



Letter from the President

It takes a lot of work on the part of a lot of people to make a society like ALT succeed at meeting its goals. In this newsletter, I would like to recognize the work of several people, beginning with those who chaired the award committees. This is a complex job, involving receiving the submissions, putting the jury together and working with jury members to ensure that each has appropriate readings, working together with the jury to reach a decision on the award winner and any honorable mentions, writing up the report, and other things that I have likely forgotten. This was an especially trying time to take on this work, given how burdened many of us were with all the disruption caused by COVID. My deepest gratitude goes to Eva van Lier for taking on the role of chair of the Joseph Greenberg Award jury (the Joseph Greenberg Award recognizes the best piece of typological research embodied in a doctoral dissertation) and to Juha Janhunen, who chaired the Georg von der Gabelentz Award jury (the Georg von der Gabelentz Award focuses on published reference grammars).

Thanks is also due to the people who generously volunteered their time to sit on the juries. This is a hard job because submissions tend to be excellent, and picking out the best is not an easy task.

Jury members for the Greenberg Award: Jenny Audring, Bert Cornillie, Adam Ross Tallman, Alena Witzlack-Makarevich

Jury members for the Gabelentz Award: Adams Bodomo, Scott DeLancey, Ekaterina Gruzdeva, Katharina Haude, Kristine Hildebrandt, Elena Perekhvalskaya, Françoise Rose, Yakov Testelet, Nicolas Tournadre, Yvonne Treis

Finally I would like to thank Hilary Chappell and Nikolaus Himmelmann. These two graciously stepped in to help out as liaisons between the Executive Committee and the awards committees, Hilary for the Greenberg committee and Nikolaus for the Gabelentz committee.

I would be remiss if I did not also thank all the people who submitted their work: the quality of the work augurs well for the future of typology. Please see the list of awardees later in this newsletter.

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Next I would like to recognize the hard work that the organizers of the upcoming ALT conference are doing. As you may recall, we postponed ALT XIV from 2021, when it would have taken place, to 2022. There are still COVID-related challenges and a decision was made that there will be a virtual component to this conference. (The details as to how the virtual component will work will be publicized as the time for the conference approaches, but be warned that it will be low tech.) The COVID-related challenges have added more work to what is already a substantial workload, and I would like to thank the local organizing committee for all their work.

Local organizing committee: John Beavers, Patience Epps, Danny Law, Na'ama Pat-El, Marc Pierce, Cinzia Russi, Anthony C. Woodbury

The conference could not take place without the work of the Program Committee and the reviewers. Thanks to those who served on the Program Committee: Sonia Cristofaro, Patience Epps, Eitan Grossman, Silvia Luraghi, Na'ama Pat-El, Marc Pierce, Cinzia Russi, Jean-Christophe Verstraete.

Thanks are also owed to those who read and evaluated abstracts. Peter Arkadiev, Gilles Authier, Johan van der Auwera, Danielle Barth, Anastasia Bauer, John Beavers, Laura Becker, Edmond Cane, Hilary Chappell, Luca Ciucci, Sonia Cristofaro, Chris Lasse Däbritz, Shelece Easterday, Patience Epps, Martin Everaert, Francesca de Garbo, Spike Gildea, Jeff Good, Eitan Grossman, Matías Guzman Naranjo, Katharina Haude, Kaoru Horie, Lynn Hou, Gwendolyn Hyslop, Guglielmo Inglese, Osamu Ishiyama, Ezequiel Koile, Olga Krasnoukhova, Jackie Yan-ki Lai, Randy LaPolla, Danny Law, Dana Louagie, Tianhua Luo, Simone Mattiola, Lidia Federica Mazzitelli, Bradley McDonnell, Richard Meier, Matti Miestamo, Marianne Mithun, Steven Moran, Naonori Nagaya, Karol Obert, Bill Palmer, Krishna Parajuli, Na'ama Pat-El, John Peterson, Marc Pierce, Maia Ponsonnet, David Quinto-Pozos, Seongha Rhee, Keren Rice, Daniel Ross, Erich Round, Merja Salo, Ron Schaefer, Stefan Schnell, Eva Schultz-Berndt, Ksenia Shagal, Nathaniel Sims, Hedvig Skirgrd, Stef Spronck, Adam Tallman, Martine Vanhove, Ljuba Veselinova, Tony Woodbury, Szeto Pui Yiu, Ulrike Zeshan, Fernando Zuniga

And, of course, thanks are due to all of you who submitted abstracts.

I will end by asking you to read Jeff Good's article in this newsletter carefully. You might recall from the last newsletter that Executive Committee, based on a report from the ad hoc committee on membership and open access, decided to decouple ALT membership from journal subscription. This means that you can be a member of ALT without subscribing to the journal. It is important to keep this in mind as you read Jeff's article.



Jeff's article concerns De Gruyter's strategy to move our journal to Open Access. Here is why, from my perspective, Jeff's article is so important. If we have any hope of significantly expanding the amount of OA content in the journal beyond the way things are now, the clearest path forward requires as many members subscribing to the journal now as possible, Jeff's article lays out clearly the model known as Subscribe to Open (S2O). My understanding is that there are barriers to ALT moving independently to make Linguistic Typology fully OA because the journal title belongs to De Gruyter, which means that ALT cannot directly take control of the journal and make it fully OA on its own. The plan that Jeff lays out seems like a reasonable option to the Executive Committee and to the editor. We have seen success with this model with another journal published by De Gruyter, Linguistics, which has become diamond OA as of 2022. Of course, there are many things that would need to be negotiated if we decide that this is an appropriate model, so there is still a way to go. We welcome your questions and feedback; please send them to Jeff directly. His email is included in his article.

