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Social cognition workshop in Brisbane

The members of ARC-funded project on *Language and Social Cognition: the design resources of grammatical diversity* met in Brisbane between 12th-14th April for their annual project workshop. Highlights of the workshop were invited talks by **Niko Kobepa**, discussing an intricate system of encoding shared/non-shared knowledge in the Mee Recent Past, **Gwen Hyslop**, who presented on Kurtöp and **Evan Kidd**, showing the central role of pretend play in language development. **Nick Evans** reported on his collaborative research with Murray Garde on triangular kin terms in Bininj Kun-Wok and project members **Tom Honeyman**, Barb Kelly (University of Melbourne) and **Stef Spronck** updated the group about their work.

The workshop was concluded on Sunday with a well attended public workshop with an introductory talk by Nick Evans on the topic *Engaging Minds – the grammar of mental coordination*,

and further talks by **Alan Rumsey**, who presented on the role of social cognition in child language development in Ku Waru and elsewhere, Lauren Gawne (University of Melbourne), who analysed the form of questions and answers in Lamjung Yolmo, Janet Wiles (Computer Science, University of Queensland), who approached social cognition from the perspective of robotics and Andrea Schalley (Griffith University), who discussed how the research questions raised in the project fit within linguistics with respect to the sometimes overlapped distinctions between empirical and theoretical approaches to grammar. Ilana Mushin (University of Queens-

land) and John Sutton (Philosophy, Macquarie University) acted as discussants. The workshop made clear that the project *Language and Social Cognition: the design resources of grammatical diversity* has raised many new interesting questions about the relation between social cognition and grammar and it contributed to building interdisciplinary connections to further explore these issues in the future.



Some participants of the Social Cognition Workshop in Brisbane

Postgraduate induction retreat

Learning from our anthropologist colleagues, the ANU Linguistics community held its first-ever postgraduate induction retreat at Kioloa from March 22-24. The weekend included sessions on the research and writing cycle, fieldwork, ethics, grant-writing

and writing for publication, as well as a bushwalk about Pigeonhouse Mountain and a fieldwork slide night. Given the success of the weekend we will definitely be making this an annual fixture, though in future years we hope to see more at-

tendance from later-year PhD students as well so as to pass on their experiences of the different stages in the cycle.

Grant announcements

Paul Sidwell and **Gwen Hyslop** received \$5000 from the CHL research fund to further support the upcoming *5th International Conference of Austroasiatic Linguistics* and the *19th Himalayan Languages Symposium*, to be held in Canberra between 4th-8th September.

Gwen also received money from the RSAP Distinguished Visitors Fund to bring George van Driem for both conferences. He will be giving a

Master Class entitled *Integrating several disciplines in order to address one research question* on 30 August and will give a public lecture on the evening of 2 September.

Matthew Carroll and **Fanny Cottet** got scholarships from the Linguistics Society of America to take part to the Summer Institute held this year at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, from 24th June to 19th July. Once there they will join graduate stu-

dents from around the world in a month of intensive classes. They are both looking forward to being involved in cutting edge classes taught by leaders in their fields from around the world. They are also looking forward to the networking opportunities and escaping the worst of Canberra's winter.

'Linguistics and biology are connected sister fields. Both draw their inspiration from the stunning diversity in their respective worlds, developing evolutionary accounts of change and diversification.'
- Nick Evans, ICLDC conference.

ICLDC conference in Hawaii

ANU was strongly represented at this year's *3rd International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation (ICLDC)* at the University of Hawaii. **Nick Evans** gave the introductory plenary entitled [The web of words and the web of life: reconnecting language documentation with ethnobiology](#). **Gwendolyn Hyslop** presented fresh data from their recent fieldtrip:

[Worlds of knowledge in Central Bhutan: Documentation of 'Olekha](#). **Karma Tshering** explained why Dzongkha is more than just a "dialect of Tibetan" in his talk [Kinship and language documentation in Bhutan](#). **Christian Döhler** presented some of the problems of starting a documentation project in ["Don't talk to him! His family speaks a bit mixed."](#) [Multilingualism from](#)

[the perspective of the documenter](#). Former ANU student **AungSi** enlightened us on indigenous biological knowledge in his talk [Documenting folk science – Solega honeybee knowledge as a case study](#). All the talks are uploaded on the web and you can listen to them by following the links.

Fieldwork group meetings

For most of the academics and students of the department, fieldtrips are an important part of their life, schedule and spirit. The fieldwork group was born from this curiosity to know more about each others' experiences and to learn about the communities our linguists work with.

The idea is simple: sharing memories, stories, pictures, but also difficulties, personal interrogations, ethical questions and practical issues one may experience on the field, in a friendly atmosphere, usually on Mondays at lunch time

(irregular schedule, check the announcements).

