

Message from the President

By Yaegan Doran

As always, I am writing this on Aboriginal land, and Gadigal land in particular. I am also writing this not long after the defeat of the Voice Referendum that aimed to incorporate a First Nations Voice in Australia's Constitution. ASFLA has long officially supported the Uluru Statement of the Heart, and I extend my solidarity to First Nations people in our community and across the continent, as the struggle for justice continues.

On the SFL front, 2023 has been a very big year with many people building many things to support the SFL community. The year culminated in the 2023 ASFLA conference held at The University of Wollongong. It was such a wonderful week, as we all got to see each other once again and hear about the new steps forward people have been doing in the community. A very very big thanks to the conference organisers for all the work they have done: Shooshi Dreyfus (Convenor), Lilian Ariztimuño, Honglin Chen, Byron Frencham, Anne Hellwig, Pauline Jones, Erika Matruggio and Alison Moore. A special thanks to Shooshi Dreyfus who was the face of the conference and worked so hard to wrangle so many



different aspects of it, while maintaining her always jovial and wonderful collegiality.

One of the big new additions to how we celebrate our community is the new M.A.K. Halliday Prize. The Halliday Prize was set up by ASFLA last year as a biennial international prize for the best book in SFL during the previous two-year period. You can read more about the prize in this newsletter, but I want to congratulate the winners of the prize in particular – Thu Ngo, Sue Hood, Jim Martin, Clare Painter, Brad Smith and Michele Zappavigna – for their wonderful book *Modelling Paralanguage from the perspective of Systemic Functional Semiotics*. I also want to congratulate those who made the shortlist

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*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:
lorenzo@lorenzologi.com*

Lorenzo Logi, Editor

– all are excellent books, and I am so chuffed at the quality of the short list. Congratulations. Thanks also to the selection committee, Rosemary Huisman (Australia), Emi Emilia (Indonesia), Zhu Yongsheng (China), Ralph Adendorff (South Africa), Natalia Ignatieva (Mexico), Meg Gebhard (USA) and Marta Filipe Alexandre (Portugal); and an extra special thanks to Rosemary Huisman as Convenor, who had the unenviable job of wrangling the selection committee, the ASFLA committee and at times the nominated authors and their publishers.

Another major project is the development of the Halliday and Hasan Archive. This project aims to establish a permanent archive of unpublished materials from the estates of Professor MAK Halliday and Professor Ruqaiya Hasan. Helen Caple (Chair), David Butt, Fran Christie, Geoff Williams and I have been meeting fortnightly through the year and have achieved an enormous amount. A huge swathe of resources have been catalogued through the engagement of The History Company, and we are close to the point where digitisation can occur. You can read more about the archive in [this article](#) published in *Language, Context and Text*. I want to thank in particular Helen Caple as Convenor who has kept things moving along while we all have many other things getting in the way week-by-week – the archive simply would not happen without Helen, so thank you very much. I also want to thank those who have donated to the archive. We could not have got where we are without the financial support of a number of people and organisations, including the European SFL Association, the International SFL Association and the Indonesian SFL Community, as well as

the financial support of ASFLA.

On a much sadder note, we this year lost a number of colleagues who helped make our community so wonderful. These include John Walsh, Michael O’Toole, Robert Veel, Thao Le and Peter Fries. They each contributed so much – intellectually, organisationally, communally. I knew some personally, I met others at various SFL gatherings, I knew others through their work and others by reputation. My heart goes out to their family, and to all their close colleagues. Our community is worse for them no longer being with us; but better that they were. This newsletter has an 'in memoriam' for them all, so thank you to those who have contributed.

Now that we are at the end of the year, I want to thank the many people who have worked so hard to achieve the many things that ASFLA has: the ASFLA committee who have been a constant source of discussion and problem solving on all aspects of ASFLA’s work – Shooshi Dreyfus, Trish Weekes, Lorenzo Logi, Sarah Dowden-Parker, Helen Caple and Alison Moore; our State and Territory Reps: Thu Ngo, Awni Etawi, Nicola Rolls, Sonja Molnar, Damon Thomas, Penny Wheeler, David Caldwell, Vinh Tho and Anne Thwaite; and finally to our social media team: Annie Tran, Ken Hu and Simon Yap. Many hands make light work, and this year there has been much light. So thank you all.

In review: ASFLA 2023



By Lorenzo Logi

The 2023 ASFLA conference was held at the University of Wollongong from November 22-24, with pre-conference institute held November 20-21.

As the second in-person conference since COVID, ASFLA23 saw substantial numbers of ASFLA members converge from around Australia, joined by international colleagues.

The conference was held in the Early Start building at the leafy Wollongong University campus and featured a number of innovations over previous years. In terms of timing, the asynchrony among Australian universities due to many switching to trimesters meant that the conference's historic scheduling in October had to be revisited, so the organising committee chose to decide the conference dates based on votes made by community members – a democratic and practical approach that maximised attendee numbers.

The conference also continued the hybrid mode for presentations commenced at ASFLA 2022; the community is grateful to the organisers for the effort required to make presentations accessible to a virtual audience.

But perhaps the most praise-worthy innovation of this year's conference was the

consideration given to minimising costs and waste. Catering for the conference was entirely vegetarian (with vegan options available), tasty and satisfying, with free tea, coffee, fruit and biscuits were available all day. And the vast majority of food packaging were compostable, including cups and cutlery. This sensible and pragmatic approach saw waste reduced to a minimum without inconveniencing attendees.

The theme of this year's conference 'Celebrating semiosis' was explored across a number of presentation streams, including education, multimodality, violence and gender, thoughtfully programmed to balance thematic continuity with equitable seniority among presenters.

The conference opened with Helen Caple's exploration of discursive practices employed by users on Instagram to negotiate the cultural tensions surrounding January 26: Invasion/ Australia Day. Tuomo Hiippala's plenary concluded the first day, presenting new work of diagrams, graphs and information graphics that made fascinating use of computational techniques including heat mapping of the visual distribution of graphic elements across diverse visual genres. Jane Torr opened the second day of the conference with findings of a study analysing recordings of 20 infants across 20 early childhood centres as they had picture books read to them by educators.

In review: ASFLA 2023

By identifying and describing variations in the linguistic features of the educators' commentary accompanying the picture book text, Torr and colleagues shed light on how infant-educator interactions result in language learning opportunities. In a similar vein, Emilia Djonov's plenary at the end of the second day of the conference explored the role of puppets and other three-dimensional semiotic artefacts as complements to educator-infant picture book reading interactions in public libraries. Ken Tann opened the final day of the conference with an encouraging account of how social semiotic genre pedagogy has been implemented in the University of Queensland business school to help students develop interpersonal and communication skills, resulting in a substantial improvement in course ratings by students. And to conclude the conference, Yaegan Doran presented new work in Tenor, broadening the conception of registerial variables to encompass more than discrete bundles of discourse semantic systems and consider dimensions of meaning found across the breadth of the three metafunctions.

Further to presentations, the conference also hosted the awarding of the inaugural Halliday prize, and fundraising for the Halliday & Hasan

archiving project, with book sales and raffles raising \$1060.00. Special thanks to Routledge, Equinox and Palgrave for donating the new SFL books, to Fran Christie who donated many books for the archive raffle, and to Sarah Dowden Parker who did a lot of work setting up the book stall and managing the process.

The social highpoint of the conference was, of course, the conference dinner, held on the University of Wollongong campus. Elevating the general conviviality of a friendly bunch of linguists, the dinner was graced by a furiously entertaining performance by *The Travelling Circumstances*. With a plentiful buffet of delicious food and very reasonable beverage options, festivities rapidly escalated, with enthusiastic dancing and excellent cheer.

In summary, the ASFLA 2023 conference comprised a precious opportunity to engage with new and diverse work, reconnect with colleagues and celebrate the diversity and collegiality of the SFL community. ASFLA offers congratulations to the organising committee: Shooshi Dreyfus, Lilián Ariztimuño, Honglin Chen, Byron Frencham, Anne Hellwig, Pauline Jones, Erika Matruglio and Alison Moore on a terrific conference!



In review: ASFLA 2023



In review: ICA

Report: The 73rd Annual ICA Conference
Reclaiming Authenticity in Communication
25-29 May 2023, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

By *Nataliia Laba*

First off, thank you, ASFLA Committee, for a small grant approved in April 2023. At that time, as I had recently submitted my thesis, with no university funding available for PhD students 'in transition', the grant provided significant support to make my paper presentation at the 73rd Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference possible.

Brief background

ICA originated more than 50 years ago as a small association of U.S. researchers. Today, it stands as an NGO officially associated with the United Nations, with more than 5,000 members across 80+ countries and encompassing 30+ divisions. The recent 73rd ICA Conference, Reclaiming Authenticity in Communication, held in Toronto from May 25th to 29th, gathered approximately 4,000 participants who showcased cutting-edge communication research and engaged in rigorous intellectual discussion on numerous topics. While achieving the intimate intellectual ambiance characteristic of ASFLA within a conference of this magnitude might prove challenging, being part of a division to which a presenter's paper aligns provided me with the opportunity to connect with outstanding researchers from the U.S., France, and Australia.

Visual Communicaiton Division

My presentation for the panel, Placing images, imagining places: Maps, memories, meanings, was titled What do images on institutional websites tell us about the web identities of Australian universities?. This presentation represented a segment of my thesis, Organizational identity design: A multimodal discourse analysis of Australian university homepages. The paper was well



received, and the participants appreciated Kress and van Leeuwen's framework that my paper drew on. I was pleasantly surprised to receive comprehensive written feedback on the full paper from the Division's Chair, A/ Prof. Mary A. Bock of the University of Texas at Austin. This feedback as well as guidance provided by my star supervisor, Prof. Louise Ravelli, throughout my PhD journey, informed my work on a journal article (currently under review).

