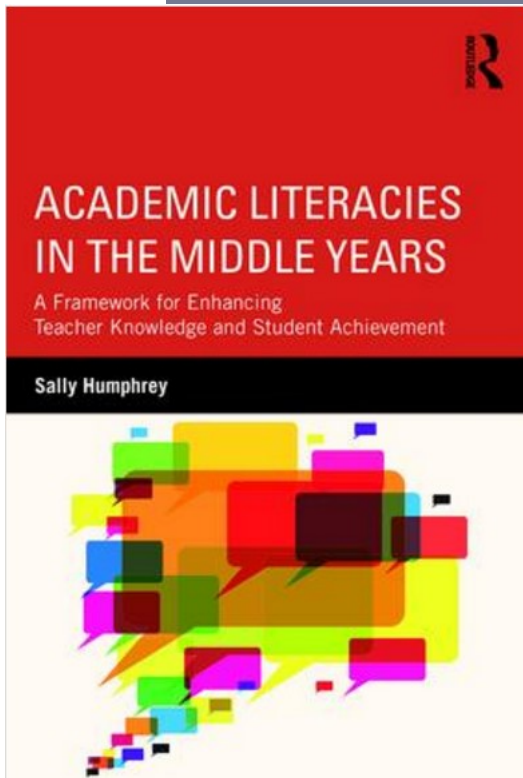


Fig. : Penguins after digesting Halliday (1964)

# NEW BOOKS



## **Academic literacies in the middle years by Sally Humphrey**

The professional learning framework this book presents is designed to support teachers' understandings of how language functions in their academic disciplines. This framework—a 4 x 4 metalinguistic toolkit—is informed by systemic functional linguistic theory and international educational research on academic and disciplinary literacies.

The book shows and explains how teachers have applied specific 4 x 4 toolkits with students in middle school classrooms across a range of subjects for curriculum literacy instruction, assessment and feedback, resulting in substantial growth for their students in high-stakes national tests of literacy, as well as writing assessments in a number of subjects. In its focus on disciplinary literacies in diverse sociocultural settings, *Academic Literacies in the Middle Years* responds to contemporary international curricula for English language and literacy and the need for a strong evidence base for professional learning design. section of institutions – museums, schools, universities, defence, non-government organisations, universities, hospitals and corporations, as well as Asian-based call centres. The chapters will be of interest to students and scholars of linguistics, language teachers, museum curators, trainers, and educators, in addition to the general reader interested in organisational communication. <http://www.cambridgescholars.com/language-at-work>

## **Teaching language in context 2nd edition**

**by Bev Derewianka and Pauline Jones.**

*New to this Edition*

*Substantial revision and extension of all chapters.*

*New Chapter 10 addressing inquiry genres and mixed genres.*

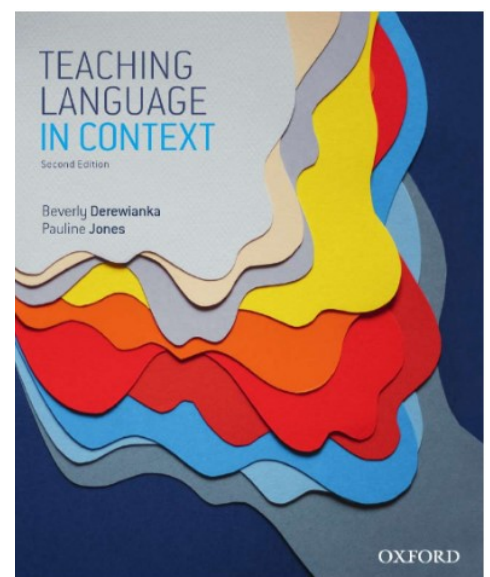
*Section on the language challenges of middle and senior secondary.*

*Additional activities.*

*Language development from the early years through to late secondary.*

*Increased emphasis on the multimodal nature of contemporary texts.*

*Improved text design and visuals now in full colour.*



## **CALLING ALL AUTHORS!**

If you have written a book of interest to the ASFLA community,  
please send us the details and we can let everyone know

[asflaneews@gmail.com](mailto:asflaneews@gmail.com)

Trish Weekes, Editor

# MORE NEW BOOKS



## Genre Pedagogy in Higher Education

### Authors

- Shoshana J. Dreyfus
- Sally Humphrey
- Ahmar Mahboob
- James R. Martin

Based on a large action research project, this book elaborates on how genre-based pedagogy can be extended to engage non-English speaking background students in tertiary educational institutions to develop their academic literacy practice, using online resources.