Keren Rice, President



1 *Linguistic Typology and Subscribe to Open (S2O)*

Jeff Good presents the report below.

ALT continues to explore possibilities for shifting *Linguistic Typology* to a fully Open Access journal. The publisher of *Linguistic Typology*, De Gruyter, is also actively considering different models that would allow more of its journals to become fully Open Access. One model that they have suggested as potentially suitable for *Linguistic Typology* and that is now being tested for a few other De Gruyter journals is **Subscribe to Open (S2O)**.

As announced earlier, individual subscriptions to *Linguistic Typology* will become optional for members under ALT's new membership scheme. However, under the S2O model, if a sufficient number of ALT members continue to subscribe to the journal, their subscriptions can contribute to making more articles of the journal Open Access. The particular approach De Gruyter is considering would be one where a set number of individual subscriptions would allow one article to become Open Access, and, as more members subscribe, this would allow more and more articles to be published as Open Access in this way. When this approach is combined with other ways for articles to become Open Access (e.g., via agreements with specific universities or national governments), this could create a path to making *Linguistic Typology* fully Open Access.

The chair of ALT's ad hoc committee on membership and Open Access, Jeff Good (jcgood@buffalo.edu), welcomes input from ALT members about the possibility of adopting the **Subscribe to Open model** for the journal.

2 *The Journal Linguistic Typology*

Please click on the links below to view the contents of the most recent issues:

- [Volume 26, Issue 2, July 2022.](#)
- [Volume 26, Issue 1, May 2022.](#)



3 ALT XIV, 2022

The local committee received 240 abstract submissions and 8 workshop proposals. Of them the program committee accepted about 180 abstracts for either oral or poster presentation and 6 workshops (see information here: <https://sites.google.com/view/alt2022/workshops>).

In addition, there are also 4 full-day teach-ins scheduled to take place before the conference on December 14 (see information here: <https://sites.google.com/view/alt2022/teach-ins>).

Information about accommodations and travel to and in Austin can also be found on the webpage (<https://sites.google.com/view/alt2022/practical-information>).

Early bird registration ends **October 1** (final registration deadline is **November 15**). Please make sure to fill the registration form on our website as soon as you can; it will help the campus and the organizers prepare better. For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us (alt2022@austin.utexas.edu).

4 ALT Awards

4.1 *The Greenberg Award*

Eva van Lier reports on the *Greenberg Award*.

There were 8 submissions to the *Greenberg Award 2022*. The **winner** is **Stephanie Evers** (University at Buffalo, The State University of New York) for her Ph.D. dissertation *To 'the' or not to 'the': Cross-linguistic correlations between existing morpho-syntax and the emergence of definite articles*.

The summary of the Jury's appraisal of Evers' work comes below.

The following aspects of Evers' work stand out for the jury: Firstly, the conscientious and constant connection between theoretical concepts and their application to individual language systems. Secondly, the methodology which combines two levels of analysis: a typological overview and two discourse-based case studies, each featuring advanced quantitative analysis. This approach offers a statistical underpinning of hypotheses and intuitions proposed in previous functional-typological literature. The jury particularly signals the use of corpus-based case-studies as a welcome development in typology: such studies may function as examples for descriptive linguists, who could conduct similar



analyses as part of descriptive grammar writing. Finally, the structure and style of the thesis are very transparent.

Honourable mention: **Klaas Seinhorst** (University of Amsterdam) for his dissertation

The complexity and learnability of phonological patterns: simulations, experiments, typology.

The jury's motivation is cited below.

The jury decided to give an honourable mention to this work for a number of reasons. First, as the subtitle indicates, this thesis involves a triangulation of simulation-based methods, experiments and typology. As such, the jury thinks it is a very good example of how typology can be connected to other linguistic sub-disciplines and how their methodologies can be combined to answer fundamental linguistic questions. In addition, Seinhorst's work contributes to typological work in phonology, which still tends to attract less attention than morpho-syntactic typological studies.

Secondly, the jury was impressed by Seinhorst's ability to integrate insights not only from phonological typology, but also emergentism and language acquisition, computational linguistics and psycholinguistics. Seinhorst's crystal clear and succinct writing shows his command of this highly diverse literature. While Seinhorst thesis does not add typological data, it engages thoroughly with existing typological databases.

Last but not least, all the data and the R code used for this thesis are open access. The jury applauds these practices and hopes that they will set an example for our community of typologists, and beyond.

4.2 The Georg von der Gabelentz Award

Juha Janhunen reports on the *Georg von der Gabelentz Award*

There were 15 submissions to the *Georg von der Gabelentz Award*. The award-winning grammar on Komnzo, a seriously endangered language spoken in Papua New Guinea, by Christian DÖHLER was found to be particularly well-organized, reader-friendly, typologically informative, and reasonably compact. Before the publication of this grammar, the Komnzo language had been virtually unknown and unstudied, and in view of its state of serious endangerment the task of its description was of extreme urgency. It was also considered an asset of this grammar that it is published as open access, with the accompanying base data also being accessible on the internet.



Honorable mention

The honorable mention is given to the grammar on Kakataibo, a Peruvian language, by Roberto ZARIQUIEY. Although there had been some earlier work on this language, the grammar now published is the first comprehensive description of it, based on an ample amount of fieldwork. Among the merits of this grammar is the detailed and precise analysis of the phonetic and phonology of the underlying language.

Shortlisted

The three shortlisted grammars are all extensive and detailed descriptions of previously little studied Transhimalayan languages: Duhumbi by Timotheus Adrianus BODT, Khatso by Chris DONLAY, and Purik Tibetan by Marius ZEMP. All of these grammars make significant additions to the understanding of the complexity of the Transhimalayan language area.