Nick Evans’ ARC Laureate Fellowship

Nick Evans has received an Australian Laureate Fellowship for five years (starting 2014) to work on a project entitled ‘The Wellsprings of Linguistic Diversity’. This project will address the puzzle of why there is so much linguistic diversity in some parts of the world – particularly Oceania – by investigating the actual micro-diversity inside speech communities at several chosen sites in Oceania – southern New Guinea, Western Arnhem Land and Vanuatu – and comparing them with small-scale communities at three low-diversity control sites: Samoa, a selected Australian small town, and a small town in Latin America. The project will bring resources for two full-time postdocs, part-time postdocs for linguists Murray Garde (Western Arnhem Land and Vanuatu) and Ruth Singer (Western Arnhem Land), and at least four new PhD positions, as well as funding for an annual week-long ‘forum dialogue’ where two prominent linguists will each run a five-day lecture series (one in the morning, one in the afternoon) on a relevant theme, and support for regular visits to the department by Prof. Miriam Meyerhoff (university of Auckland), who has been pioneering variationist approaches to language in Vanuatu.

Submission & Post-doc position

The last couple of months has seen a bunch of recent thesis submissions and successful defences. Our congratulations to:

Maïa Ponsonnet’s PhD thesis entitled The language of emotions in Dalabon, Northern Australia was submitted on July 10. In addition, Maïa was lucky enough to win a postdoc in France in Lyon (Dynamique du langage, CNRS). This 2-year position will allow her to live in France while continuing her research on emotions in Australian languages, focusing on Barunga Kriol for this project. As anticipated, it is with sorrow and even grief that Maïa left Canberra on July 19, to return to France (more) permanently. Nonetheless, she will carry out field work in Northern Australia, and will drop by Canberra on her way to the field as soon and as often as she can.


Julia Colleen Miller defended her thesis entitled The Phonetics of Tone in two dialects of Daneeza (Athabaskan) on May 17 at the University of Washington (Seattle).

Keren Baker submitted her Master thesis entitled The Phonology Of Lyngngam, a Meghlayan Austro-Asiatic Language Of North-East India. The thesis, supervised by Paul Sidwell and Mark Donohue, is the ANU’s first thesis about an Indian Austroasiatic language, and the first work of its size to present any elements of Lyngngam’s structure.
Master & Honours students’ graduation

Two master degree students and three honours degree students in Linguistics graduated in June.

Congratulations to Karma Tshering and Tom Fitzpatrick for their Master degree, as well as Peter Appleby, Virginia Dawson and Katie Jepson for their Honours degree. Peter, Ginny and Katie were supervised by CAP people, Gwen Hyslop, Mark Donohue and Beth Evans respectively.

Rachel Hendery represented linguistics as the guest speaker at the CASS graduation. The Vice Chancellor noted that her speech held the dubious honour of being the first time that the word “bullshit” has been spoken from the podium during an ANU graduation ceremony. She suspects she is unlikely to be invited to such refined events again.

New students in our department

The department welcomes five PhD students.

Hyunsu Kim’s research project focuses on the comparison of three discourse markers – Korean -nikka/-tay and Japanese -tte – with regards to their interactional function in spoken discourse.

Yoko Yonezawa is conducting a study of personal references in Japanese.

Narah Lee studies the pragmatic effects of hybrid forms in the modern Korean language. Hyunsu, Yoko and Narah have recently moved into the Coombs building from the Baldestin precinct.

Scott Bo Liu’s PhD research project investigates the learning sequence of L2 Chinese sentence structures through a processing approach. Scott has transferred from the University of Canberra to ANU to continue working with his supervisor, Yanyin Zhang.

Wei-Chen Huang will join our department at the end of September to work with Wayan Arka on a Formosan language. Wei-Chen has been awarded the Taiwan ANU Scholarship.

DoBeS final conference

The international conference Language Documentation: Past – Present – Future was held from the 5-7 June at Schloss Herrenhausen (Hannover) to celebrate the achievements of the Volkswagenstiftung’s DoBeS program.

Nick Evans together with Ulrike Mosel (university of Kiel) presented a plenary talk, entitled Zi terber vngm: Sprachwelten in der Südsee (There are so many languages: speech-worlds of Oceania).

Nick also gave a team presentation entitled Words of life and the life of words: documenting language and traditional biological knowledge in the Pacific with Gaby Cablitz (university of Kiel), Kipiro Damas (Forestry Research Institute, PNG), Catriona Malaau (University of Newcastle) and Anna Margetts (Melbourne University).