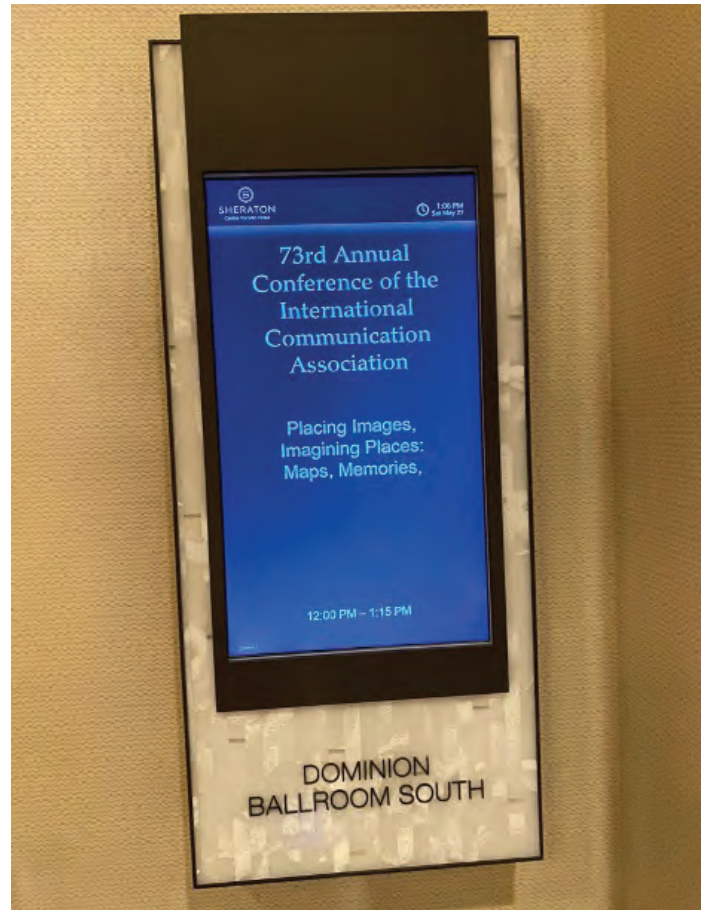
Next ICA conference

The 74th Annual International Communication Association Conference is scheduled to take place in Gold Coast, from June 20th to June 24th, 2024. This event serves as an excellent platform for SFL scholars to enhance the visibility of

their work within the global community. The conference theme is Communication and Global Human Rights, with abstract and full paper submissions open until November 1, 2024. Submission guidelines are available [here](#). Divisions that might be relevant for social semiotic and SFL-informed research include Language and Social Interaction, Interpersonal Communication, and Communication and Technology.

For PhD students and early-career researchers

The ICA conferences offer Research Escalators for PhD students and early career researchers to discuss and get feedback from experienced scholars about a paper in progress. The aim is to improve the paper so that it is ready for submission to a journal or other publication avenue. For specific instructions tailored to each division, please refer to the relevant guidelines to make the most of this opportunity.



In review: SFL in Vietnam

By Thu Ngo

10 years of SFL seeds being sowed and bearing fruits in Vietnam

Vietnamese linguistics researchers, due to English language proficiency barrier, for a long period of time had been going through a crisis for not having a new theoretical framework. Generations and generations of PhD researchers did their projects on different types of Processes and that was it about SFL/SFG research in Vietnam before 2014 when Peter White, Lexie Don, Len Unsworth and Thu Ngo came to Hanoi to deliver seminars on Appraisal and Multimodality. In 2017, Jim Martin and Sue Hood helped strengthen the mission by delivering workshops on Discourse Semantics and Paralanguage.

This year, the SFL 'missionary' team is joined by the younger generation of SFL researchers including Yaegan Doran, Georgia Carr and Lorenzo Logi. The team conducted a two day SFL pre-conference institute prior to the one day main conference of the Vietnam International Linguistics Conference generously hosted by Hanoi University of

Industry.

The SFL preconference institute attracted Vietnamese researchers from all parts of Vietnam to come along rather than just from Hanoi as initially expected. Some participants even requested an increase of the attendance fee in the future because they had learnt so much from the two days while the fee was so humble compared to what they got.

At the conclusion of the second day, more than 60 people registered their research interest in one or two areas of SFL. The overwhelming interest in SFL urged Hanoi University of Industry to officially announce the establishment of the Systemic Functional Linguistics HUB at the university on the next day at the main conference opening ceremony. The hub is expected to be the SFL training center for researchers from all over Vietnam and South East Asian regions. It is expected that an SFL conference will be organised annually in Vietnam from next year onwards. The Vietnam SFL Hub is appealing for support from Australian SFL researchers for articles, books, advice and workshops.





In review: NSFL

Report: Nordic SFL and social semiotics conference 2023 (NSFL 2023)

By Josh Han

The 19th conference of the Nordic SFL and social semiotics association (NSFL) was held this year from 16-17 November at Örebro University, Sweden, with researchers gathering from institutions across Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The conference theme was “social semiotic and systemic-functional perspectives on digitalisation’s opportunities and problems”. The annual conference of ASFLA’s Nordic sister organisation is somewhat smaller than the average ASFLA conference, yet in many other respects it is very familiar: intellectually stimulating, eclectic research areas brought together by a common set of theoretical tools, and a warm sense of community.

The plenaries and parallel papers were presented by researchers across many different stages of their careers and covered an excitingly broad range of research areas including education, social media, critical literacy, digital apps/platforms, multimodality, magazines, advertising, music education, health discourse, climate discourse, Systemic Functional Grammar, genre pedagogy and discourse analysis. There was a clear sense of research being strongly driven by praxis and practical application, yet at the same time, researchers across the board were pushing theoretical concepts and tools from social semiotics and SFL far and forward, extending them and adapting them to meet the challenges of today.

This strong dual praxis-theory orientation was perhaps most notable in the three exceptional plenaries: Ida Melander addressed the conference theme through three very different but all highly interesting case studies – activists’ use of Instagram to share stories of endometriosis, the effects of digital pens on childrens’ reading and writing, and the

sharing of news on TikTok amongst youth. Each case study was very detailed and made skilful use of a wide range of SFL and social semiotic analytic tools, including social media analysis, analysis of affordances of semiotic technologies, Discursive News Values Analysis and many more; Nikolaj Elf’s talk discussed SFL and social semiotic theory in relation to educational praxis and was grounded in case studies from Danish educational contexts. His discussion considered the strengths of these theories over the decades since their inception in addressing ‘the social’, as well as their blind spots that are now apparent in relation to the biodiversity and climate crisis, yet also highlighted new and emerging theoretical developments that enable research on meaning making in relation to ‘the environment’ in both a social and ecological sense. Anette Hagen’s boundary crossing presentation looked at the opportunities and challenges of narrative apps – digital apps that have the purpose of telling stories that make use of multimodal and interactive elements. Her study was from a perspective of social semiotics and aesthetic experience and was centred around rhythmic analysis. Hagen’s talk highlighted the importance of considering rhythm in multimodal semiotic analysis and outlined analytical methods in detail. The analysis itself was sophisticated yet was explained in a way that was crystal clear.

Other highlights of the conference included a terminology workshop, the many conversations that took place between talks, and of course the conference dinner, where memories were shared of past conferences and where sights were set forward towards the 20th conference next year, which will be held at Københavns Professionshøjskole in Denmark.

The conference ran impeccably smoothly thanks to the work put in by the organising committee led by Gustav Westberg and Anders Björkvall, as well as all the volunteers. A special mention must also be made of the

continuous efforts put in by NSFL's steering committee, both past and present and currently led by Gunhild Kvåle, to foster this very special research community over so many years.

It goes without saying that there are many ties between the NSFL and ASFLA communities. There have been and continue to be many project collaborations and intellectual exchanges between Australia and Scandinavia in SFL and social semiotics. Throughout the conference, I asked some of the attendees about their past research visits to Australia and they would all look back fondly on the memories they have of their visits. I, as an Australian researcher working in Sweden, experience many moments of homesickness being so far away from Sydney, my hometown, yet during the NSFL conference I felt very much at home.

Joshua Han, Örebro Universitet



Plenary - Nikolaj Elf



Plenary - Ida Melander



Plenary - Anette Hagen



Anna Smålander and Anders Björkqvall

In review: Martin Centre conference

By Pin Wang

The Martin Centre for Applicable Linguistics at Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China successfully held its eighth international conference, on the theme of 'Applicable Linguistics in the Digital Age', on 6–8 November 2023. This was the first post-Covid off-line international conference held by the Martin Centre, an event eagerly anticipated by Chinese and Australian scholars who had been longing for face-to-face academic communication and exchange. It was also Prof. J.R. Martin's first revisit to the centre named after him since his last trip there in 2019.

Invited plenary speakers at the conference were Prof. J.R. Martin (University of Sydney), Prof. Len Unsworth (Australian Catholic University), Dr He Yufei (Guangdong University of Foreign Studies), Prof. Ju Yumei (Qilu University of Technology), Prof. Li Zhanzi (National University of Defense Technology), Prof. Liu Chengyu (Southwest University), Prof. Liu Meichun (City University of Hong Kong), Prof. Miao Xingwei (Beijing Normal University), Prof. Ni Chuanbin (Nanjing Normal University), Director Sun Jing (Academic Department of Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press), Prof. Sun Ying (Heilongjiang University), Prof.

