



Letter from the President

I am privileged to be able to look back to ALT 15 in Singapore, with much pleasure ... and to look forward, with no less pleasure, to ALT 16 in Lyon. As for Singapore, Alec Coupe thanks a great number of colleagues and collaborators (see below) and I can only join the ‘thanksgiving’ and, of course, add one person in the list of *honorati/ae*, and that person is Alec himself. As for Lyon, I am sure that there will a long list of *honorateae/i* too, but two colleagues stand out already, viz. Nina Dobrushina and Brigitte Pakendorf. The work has started a few months ago, a program committee is judging workshop proposals ‘even as we speak’, and in a while its decision will be announced with white smoke coming out of one of chimneys of the University of Lyon!

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The section about membership below may come to some as a surprise: membership will henceforth be free. In a way, this measure just makes our rules conform better to reality. Nominating committees have been nominating officers without paying too much attention to whether candidates had paid fees. Many of us did not actually pay these fees and, in reality, one became a member by paying a conference fee, part of which was sent to ALT. This arrangement, with a conference fee partially going to the local organizer and partially to ALT, will remain in place. But ALT has a structure, involving officers doing work that is partially independent of the organization of our biennial conferences. And thus we would like to see many / most / all of you to follow the link in the section below and simply state that you will be or remain a member and thus help steer ALT into a safe future. After all, you already read this bulletin and contribute to the LINGTYP discussion list.

Johan van der Auwera, President



1 Conference report: ALT 15, 2024

Alec Coupe presents the report below.

The 15th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology was originally slated to be held at the Zhuhai Campus of Beijing Normal University in November 2024, but health issues unfortunately led to the resignation of the original conference chair, necessitating shifting the conference to another location if one could be found, or cancelling the event. In January 2024 the ALT executive committee made a request for the conference to be held at Nanyang Technological University Singapore, after which preparations were hastily set in train to secure funding and organise logistics for the new conference dates of December 4-6.

A total of 213 abstracts were submitted: 151 papers were initially accepted for oral, virtual and poster presentations in the general sessions and six workshops over the three days of the conference, and the final number of papers presented was 148. Accepted presentations included 62 papers for the general oral sessions, 66 workshop papers, 18 poster presentations, and 2 plenary papers delivered, respectively, by Anna Sjöberg, Stockholm University, Sweden, winner of the Greenberg Award (<https://linguistic-typology.org/greenberg-award/>), and Sami Honkasalo, University of Helsinki, Finland, winner of the Pāṇini Award (<https://linguistic-typology.org/panini-award/>). Both plenary speakers gave stimulating presentations, generating many questions from the audience, which continued into the tea breaks.

Day 1 included 38 papers in 12 general sessions. Day 2 devoted the first morning session and the tea break to the poster presentations, in which 18 papers were displayed and discussed. The rest of the day was allocated to six workshops addressing the following themes:

- Exploring the feasibility of integrating Radical Construction Grammar and The Creation of Meaning for language description and typological comparison (Convenors: ZHOU Shihong and LU Lin)
- Proper names and their morphosyntactic behavior – special or not (Convenors: the late Johannes Helmbrecht, Thomas Stolz, Julia Nintemann)
- Understudied aspects of phasal polarity (Convenors: Ljuba Veselinova, Anastasia Panova, Bastian Persohn)
- Replication and reproducibility in quantitative typology (Convenors: Laura Becker, Matías Guzmán Naranjo, Frederik Hartmann)
- Dependency grammar for typology (Convenors: Andrew Dyer, Luigi Talamo, Annemarie Verkerk, Luca Brigada Villa, Erica Biagetti)



- Valency and valency alternations within and across language boundaries (Convenors: Michael Daniel, Guglielmo Inglese, Silvia Luraghi, Chiara Zanchi)

The large number of papers in the Dependency Grammar and Valency and Valency Alternations workshops required parallel morning sessions on Day 3 to accommodate them all after the second plenary was delivered, followed by the remaining general sessions. The conference concluded with the ALT business meeting and a closing address given by ALT president Johan van der Auwera.