Yusuf Sawaki along with Apriani Arilaha, Freya Morigerowsky, Novita Ndiken, Sonja Riesberg, and Volker Unterladstetter from the CELD in Manokwari and Köln University gave a talk entitled The long road to impact: building local documentation capacity in Eastern Indonesia.

Julia Colleen Miller presented on Soundscapes and language documentation: Collecting bird songs and human stories.
The 2013 LSA Linguistics Institute

This year, the summer institute of the Linguistics Society of America (LSA) was centered around the themes of universality and variability. During one month, intensive courses, workshops and conferences gathered more than 600 participants.

Chomsky’s public talk entitled What is Language, and Why does it Matter and Dan Everett’s demonstration of monolingual fieldwork were two highlights of the institute. Keren Rice (university of Toronto), who taught the field method class attended by Philip Tama, gave a talk on her work in the Sahtú region of the Northwest Territories (Canada); Janet Pierrehumbert (Northwestern university) presented on lexical variability and Lyle Campbell (University of Hawai‘i) addressed the question of what the endangered languages documentation can bring to historical linguistics issues. Australia was well represented with a contingent of students and academics coming to get the most of it.

Matthew Carroll attended classes on a number of topics related to morphology and semantic field methods. A particular highlight was a class on modeling and measuring inflectional paradigms taught by Greg Stump, Andrew Hippisley and Raphael Finkel all from the University of Kentucky. He looks forward to using methods from that class in his research and is currently plotting a number of papers. He also took advantage of the endless networking opportunities which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Fanny Cottet had an amazingly great time learning about Articulatory Phonology model. She enjoyed playing with strings of numbers that look more like secret codes to decrypt than real gestural score of speakers’ articulation. Her exciting class on Articulatory Phonetics, taught by Pat Keating (UCLA), brought many ideas on techniques to explore informants’ oral cavity and velum movements on the field. Fanny also enjoyed her sociophonetics class and the

Publication news

Paul Sidwell is helping David Stampe (university of Hawaii) to reconstitute and publish the proceedings of the 1978 Second International Conference on Austrasiatic Linguistics (SICAL). The papers, coming to about 700 pages in total, mostly reflect work on Munda. They were being edited until about 1983 when the project was abandoned and the papers lay gathering dust in a forgotten cabinet. The volume will come out this year as an e-volume with Asia-Pacific Linguistics. While in Hawaii, Paul was also collaborating with David and Patricia Donegan on a comparative Munda database as part of his Future Fellowship project.

Mark Donohue published his article Towards a Papuan history of languages in the journal of Language & Linguistics in Melanesia (LLM) this month. The article presents an argument that many of the languages in Melanesia that are classified as Austronesian can just as well be considered to the non-Austronesian languages that have undergone incomplete language shift as a response to the appearance of (socially prominent) Austronesian languages. Stand by for debate!

Wayan Arka was at Oxford University (from 1-11 July), working with Mary Darlymple on a couple of co-authored papers in relation to his ‘Plurality and Grammar’ project. His visit to Oxford was funded by a small research development from CAP.
Nick Evans spent June attending a number of conferences in Asia, Europe and Canada. At the International Symposium on Bilingualism (ISB) at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, he presented a keynote address on Multilingualism as the primal human condition: what we have to learn from small-scale speech communities. At the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen, he gave a talk on The matrix of language evolution: lessons from small-scale speech communities at their Minerva-Gentiner Symposium on Emergent Languages and Cultural Evolution. Nick also gave a plenary talk on Minds among others: intercognitive linguistics and language diversity at the 12th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference in Edmonton, Canada.

Wayan Arka presented a paper at the LFG2013 conference in Debrecen, Hungary (from 18-20 July). His paper entitled Nonverbal Tense-Aspect in Marori reports his on-going research on this language as part of the ARC-funded project of Southern New Guinea Project. He was also in Debrecen attending the annual ParGram (Parallel Grammar) Meeting, as part of his ARC project on Computational Grammar Development of Indonesian.

Julie Manley retired

On the morning of Friday July 19th, the staff and students of Linguistics gathered to wish a fond goodbye and heartfelt thank-you to Julie Manley.

Julie joined the department as the Pacific Linguistics Publications Administrator in 2000, and since played a pivotal role in bringing more than 140 books to publication. Julie brought a breadth of talents to the job, dealing with authors and editors, printers and customers. Her contribution was crucial at all stages from taking in prospective manuscripts to sending finished books out to purchasers.