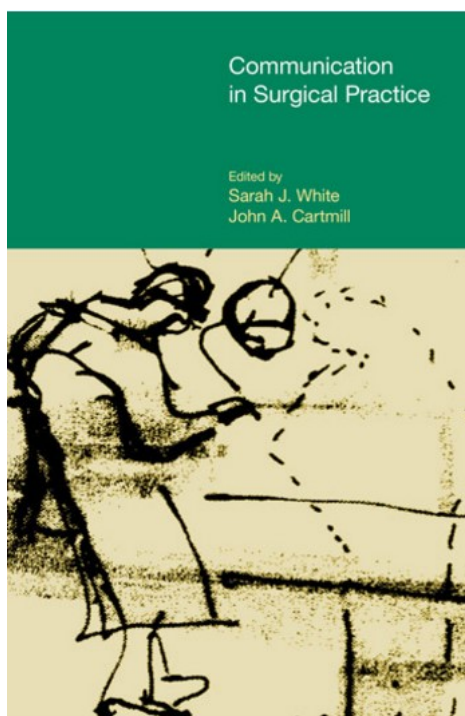
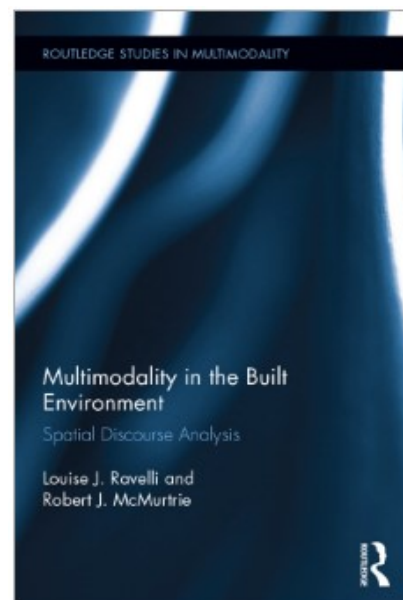
### Publisher

Palgrave Macmillan UK

## Multimodality in the Built Environment. Spatial Discourse Analysis.

Louise J. Ravelli, Robert J. McMurtrie and Kay O'Halloran

This book provides an extended exploration of the multimodal analysis of spatial (three-dimensional) texts of the built environment, culminating in a holistic approach termed *Spatial Discourse Analysis (SpDA)*. Based on existing frameworks of multimodal analysis, this book applies, adapts, and extends these frameworks to spatial texts. The authors argue that choices in spatial design create meanings about what we perceive and how we can or should behave within spatial texts, influence how we feel in and about those spaces, and enable these texts to function as coherent wholes. Importantly, a spatial text, once built, is also a resource which is then *used*, and an essential aspect of understanding these texts is to consider what users themselves contribute to the meaning potential of these texts. The book takes the metafunctional approach familiar from Systemic-Functional Linguistics (SFL) and foregrounds each metafunction in turn (textual, interpersonal, experiential, and logical), in relation to the detailed analysis of a particular spatial text. Taylor and Francis

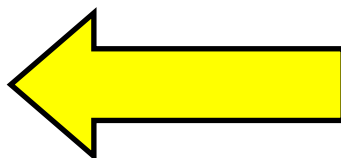


## Communication in surgical practice

This book contains three chapters based on an SFL-related ARC project on team interaction in surgery, one by David Butt, Alison Moore and John Cartmill (the editor of the book); one by Alison Moore; and one by John Cartmill and David Butt.

From July to September 2016, an exhibition at Macquarie University Art Gallery on the gestations of ideas in science and the academy, entitled 'In the Field' included original notes and drawings from this ARC research, including the 'field sketch' from the operating theatre by Alison Moore, used on the book cover.

Published by Equinox 2016.



ASFLA's very own Alison Moore drew this!!!