In the previous sessions, New Guinea was the principal scene: **Darja Hoenigman** screened her documentary entitled Election Fever; **Charlotte van Tongeren** presented her first trip to a Suki village; **Fanny Cottet** talked about the Bomberai Peninsula; **Christian Döhler** presented the Kómno community and opened the discussion on the researcher's roles and responsibilities during fieldwork. Travelling to a colder clime, **Kwang-Ju Cho** talked about

his work in Northeast India and Nepal.

In May, the fieldwork group invited Budi Hernawan, from the RegNet program to talk about the research he conducted in West Papua, PNG, Australia, Holland, Great Britain and US to gather archives and meet actors, witnesses and victims of torture in West Papua.

The next meeting is on Monday 20 May, with **Prof. Andy Pawley** who has travelled across the Pacific for the last four decades.



Kwang-Ju Cho collecting data on Bantawa language in Eastern Nepal.

Overseas conferences & fieldwork

Nick Evans has been travelling, in Britain, the Netherlands and the UK. He presented a paper to the Surrey Morphology Group on the complex system of number marking in Nen, benefiting from the gathered expertise there on grammatical number systems, participated in a PhD defence at Radboud Universeit Nijmegen by Kaoru Hayano on the topic *Terri-*



Nick Evans' talk at the University of Hong Kong

ories of knowledge in Japanese conversation, and at the University of Hong Kong gave the MB Lee Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities, on the topic of *Babel Burning. What we lose when a language dies*, particularly emphasizing the need to develop language documentation on China's many undescribed and even unregistered minority languages.

In the coming months, Nick will be giving plenary talks in Hannover on June 4th at the final DoBeS conference (*Zi terber yngm: Sprachwelten in der Südsee*, with Ulrike Mosel), at the Ninth International Symposium on Bilingualism in Singapore, on the topic *Multilingualism as the primal human condition: What we have to learn from small-scale speech communities*, and at the 12th International Cognitive Linguistics Association conference in Edmonton, on the topic of *Intercognitive Linguistics and Linguistic Diversity*. He will also be delivering a paper at the Minerva-Gentner symposium in Nijmegen

on Emergent Languages and Cultural Evolution.

In June, **Karma Tshering** will return to Bhutan to continue training oral literature teams there who will be collecting, transcribing, and translating data from Lhop, 'Olekha, Dzongkha, Dakpa and Dzala speaking communities.

Stef Spronck's paper *Ungarinyin as a stance model* has been accepted for presentation at the theme session on 'Mixed Points of View in Narrative' at the *12th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC)* in Alberta, Canada, 23-28 June.

Alexandre François and **Siva Kalyan** will be talking about their work on non-hierarchical sub-grouping of north Vanuatu languages at the *International Conference on Historical Linguistics* held in Oslo, 5-9 August.

PhD student news

Maia Ponsonnet is getting closer to completion, with a tentative thesis submission date set for 8 July. While working hard to finish her dissertation on time, she is also thoroughly enjoying what will probably be her last long stay in Canberra before a while, and trying hard to combat anticipated nostalgia at the same time.

Greg Dickson has been working steadily on PhD writing and hopes to complete it around the end of the year. He is escaping the impending winter and going back to the NT for May for some last bits of fieldwork. He contin-

ues to write occasional blogposts for [Fully \(sic\)](#), Crikey's language blog and also gave a guest lecture for the course *Language Policy*.

Canberra-based Bhutanese research continues with **Chris Weedal** and **Kwang-Ju Cho** working with Brokpa and Bumthap speakers, respectively. This research has been funded through the RSAP Research Development funds, awarded to Gwen Hyslop in the last round.

In parallel, Kwang-Ju Cho continues his previous work on Banta-

wa and four other Kiranti languages, specially analyzing sound correspondences from data he collected during previous fieldwork.

Hiram Ring (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore) recently visited our department for a couple of months to work with **Paul Sidwell** on Khasian languages and get feedback from **Mark Donohue** on his Pnar research.

Publication news

The Japanese translation of **Nick Evans' *Dying Words*** appeared in January 2013 with Kyoto University Press ([here](#)). Since this version included colour plates it was possible to restore a section on colour terms that had to be omitted from the original book – *el original es infiel a la traducción!*

Tim Hassall has had two journal articles accepted. Both are in the field of L2 pragmatics. One will appear in *Journal*

of Pragmatics and is titled *Pragmatic development during short-term study abroad: the case of address terms in Indonesian*. The other will appear in *Applied Linguistics* and is titled *Beyond strategy choice: a reply to Al-Gahtani and Roever*.

Stef Spronck contributed an article about avoidance language to the Dutch 'Taalcanon' (language canon) a general interest volume and accompanying website cover-

ing a wide range of language related topics. A second print of the volume was recently announced.

Gwen Hyslop will be a Visiting Scholar at the Cairns Institute at James Cook University from 3 June to 15 July, where she will be revising her grammar of Kurtöp for publication with Brill.