Tang Qingye (Shanghai University), Prof. Xu Yuchen (Xi'an International Studies University), Prof. Yan Shiqing (Suzhou University), Prof. Yang Linxiu (Shanxi University), Prof. Yang Min (Renmin University of China), Prof. Yang Yanning (East China Normal University), Prof. Yu Hui (Beijing Normal University) and Prof. Zhu Keyi (Fudan University).

More than 80 participants attended the conference. Presentation topics included digitisation and discourse, digitisation and communication, AI and language research, social semiotics, functional linguistics, discourse semantics, linguistics and its applicability, multimodal discourse, positive discourse, forensic linguistics, etc.

The international conferences hosted by the Martin Centre aim at promoting theoretical and practical advancement of what Professor M.A.K Halliday envisioned as applicable linguistics. Conferences over the past decade have highlighted some major research fields of the Martin Centre: academic discourse (2014), functional language typology (2015), legal discourse (2016), translation studies (2017), multimodal studies (2019), appraisal studies (2021), and language and education (2022).



In review: Martin Centre conference



By Vinh To

The Systemic Functional Linguistics Interest Group

History

The Systemic Functional Linguistics Interest Group (SFL Interest Group, or SFLIG in short) was first created on Facebook on the 12th of May in 2014 by Vinh To when Vinh was a PhD student in educational linguistics at the University of Tasmania, Australia. The purpose of this Facebook Discussion Group is to provide a forum for networking with other research students and SFL scholars and to support those who are new to SFL and have limited access to SFL resources and discussions with experts.

During May 2014 and July 2015, Vinh was the sole Admin of this professional group. In July 2015, Ahmar Mahboob joined as the second Admin. Yufei He and Dong Bing (Mus) Zhang joined the group as additional Admins in late 2018. Yufei served as one of the Admins for the group for one year (from late 2018 to late 2019). Ahmar served as an Admin for the Facebook Discussion Group until late April 2020.

When the COVID-19 pandemic happened in early 2020, Vinh actively promoted this group in different online forums and quickly built this group by creating different social platforms for it, including a Facebook Page, a Twitter Account, a Website, a Gmail Account, a YouTube channel, and a Mailing list. Vinh also did all preparations for the organization of the first SFL webinar series from June to November 2020, with support from Mus Zhang for the registration in China and other admins and invited speakers for chairing the sessions.

Vinh also called for nominations for the Admin post in different continents and received interest from Jacqueline Nenchin, Kathryn Accurso, Eszter Szenes, Thomas

Amundrud, and Isaac N. Mwinlaaru. The group has had international admin team members that represent different continents since 26 April 2020. Eszter served in her position for this group until November 2020. Marta then joined as a new Europe continent. Kathryn, Jacqueline, Thomas, Mus, and Isaac have actively contributed to SFLIG as North American, Asian, and African representatives through the organization of the first international online Systemic Functional Linguistics Interest Group (SFLIG) Conference in November 2021 and the group's ongoing activities. Vinh Nguyen joined the group in 2020 as ICT Manager, and David Hicks joined the group in 2021 as the Data Manager. In 2023, Eric Cheung joined SFLIG as the third representative for Asia and Awni Etaywe joined SFLIG as a social media officer. In the same year, the 2nd international online SFLIG conference was organised successfully during 13-16 November.

The Second International SFLIG Conference (13-16 November 2023)

On behalf of the SFLIG 2023 Organising Committee, I would like to express my profound appreciation to all the organisers, speakers, and participants of the SFLIG 2023 Conference for its great success. The conference was co-hosted by the School of Education at the University of Tasmania and the School of Professional Education and Executive Development at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University from 13th to 16th of November, 2023.

The four conference days featured a lot of inspirational and enlightening speeches by plenary speakers, roundtable experts and parallel authors. It was truly wonderful for members of the SFLIG across six continents to gather online and engage in discussions on SFL research in a wide range of areas such as education, media, multimodality, appraisal, political issues, sustainability, environment,

SFLIG

society, governance, health, Chat-GPT and the impact and aftereffects of COVID-19.

The full program features over 100 paper presentations including plenaries and colloquium presentations, and a roundtable led by Prof. Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen, and Prof. Jonathan James Webster. The recordings have been uploaded on the SFLIG YouTube Channels and we invite our community to revisit those talks.

We hope the conference has opened up new ideas and opportunities for many of you as you engaged in the journey of knowledge sharing, innovative ideas, and transformative discussion. And for anyone involved in organising or participating in the conference, we hope it's a credit to your personal development and professional career.

Congratulations to all involved and once again thank you all very much for all the rich, positive, and constructive feedback we received. Your support and encouragement are always appreciated.

"I can only echo other sentiments expressed here about the excellent quality of the conference itself, and I would also like to mention the smooth organization, starting from well before the conference as well as moving through its celebration. And we all know that a smoothly organized conference takes tons of work! ...Online conferences give opportunities for conversations across many different kinds of borders and boundaries, geographical, theoretical, discursal...are thus so very much appreciated!" (Anne McCabe)

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a fantastic New Year in 2024.

Kindest regards,
Vinh To, SFLIG Founder and Lead Convenor

Follow SFLIG!

Web: <https://sflinterestgroup.com>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SFLIG/>

Facebook Discussion Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/827907327236613/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/InterestSfl>

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgzB_Vt7Z3oQnweprY94U0A?view_as=subscriber

Join the SFLIG Mailing List on Google Groups and/or Freelists:

<https://groups.google.com/d/forum/sfl-interest>

<https://www.freelists.org/list/sflig>

Email all SFLIG members:

sfl-interest@googlegroups.com

sflig@freelists.org

Email Admin:

Vinh.To@utas.edu.au

sflinterestgroup@gmail.com

Community News

Inaugural presentation of M.A.K Halliday prize

By Rosemary Huisman (Chair)

The M.A.K. Halliday Prize, a biennial international book prize, was established by ASFLA in 2023 and its award was considered by a selection committee with members from seven regions of the world (in 2023, from Australia, China, Indonesia, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, USA). The two basic criteria for the award were "Excellence of the work" and "Its significance for the development of Systemic Functional Linguistics", and the committee was pleased in June to release a short-list of four books, any one of which they considered potentially eligible for the award:

- Maagerø, Eva, Ruth Mulvad and Elise Seip Tønnesen. 2022. *Women in Social Semiotics and SFL – making a difference*. Routledge Studies in Linguistics
- Matthiessen, Christian M.I.M., Bo Wang, Yuanyi Ma & Isaac N. Mwinlaaru. 2022. *Systemic Functional Insights on Language and Linguistics*. Singapore: Springer.
- McCabe, Anne. 2001. *A functional linguistic perspective on developing language*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Ngo, T., Hood, S., Martin, J. R., Painter, C., Smith, B., & Zappavigna, M. 2022. *Modelling paralinguage from the perspective of Systemic Functional Semiotics: Theory and application*. London: UK: Bloomsbury.

From July to October, it was demanding but rewarding for the selection committee to read and discuss four such excellent books, from various perspectives – but, finally, at the ASFLA Conference Reception on the 22nd November, the award could be announced: *Modelling paralinguage from the perspective of Systemic Functional Semiotics: Theory and application* received the inaugural M.A.K. Halliday Prize. Yaegan, as President of ASFLA, did the honours of announcement and presentation (thank you to Lorenzo, for his certificate art work).

Much cheering! Thu Ngo came to the microphone to speak on behalf of the co-authors of *Modelling paralinguage* (some of whom were in the room or on zoom – hello Sue) and we enjoyed participating in her delight. It was also enjoyable to see authors of other books: in the room, Bo Wang and Helen Ma from China, on the zoom screen, Anne McCabe in the UK.

On behalf of the selection committee, warm congratulations to the winners of the 2023 M.A.K. Halliday Prize. They have established a high standard for the future award of the Prize.



Community News

Halliday & Hasan Archive update

By Helen Caple

I would like to begin this report by thanking Fran Christie, David Butt, Yaegan Doran and Geoff William for their hard work and continued commitment to the Working Group. We have met fortnightly throughout the year and continue to make progress on bringing the Halliday & Hasan Archive to the SFL community both in Australia and around the world. I would also like to thank the ASFLA INC Conference committee and volunteers, and especially Shooshi Dreyfus and Sarah Dowden-Parker, for assisting with fundraising efforts through the national conference in November 2023.

Approximately 80% of the initial materials from Halliday and Hasan's estates have now been professionally catalogued and archived, using funds (\$11,500) from a mix of donations: from ASFLA INC, ISFLA, and from a group of Indonesian SFL scholars. However, more materials have since been uncovered and added to the collection, which will be catalogued once we have sufficient funding to cover costs (estimated at around \$12,000).

Funding this project continues to be a major roadblock in achieving our aims. We have taken advice from experts in philanthropic funding and have researched both community and corporate grant opportunities and unfortunately, we have not yet identified external donor sources that the Working Group, under the auspices of ASFLA INC, can access. Indeed, we have been advised that we are ultimately reliant on the SFL community for financial support. Thus, we have turned to exploring ways in which we can raise funds both locally and internationally, and so far, we have received approximately \$8,500 from members of the SFL community in Australia (through individual donations and from a raffle and bookstall at the ASFLA INC Conference in Wollongong in November). International fundraising drives will be launched in 2024.

Our plans for 2024 are ambitious. We aim to raise enough funds to finish the cataloguing and to secure a permanent physical and virtual home for the joint Halliday & Hasan Archive. We will then be in a position to begin building a digital archive, accessible to anyone with internet access, anywhere in the world, via a dedicated digital archive.