Julie also brought her artistic flair to PL, and especially enjoyed designing our colorful book covers.

Julie was a good friend, always ready to share a laugh and the occasional colorful and witty observation on the world at large or the academic enclave in particular. Every happiness and success in her retirement!

Writing Ungarinyin

While in Derby (Western Australia) in June-July as part of the AIATSIS funded project ‘Interpreting Howard Coate’s Ungarinyin recordings’, Stef Spronck organised an Ungarinyin orthography workshop that attracted wide and enthusiastic participation of Ngarinyin people.

There were vivid discussions about the value of the engma, the benefits and downsides of standardization and a lot of time was filled with writing practice.

The workshop ran for much longer than the two and a half hours it was originally scheduled for, but given that discussions continued on the way back home, nobody seemed to mind.

Stef would like to thank the Willinggin IPA for logistic support during the day.
Forthcoming fieldwork

Rachel Hendery is planning a fieldwork trip in September/October/November…(who knows?) in the wild and wonderful Cook Islands. She will not at all be spending time lounging on tropical beaches drinking cocktails, except very occasionally to recover from strenuous data elicitation sessions.

Julia Colleen Miller and Christian Döhler are about to go on a field trip to Rouku village, where Christian works on a description of the Kömazzo language for his dissertation. Christian will spend three months in Rouku. Julia will be there for the second time collecting information on the sociolinguistic situation of the village. She will witness the Independence Day in Morehead in mid September and then travel to Bimadbn village in order to work with Nick Evans and pursue her own work on Nambu. In addition to many interesting findings about Kömazzo, Julia and Christian are anticipating another apprenticeship training in garden fence building (see picture).

Now released from the preparation of her Thesis Proposal seminar, Katharine Gosling is getting ready to head off for her first field trip at the start of September. For this initial six week trip she will mainly be working in Kupang, the capital of Indonesia’s East Nusa Tenggara province, but a visit to Rote is also planned.

More news from Europe

Wayan Arka spent four months in Germany on his Humboldt Georg-Forster Fellowship, followed by a visit to Oxford and a trip to Hungary to attend LFG2013 Conference. While in Germany, he was mainly based at the University of Cologne, but he also travelled to University of Konstanz to give an invited talk there in late June 2013. After enjoying European spring, Wayan is now back in Canberra.

Malcolm Ross is spending July, August and September at the Max Planck Institute in Leipzig, where he is working on various projects to do with the history of Pacific languages and enjoying meeting linguists who don’t (often) find their way to Canberra, for example Bernard Comrie, Bill Croft, Matthew Dryer, Lea Brown, David Gil. He will spend October at CNRS-LACITO in Paris, working with Isabelle Bril on the history of the Formosan language Amis.

Wurm symposium held at ANU

On July 17th, the annual Wurm Symposium was held (advertised as the third, but actually the fifth) at ANU, in the Chancery Building.

This event, originally initiated by our sorely missed colleague the late Darrell Tryon, was originally established to commemorate the Austrian connections of our Department, and of research on the linguistics of our region, that flow from founding Professor Stephen Wurm’s Austrian (well, Austro-Hungarian) origins, and to provide a forum for people who don’t always talk very often – linguists and anthropologists of the Pacific on the one hand, and policy-makers on the other – to talk in an informal one-day workshop. It is jointly organised by our Department/College in conjunction with the Austrian Embassy and the University of Vienna and alternates annually between Canberra and Vienna.

In addition to sessions on linguistic and anthropological work in the Pacific, including a fascinating biographical talk on Stephen Wurm by Katharina Hobiger, and an afternoon session on issues of security and development in the Pacific, the program included a special tribute to Darrell Tryon’s life and work by Andy Pawley. The full program can be found here.

Our special thanks to Tamai Heaton, Shannon McIntyre, CAP and CHL, and the Austrian Embassy, for their support in organising this event.
Tim Hassall gave a paper at the second biennial colloquium of the Languages and Cultures Network for Australian Universities (LCNAU), held in Canberra 3-5 July. His paper, based on data obtained from L2 learners of Indonesian during study abroad, was titled *Verbal conflict and L2 identities*.