Tolaki Picture Dictionary

Late in April, **Owen Edwards** got word from his co-author Rila in South-East-Sulawesi, that one thousand copies of the *Tolaki Picture Dictionary* had arrived from the printers!

Work on the *Tolaki Picture Dictionary*, or *Pobatuangi Ndolaki ronga Gambarano*, began at the end of 2010 when Owen and Rila first met. Owen was in South-East Sulawesi collecting data on Tolaki syntax for his honours thesis and when Rila told him about her dream to make a picture dictionary of Tolaki he quickly came on board.

The completed dictionary has 40 pages, 221 colour pictures and 333 Tolaki words with Indonesian and English glosses. There are sections on

numerals, the physical world, the body, kinship, creatures, as well as fruit and vegetables.

Work on this dictionary was a welcome side project for Owen while he was in Sulawesi. He spent many hours with a digital camera waiting for insects to hold still long enough for him to snap a photo, and then equally as many hours again collecting, checking and re-checking the names of those insects.

Highlights for Owen included discovering that everyone has a little wrinkle at the edge of each lip: *hongili* in Tolaki, as well as the pictures of *sanggi-sanggi* (dragonfly) and *talangga-langgai* or *singgu-singgu* (praying mantis) on page 21;

the latter of which he got printed out poster size and which now hangs proudly on his wall at home.

The governor of South-East Sulawesi, Mr. H. Nur Alam, and the local government provided a grant to cover the printing costs of the dictionary. If you'd like a copy, e-mail [Owen](#) for a PDF, or even better hop on a plane to Kendari and buy one for 35,000 rupiah!



Rila (left) and the governor of South-East Sulawesi Mr. H. Nur Alam (right) proudly display the Tolaki picture dictionary.

A week dedicated to Melanesian Languages

The week from May 20 to May 26th will see an intense series of presentations and discussions on Papuan languages.

The first four days will feature a project meeting of the [Languages of Southern New Guinea project](#), including open sessions on the phonetics and phonology of these languages on the Tuesday and another series of papers on the Thursday. Members of the ARC Languages of Southern New Guinea and [DoBeS/ Volkswagen Nen and Tonda projects](#) will come to Canberra for this, including Jeff Siegel and Philip Tama (UNE) and anthropologists Chris Healey and Garrick Hitchcock (both up from Victoria) in addition to ANU researchers **Matt Car-**

roll, Christian Döhler, Nick Evans, Julia Miller, and Kyla Quinn.

The Friday morning will see a switch to more interdisciplinary mode, on [The Future of Papuan Pasts](#), picking up where the blockbuster Papuan Pasts left off a few years ago, and focusing on what archaeology, linguistics, genetics and anthropology can contribute to understanding Papua's deep history, kicking off with a plenary presentation by archaeologist Glenn Summerhayes from the University of Otago. After lunch anthropological linguist **Don Kulick**, visiting from the University of Chicago, will present on *Fantasy* (in language), and then the whole feast of ideas will move sea-

wards to the Kioloa campus for a packed weekend of presentations, including a plenary address by Ger Reesink on the typology of giving verbs in Papuan languages. You can see the full program [here](#).

All are welcome to any of these events.

What can archaeology, linguistics, genetics and anthropology contribute to understanding Papua's deep history?

Congratulations Ralph!

A special celebration was held in the department on April 10th to mark the award of **Ralph Lawton's** doctorate *On the making of the Kiriwina dictionary*, recently awarded after the making of corrections. Our congratulations to Ralph on becoming the oldest member of our department to receive his doctorate – at 84.



Linguistics morning tea in honour of Ralph Lawton

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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.

Coming up...

Oral Thesis Presentation: *The language of emotions in Dalabon, a language of South-Western Arnhem Land* ([link](#)) - **Maia Ponsoonnet**

May 15
11:00am - 12:30pm
Seminar Room B (Arndt Room)
HC Coombs Building

Fieldwork group: Prof. Andy Pawley

May 20
12:00pm - 01:30pm
Seminar Room B (Arndt Room)
HC Coombs Building

Workshop: *The Future of Papuan Past* ([link](#)) - Plenary speakers: **Glenn Summerhayes** (University of Otago), **Robert Attenborough** (ANU) & **Don Kulick** (University of Chicago)

May 24
10:00am - 03:15pm
Hedley Bull Room 1 (HB1)

Workshop: *The Languages of Melanesia* ([link](#)) - Plenary speaker: **Ger Reesink** (MPI Nijmegen)

May 23 - 26
ANU, Kioloa Coastal Campus

Seminar: Multiple sources and innovation in Light Warlpiri ([link](#)) - **Carmel O'Shannessy** (University of Michigan)

May 31
11:00am - 12:00pm
Seminar Room A
HC Coombs Building



*The exhaustion from working on a PhD does not go unnoticed.
Photo: Christian Döhler*