

# CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE STUDIES

Sept. 3 – 5, 2009

University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland)

First announcement and call for papers



## conference details

The 2009 conference is hosted by the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and will take place at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, from 3 to 5 September, 2009.

The theme of this year's conference is "**Langue française en contextes**".

Topics include, but are not restricted to:

- Regularities and variations of French
- Evolution of French
- Swiss French varieties
- French as a second language
- Modality and Evidentiality in French
- Semantics and pragmatics of French

This conference aims to bring together researchers with an interest in French in all its forms and in all its representations, both spoken and written. In particular, participants are invited to address:

i) French linguistics and the description of French (with an emphasis on grammatical, semantic, pragmatic and discursive aspects);

ii) French varieties across the French-speaking world and among social French-speaking groups;

iii) Sociolinguistics of French;

iv) acquisitional and educational approaches to French as a foreign language such as stages of acquisition and the learner's language representations, learning and teaching strategies, formative and summative assessment, learning contexts.

However, this list should not be understood as restrictive. Synchronic and diachronic perspectives are possible.

The languages of the conference will be French and English.

## organisation

Louis de Saussure (linguistics and discourse analysis, chair), Marie-José Béguelin (French linguistics, head of the Institute of language and communication sciences), Philippe Terrier (French as a second language, vice-president of the university of Neuchâtel), Steve Oswald, Patrick Morency, Cécile Barbet, Alain Rihs, Mathieu Avanzi, (PhD students), Rachel Sanchez (administration). For the AFLS: Kate Beeching, Emmanuelle Labeau, Pierre Larrivée.

## scientific committee

*AFLS permanent committee:* Kate Beeching (UWE Bristol, Chair) Vera Regan (University College Dublin, Chair of the research committee), Helene Blondeau (University of Florida), David Hornsby (University of Kent), Florence Myles (University of Newcastle), Tim Pooley (London Metropolitan University), Rodney Sampson (University of Bristol), David Trotter (University of Aberystwyth)

*Neuchâtel 2009 committee:* Louis de Saussure (University of Neuchâtel), Jean-Michel Adam (University of Lausanne), Antoine Auchlin (University of Geneva), Marc Bonhomme (University of Berne), Gilles Corminboeuf (University of Neuchâtel), Walter De Mulder (University of Antwerp), Henriette De Swart (University of Groningen), Marc Dominicy (University of Brussels), Laurent Gosselin (University of Rouen), Alain Kamber (University of Neuchâtel), Mikhaïl Kissine (University of Brussels), Jean-Marc Luscher (University of Geneva), Jacques Moeschler (University of Geneva), Arie Molendijk (University of Groningen), Simona Pekarek (University of Neuchâtel), Laurent Perrin (University of Metz), Carine Skupien-Dekens (University of Neuchâtel), Bertrand Sthioul (University of Geneva), Johann van der Auwera (University of Antwerp), Diane Vincent (Laval University Québec).

## important dates

- Submission of abstract for main conference: 15 April 2009
- Submission of abstract to doctoral workshop: 1 May 2009
- Notification of acceptance / rejection: 15 June 2009
- End of early-bird registration: 15 July 2009
- Registration closes: 15 August 2009
- Conference: 3-5 September 2009

## call for papers

### Submission of abstracts

**Paper and poster proposals** (papers: 20 minutes presentation plus 10 minutes of discussion) must be sent by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 as a one-page + references anonymous abstract, Times 12, single spaced, doc or rtf, attached to an email message sent to [afls2009@unine.ch](mailto:afls2009@unine.ch). The email message should mention the title of the abstract and the name, affiliation and complete address of the author(s), and mention whether the proposal is for a paper or a poster.

**Notification of acceptance or rejection** will be sent by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The scientific committee may transfer a paper proposal to the poster session.

**Doctoral (PhD) students' workshop:** The morning of 3 September will be dedicated to the workshop for doctoral students. Students preparing a thesis are invited to present their research. This has traditionally been an excellent opportunity to meet other doctoral students and specialists in related fields of research, and to gain a new perspective of ongoing research in your field. The deadline for the submission of doctoral students' paper proposals is **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**. They should be submitted according to the guidelines indicated on the AFLS 2009 conference website: (<http://www.afls.net/2009conference.php>).

## student grants

Doctoral students may be able to benefit from a grant from the AFLS to cover part of their travel expenses depending on their personal situation. A support of £ 150 max. can be applied for. Further information and application form are available on the conference's website (<http://www.afls.net/2009conference.php>).

## program

Registration will be open starting from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, through the AFLS website (<http://www.afls.net>).

### Plenary speakers:

Georges Kleiber (University Marc Bloch Strasbourg)  
Andres Kristol (University of Neuchâtel)  
Carl Vettters (Opal Coast University)  
Vera Regan (University College Dublin)  
Marcel Vuillaume (University of Nice)

## venue and events

The conference will be held at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Espace Louis-Agassiz, Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Information and directions are available on the Faculty website: <http://www.unine.ch/lettres>

The city of Neuchâtel is located in north-western French-speaking Switzerland, on the foot of the Jura mountains and on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel, close to the Alps. Neuchâtel has a lovely medieval old town and the local countryside is picturesque. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is located on the lakeside.

Neuchâtel is 1h15 train away from Geneva airport, 1h30 away from Zurich airport and from Basle airport. Low cost companies fly to Switzerland. There is a TGV train connection to Neuchâtel from Paris. National and international train information can be found easily on <http://www.cff.ch>.

The official conference dinner will take place on Friday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>.

An excursion will take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> afternoon.

General information about Neuchatel, including accommodation, is available on the Canton of Neuchâtel tourist office website <http://www.neuchateltourisme.ch>.

Special rates are currently being negotiated with hotels and will be announced on the conference's website in due time.

Contact and information for the AFLS in general: <http://www.afls.net>

Contact and information for the 2009 conference:

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Conference's website: <http://www.afls.net/2009conference.php>