



Letter from the President

Unfortunately, at the close of 2025 the world at large continues to be very upsetting. May 2026 make the world improve its ways.

Fortunately, the micro-world of linguistic typology is doing very well. We are looking forward to the continued volunteer work of colleagues on the ALT committees, an exciting conference in Lyon, top-level science in our journal, and offers to host our 2028 conference.

Johan van der Auwera, President

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1 ALT Elections

Back in September 2025, ALT members held elections for new members of the Executive Committee, Secretary Treasurer and Secretary and Conference Manager.

The new Executive Committee (EC) will start in January 2026 in the following composition:

- Johan van der Auwera (president)
- Dmitry Idiatov (Secretary-Treasurer) (re-elected)
- Ljuba Veselinova (Secretary and Conference Manager) (re-elected)
- Maria Koptjevskaja-Tamm (Editor, Linguistic Typology)
- Shelece Easterday (continuing from previous EC)
- Andrey Shluinski (continuing from previous EC)
- Anvita Abbi (newly elected EC member)
- Timur Maisak (newly elected EC member)
- Neige Rochant (newly elected EC member)
- Roberto Zariquiey (newly elected EC member)

The ALT organization would like to once again thank the outgoing EC members listed below for their outstanding service and contribution.

- Hilary Chappell
- Kristine Hildebrandt
- Nikolaus Himmelmann
- Iker Salaberri

The organization also extends our warmest thanks to the Nominating Committee for all the time they devoted to proposing the new EC members.

- Katharina Haude (Chair)
- Wayan Arka
- Peter Arkadiev
- Françoise Rose



2 Conference update: ALT 16, 2026

There have been no less than 397 abstracts submitted to ALT 16 to be held between **July 1–July 3, 2026** in Lyon, France. The review process is in full swing with 215 reviewers engaged in it. The abstract acceptance notification will be announced on **January 15, 2026**.

Please stay tuned by checking the conference website, <https://alt-2026.sciencesconf.org/> for other important updates.

3 Call for hosts: ALT 17, 2028

The Association for Linguistic Typology now solicits bids for a conference venue and host for ALT 17, 2028. We especially encourage submissions from North America since ALT 16 will take place in Lyon, France and ALT 15 was hosted by NTU, Singapore. Below you will find a full list of ALT venues, going back to 1995.

- ALT 1, 1995, Vitoria-Gasteiz, The Basque Country, Spain
- ALT 2, 1997, Eugene, Oregon, USA
- ALT 3, 1999, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- ALT 4, 2001, Santa Barbara, California, USA
- ALT 5, 2003, Sardinia, Italy
- ALT 6, 2005, Padang, Indonesia
- ALT 7, 2007, Paris, France
- ALT 8, 2009, Berkeley, California, USA
- ALT 9, 2011, Hong Kong, China
- ALT 10, 2013, Leipzig, Germany
- ALT 11, 2015, Albuquerque, USA
- ALT 12, 2017, Canberra, Australia
- ALT 13, 2019, Pavia, Italy
- ALT 14, 2022, Austin, Texas, USA
- ALT 15, 2024, Singapore

In order to be included for consideration by ALT's Executive Committee, please reply to the ALT secretary and conference manager, Ljuba Veselinova ljuba@ling.su.se, with responses to the following questions:



3.1 Organizing Committee

Who are proposed members of the local organizing committee? What is the availability of administrative support at the host institution?

3.2 Location and accessibility

Please provide detailed information about the following:

- Availability of conference halls of various sizes.
- Availability and accessibility of hotels and student accommodation.
- Logistics of venue access, including access by airport/rail and by local public transport.
- Accessibility of venue for people with disabilities
- Possibilities for providing sign language interpretation, live captioning
- Possibilities for facilitating the participation of people with young children, e.g. providing some form of child care during the conference.
- Keep in mind possible conflicts with respect to timing, for example local holidays, events, celebrations, etc. in that location.

3.3 Timing

Describe the preferred timing, keeping in mind that ALT normally takes place during late northern hemisphere summer, and describe or justify timing alternatives (for example early autumn or some other more appropriate timing), if available. Please keep in mind the availability of conference halls, hotels etc. at your institution and in your area. Please describe any possible combination and/or conflicts with other workshops or conferences at the proposed time of year (e.g. the LSA Summer Institute in the U.S., other summer schools, other conferences such as SLE or ICHL).

3.4 Format

The ALT EC has indicated a strong preference for an in-person conference. However, given the ecological and accessibility advantages of virtual conferences, can you as a host also consider hybrid formats? And if worst comes to worst (as in the Covid19 pandemic), can you as a host consider an online conference as an alternative?



3.5 *Finances*

Please describe any potential funding sources (research councils, university funding, or other sponsors) that can be used towards ALT 17. Describe also options available from your institution for offering scholarships to students and scholars from developing countries.