The Workshop on the Languages of Melanesia, preceded by a one-day workshop on the ‘Future of Papuan Pasts’, was held from 23-26 May, with Ger Reesink (Radboud university & MPI, Nijmegen) and Glenn Summerhayes (university of Otago) as the two keynote speakers of the combined events. Great talks followed by engaged discussions, as well as a chilly but lovely swim in the Pacific and a friendly evening around the fireplace at the ANU Kioloa coastal camp made the event a real success. Perhaps the most moving moment in the conference came when Philip Tama (U Goroka / UNE) began his presentation on Alekano verb morphology with a song he had just composed in honour of our recently departed colleague Darrell Tryon. The song sang in Alekano means ‘You word-man (linguist) you are like the moon’. As Philip explained, the ‘moon’ in Alekano is a metaphor for beauty, love, and light in the darkness and he likened the work of Darrell and other linguists in the Pacific to the moon for how much it is appreciated.

A one-day Workshop on Argument Structure and Event Structure was organized by Wayan Arka on July 26. There were eight papers presented at the workshop, addressing a range of issues such as non-canonical marking of arguments, patterns of valence structures, and argument-adjunct distinction. The workshop was ended by a general discussion, followed a drink at the Fellows Bar, University House.

**Grants & Prizes**

**Mark Donohue** was awarded a research development grant from the Research School of Asia and the Pacific for "The linguistic history of Timor and surrounds". This project will examine innovation and change, both lineage-internal and via contact, in the languages of Timor and its neighbours.

In June, **Chris Weedall** received a grant from the Firebird Foundation for Anthropological Research. The Committee for Eastern Himalayan Ethnographic and Anthropological Linguistic Research approved a Fellowship grant in the amount of US$9,926.87 for him to write a grammar of the Nafravariety of Sajolang (Miji).

**Virginia Dawson’s honours thesis**, titled *Differential Argument Realisation in Tiwa*, based on her own fieldwork on the undescribed Tibeto-Burman language of Northeast India last year, has been awarded a university medal for its excellence. Internationally and locally examined by Prof. Marianne Mithun at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and our own Avery Andrews, the work was highly praised. This is the first university medal that linguistics has gathered for a few years. While Ginny was enrolled in CASS, she was supervised (by Mark Donohue) and supported (via ARC grants) in CAP. Ginny will continue to be about the place, working on matters arising from her thesis as well as other aspects of Tiwa on which she has data. Read about **Ginny’s award**.
Forthcoming conferences

Many ANU linguists will be attending the International Conference on Historical Linguistics (ICHL) in Oslo from 5-9 August. From CHL Beth Evans, Malcolm Ross, Rachel Hendery, Siva Kalyan and (honorary CHL member) AlexandreFrançois will be presenting papers, joined by CASS linguists Cynthia Allen, Harold Koch, and Jennifer Hendriks.

Mark Donohue will be giving three talks in and around the Association for Linguistic Typology’s annual conference in Leipzig. First, at the workshop Phonetic/phonological typology he will talk about different ways of measuring and evaluating phonological complexity and diversity; during the ALT conference he will be discussing the typology of syllable structure; and, as invited speaker at the workshop on Language diversity and prehistory he will discuss Paths to language diversification from subdisciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Prior to the conferences he will be working with collaborators (Tom Owen-Smith, Søren Wichmann) on issues of contact, language diffusion, and social histories.

Following the Leipzig jaunt Mark will return via Hong Kong, where he will be discussing approaches to contact with his former colleague Umberto Ansaldo, now a Professor at the University of Hong Kong.

In brief...

Home-stay places needed! Many participants at the International Conference of Austroasiatic Linguistics (ICAAL) and the Himalayan Languages Symposium (HLS) come from South Asian countries and have difficulty affording Canberra hotel accommodation. If you have a spare room or comfortable nook you can make available from 4-8 September, please contact Paul Sidwell or Gwen Hyslop. Beginning in July, Mark Donohue will be teaching a semester-long course called ‘Languages of Bhutan: Bumthang’, a reading and elicitation course. This is the first time a dedicated Himalayan course of any description has been offered at the ANU, and it promises to be entertaining, educational, and informative.

The poster with everyone’s picture will be updated soon. Are you on the poster yet? Have you got a new research project? Are you still happy with your picture? Send your updated information to Owen Edwards.

Seeking accommodation for participants at the Austroasiatic and Himalayan conferences in September.

Traditional Bhutanese male dress that KarmaTshering, one of the local organizer of the HLS, was wearing at his graduation ceremony.
Obituary: Darrell Tryon

[The following is incorporating materials from Andy Pawley’s speech at Darrell’s funeral.]