Thank you to everyone who has supported this project to date, both financially and intellectually. We have some great ideas to help ease the financial burden that we will explore in 2024, and we welcome any and all suggestions/advice/assistance in bringing the archive into being. If you have access to Australian banking, and would like to donate to the project, you can do so here: <https://asfla.net/donate-to-the-halliday-hasan-archive-fund/> Or you can scan the QR code to reach the donations page.

All the best to everyone in the community for a restful Christmas, and a very successful and rewarding 2024.

Helen Caple

Chair, Halliday & Hasan Archive Working Group (helen.caple@unsw.edu.au)

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Community News

Update from Special Interest Group (SIG) on the Semiotics of Peace, Compassion and Empathy (SPCE)

By Elizabeth Thomson

ASFLA Special Interest Group in the Semiotics of peace, compassion and empathy has had a busy 2023.

Apart from members individually presenting at conferences on topics related to the work of the SIG, the Group itself has had two significant priorities during the year. Firstly the Group has continued to offer presentations on the topics of peace, compassion and empathy. We had three this year:

1. Multimodal communication of empathy, presented by Penny Wheeler
2. Action and activism: disentangling and critiquing empathy and compassion, presented by Awni Etaywe and Daniel Fryer.
3. Empathic Listening as a social semiotic practice in the tradition of Nonviolent Communication, presented by Elizabeth Thomson

Secondly, the Group has been busy putting together a Special Issue Journal on the semiotics of peace, compassion and empathy. The journal entitled, 'Moving towards peace, compassion and empathy through semiotic enquiry' will appear in the international, refereed journal *Language, Context and Text: The Social Semiotics Forum (LangCT)*. The Special Issue will include nine articles and two book reviews and will be published as Issue 6.1 in March 2024. This has been a significant undertaking and I want to thank the Special Issue editors and the reviewers for their dedication and hard work.

The SIG has also formalised the committee members. They are as follows:

Convenor - Elizabeth Thomson

Minutes secretary - Penny Wheeler

Research communication and social media coordinator - Awni Etaywe

Publications coordinator - Ingrid Wijewardene

ASFLA website admin - Penny with advice/direction on strategy and content from Awni

Our Committee dates for 2024 will held on Thursday at 4pm (AEDT/AEST):

General Meeting 1: 15 Feb

General Meeting 2: 2 May

General Meeting 3: 20 June

General Meeting 4: 31 Oct

The Webinar dates for 2024 will held on Thursday at 4pm(AEDT/AEST)

Reading Grp 1: 18 April

Reading Grp 2: 19 July

Reading Grp 3: 17 Oct

We are looking for webinar presenters for our 2024 programme, so please if you have research work which you would like to share or are just curious, keen or wanting to explore research question relevant to our field of interest, then please contact Awni Etaywe: awni.etaywe@cdu.edu.

Community News

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The SIG will be participating in ISFC24, offering plenaries, a colloquium and various individual papers. The conference theme, Harmony, Compassion and Empowerment is timely and relevant to the work of the SIG.

Looking forward to seeing you all in 2024.

Elizabeth
eathomson.com

ASFLA Education Forum

By Trish Weekes

Thank you to all colleagues in the ASFLA community who participated in the Education Forum on Friday 24th November at the ASFLA conference. It was a productive and empowering experience.

The aim of the forum was to share ideas for ways to navigate dynamic education contexts and not lose heart. The forum focused on opportunities for SFL-based educational semiotics and possible synergies and collaborations with colleagues in education, within and between educational contexts (primary schooling, secondary schooling and in teacher education).

Three projects were proposed and a few people put their hands up to drive these – thank you so much.

We invite more volunteers from the SFL community to contribute to these projects:

All forum participants agreed that a website for SFL in education would be highly beneficial.

Aim 1: Strengthen evidence base for SFL in education

Projects to achieve this aim:

1a: Prepare a special issue of AJLL featuring impact of SFL in education (case studies and summaries of research). Aim of issue: to showcase impact and outcomes of SFL in education (primary, secondary, tertiary). Editors: Trish Weekes and Annette Turney

1b: Academic paper about what's missing from the Big 6 and Science of Reading (and what SFL can offer to fill that gap). Lead author: Helen Harper. Other volunteer authors needed.

Other ideas: no people attached to these projects yet

1c: Convert the journal articles into reports for The Conversation, AARE Blog, PETAA papers and one-page summaries for various audiences or example case studies

1d: Book proposal for impact of SFL in education for an international focus

Aim 2: Turn theory into practice for teachers

Projects to achieve this aim:

Community News

2a: Publication for the AATE's 'Perspectives' series: implementing the Language strand of the Australian Curriculum in Secondary English. Lead Writer: Lindsay Williams.

2b: Adapt the Teaching and Learning Cycle for spoken texts. Collaboration between Lindsay Williams and colleagues – all welcome.

Other ideas: no people attached to these projects yet

2c: Make more videos and practical examples available of TLC/Gradual Release of Responsibility available on video or a YouTube channel

2d: Update the Educational Semiotics website

Aim 3: Find more allies for SFL with other paradigms

3a: Find complementary research from other paradigms that supports principles of SFL.

Action: Bronwyn Parkin will set up an Endnote library. Colleagues – please send contributions of article ideas to Bronwyn. Thanks.

Other ideas: no people attached to these projects yet

3b: Make connections with other associations who have access to decision-makers e.g.: Alliance of Australian Associations of Educators and Foundation for Learning and Literacy.

3c. Develop marketing messages for SFL for teachers

3d. Find the links between SFL and the Big 6, starting with comprehension (as in Project 2 above)

3e. Promote what SFL does better than the other paradigm by publishing in PETAA/AJLL: Model of language

Comprehension and composing

Multimodality

Links between reading and writing

Find ways of linking with Science of Reading key terms (e.g. worked examples = model texts)

Other ideas still on the table from previous discussions

- sharing resources for pre-service or inservice teacher education
- further discussion of the versions of the Teaching and Learning Cycle, and theoretical and practical implications
- revitalising a Special Interest Group for Education (perhaps internationally)
- updating the Educational Semiotics website.

If you'd like to help, **please email trish@literacyworks.com.au** and I'll hook you up with the people on the project.

Thanks again to all the Forum participants.

Community News

Visiting scholars

The Sydney SFL community was happy to welcome a number of visiting scholars in 2023, including Andrés Ramírez from the United States, Tuomo Hiippala from Finland, Riesky and Lukman Hakim from Indonesia, and Belén Gauna from Chile.



From the ASFLA state reps

Victoria (Sonja Molnar)

- Marzieh Mahmoudi is pursuing her PhD in Media and Communications at the University of Melbourne. PhD thesis is titled "The Use of Memes in the Dissemination of Anti-Islam Rhetoric by the Australian Alt-Right", in which SFL and CDA are applied to explore how online memes normalize, perpetuate and spread racist anti-Islamic rhetoric. Supervisors are Prof. Mark Davis and Dr Sonja Molnar.
- Didem Aydin is pursuing MPhil with Len Unsworth and Thu Ngo at ACU, based in Melbourne, focusing on multimodal public health materials and advertisements.
- Online symposium "Media, Text, and Travel" (16-17 March 2023), hosted by the Media and Communications program of the University of Melbourne and the Department of English and American Studies of the University of Salzburg. Organised by Dr Sonja Molnar
- The program included three SFL-based presentations from Univ.-Prof. Dr Hartmut Stöckl (University Salzburg), Dr Rebekah Wegener (University of Salzburg) and Dr Jörg Cassens (University of Hildesheim), Dr Martin Kaltenbacher (University of Salzburg)

NT (Awni Etaywe & Nicola Rolls)

- Dr. Awni Etaywe has assumed the position of a full-time Lecturer in Linguistics (Research Active) at Charles Darwin University, Australia, effective since April 2023.
- Dr. Awni Etaywe has taken on the role of Forensic Linguistics Research-Theme Leader at the NT Academic Centre for Cybersecurity Innovations, ACCI CDU. In this capacity, he is also co-supervising four postgraduate students' projects focusing on automated language analysis for forensic purposes.
- Dr. Awni Etaywe has become the Social Media Officer for SFLIG and is now serving as the NT Co-representative for ASFLA INC.
- Dr. Awni Etaywe has contributed as a member of the organizing committee for the 2nd International Online SGLIG 2023 Conference.
- External Grant application: Rolls N., Dardjito H., Setiawan A., Grinner R., Sumekto D., Pollard., A ., Wurm P., (2023) *Increasing global knowledge sharing capacity: scaffolding academic literacy for reading and writing journal articles in English for EALD Post Graduate Students in Indonesia and Timor Leste.*
- Shortlisted for the ARC- National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grant: Etaywe, A., Alazab, M. & Macfarlane, K. (2023). A Semi-Automated Analysis of Terrorist Linguistic Fingerprint Online: Prediction, Profiling, and Tactics Decoding
- Dr Awni Etaywe has been featured in Radio New Zealand, National Tribune and Mirage News discussing the link between hate speech and terrorism with focus on negotiated social bonds (30 August 2023), and in New Zealand's Defence and National Security Magazine as well as Radio Australia discussing genocidal language in the Gaza war (3 November 2023).

