Publications Galore

Maïa Ponsonnet’s PhD has now been published by John Benjamins as a monograph entitled The language of emotions: The case of Dalabon (Australia). Hard work, but a very pleasing outcome! (link)

Paul Sidwell is pleased to announce that The Handbook of Austroasiatic Languages (2 vols) (link) is now out, in hardback and e-book formats. This is the culmination of 5 years off-and-on work by Paul and co-editor/ contributor Mathias Jenny and a supporting cast of some 28 other contributors. For the first time in the history of Austroasiatic studies we now have a consolidated reference with extensive topological description and historical analysis. This is one of the primary outputs of Paul’s Future Fellowship and yet another indication of the leadership that ANU scholars display in their respective fields.

Andy Pawley has numerous publication announcements for us:


Nick Evans has also published works in recent months:


Welcome to New PhDs

We would like to extend a warm welcome to PhD students who have recently joined us. Claudia Cialone, Tina Gregor, James Bednall, Denise Angelo, Carlo Ceste, Marie-France Duhamel, Alex Marley, Hedvig Skirgard, and Kyla Quinn.

PhD Submission

Fieldwork News

Kwang-Ju Cho conducted his fieldwork in Nepal between October and December 2014. Due to the need to collect a massive amount of data, he had to train three teams to send out to different areas. One of the highlights of the field trip was, when in the last village, Kwang-Ju and his team accidentally found one of the last storytellers in the village. They first saw her when they entered the village but wandered around for a few days before discovering her in the last hour!

Chris Weedall has just returned from a five month field trip around Assam province in India.

ANU Contingency at 15th Australasian International Speech Science and Technology Conference

A group of linguists (Fanny Cottet, Adele Gregory, Yuko Kinoshita, Phil Rose and Shunichi Ishihara) participated in the 15th Australasian International Speech Science and Technology Conference, held in Christchurch, NZ, 3rd-5th December 2014. The following 6 peer-reviewed full papers were presented by the participants from the ANU at the conference.

- Fanny Cottet, Assibilation in Trans-New Guinea languages of the Bird’s Head region
- Adele Gregory, Consonant inventory of infants aged 0-6 months
- Yuko Kinoshita, LR-based forensic comparison under severe test-data scarcity
- Yuko Kinoshita, Looking into real world: LR variability under forensically realistic conditions.
- Phil Rose, Mr. White goes to market - running speech and citation tones in a southern Thai bidialectal
- Shunichi Ishihara, Replicate mismatch between test and background/development databases: The effect on the performance of likelihood ratio-based forensic voice comparison.

At the conference dinner, the recipients of the Australasian Speech Science and Technology Association (ASSTA) New Researcher Award were announced. Adele received the award. Congratulations Adele!
News from Andy

In December Andy Pawley and Wolfgang Sperlich finished a two-year part-time project editing the draft of *A dictionary of the Lakalai (Nakanai) language of New Britain, Papua New Guinea* by Ann Chowning and the late Ward Goodenough. Besides revising the Lakalai-English section they added an English-Lakalai finder list. The 423 page work has been submitted to *Asia-Pacific Linguistics* for online publication. Andy continued work on two other dictionary projects: (1) editing C.E. Fox’s 1955 *Nggela Dictionary* to which he and Pascale Miller have added an English-Nggela finder list, (2) preparing for publication *Words of Waya: a dictionary of the Wayan dialect of the Western Fijian language*, co-authored with the late Timoci Sayaba.

Workshops Given and Forthcoming

The *Aboriginal Languages Workshop* will be running between Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th of March. The 5th and 6th will be on campus, and 7-8th will be at Kioloa. Special workshops within that include:

- Developing Corpora for Australian Indigenous Languages (Organisers: Nick Evans, Jane Simpson, Caroline Jones): Thurs 5th March.
- Revitalising ancestral Song traditions in south-eastern Australia (Organiser: Jim Wafer): Fri 6th March.

After a temporary postponement, the *Southern New Guinea workshop* (Organiser Nick Evans, Wayan Arka, Jeff Siegel (University of New England) will be running again with new dates confirmed. It will be held at the ANU from Monday 9th to Friday 13th of March.

The *Middle workshop: description, typology and theory* (Organiser Wayan Arka) will be run on the first day of the Southern New Guinea project meeting, Monday 9th of March.