The large number of abstract submissions greatly exceeded expectations and put the NTU conference on par with previous editions, even though much of the organization was necessarily last-minute and some of the usual inclusions such as the teach-ins could not be arranged in the short lead-in time. The original plan was to run the conference in hybrid mode in Zhuhai; it was decided to continue with the plan to run a hybrid conference to ensure reasonable attendance, and to accommodate participants inconvenienced by the late change of conference dates and location. Thanks to the excellent work of the Humanities and Social Sciences IT team, the session chairs and our crew of student helpers, the combination of virtual and in-person presentations and discussions worked seamlessly. Even with the possibility of participation on-line being offered, attendance was still very good, and the conference catered to over 100 in-person participants despite the late organization. A substantial number of bursaries provided by the ALT helped to ensure in-person attendance by participants with limited sources of funding.

ALT15 was generously supported by the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences with an NTU-ANU conference support grant – special thanks are owed to I Wayan Arka for facilitating the ANU collaboration, thereby allowing the organizing committee to request additional funding. My NTU colleagues Lin Jingxia and Tamisha Tan provided indispensable help in assessing abstract reviews and organizing accepted papers into the 22 thematic sessions, and ALT president Johan van der Auwera, ALT secretary/conference manager Ljuba Veselinova and the Secretary Treasurer Dmitry Idiatov were a constant source of support and information.

An army of volunteer abstract reviewers ensured the quality of the accepted papers, and on behalf of the organizing committee I give my grateful thanks to the following colleagues for the contribution of their time and expertise: Adam James Ross Tallman, Anastasia Bauer, Anna Bugaeva, Antoine Guillaume, Bill Palmer, Carol Genetti, Cathryn Yang, Chia-Jung Pan, Chris Lasse Däbritz, Dana Louagie, Daniel Ross, Danielle Barth, David Peterson, Eva Schultze-Berndt, Ezequiel Koile, František Kratochvíl, Gregory Anderson, Guglielmo Inglese, Guillaume Jacques, Heiko Narrog, Hilary Chappell, Jean-Christophe Verstraete, Jeanette Sakel, Jeff Good, Jessica Ivani, Jesús Olguín Martínez, Jingxia Lin, Johan van



der Auwera, Kaoru Horie, Katharina Haude, Kristine Hildebrandt, Ksenia Shagal, Laura Becker, Lauren Gawne, Li Nguyen, Lidia Federica Mazzitelli, Ljuba Veselinova, Luca Ciucci, Maia Ponsonnet, Marc Pierce, Marianne Mithun, Matti Miestamo, Michael Cysouw, Michael Dunn, Naonori Nagaya, Nathaniel Sims, Nikolaus P. Himmelmann, Olga Krasnoukhova, Peter Arkadiev, Pui Yiu Szeto, Randy J. LaPolla, Ronald Schaefer, Seongha Rhee, Shelece Easterday, Shihong Zhou, Shobhana L. Chelliah, Simone Mattiola, Sonia Cristofaro, Spike Gildea, Stef Spronck, Stephen Morey, Steven Moran, Tamisha Tan, Taras Zakharko, Thomas Stolz, Tianhua Luo, Uma Pappuswamy, Uta Reinöhl, Xuping Li, Yunfan Lai, Zakaria Rehman, and Zhengdao Ye.

Lastly, the NTU School of Humanities administrative team – Chua Ann-Marie, Cheryl Cheong, Elis Ng and especially our conference manager Felicia Tseng – deserve special mention for their outstanding competence and dedication in ensuring that ALT15 was a success.





2 ALT 16, 2026

Nina Dobrushina and **Brigitte Pakendorf** on behalf of the local organizing committee

The 16th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology will be organized by the Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage (DDL), CNRS, and will be held at the Lumière University of Lyon, France, on 1-3 July 2026. DDL has a long history of studying minority languages, writing grammatical descriptions, doing field research in South America, Africa, North-east and Southeast Asia, Australia, the Caucasus and Europe, and working on phonological, grammatical and semantic typology. The conference will take place in the old part of the Lumière University, a beautiful venue located in a very dynamic part of the city with the possibility to sit in the garden or walk along the Rhône river. There are excellent public transport links (metro and tram) to other parts of the city, and numerous city bike stations are located nearby.