NT Academic Centre for Cyber Security and Innovation (ACCI) at Charles Darwin University (CDU)

Dr Awni Etaywe at the NT Academic Centre for Cyber Security and Innovation (ACCI) at Charles Darwin University (CDU)

Dr. Awni Etaywe, a PhD graduate from the University of New South Wales Sydney and a

From the ASFLA state reps

full-time Lecturer in Linguistics (Research Active) at Charles Darwin University (CDU), holds a pivotal role at the NT Academic Centre for Cyber Security and Innovation (ACCI) CDU. ACCI has emerged as a key institution in the Information Age, strategically positioned to tackle the intricate challenges of cybersecurity. With an overarching vision for international recognition, ACCI CDU employs a multi-disciplinary approach, striving to bridge the social-technical gap among academia, industry, and government. The centre's research priorities encompass both technical and non-technical facets, concentrating on (social) Cyber Security, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence. Serving as a collaborative hub, ACCI actively engages research-active staff at CDU and extends a welcome to external researchers, collaborators, and partners interested in contributing to innovative projects.

Dr. Etaywe's role as the Forensic Linguistics Research-Theme Leader at ACCI is marked by exemplary leadership, evident in the thematic focus on 'Leveraging forensic linguistics for cybercrime, cyberterrorism, and intelligence' (<https://www.cdu.edu.au/acciprojects>). Leading the research at the intersection of language, security and intelligence, Dr. Etaywe has propelled the research team into cutting-edge projects involving the dissection of language patterns in cyber-terrorist communication, hate speech, criminal profiling, authorship attribution, and disinformation campaigns. Dr. Etaywe actively facilitates global academic collaboration through ACCI, as demonstrated by his recent co-hosting of two scholars from the University of Bamberg in Germany. They visited CDU in December 2023, presented briefs on their projects in disinformation and cybercrimes, engaged in insightful discussions, and benefited from Dr. Etaywe's linguistic perspectives on these topics.

Dr Etaywe's leadership is also underscored by his involvement in the successful shortlisting of the research project 'A Semi-Automated Analysis of Terrorist Linguistic Fingerprint Online: Prediction, Profiling, and Tactics Decoding' for the ARC-National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research 2024. His leadership of this proposed project with the inaugural director of ACCI and colleagues highlights his significant impact in advancing ACCI CDU's mission and influence in the realm of social cybersecurity. Etaywe is also co-supervising (with ACCI's Director, Professor Alazab) four master's students in cybersecurity working on AI-assisted and NLP-based analysis of the semantics of violent extremist digital discourse for criminal profiling, text type identification, and threat assessment purposes. Etaywe, Alazab (cyber security researcher) and Kate Macfarlane (a political science scholar) have recently submitted the collaborative paper 'A cyberterrorist behind the keyboard: An automated text analysis for psycholinguistic profiling and threat assessment'.

Etaywe's socially impactful research at CDU has garnered national and international recognition, featured in outlets like Radio New Zealand, Mirage News Australia, and New Zealand Defence and National Security Magazine – Line of Defence. This impactful work not only bolsters digital security but also deepens our understanding of the criminal nature of language use, fostering a safer online environment.

SA (David Caldwell)

SFL Appointments:

- Eszter Szenes: Lecturer, School of Education, Adelaide University
- Claire Simpson-Smith: appointed as Learning and Student Experience Designer in Data61,

From the ASFLA state reps

CSIRO. Claire will be working on curriculum design for the Next Generation Graduates Program, and setting up for education research.

HDR study

- Claire Simpson-Smith successfully submitted and defended her PhD thesis, titled: *The persuasive discourse of engineering: An investigation of professional writing*

SFL Professional Development/Workshops

From John Polias:

- Lexis Education is currently involved in several SFL-based projects:
- Ongoing tutor training around the world in several courses, eg 3L: Language and Literacy for Learning
- Researching at Elizabeth Murdoch College the outcomes of a whole-school implementation of the 3L course
- Trialing a self-access online course based on its How Language Works course materials

From Bronwyn Parkin:

- The Primary English Association of Australia (PETAA) ran two sequenced face-to-face professional learning workshops on Oral Language in 2023, structured around Bernstein's vertical and horizontal discourses. It has not been a great year for SFL through PETAA in SA, with Bronwyn Custance's and Tony Hole's workshops on investigating texts in HASS both being cancelled because of undersubscription.

From Bronwyn Custance:

- WritingPLUS course (5 x .5 days) to build teachers' SFL understandings of sentence, clause and word level grammar as outlined in the AC: English F-6 continues to be offered to teachers in primary schools across 2 portfolios. Schools continue to send new teachers, paying TRT release.
- Bronwyn Custance presented a workshop at Sharing Best Practice conference in Canberra on using SFL understandings of the participants, processes and circumstances can help teachers to be more explicit, meaningful and purposeful than the Writing Revolution's sentence expansion activities.
- Bronwyn Custance and Tony Hole have:
 - worked with 3 secondary schools, 2 new this year, to develop SFL understandings and capacity to explicitly teach the language required for their curriculum written assessment task within a teaching and learning cycle. The third school is in their 2nd year of such a focus and every teacher undertook to at a minimum design and teach a learning sequence on an aspect of language each semester (appraisal, modality, nominal groups or nominalisation in Sem 1 and reference, rhetorical and cohesive conjunctions or language of cause effect - from conjunctions to nominalisation in Sem 2). Each learning area also wrote units of work built around a T&LC working toward every subject teaching such a unit every semester from Yr 7-10.
 - worked with 3 primary schools this year to build teachers' SFL understandings of sentence, clause and word level grammar as outlined in the AC: English F-6 and I continued work with 2 others: 1 on using LEAP to assess and design targeted teaching for all students and another on Teaching grammar in context of genre and a teaching

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and learning cycle.

- Bronwyn Custance and Tony Hole have co-authored a PETAA book to be their first published in 2024: *Teaching the texts and language of HASS*. Initial chapters unpack connections between language and the Discourse and discourse of HASS and how these shape HASS texts. Then there is a chapter for each year level with an annotated model text for 2-3 tasks and a language spotlight with suggested teaching and learning activities.

WA (Anne Thwaite)

- Speech pathologist Prof. Beth Armstrong of Edith Cowan University received awards for the projects “Yarning Circles” and “Healing Right Way”, which help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the best possible chance of recovery after stroke or traumatic brain injury. Prof. Armstrong has now been appointed Director for the University Department of Rural Health in South West WA.
- Our coedited book on dialogic teaching was published by Routledge earlier this year: Thwaite, A., Simpson, A. & Jones, P. (Eds.) (2023). *Dialogic Pedagogy Discourse in Contexts from Pre-school to University*. Routledge. ISBN 9781032284095 (<https://www.routledge.com/Dialogic-Pedagogy-Discourse-in-Contexts-from-Pre-school-to-University/Thwaite-Simpson-Jones/p/book/9781032284095>)
- The book contains many SFL contributions and will be launched on the first day of the ASFLA conference.
- Any other systemicists from WA, or visiting WA, please get in touch!

QLD

PhD Completions:

Nathan Lowien

- Lowien, N. (2022). *The semiotic construction of evaluative meaning in videogames: Explicating the portrayal of values* [Doctor of Philosophy, The University of Southern Queensland]. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.26192/x4242>
- Videogames have evolved into a ubiquitous form of entertainment that requires player engagement. The popular press and research literature are scattered with concerns over the values represented in videogames traditionally designed for male audiences such as action-adventure videogames like *Batman Arkham Asylum* (Rocksteady, 2016) and *Watch Dogs* (Ubisoft, 2014). Given the increasing importance of the study of multimodal texts in school education, as evidenced in the Australian Curriculum: English and both the Australian Curriculum the Arts: Media Arts and the Australian Curriculum Technology: Digital Technology, the concerns over the values represented in videogames and their use for learning in schools are potentially problematic for educators. Therefore, a multimodal critical discourse analysis approach to understanding how values are conveyed in videogames could offer educators insights into addressing the pedagogical use of action-adventure videogames. The thesis investigated how action-adventure videogames convey values by communicating evaluative meanings about game characters. The thesis drew on Systemic Functional Semiotic (SFS) theory and the conceptual semiotic tools of attitude, focalisation and ludic gameplay operations. A critical multimodal discourse analysis methodology was utilised to analyse the represented evaluative meanings and inferred values conveyed by the characters’ dialogue and accompanying images in the games.

From the ASFLA state reps

Findings revealed that the two selected videogames convey values of morality such as collaboration and friendship and social and political values such as justice, accountability and a commitment to the rule of law. The findings of the thesis offer theoretical, conceptual and methodological knowledge contributions resulting from SFS accounts of attitudinal meaning conveyed by language and image in action-adventure videogames. Empirical implications from the study suggest the establishment of a critical interpretive play pedagogy, which teachers could use to develop a critical interpretive appreciation of how action-adventure videogames convey values to their students. The implementation of such a pedagogical approach would require further research.

Andrew Scott

- Scott, A. (2023) Processes and patterns of classroom life: *The dynamics of exchanging knowledge and values between teachers and learners in English language writing classrooms* [Doctoral dissertation, Lancaster University]. Lancaster University Research Directory.
- Andrew Scott was successfully awarded his PhD thesis by Lancaster University in the UK. He investigated teachers' feedback practices on learner writing using Legitimation Code Theory's dimension of Semantics and David Rose's model of pedagogic register. The study drew four main conclusions. Firstly, understanding classroom interactions is dependent on a careful consideration of the various agents involved in the curriculum and to what extent their purposes align. Secondly, teachers use feedback to meet both course objectives and learners' needs, often two quite different goals. Thirdly, the study showed how experienced teachers employ multimodal resources when giving feedback to achieve different purposes. Finally, the study suggests how to move beyond the current constraints of the written corrective feedback debate and the limitations of cause-and-effect studies that attempt to identify the most effective forms of feedback. The study proposes a model that conceptualizes feedback as a pedagogic tool used dynamically by experienced teachers to move between interpretation and evaluation, from sense making to meaning making, in classroom activities.

