



Letter from the President

Lyon nous attend!

Lyon of course, is a totum pro parte: the part that we are most interested in is the linguistic community, known for its multifarious scholarly and organizational excellence. Admittedly, the totum of the city of Lyon is most attractive too! And then there is the nous, referring to the international community of devout linguistic typologists, linguists that are curious about typology, ones that stand on the shoulders of Joseph Greenberg and Georg von der Gabelentz, but also the ones that selected the shoulder climbers.

Lyon, nous allons bientôt faire nos valises.

Johan van der Auwera, President

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1 Conference update

1.1 *ALT 16*

The 16th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology will take place in Lyon, France, from 1-3 July 2026. It is being organised by the research unit (aka ‘lab’) “Dynamique Du Langage” (CNRS & Université Lumière Lyon 2). Our call for papers generated a great deal of interest, receiving nearly 400 submissions. Unfortunately, due to constraints of time and space we had to be rather selective, initially accepting 224 abstracts in total for four parallel general sessions per day, two poster sessions, and six workshops, an acceptance rate of 56%. Since then, the unstable geopolitical situation as well as unforeseen individual circumstances have led to inevitable cancellations, and the programme comprises 205 oral and poster presentations as of 9 June 2026; these cover a large range of typological topics.

For those who have not done so yet, registration for on-site participation is possible until 15 June, and registration for online participation (both as a presenter and to simply listen in) is possible until 22 June. Registration for one of the four teach-ins that will be held on 30 June is, however, not possible anymore, since they are all fully booked out.

Please note that registration and payment are done in two separate steps, which both need to be completed for your registration to be valid. Stay tuned by checking the conference website, <https://alt-2026.sciencesconf.org/> for important updates.

We look forward very much to welcome all of you in Lyon very soon!

1.2 *ALT 17*

The 17th International Conference of the Association for Linguistic Typology will be hosted by the Department of Linguistics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada in August 2028, most likely between August 15-18. Jorge Rosés Labrada will introduce the venue during the business meeting of ALT in Lyon.



2 ALT Awards

2.1 *The 12th Joseph Greenberg Award*

The chair of the Jury, **Uta Reinöhl** reports.

This year we received a total of eight dissertations covering a wide range of topics from phonetics and phonology to syntax and semantics, from large-scale quantitative studies to microtypological investigations, both with and without a focus on particular areas or families. The wide range of topics, and the dissertations' theoretical depth and empirical breadth is an indication of the field's vibrant state, and of how much there is still to learn and find out. We would like to congratulate all scholars on their achievements and for advancing our understanding of the world-wide linguistic variation space! As the chair of this year's Greenberg Award committee I want to thank all committee members for their dedicated work: Peter Arkadiev, Laura Becker, Christian Döhler, Ander Egurtzegi, Hongmei Fan, Olga Krasnoukhova, Dana Louagie, Ludger Paschen, and Bastian Persohn.

After much reading and debate, we decided to award this year's Greenberg Award to

Omri Amiraz (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) for his work on

Inverse scope in all ... not constructions:

A cross-linguistic and diachronic investigation.

Amiraz offers an elaborate study of impressive theoretical depth as well as typological breadth, combining synchronic with diachronic case studies. We were particularly impressed by his demonstration of how to approach a formal semantic topic - the interaction of negation and universal quantification - from a typological vantage point. The results of this work are, moreover, relevant beyond its immediate subject-matter, as it argues for the existence of "weak universal forces". This work thus contributes to ongoing debates on the dynamics of linguistic change as shaped by factors holding across languages as well as language-specific.

The field's strength was such that the committee decided to additionally extend an honorable mention to

Satu Keinänen (University of Helsinki) for her dissertation

Functional extensions of evidentials. A cross-linguistic study

In this work Keinänen succeeds to survey the vast literature on evidentials and typologize their functional extensions with a focus on first-person effects, internal states, mirativity and general knowledge. The committee was particularly impressed by the precise and detailed reception of the literature and the study's broad coverage across language families and areas. There is no doubt that this work will become a touchstone for work on evidentials to come.



2.2 *The 5th Georg von der Gabelentz Award*

The chair of the Jury, **Roberto Zariquey** reports.

This year the jury evaluated seven reference grammars covering a wide range of languages and areas, from Australian to Philippine, Amazonian and Tibeto-Burman languages, published between 2021 and 2024. The richness of the submissions reflects the vitality of grammaticography as a field and the sustained commitment of our community to language documentation and description. We would like to congratulate all authors for their outstanding contributions. As the president of this year's Georg von der Gabelentz Award jury I want to thank all jury members for their amazing work: María Bardají, Maria Kristina Gallego, Jesús Olguín-Martínez, and Katherine Walker.

After careful reading and deliberation, the jury unanimously decided to award the Georg von der Gabelentz Prize 2026 to

Thomas Ennever (University of Surrey) for his work
A Grammar of Ngardi. 2021. De Gruyter Mouton

This grammar is a seminal contribution to the typology of Australian languages, offering fine-grained descriptions of typologically remarkable phenomena, including the complex verb construction (CVC) system, the rich case system, bound pronoun morphology, associated motion morphology, and the non-configurational properties of Ngardi. The jury was particularly impressed by the analytical rigor and methodological transparency of the work, as well as by the consistency and detail of the interlinear glossing and example citation system. The grammar also stands out for its exemplary treatment of the sociolinguistic situation of Ngardi, which is a severely endangered language, with great sensitivity to historical context, multilingualism, and language shift. Its ethical grounding is equally outstanding, with an explicit intellectual property statement, documented community support, and recordings returned to the community.

The jury also unanimously decided to award an Honorable Mention to

Guillaume Jacques (CNRS, Paris) for his work
A Grammar of Japhug. 2021. Language Science Press.

This grammar is awarded in recognition of its impressive scope and the consistently high quality of its analyses, the result of many years of sustained fieldwork. Its coverage is exceptionally wide (including phenomena rarely treated in reference grammars) and it is exemplary in its ease of use, with a detailed table of contents, comprehensive indexes, and an index of Japhug terms that functions as an integrated lexicon. There is no doubt that this work will remain a touchstone for Tibeto-Burman linguistics and reference grammar writing for years to come.



3 The Journal *Linguistic Typology*

- Ahead of Print/Just Accepted
- TOC of Issue 1, Volume 30, 2026

DE GRUYTER MOUTON

Linguistic Typology — 2026 | Volume 30 | Issue 1

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