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Special Issue on Slurs

Guest Editor Adam M. Croom

Slurs have long been considered among the most controversial of all linguistic expressions, yet it is only recently that they have started drawing serious scholarly attention. For at least the last 6 years though both empirical and theoretical articles on slurs from diverse disciplines have been published in a wide range of top academic journals (e.g., in *Psychological Science*, *Language Sciences*, *Language and Communication*, *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, *Symbolic Interaction*, *Journal of Philosophy*, *Analytic Philosophy*, and *Nous*) and have been published for readers of different languages from around the world (e.g., in English, German, Italian, and Vietnamese). Yet the study of slurs is still in a nascent stage, so the timing is especially opportune now for careful and systematic work on slurs to be carried out. A major goal for this special issue then will be to take a substantive step forward in clarifying the controversial nature of slurs and the particularly sensitive place they hold in our linguistic and larger social life.

Accordingly, this special issue of *Language Sciences* aims to achieve greater clarity on slurs by bringing together an interdisciplinary collection of new articles of the highest caliber on the topic. With this aim in mind, scholars of any discipline conducting research on slurs are warmly encouraged to submit novel theoretical or philosophical articles, comprehensive review articles, as well as articles showcasing original empirical research. Submissions relevant for this special issue may address, for example, any of the following topics: the semantics or pragmatics of slurs; game-theoretical analyses of slurs; the use of slurs for the negotiation of social identity and power; analyses of slurs as stigmatizing labels and the prohibitions concerning their use; the re-appropriation of slurs and their non-derogatory use; the relationship between slurs, perspectives, and stereotypes; analyses of slurs in the context of inferentialist and referentialist philosophies of language; analyses of slurs in the context of computational and grounded theories of cognition; the cognitive-emotional processing of slurs; and methodological concerns regarding the future study of slurs. Submissions focusing on other aspects of slurs or utilizing alternative methodologies will also be carefully considered by the Editor. Manuscripts should not exceed 15,000 words.

This special issue will be widely promoted and circulated by Elsevier and will further feature at least one freely available Open Access article on slurs for all to read, download, and share. For submission inquiries and more info on this special issue of *Language Sciences* please contact the Editor.

Submission Deadline: 26 May 2014

Notification of Initial Decision: 26 August 2014

Revised Submissions Deadline: 26 November 2014

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