SFL-related grants

- ASFLA Small Grant
- Cognitive-informed reading education research utilises models that describe reading as decoding and comprehending print-based language. Examples of these models include the Simple View of Reading (Gough & Tunmer, 1986), the Reading Rope (Scarborough, 2001) and more recently the Active Model of Reading (Duke & Cartwright, 2021). These models are grounded in a Science of Reading approach to reading education that encourages learners to focus solely on the language meaning system. From a social semiotics multimodal reading perspective, the focus on the language meaning system is problematic for comprehension, which often requires readers to draw on information represented in the accompanying visual images to answer literal, inferential and interpretive comprehension questions. Systemic Functional Semiotics (SFS) approaches to intermodal relation track the meaning potential of language and image to its represented depiction in the verbiage or image of a multimodal text. Therefore, SFS approaches offer apt language and image intermodal theoretical tools that can be used to inform and modify reading models used by educators (Kress & van Leeuwen, 2006; Martin & Rose, 2007; Painter et al., 2013;

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Rose & Martin, 2012). This project involves a PRISMA review of SFS literature concerned with intermodal relations between language and image. The synthesised themes from the review will be used to adapt reading models for comprehending multimodal texts. Implications for the teaching of multimodal reading comprehension will be canvased. The project is a collaboration between Dr Nathan Lowien (UniSQ) and Dr Damon Thomas (UQ).

An Essential Writing Model

- This project aims to devise a Model of Practice to enhance the whole school English Writing Program across years 7-12. The project is a collaboration between Dr Nathan Lowien (UniSQ) and Dr Damon Thomas (UQ). The research will draw on systemic functional linguistics and the associated genre-based pedagogies (Macken-Horarik et al., 2018; Rose & Martin, 2012) to inform the developed Model of Practice. The project aims to significantly contribute to understanding teachers' and students' metalinguistic understandings and self-efficacy (Myhill et al., 2020; Myhill & Watson, 2014) for writing in secondary school contexts.

Implementing a values-based pedagogy using videogames in the classroom

- This project examines the use of videogames to support teachers' and students' understanding of moral and socio-political values. Concerns about gender, race and violence and conveyed values in videogames are raised by the popular press and research literature (Feminist Frequency, 2020; Kent, 2014; Krcmar & Cingel, 2016). Despite these concerns, videogames remain popular multimodal texts for students. However, how videogames can be used in educational settings to teach values and multimodal texts remains potentially problematic for educators. Collected classroom data will be examined to generate new knowledge for teaching values relevant to diverse Australian society. The project is a collaboration between Dr Nathan Lowien (UniSQ), Professor Georgina Barton (UniSQ), Associate Professor Jon Callow (USyd) and Professor Frank Serafini (ASU).

SFL-related activities in 2023 by ETAQ and some of its members

Zoom grammar workshops

- During 2023, ETAQ (the English Teachers Association of Queensland) continued its practice of recent years by conducting three workshops aimed at assisting its mainly secondary English teacher members to properly understand and effectively teach the grammar concepts to be found in the Language Strand of the F-10 Australian Curriculum: English.
- These were half-day (9 am to 1 pm) events on Saturdays in March, May and November, and were conducted via Zoom rather than face-to-face, thus providing professional learning opportunities for teachers beyond the Brisbane metropolitan area. Registrations for the three events were 22, 14, and 25 respectively.
- To prepare for the activity, participants were emailed a short, warm-up analysis task about a week beforehand. During the Zoom meeting, this task was discussed and then the teachers were guided in the analysis of some short texts suitable for use in high school English classrooms. On this occasion, they came from, or were related to, Shakespeare's

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play Twelfth Night.

- Following the event, the PowerPoint slides used were provided to any who requested them and a link to the recording of the meeting was also distributed.
- These workshops were prepared and conducted by ETAQ Management Committee member Garry Collins. Now retired, Garry was formerly a high school English teacher and department head and also a part-time teacher educator.
- It is worth noting that the review of the Australian Curriculum: English which gave rise to the current Version 9.0 has made functional grammar a little less visible than it previously was.

Grammar related sessions at state and national events

- At this year's joint national conference of AATE (the Australian Association for the Teaching of English) and ALEA (the Australian Literacy Educators' Association) held at ANU in Canberra in July, Garry Collins ran two workshop sessions aimed, like the Zoom activities mentioned above, at modelling how the SFL-informed grammar concepts in the Language Strand of the Australian Curriculum: English can be taught in the context of working with literary and related texts in high school English classrooms. The first used the famous opening sentence of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* while the second focused on a paragraph from an academic journal article about the novel.
- These two workshops were also presented at ETAQ PD events in Brisbane in March and August.
- Dr Lindsay Williams, President of ETAQ, also conducted a workshop at the AATE/ALEA National Conference – about an SFL-based understanding of paralinguistics and how it might inform teaching and assessing speaking in secondary English. Version 9.0 of the English curriculum has only general advice about this aspect of English teaching.

Articles in ETAQ journal

- The workshops by Garry Collins mentioned above formed the basis for articles subsequently published in ETAQ's journal *Words'Worth*. This is not a refereed journal and could perhaps be described as a practical, practitioner support publication.

A planned publication by ETAQ and AATE

- The English Teachers Association of Queensland (ETAQ) has been commissioned by the Australian Association for Teachers of English (AATE) to produce a slimline volume providing practical guidance on implementing the Language strand of the Australian Curriculum English v9.0.
- In the first part of this volume, the Hallidayan model of language (context-text) that underpins the Language strand will be explained in plain English. Principles for implementing grammar in the classroom will also be outlined, including the need to integrate the three strands (Language, Literature and Literacy) in planning. The vertical development of grammatical understandings in the curriculum will also be highlighted.
- In the second part, four strategies for teaching grammar in context will be exemplified. The teaching strategies will demonstrate ways that grammar can be useful at different stages of the teaching-learning cycle.
- Lead authors on this volume will be Dr Lindsay Williams and Garry Collins, long-time advocates of a functional approach to grammar in Queensland schools.

From the ASFLA state reps

NSW (Thu Ngo)

UOW news

SFL appointments/movements

- Lilián Ariztimuño was awarded a 2-year career development fellowship in Linguistics
- Mohammad Makki was awarded a 2-year career development fellowship in Media and Communications

SFL research activities, conferences seminars and workshops etc

- The IDEAS research group continues to go from strength to strength, hosting this year's ASFLA conference and numerous research seminars and writing sessions throughout the year

PhD completions

- Najmeh Kheradparvar: *Making the hidden visible: a linguistic analysis of the practice of peer review*
- Anne Hellwig: *Digital Multimodal Composition in English for Architects and Civil Engineers Programs: Implications for Theory and Practice in Educational Semiotics*

Grants

- Shooshi Dreyfus won a UOW Industry Partnership Grant (\$37,000) for 2024 entitled: What makes it stick? A pilot project to explore the factors that enable adults living with severe intellectual disability and communication impairments to communicate functionally.
- Mohammad Makki won a UOW Early Mid-Career Enabling Grant
- Alison Moore (Linguistics) and Mehrdad Armirghasemi (Data Analytics) at UOW received funding to contribute research on social media indicators of individual and community resilience to the project 'Sharing early insights for more resilient communities'. Funding: Australian Government Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program \$733,995. UOW component \$74,000 for 2023.

Academic Exchanges

- A/Prof Daniel Lees Fryer held a 5-month Visiting Associate Professor position at UOW from February to June as the guest of Alison Moore. Daniel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Languages, Literature and Culture at University College Østfold, Norway (Høgskolen i Østfold) where he also runs the Language Cultures strand of the ELLA (Education, Literature, Education) Project, a strategic initiative of his university. He is a member of the Nordic Society for SFL and Social Semiotics and ISFLA. While in Australia Daniel gave presentations to the IDEAS group at UOW and the Friday seminar at U Sydney and worked with Alison on their forthcoming edited volume 'Social Semiotics and the Animal Other'.

From the ASFLA state reps

UNSW news

Appointment:

- Thu Ngo, B.Ed Primary Program director, UNSW.

PhD Completions:

- Nataliia Laba completed her PhD Organizational identity design: *A multimodal discourse analysis of Australian university homepages*, supervised by Louise Ravelli and Peter White.
- Olivia Inwood also completed her PhD this year: *A Discourse-analytic approach to the study of information disorders: How online communities legitimate social bonds when communing around misinformation and disinformation*, supervised by Michele Zappavigna and Peter White.

Conference and workshops

- Thu Ngo, ALEA workshop on 'Understanding and Responding to literature': Focus on the textual concept of character and characterisation

ACU news

SFL Appointments

- Annette Turney has been appointed as Lecturer in English Language and Literacy in the National School of Education at ACU, where she joins Sally Humphrey, Yaegan Doran and Len Unsworth!

PhDs: New/ongoing/Completions

- Dany Lopez is currently finishing his PhD thesis on Tertiary Physics Lab Reports as co-tutelle between ACU and Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile – his thesis

Visiting scholars

- A/Prof. Tuomo Hiippala has been visiting ACU in late 2023 from the University of Helsinki, visiting Len Unsworth and Yaegan Doran
- Riesky has been visiting from Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia in Bandung in late 2023

SFL-related research activity & invited presentations

- Yaegan Doran was appointed Adjunct Professor in Linguistics at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (The Indonesian University of Education), following a period as a visiting scholar to Bandung in July.

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USYD news

SFL Appointments

- Alex Garcia has been promoted to Senior Lecturer. Congratulations Alex!
- Georgia Carr has held a one-year Associate Lecturer position in the Department of Linguistics.