Lyon is the culinary capital of France and a World Heritage Site, with numerous Roman vestiges, a Romanesque Old Town, and a new quarter boasting spectacular modern architecture. The vineyards of Burgundy and the Beaujolais as well as the Côtes du Rhône are only short train rides away, as are the Alps and the Massif Central. We look forward to welcoming you in Lyon next year!

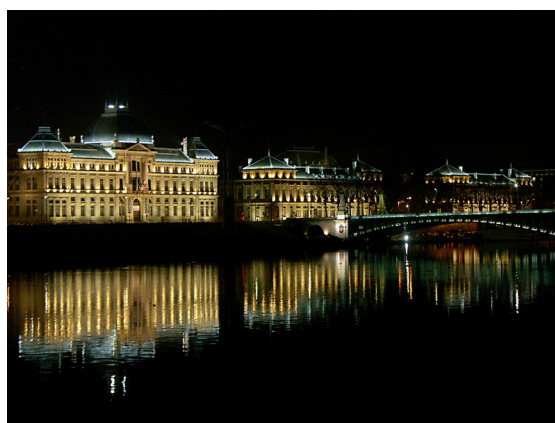


Figure 1: Photo by Photo by Magali Grevaud/Concours Lyon l'Insolite

The conference website can be found at <https://alt-2026.sciencesconf.org/>.



Please send correspondence to alt-2026@sciencesconf.org.

Timeline and deadlines:

Workshops

- Call for workshops announced: **March 6, 2025**
- Deadline workshop proposals: **April 30, 2025**
- Workshop acceptance notification: **June 15, 2025**

General sessions

- General call for papers announced: **June 20, 2025**
- General abstract deadline: **October 15, 2025**
- Abstract acceptance notification: **January 15, 2026**

A [one page flyer](#) with this information can be downloaded for printing out and posting.

3 Membership

Starting spring 2024, the Executive Committee of the Association for Linguistic Typology decided to let membership in the organization be free of charge in order to facilitate the participation of anyone interested in typology regardless of their academic standing or job status. Those who wish to continue their membership or become members can use the form linked [here](#).

The ALT organization maintains a biennial conference and in connection with it, distributes stipends to students and participants from low income countries to ensure as diverse attendance as possible. In addition, ALT organizes three high profile competitions for different kinds of typological and descriptive studies in order to encourage and promote the work of young scholars. The winners of these competitions become the plenary speakers at ALT conferences and the organization covers the expenses for their participation. Since funding is necessary for these activities, a part of the conference fee paid by the participants of the bi-annual ALT conferences will be allocated for ensuring their continuation and the development of future initiatives to promote scholarship in linguistic typology.



4 The Journal *Linguistic Typology*

4.1 Report by the Editor-in-Chief Maria/Masha Koptjevskaja-Tamm

Dear ALT members! I would start by stating the obvious, namely, that we, as an Association, are very lucky to have a journal to be proud of. It is a highly visible Diamond Open Access journal, publishing a wide variety of articles in different formats. I am taking the liberty of reminding you of its mission:

Linguistic Typology provides a forum for all work of relevance to the study of language typology and cross-linguistic variation. It welcomes work taking a typological perspective on all domains of the structure of spoken and signed languages, including historical change, language processing, and sociolinguistics. Diverse descriptive and theoretical frameworks are welcomed so long as they have a clear bearing on the study of cross-linguistic variation. We welcome cross-disciplinary approaches to the study of linguistic diversity, as well as work dealing with just one or a few languages, as long as it is typologically informed and typologically and theoretically relevant, and contains new empirical evidence.

I take it that all of you are regular readers of *Linguistic Typology*. And that the journal will continue to receive excellent submissions from many of those who are reading this report.

The second year with Open Access by Subscription

Starting with Volume 27 (2024), *Linguistic Typology* was transformed into a Diamond Open Access journal thanks to the subscribers participating in the [Subscribe to Open \(S2O\)](#) project. All current content is published under a Creative Commons License (CC-BY 4.0) at no cost to authors and are freely available to readers. After the first successful year the journal is continuing to publish through this model throughout 2025. These decisions are taken on a yearly basis and are partly dependent on the number of institutional and individual subscriptions to the journal. So we hope that the ALT members will keep their individual subscriptions and encourage their libraries to subscribe to the journal and/or to keep their subscriptions.