Siva Kalyan and Alex François will be running a workshop entitled “Non-cladistic approaches to language genealogy” at next year’s International Conference on Historical Linguistics (Naples, July 27–31). The purpose of the workshop is to build awareness of the limitations of the family-tree model, and to stimulate the development of alternative (especially quantitative) methods for analysing language genealogy. The abstract submission deadline is January 30.

'A showcase: Forensic voice/text comparison studies' was organised by Shunichi Ishihara in October, 2014, for which four talks were given by Yuko Kinoshita, Phil Rose and Shunichi Ishihara. This showcase attracted many people from the different schools of the ANU and the government section. A similar event is scheduled for this year as well.

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A comparative study of Austronesian languages (LING3030/LING6508) will be run by Dineke Schokkin this semester.

This course will offer a comprehensive comparative study of the Austronesian language family, which is one of the world’s largest, both in terms of number of languages and geographical spread, and perhaps the best documented one with the exception of Indo-European. Aspects included are: features of the grammar of selected languages of the family; comparative phonology, morphology, syntax, vocabulary; reconstruction of aspects of the proto-language; subgrouping; language change and cultural history. A particular focus will lie on the Oceanic subgroup within Austronesian. Methodological issues in describing language variation and change will also be discussed. The course will serve both to initiate students into the descriptive and comparative study of a particular language family and to consolidate and advance their understanding of the principles of language change and the practice of linguistic reconstruction.

**Talks Past and Forthcoming**

In September 2014 Kwang-Ju Cho presented his latest findings entitled "The Bantawa verbal agreement system in the context of Kiranti and Tibeto-Burman" at the Inaugural Workshop of the International Consortium for Eastern Himalayan Ethnolinguistic Prehistory held at the University of New England in Armidale.

Owen Edwards was in Europe over December. When not admiring thousand year old cuneiform tablets in various museums across the continent, he presented on metathesis in Amarasi at Surrey, Leiden, Leipzig and Cologne. Just before leaving for Europe he received news that his submission to Oceanic Linguistics entitled "The Position of Enggano within Austronesian" had been accepted and will be published in the June 2015 edition.

Siva Kalyan will be giving a talk at the Australian Languages Workshop (March 7–9, Kioloa) entitled "Intersecting subgroups in the Pilbara languages".

Wayan Arka has been invited as a keynote speaker for the 22th AFLA (the Austronesian Formal Linguistics Association) Conference, McGill University, Canada, 21-24 May 2015.

Paul Sidwell has been invited to attend the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Leipzig) closing conference "Diversity Linguistics: Retrospect and Prospects" May 1-3. He will present his paper "A comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of the Austroasian languages". Later the same month Paul will also attend the 25th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS) at the Mae Khao campus of Payap University in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from May 27-29.
Linguistics
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For past newsletters, go to: http://chl.anu.edu.au/disciplines/linguistics/news.php

The Asia-Pacific is the most complex and varied linguistic landscape in the world, with three thousand of the world’s 7,000 languages. Many are endangered and in coming decades the region is confronting an epochal narrowing of the human knowledge base through language loss.

Linguistics in the College of Asia and the Pacific promotes the study of this linguistic diversity in its fullest sense, including documentation and description - producing grammars, dictionaries and collections of textual materials, usually from on-site fieldwork – work that is equally important for small speech communities themselves.

Minority languages researched in the department cover sites ranging from Vanuatu, New Caledonia, PNG, Australia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, the Philippines, Taiwan, India and Japan. Other research focuses on national languages of the region, such as Japanese and Indonesian.

Our postgraduate training aims to produce descriptive linguists of the highest quality. We teach into all levels, including undergraduate courses in Japanese, Indonesian, Linguistics and Pacific Studies, Master’s Courses in Linguistics and Applied Japanese Linguistics, and advanced doctoral training. We co-host Paradisec, a digital archive dedicated to recordings of languages and cultures of the Pacific. We also publish the monograph series Pacific Linguistics, which has produced over 600 publications.

Upcoming Events...

Workshop: Aboriginal Languages
Workshop - Various organisers
March 5 - 8
Thursday to Sunday
Kioloa

Workshop: The Languages of Southern New Guinea - Nick Evans,
Wayan Arka, Jeff Siegel
(University of New England)
(organisers)
March 9 - 13
All week
Centre of Excellence and the Dynamics of Language

Workshop: Middle Construction
Workshop - Wayan Arka
(organiser)
March 9

Owen Edwards is not shy to develop and employ Scrabble tiles to help understand his thesis.
Photo: Mark Donohue