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PhDs: New/ongoing/Completions

- Completed:
- Anna Crane completed her PhD focusing Gija language and learning, supervised by Jim Martin and David Rose. Congratulations Anna!
- Georgia Carr completed her PhD With Respect to Consent: The Language of Sex Education, supervised by Jim Martin and David Rose. Congratulations Georgia!

Ongoing:

- Laura Chen: Knowledge Building in Tertiary Medical Science: A Transdisciplinary Study of Disciplinary Discourse and Pedagogic Practices Focusing on the MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) Program in China
- Gyeyoung Lee: Genre(s) Analysis of Product Review Videos on Social Media Using Systemic-Functional Multimodal Discourse Analysis
- Lungguh Ariang Bangga: Sundanese ideational grammar: perspectives from discourse semantics and register
- New:
- Monaliza Mamac: Socio-semiotic Practices in Filipino Substance-Dependence Therapy

Visiting scholars

- Lukman Hakim has been visiting from Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia in Bandung in late 2023

SFL-related research activity & invited presentations

- The Sydney Friday Seminar continued to be held throughout the year at The University of Sydney, convened and organised by Jim Martin, Yaegan Doran and Georgia Carr. The seminar series was held face to face and online, and averaged 48 attendees a week throughout the year!

SFL-related courses/masterclasses

- The regular Friday afternoon PhD masterclasses were run throughout the year, with David Rose and Jim Martin teaching Language in Education: The Genre-based literacy programs of the “Sydney School” in Semester 1; and Yaegan Doran teaching Register: Resources, principles and domains for analysing English context in Semester 2.



Tributes for John Walsh



By David Caldwell (originally published on ASFLANET)

Dear colleagues and friends,

It is with a heavy heart that I write that Dr John Walsh passed away last night. John has been dealing with cancer on and off for many years, so (at least) it wasn't unexpected for his family and friends.

John loved SFL. And when I say John 'loved' SFL, John really loved SFL. He loved the community. He loved the scholarship. He especially loved travelling to the European SFL conferences. And he loved gossiping with me about the latest SYS-Func exchanges. I fondly recall a meeting with the Director of the Department for Education in SA, where John, in his bolshie Irish style, didn't take a step back in promoting SFL. Similarly, I recall a sports communication conference in Austria with a group of very eclectic linguists. Suffice to say, John was up well past midnight trying to convince the conversation analysts of the merits of SFL.

SFL was a badge of honour for John. And he genuinely couldn't understand how those in education and linguistics weren't devotees. Whenever I first met John's friends, they would ask me if I was part of 'the club'. And his

daughter would often (jokingly) ask, 'Dad, is that person in the cult?'

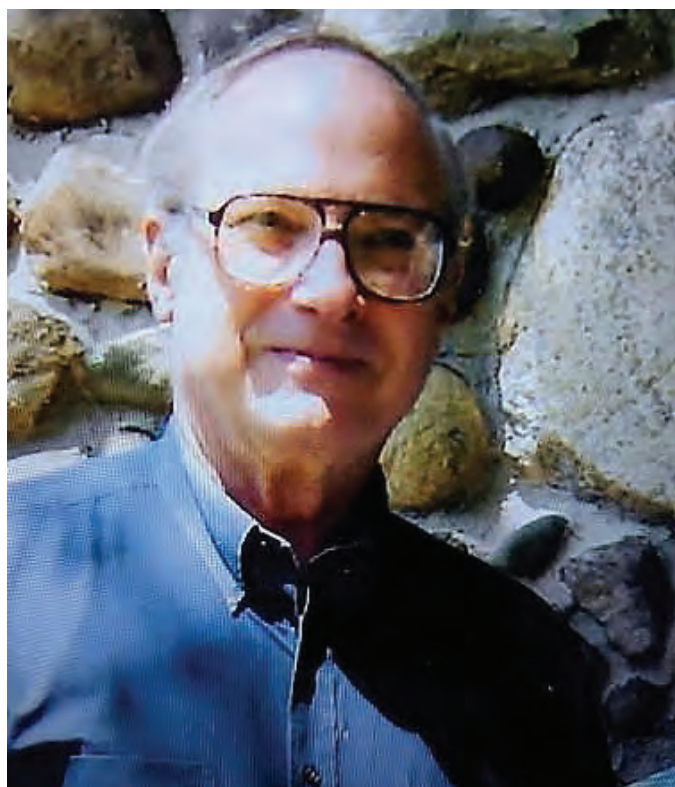
John loved SFL. And I know that he was extremely grateful for the role it (the scholarship, the scholars and the community) has played in his life.

By Ed McDonald (originally published on ASFLANET)

I first remember meeting John in the ground floor canteen of the Wentworth Building at Sydney Uni some time in the mid to late 80s. I can't remember whether we'd met each other around the corridors of the Linguistics Department, or perhaps at some seminar or conference, but from memory I was sitting alone in Wentworth having some lunch and he saw me and came over and sat by me and immediately entered into conversation that was a charming combination of warm and witty and wise. His classic Irish devil-may-care good looks completed the picture of a man who was at ease with the world but never afraid to take up a contrary position. I only briefly encountered him in later years - most recently in an online workshop on online communication run by Elizabeth Thomson some time last year - but he was always the same open and generous self - and I remember a number of conversations with you, David, about him after you moved to Adelaide and had great benefit from his experience and wisdom.

Never a "star" perhaps in the social media sense, but definitely a bright light in our SFL community, and one more to add to the too many who have left us in recent years.

Tributes for Peter Fries



By Jim Martin (originally published on ASFLANET)

I first met Peter during my first year in Sydney (1977), after I arrived to finish my PhD. Peter and Nan were on sabbatical that year and living with Michael and Ruqaiya. Many of you will only have known Peter and Nan in their quieter years. But they were very active back then. Peter joined a 'seniors' swimming club and was a very competitive racer; and they both enjoyed walks and trips to the beach. They were great fun, Nan in her vivacious younger years and Peter as kind and friendly and considerate as ever. I never managed to visit them in their home in Michigan but enjoyed many fondly remember times with them at conferences over the years (Nan's pre-dinner drinks and snacks were legendary).

Peter's work on Theme was a huge influence on me. His 'On the status of theme in English: arguments from discourse' showed us how to argue from instances of language in use back to our descriptions and theory. I still use two of his texts from that paper (the English

Constitution and US Naval participation in WW1 and WW2) to introduce my students to the meaning of Theme and none of them escape working on 'method of development' and 'point' in essays focusing on text analysis.

One thing I especially enjoyed was chatting with Peter about linguistics in America. His father, Charles Carpenter Fries, was a famous linguist and well-known for this concern with applications. Significantly, he brought Ken Pike to Michigan to teach linguistics there. If my memory serves me well swimming and water polo brought the linguists and friends together outside of academe (thus Peter's love of competitive swimming noted above). We've lost a treasure-trove of knowledge about the 'state of the art' back then.

Our SFL community has always been a welcoming one and we have Peter and Nan to thank for a large measure of that. Peter showed us that it is possible to be both rigorous and reasonable, to be both discerning and kind, to be both a colleague and a friend, and to both listen and profess.

Tributes for Michael O'Toole



By Kay O'Halloran

Michael O'Toole (aka Lawrence M. O'Toole) (1934– 2023) was Emeritus Professor of Communication Studies at Murdoch University, Western Australia. Michael made outstanding contributions to applied linguistics, language studies and multimodality over his long and distinguished career, breaking new ground in the process. For example, Michael conceptualised the extension of SF theory and methods of analysis to visual semiotics in the mid-1980s, presenting the approach to Michael Halliday and other leading systemic linguists at the University of Sydney in February 1986. From there, Michael continued to push the boundaries of multimodal semiotics through detailed analyses of paintings, buildings and sculptures. This work culminated in *The Language of Displayed Art* (O'Toole, 1994) where Michael demonstrated in clear and accessible terms the flexibility and usefulness of SF semiotic model. Michael revised and extended this work in the second edition of the book (O'Toole 2011) published by Routledge. The second edition included an expanded version of Michael's CD-ROM, *Engaging*

With Art (O'Toole, 1999). Michael's extensive contributions to multimodality and interpretation in literature and the visual arts are evident in his collected works *The Hermeneutic Spiral and Interpretation in Literature and the Visual Arts* (2018). The volume is a collection of 30 original papers from academic journals and book chapters published between 1971 and 2015 which explore the process and nature of interpretation in literature and the visual arts of film, painting, sculpture and architecture. In the collection, Michael stresses the centrality of artistic texts in the study of multimodality through close detailed analysis of literary texts and paintings, sculptures, films and buildings. Michael articulates a theoretically based and consistent method of analysis relating artistic texts in five different modalities (or semiotic systems). In doing so, Michael argues for coherent and consistent process of interpretation, linking pre-existing knowledge and attitudes in the reader/viewer with patterns discovered in the process of detailed analysis. Each chapter stresses the ever-changing and open-ended process of interpretation: i.e. "the hermeneutic spiral". Thus it is possible to see Michael's search for methods of analysis which can be (and have been) shared by students, other researchers and ordinary readers and viewers. Beyond these significant contributions, Michael was an extremely kind and generous colleague and friend who will be sadly missed forever.

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Tributes for Robert Veel



By Jim Martin (originally published on ASFLANET)

Hi all

Passing on this note from Academy Travel where Robert worked for several years.

Previously he played an important role in the development of SFL informed language in education work, focusing on science discourse and coordinating the school research in the Write it Right Project.

