



## Call for papers

### International conference

## *From field to theory: 40 years of LACITO*

CNRS, Villejuif, 15-17 November 2016

Organizing committee:

Lameen Souag, Anne Behaghel-Dindorf,  
Isabelle Leblic and René Lacroix

In 2016, the department LACITO “Langues et civilisations à tradition orale” (LACITO, French National Center for Scientific Research – Paris 3 Sorbonne Nouvelle – INALCO) is celebrating its 40th anniversary. We are marking the occasion with a conference bringing together colleagues from throughout the discipline. LACITO was founded in 1976 by Jacqueline M.C. Thomas, with help from André-Georges Haudricourt.

The documentation and description of unwritten languages within their cultural contexts has always been at the core of its activities. LACITO has played a pioneering role in the gathering, processing, and diffusion of data on previously little-known languages. Our members have published grammars and dictionaries of many dozens of languages, along with a number of oral literature collections.

All together, we have studied more than 200 languages from many different families: Abkhazo-Adyghean, Afroasiatic, Arawakan, Austroasiatic, Austronesian, Basque, Cariban, Dravidian, Eskimo-Aleut, Hmong-Mien, Indo-European, Japonic, Kartvelian, Korean, Nakh-Daghestanian, Niger-Congo, Oto-Manguean, Uralic, Sino-Tibetan, Songhay, Tai-Kadai, Tucanoan, Tupi. Since 1994 our field recordings have been made available through the [Pangloss Collection](#), an online archive of glossed and translated audio recordings.

In both linguistics and anthropology, the comparative dimension (diachronic and synchronic) occupies a key position in LACITO’s research. Our comparative studies started out by addressing historical developments and universal laws

governing change. In recent decades, the typological perspective has opened up further research domains in phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics, which we have explored and helped to refine.

Finally, French ethnolinguistics at LACITO has developed and oriented itself towards dialogue pragmatics and linguistic anthropology. In this domain, LACITO has distinguished itself by adopting multiple paradigms (discourse practices, speech events and utterance events, speech situations, activity types) and by exploring the cognitive dimension of discourse tropes. Particular attention has been paid to musical forms, lyrics, lexical taxonomies, and ethnoscience.

Over the years, LACITO has produced a total of 525 books: 379 monographs (grammars, dictionaries, etc.) and 146 collective works (see [bit.ly/LACITO-Ouvrages](http://bit.ly/LACITO-Ouvrages)).

We invite submissions from interested researchers, whether or not they have been linked to LACITO, related to any of the following themes:

### **1. Language description**

- Methods of data collection: uses and limitations (questionnaires, audio/video recording, experiments...)
- Language documentation (corpus processing and annotation, archival, access...)
- Creating dictionaries and grammars

### **2. Historical and typological comparison**

- Historical linguistics (reconstruction, genealogy, language contact)
- Typological generalisations (universals, tendencies, rarissima...)
- Typology of language change (grammaticalization, panchrony...)

### **3. Ethnolinguistics and linguistic anthropology**

- Dialogue and reported discourse
- Speech events and speech situations
- Sociolinguistic ethnography

Each theme will be introduced by a guest speaker (45 minutes).

Communications will be 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

Proposals (title+abstract) relating to one of the three themes above should be submitted to [lacitocnrs@gmail.com](mailto:lacitocnrs@gmail.com) by Friday 24 June 2016.

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*Scientific committee:* Sandra Bornand (LLACAN), Guillaume Jacques (CRLAO), Bertrand Masquelier (LACITO), Alexis Michaud (LACITO), Samia Naïm (LACITO)