3.6 *The Role of ALT*

The local host institution is the primary organizing force for ALT conferences. As such, the host is expected to have its own decision-making process in place. However, ALT will serve an advisory role in particular matters, including local organizing committee set-up, program committee establishment, facilitating calls for abstracts and award organization, and the ALT business meeting. Special Note: If you think that your venue might be appropriate, or if you want to begin informal discussions, we strongly encourage you to reach out to ALT Secretary Ljuba Veselinova ljuba@ling.su.se or to ALT President Johan van der Auwera johan.vanderauwera@uantwerpen.be early on. We would still require the full responses to the questions above in order for EC deliberation, but we would certainly welcome working with interested parties on potential ideas.

Please send this information by **March 31, 2026**. The Executive Committee will consider the applications, with the intention of selecting the venue in spring of 2026 and announcing the venue for ALT 17 at the 2026 ALT meeting in Lyon.

4 *The Journal *Linguistic Typology**

The Editor-in-Chief **Maria/Masha Koptjevskaja-Tamm** comments on recent developments of the journal

4.1 *The latest issues*

- Ahead of Print/Just Accepted
- Volume 29, Issue 2, June 2025
- Volume 29, Issue 3, October 2025

We are very excited to announce a new debate as part of issue 29/3 of *Linguistic Typology* that dives into a built-in paradox in science: while we all fear being wrong, the process of empirical scientific discovery is inherently messy and built upon repeated failures. The debate approaches this paradox through a thought-provoking target article and several commentaries that engage in the discussion.



The target article *Replication and Methodological Robustness in Quantitative Typology* addresses the critical need for rigorous replication and robustness of methods in language typology. It applies a recent Bayesian regression model to four earlier typological case studies and then assesses the robustness of results by comparing the outcomes of the different methods. The target article is joined by roughly dozen commentaries, written by scientists with a wide range of points of view and expertise. The result is a constructive and multi-faceted reflection that advances discussion on replication and robustness in the field.

With this issue we invite our readers to engage in thinking about replication and methodological robustness in linguistic typology, hoping that the debate will enhance further research on methodological rigor in our field.

Also in this issue:

Hartmann, Frederik and Nichols, Johanna. Geospatial effects on phonological complexity in the world's languages. *Linguistic Typology*, vol. 29, no. 3, 2025, pp. 627-670. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingty-2023-0077>.

Rosés Labrada, Jorge Emilio. Grammar Highlights 2024. *Linguistic Typology*, vol. 29, no. 3, 2025, pp. 671-674. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingty-2025-0066>.

4.2 *Language, family or area profiles*

We would also like to remind readers of LT's section devoted to language, family or area profiles. In this section, we welcome contributions that present a particular language, genetic unit or area from a typological perspective. This usually involves a basic descriptive profile, which also highlights what is of interest to typologists - in particular structures that have not really been picked up in the typological literature, but that typologists really should know about. The most recent examples include:

Lindsey, Kate L., Schokkin, Dineke and Wu, Nairan. The Pahoturi River language family, with special reference to its verbal puzzles. *Linguistic Typology*, vol. 27, no. 3, 2023, pp. 667-731. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingty-2022-2096>.

Khachaturyan, Maria. A typological portrait of Mano, Southern Mande. *Linguistic Typology*, vol. 25, no. 1, 2020, pp. 123-167. <https://doi.org/10.1515/lingty-2020-2050>.

Some other examples and further guidelines can be found in the pdf file [here](#). The same file can also be downloaded from [webpage of the journal](#). Please scroll down to **Language profiles, family portraits and areal surveys**



5 LSA Conference update

by **Frederick J. Newmeyer**, LSA Secretary-Treasurer

The Linguistic Society of America will be offering a quasi-hybrid registration option for the 2026 Annual Meeting, to be held January 8-11, 2026

For those of you who cannot travel to New Orleans in person, attending remotely through the quasi-hybrid registration option will give you virtual access to all plenary talks, plus access to four concurrent session rooms where a continuous schedule of sessions selected to reflect the full array of disciplinary subfields will be offered across all four days of the meeting.

As a virtual attendee, you will be able to see the speakers, ask questions, and hear questions from the live audience. This year's virtual option is a pilot test for a cost-effective approach to hybrid meetings. If it is successful, we will expand the number of hybrid rooms in coming years. Please tell your international colleagues or anyone who is concerned about traveling for any reason about the virtual registration option and encourage them to join us!

You can filter the [2026 LSA Annual Meeting Program](#) for the Track "Hybrid" and see the 45 sessions that virtual registrants will be able to attend, which includes all plenaries plus four continuously scheduled concurrent session rooms.

The links to access the sessions will be in the meeting app, which everyone who registers for the meeting will be able to download.

Thanks for your help in getting the word out.