He was an inspirational and heartening leader and a great loss to educational linguistics when he changed career. But he passed doing what he loved most in his favorite part of the world.

Missing (again!).

Jim

From Academy Travel:

It is with great sadness that we share news of the death this week of our friend and former colleague Robert Veel.

Robert died suddenly in Venice, a city he

loved, and which had become his second home in recent years.

Some of you will know Robert from his earliest days in travel, running tours to Italy through the Centre for Continuing Education at the University of Sydney or from his many years here with us at Academy Travel where he brought his love of adventure, his unique style and extraordinary vision to an ever-expanding range of tours to Italy and the world.

In recent years Robert made the decision to step away from Academy with a new business venture, sharing destinations he loved in his own inimitable way.

Robert will be missed by all of us fortunate to have journeyed this far with him. We send our deepest condolences to his partner and to all his family.

Travel well Robert.

By Sally Humphrey (originally published on ASFLANET)

Ian (Balcomb) and I are so sad to learn of Robert's death. Like Jim and many others, we both worked very closely with him in the Write it Right program, learning so much in so many fields!! As leader of the school based team, Robert gave me confidence to take on a research role and to make a move on Ian (coming up to 30 years together!). We read Jim's message on a train in northern Italy, quite close to Venice... very fitting as we know how special this area was to Robert.

Thanks for sharing this Jim.
Sally

Tributes for Thao Le



By Vinh To

Dr. Thao Le, a senior academic and bilingual linguist in English and Vietnamese, devoted 40 years (1974-2014) to the School of Education at the University of Tasmania (UTAS). He peacefully passed away in his home in Melbourne at 2:45 am on August 22, 2022. I received the news from his wife, Dr. Quynh Le, formerly associated with the Centre for Rural Health at UTAS.

Dr. Thao Le was my exceptional Ph.D. supervisor, as well as a mentor for many colleagues who now serve as academics in various schools at UTAS and other universities worldwide. Additionally, he pioneered the TESOL course in Education at UTAS and played a crucial role in bringing Prof. Michael Halliday, the father of functional grammar, and his wife, Prof. Ruqaiya Hasan, to Vietnam for a keynote speech at the International Conference on Language Education: Interaction and Development in Ho Chi Minh City in 1991. The outcome of this conference was the

edited volume by Le and McCausland (1991), featuring Prof. Halliday's chapter titled "The Notion of 'Context' in Language Education" and Prof. Hasan's chapter, "Questions as a Mode of Learning in Everyday Talk." Dr. Thao Le generously gifted me this book and he always proudly told me how Profs. Halliday and Hasan enjoyed the conference he organised and the cruise they joined in Sai Gon during the conference time.

Dr. Thao Le, whom I was truly fortunate to meet and be a student of, was one of the kindest individuals on earth. Numerous beautiful memories of my family's time in Australia revolve around him and his family. Nearly 12 years ago, he and his MA students picked me up at Launceston Airport, a touching gesture I later discovered he extended to all his Ph.D. students. During our initial days, he took my husband and me to explore Launceston Seaport and the Swiss Village, leaving us deeply moved by his care, kindness, patience, and generosity. He considered my husband one of his best friends, and often talked with him about Vietnamese literature, poetry and music.

We were very lucky to have visited Dr Thao Le in the final stage of his life, just a week before he passed away to listen to his last words. Though it was hard for him to breath, he kept a sense of humour, calling my husband and me some funny names, and then singing a brief verse of his favorite Vietnamese song, with my husband joining in. Dr. Thao Le had a fondness for music and poetry, coupled with an excellent sense of humour that brightened many moments with his jokes.

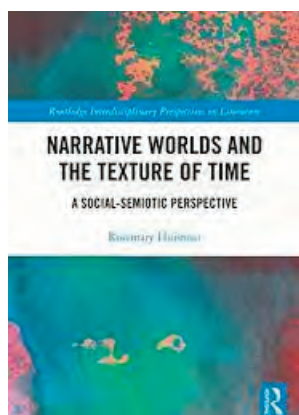
Dr. Thao Le who was the first Vietnamese academic to arrive in Tasmania in the 1970s, was dubbed "the Lord of the Tasmanian island" in the Vietnamese community. Throughout his 40 years in Tasmania, he made significant contributions to the Vietnamese community in various ways. His passing is a substantial

Tributes for Thao Le

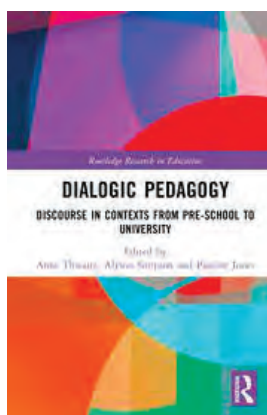
loss to both the Vietnamese communities in Tasmania and Melbourne. Dr. Thao Le also had a very happy family life. As of writing this tribute to Thao, I have just received the joyful news that his son, who is now a Doctor of Medicine, is going to marry next year. His other son, with Dr Quynh Le, is also a Doctor of Medicine and has already gotten married. I believe Thao would have been very happy with his son's wedding in 2024.

Dr Thao Le left an indelible mark on many lives and will be deeply missed by his family, students, friends, colleagues, and the Vietnamese community. Memories of our teacher will endure, and he will forever live on in our hearts and memories.

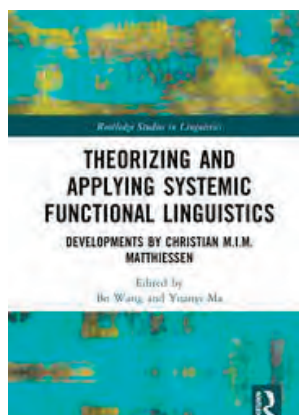
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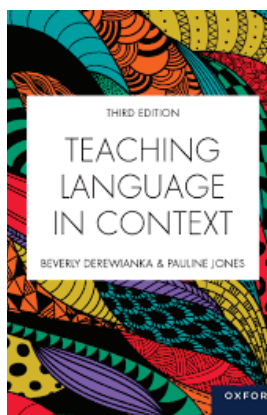
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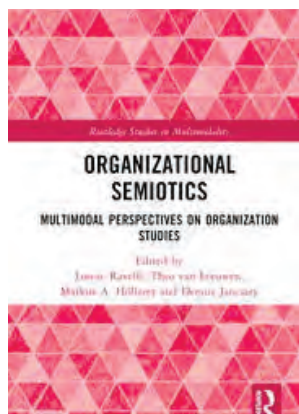
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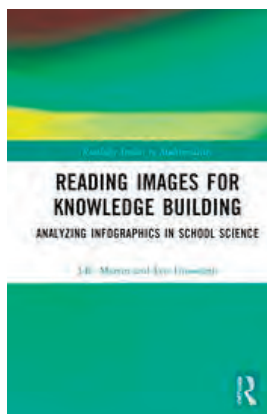
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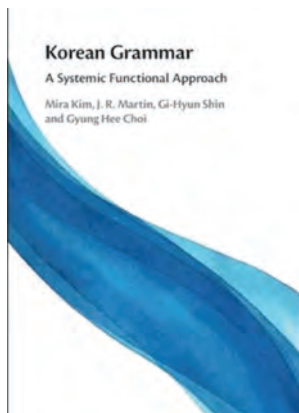
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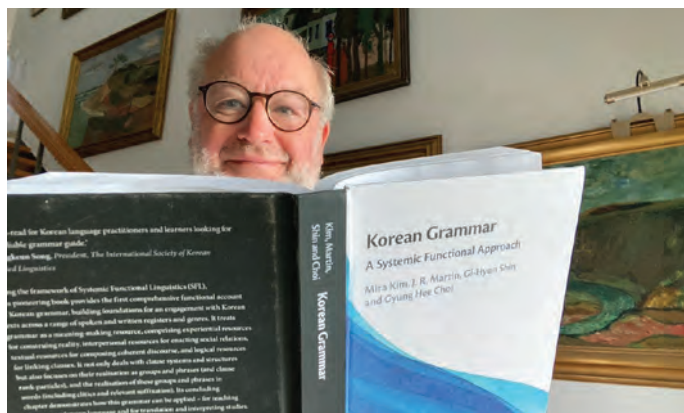
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ASFLA membership

You may be wondering what does ASFLA spend its money on?

Over the past few years, for example, ASFLA membership monies have funded the following:

- Subscription to *Language Context and Text*
- Annual ASFLA conferences
- MAK Halliday Prize
- Hasan Prize
- Halliday and Hasan Archive
- 2022 Forum on Sound Semiotics and Systemic Functional Phonology
- Gunther Kress Symposium 2019
- 2018 Functional description and typology forum
- Appraisal symposia held at USYD (2013, 2015)
- Hasan Symposium at Macquarie University 2016
- Halliday Symposium at Sydney University 2015
- Register and Context Symposia at Macquarie University 2011, 2012, 2013.
- International Educational Semiotics Website
- Numerous international exchanges of scholars
- Student scholarships to ASFLA Conferences
- Over \$20,000 in small grants awarded over the last four years
- Supporting scholars and educators from Australia to present at the Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) in Pakistan over the last twenty years.

and more... what a bargain!

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Invest in the future of our association and save yourself some hassle!

Life membership is a great idea. It saves you from having to remember to join each year AND it helps our association. Fees from life memberships have been placed in a special high interest savings account, to be used for future large scale projects. Our funds are mounting nicely, as reported by our Treasurer Trish Weekes at the 2023 AGM.

Life membership costs \$250.

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1. Go to the ASFLA website www.asfla.net and click on membership.
2. Fill in your details.

ASFLA Membership Form

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3. Follow the instructions about how to pay by EFT.

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