Linguistic Typology has been accepted for inclusion in DOAJ (<https://doaj.org/toc/1613-415X>), which is an additional marker of its high quality. From DOAJ's homepage: "DOAJ is a unique and extensive index of diverse open access journals from around the world, driven by a growing community, and is committed to ensuring quality content is freely available online for everyone".



The journal's impact factor (JIF) for 2023 is 1.7. For comparison:

Language Typology and Universals – JIF 0.5

Folia Linguistica – JIF 0.6

Diachronica – JIF 0.6

Linguistics – JIF 1.3

Studies in Language – JIF 0.5

Glossa – JIF 0.9

Changes in the composition of the Editorial Board

The replacement cycle for the members of the Editorial Board has been distorted, due to various reasons, with most of the Editors having served for a considerably longer time than intended in the Statutes. Starting from January 2025, two of the Associate Editors (Hannah Haynie and Fernando Zúñiga) were replaced by Thiago Chacon and Kaius Sinnemäki; starting from June 2025 Jeff Mielke will be replaced by Shelece Easterday. We would like to thank Fernando, Jeff and Hannah for their wonderful service to the journal, and to the ALT community, for their hard work, clever advice, solidarity and support on all levels.

Thiago Chacon (Universidade de Brasília) specializes in the native languages of the Amazon, with particular focus on language documentation and description, phonetics and phonology, anthropological linguistics, linguistic typology, historical linguistics and language contact. His research touches on different interdisciplinary topics, such as linguistic diversity, Amazonia prehistory as well as socio-cultural and environmental policies for safeguarding the future of minority languages and societies.

Kaius Sinnemäki (University of Helsinki, [click here to access his website](#)), works on linguistic diversity, language comparison, and language contact, often with a particular interest in language complexity. He has extensive experience in large-scale typological research, corpus-based typology, and the study of language contact from a typological perspective. Recently, he has also explored Finnish traditional dialects and co-developed a typological approach to studying how social aspects of bilingualism can influence linguistic outcomes in contact situations. He has served as a reviewer for *Linguistic Typology* since 2017.

Shelece Easterday (University of Hawai'i at Manoa, <https://www.smeasterday.com/>) works on phonological typology, language change, and diachronic typology. She is particularly interested in the sound change dynamics associated with the emergence of complex and rare patterns. She previously worked in community-based language revitalization projects in New Mexico and won the Greenberg Award in 2019 for her dissertation *Highly Complex Syllable Structure: A Typological Study of its Phonological Characteristics and Diachronic Development*. She is currently



working on a [project](#) involving phonetic and phonological research, language documentation, and capacity-building for language work with Micronesian diaspora communities on O'ahu. She co-edited a [special issue](#) of *Linguistic Typology* on phonological typology with Steven Moran and Eitan Grossman, published in 2023.

Acknowledging reviewers

A good scientific journal is simply unthinkable without reviewers. We, the team behind *Linguistic Typology*, are immensely grateful to all our reviewers for their generous assistance, their readiness to invest time and energy, share their expertise, provide comments to the submitted manuscripts, and in this way contribute to the quality of the published articles.

Starting with the first issue in 2025, *Linguistic Typology* will regularly (once a year) acknowledge the names of all the anonymous reviewers for the last year. Our first list contains the names of the reviewers who submitted their reviews between 1 January 2021 and 31 August 2024. All of them have agreed to have their names displayed.

However, we are experiencing regular problems with recruiting reviewers and are therefore discussing various ways of involving the members of the ALT community in this process in a more active way.

Other updates

- We have completely updated several important documents, primarily guidelines for submission and documents on data sharing policies.
- The last issue for 2025 will largely focus on the matters related to replication and reproducibility. The starting point is the target paper by Laura Becker and Matías Guzmán Naranjo, "Replication and methodological robustness in quantitative typology" (<https://doi.org/10.1515/lingty-2023-0076>), that has received thirteen commentaries coming from prominent researchers with different expertise.

4.2 Latest issues

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

- [Ahead of Print/Just Accepted](#)
- [Volume 29, Issue 1, May 2025](#)
- [Volume 28, Issue 3, October 2024](#)