Communication and Cognition: Multidisciplinary Perspectives
LACUS Forum 37 Referees

Barbara Bacz
David C. Bennett
Lucas van Buuren
Douglas W. Coleman
Kara VanDam

Patrick Duffley
Connie Eble
Sheila Embleton
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Michael Kliffer
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Robert Orr
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H. Stephen Straight
William J. Sullivan
Patricia Casey Sutcliffe
Bernard Sypniewski
Sarah Tsiang
THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LINGUISTICS SOCIETY OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES WAS HELD JULY 20 TO JULY 24, 2010 AT McMASTER UNIVERSITY IN HAMILTON, ONTARIO. THE CONFERENCE THEME WAS “COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION” REFERRING TO THE RICH COGNITIVIST TRADITION OF MANY STREAMS OF INQUIRY WITHIN THE LACUS UNIVERSE, AS WELL AS THE BROAD “LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT,” TAKEN BY MANY, WHO SITUATE LANGUAGE AS A THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL OBJECT WITHIN THE GREATER FLOW OF HUMAN COMMUNICATION. CONTRIBUTIONS WERE WELCOMED THAT EXAMINED ANY VEIN OF THIS RICH THEME. OF COURSE, IN KEEPING WITH LONGSTANDING LACUS TRADITION, PAPERS WERE WELCOME FROM ANY AREA OF LANGUAGE STUDY, BOTH THEORETICAL AND EMPIRICAL. CONTRIBUTIONS CAME FROM A VERY BROAD SPECTRUM OF DISCIPLINARY BACKGROUNDS, ENCOURAGING HEALTHY DEBATE AND THE FRIENDLY PRESENTATION OF OFTEN RADICALLY DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES ON HOW LANGUAGE IS STRUCTURED AND ORGANIZED IN THE MIND AND IN SOCIAL LIFE.


MAJOR PRESENTATIONS WERE OFFERED BY ANDREW LAING, PRESIDENT OF CORMEX RESEARCH IN TORONTO WHO GAVE A MASTERFUL KEYNOTE ON THE EVOLVING SCIENCE OF CONTENT ANALYSIS AND SYDNEY LAMB WHO SPOKE ABOUT THE THEORY OUTLINED IN HIS THEN RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOK, PATHWAYS OF THE BRAIN. BOTH WERE VERY WELL RECEIVED BY THE AUDIENCE WHICH HAD MANY THOUGHT-PROVOKING COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FOR THE SPEAKERS.

THIS VOLUME CONTINUES THE TRADITION OF OPENNESS AND DIVERSITY ESTABLISHED BY LACUS OVER THE FORTY YEARS OF ITS EXISTENCE. THE VOLUME CONTAINS ARTICLES ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS FROM ACROSS THE SPECTRUM OF LANGUAGE, COMMUNICATION AND COGNITION. THIS DIVERSITY EMPHASIZES THE FACT – CENTRAL TO THE THINKING OF MANY LACUS PARTICIPANTS – THAT LANGUAGE CANNOT BE STUDIED IN A VACUUM OR AS A DISCRETE OBJECT. RATHER, IT IS A CURRENT IN A LARGE RIVER OF INFORMATION EXCHANGE – A CURRENT THAT INTERACTS WITH OTHER CURRENTS TO FORM THE DELICATE MEANINGS AND COMPLEX STRUCTURES THAT DEFINE HUMAN COMMUNICATION.

could use improvement. Almost all manuscripts were significantly revised after the conference before being submitted for publication, with authors strongly encouraged to take into account the lively and constructive conversations that are the hallmark of LACUS meetings.

The co-editors would like to offer special thanks to Dan Mailman for laying out this volume. As well, sincere thanks is due to all anonymous peer reviewers who took time out of their busy professional lives to perform the task of assuring the quality of the manuscripts that became the articles you are reading here. Thanks to the staff at the African Lion Safari near Hamilton, Ontario for delivering a wonderful experience to our conference delegates. Finally, a big thank you to the conference planning committee as well as the legion of volunteers who helped make the LACUS conference at McMaster University the success that it was.

-Michael D. Kliffer & Alexandre Sévigny, October, 2014