It is with great regret that we announce the passing of our colleague Prof. Darrell Tryon, who lost his battle with cancer on 15 May.

Darrell did research on hundreds of languages in half a dozen areas of Australia and the Pacific. He wrote or co-authored 24 books, edited another 14, and wrote over 100 articles and a stack of book reviews.

Darrell’s first love was the French language. Before becoming a scholar of Pacific Island languages he took an MA with 1st class honours in French at U. Canterbury. During his undergraduate days he spent time in New Caledonia, and became fascinated by the diversity of indigenous languages spoken there. Much of his early research involved fieldwork on languages of France’s colonies in the Pacific, where his expertise in French was a great advantage. In 1965 when he came to ANU to begin a PhD under Stephen Wurm, he chose to do fieldwork on the three Melanesian languages of the Loyalty Is. He wrote and published grammars of all three and a dictionary of one. Later he worked in Tahiti, the Marquesas and Vanuatu. He also went on to foster longstanding links between French and Australian academic institutions.

After joining the staff of Stephen Wurm’s Linguistics Department at the ANU in 1967, he began two large-scale projects in Vanuatu and the Solomons. The first was a survey and comparative study of the more than 100 languages of the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu), which involved him visiting just about every village in the country. The project culminated in a large volume published in 1976 which recorded 300 item wordlists for 170 languages and dialects and offered the first comprehensive family tree classification of the Vanuatu languages: he was truly wan papa blong mifala blong Vanuatu. Next he began a similar project in the Solomon Is., covering all 60 or so languages of the Solomons and 30 or so dialects of these. This work resulted in another large book published in 1983. These two volumes remain standard reference works. In the 1970s Darrell also wrote a pedagogical grammar of Bislama, the lingua franca of Vanuatu, which remains a popular reference work to this day.

Another of Darrell’s important initiatives was the Vanuatu Fieldworker Programme, based in the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in Port Vila, which he set up with AusAid funding. Every year this brought together volunteer fieldworkers from communities from all over Vanuatu to record their traditions, choosing a different topic each time. Darrell conducted these workshops, in Bislama, for over 20 years. Long before the word ‘capacity building’ entered the English language, Darrell was quietly and unobtrusively getting on with the job of training a large team of NiVanuatu in ways of recording their languages.

Another of Darrell’s important projects, undertaken together with Jean-Michel Charpentier, combined his interest in Pacific history with his interest in Bislama and other Pacific pidgins to research the social history and linguistic origins of these pidgins. Their book on this, called Pacific Pidgins and Creoles, appeared in 2004.

This just scratches the surface of Darrell’s many scholarly achievements. But what those who knew him will remember equally well is Darrell the person, always calm, friendly and impishly friendly, and interested in others whatever their background. His love of the Pacific brought together many peoples, from many cultures. In 2004 he received the French government’s highest honour, the Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur, and he was as equally revered in many countries of the Pacific. A message of condolence in Bislama from the acting Prime Minister of Vanuatu was read out at his funeral. His coffin was taken out to the music of slit-gongs.

This time last year Darrell was springing around, full of enthusiasm and a wide range of projects, plus his characteristic love of bringing people together in creative ways. Darrell’s many friends, and those who have been drawn into the fascination of the languages of the Pacific, will mourn the shock of his premature passing.

Nick Evans
The Asia-Pacific is the most complex and varied linguistic landscape in the world, with three thousand of the world’s 7,000 languages. Many are endangered and in coming decades the region is confronting an epochal narrowing of the human knowledge base through language loss.

Linguistics in the College of Asia and the Pacific promotes the study of this linguistic diversity in its fullest sense, including documentation and description - producing grammars, dictionaries and collections of textual materials, usually from on-site fieldwork – work that is equally important for small speech communities themselves.

Minority languages researched in the department cover sites ranging from Vanuatu, New Caledonia, PNG, Australia, Indonesia, Timor Leste, the Philippines, Taiwan, India and Japan. Other research focuses on national languages of the region, such as Japanese and Indonesian.

Our postgraduate training aims to produce descriptive linguists of the highest quality. We teach into all levels, including undergraduate courses in Japanese, Indonesian, Linguistics and Pacific Studies, Master's Courses in Linguistics and Applied Japanese Linguistics, and advanced doctoral training. We co-host Paradisec, a digital archive dedicated to recordings of languages and cultures of the Pacific. We also publish the monograph series Pacific Linguistics, which has produced over 600 publications.