

# CIPL

Comité International Permanent des Linguistes  
Permanent International Committee of Linguists

## Annual Report 2014



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## Introduction

### New President

At the end of 2014 Prof. Nigel Vincent stepped down as President of CIPL due to personal reasons. According to article 5.4c) of our Statutes Prof. David Bradley, CIPL's Vice-President, succeeded Prof. Vincent immediately.

The open position of Vice-President has been taken by EC member Prof. Ik-Hwan-Lee.

According to the same Statutes, article 5.4a) any vacancy in CIPL's EC shall be filled by a temporary substitute appointed for the remainder of the term of the original holder of the position. Regional distribution has always been an important aspect when drafting a list of candidates for the EC. Therefore Prof. Kai von Fintel of MIT (delegate of the Linguistic Society of America) has been invited to become an EC member and accepted. As a consequence, CIPL's Executive Committee is complete again and is fully equipped to answer to all its duties.

CIPL has thanked Prof. Nigel Vincent for what he has done for CIPL.

### Membership

In 2014 we received a message from the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft who no longer want to continue their membership. The LSA also sent us a disappointing message. They want to lower their yearly contribution.

During 2014, we were happy to welcome the IPrA as a new member. Apart from this we can also announce that dr Galyna Zymovets from Ukraine is preparing a request for membership together with Professor Camiel Hamans (University of Poznan, Poland).

The SG was involved in discussions on membership with linguists from Estonia, Jordan and Morocco. He also initiated a discussion with a member of the Journalism School of Columbia University NY to propose the idea of presenting the CIPL prize for outstanding research in the field of EL in a journalistic publication written by a member of the Pulitzer Price team. This would provide excellent publicity for CIPL.

### Updating Guidelines and Bylaws

The EC drew the new Guidelines for the organization of a congress, as well as the Election Procedure. Both texts can be consulted on CIPL's website.

### New website

In 2014 a new CIPL website has been created. All delegates are invited to provide us with news concerning linguistics to update our site. The information can be sent to [ciplwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:ciplwebmaster@gmail.com).

### Linguistic Bibliography

There were some changes in the editorial team of the Linguistic Bibliography during 2014. Despite the upheaval of these changes it was a productive year for the LB. Almost 19,000 records were added to the online database; the printed volume containing 20,483 records was published on

schedule in September. Preliminary work on a spin-off publication on Slavic Linguistics took place in the final weeks of 2014. Read more about this on page 10.

### **20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Linguists**

During their meeting in 2013, following a presentation by Prof Rajend Mesthrie, the GA decided that the Linguistic Society of South Africa will organize the next International Congress of Linguists in 2018 in Cape Town. Read more about the preparations on page 11.

### **Workshop Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment**

The workshop *Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment 3* was preceded by the 47<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics at Yunnan Normal University on 17-20 October 2014. During this conference, Prof. David Bradley presented the keynote 'Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment: Issues and Solutions in Yunnan'. Read more on page 12.

### **Finances**

The financial report for 2014 has been approved by the auditor and can be consulted on page 18.

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## Linguistic Bibliography / Bibliographie Linguistique

There were some changes in the editorial team of the Linguistic Bibliography during 2014: Hella Olbertz announced her resignation in order to accept a research position at the University of São Paulo, Campus of São José do Rio Preto in Brazil. She will still have some involvement as an external contributor so the team has not lost all her valuable experience and knowledge. In June Ekaterina (Katja) Bobyleva joined Brill. Katja studied Dutch language and literature at the University of St Petersburg and Creole languages at the University of Amsterdam and also keeps a part-time position as lecturer in language acquisition and linguistic theory at the University of Amsterdam.

Despite the changes in staff it was a productive year for the LB. Almost 19,000 records were added to the online database and published in 10 instalments; the printed volume containing 20,483



records was published on schedule in September. Work on the new content management system is still ongoing, as well as improvements to the online platform on [bibliographies.brillonline.com](http://bibliographies.brillonline.com) which will

show results in 2015.

Preliminary work on a spin-off publication on Slavic Linguistics took place in the final weeks of 2014 so that work could start in 2015 for publication in the summer of 2015. This 3-volume work will cover the literature on Slavic Languages and Linguistics since 2000 and will include an introduction by Professor Marc L. Greenberg (Kansas University).

## 20th International Congress of Linguists (CIL20)

### **Local Organizing Committee (LOC)**

The LOC has started the preparations for the organization of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of linguists in Cape Town, South Africa.

The LOC consists of the following members: Mark De Vos (Rhodes University; President of Linguistics Society of Southern Africa); Rajend Mesthrie (UCT; chairperson); Matthias Brenzinger (UCT; Secretary of World Congress of African Linguistics); Mantoa Smouse (UCT; President of African Languages Association of South Africa); Rufus Gouws (Past President of AFRILEX); Christopher Stroud (University of the Western Cape); Sally Hunt (Rhodes University; President of Applied Languages Association of South Africa); Ron Simango (Deputy President of Linguistics Society of Southern Africa). On behalf of CIPL the SG has been added.

### **Scientific Committee (SC)**

The SC will be chaired by Prof. Bradley (as President of CIPL). Other members will be Prof. Mesthrie (as President of the Conference) plus 6 others to be equally nominated by CIPL and the LOC. These nominees are Prof. Kai von Fintel (MIT), Prof. Raymond Hickey (Duisburg-Essen), Prof. Edrinnie Kayambazinthu (Chancellor College, Malawi), Prof. Christian Lehmann (Erfurt), Prof. Lutz Martin (SOAS), and Prof. Erik Thomas (U of North Carolina); all have accepted.

Tasks of the SC include inviting plenary and keynote speakers; overseeing the selection of abstracts and workshop proposals and editing a book of keynote lectures to be presented at the conference.

### **Date of conference and title**

The provisional congress date is 9 to 13 July 2018. The final responsibility for the title and themes of the conference will lie with the SC. CIPL will fund one plenary and one workshop and of course the opening and closing address is to be delivered by Prof. Bradley as CIPL's President.

### **Languages of the congress**

English, French, Afrikaans and Zulu are the most obvious choices. The preface of the conference book of plenary session and keynote speakers and the title pages of conference brochures should reflect these languages. However, the main text of the conference book of keynotes will be in English.

### **Accommodation**

Cape Town offers a range of accommodation options from luxury to mid-range hotels and guest houses, and lower-range backpackers lodging. Options would be made available on the conference website, to be created.

## Workshop Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment

The workshop *Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment* was preceded by the 47<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Sino-Tibetan Languages and Linguistics at Yunnan Normal University on 17-20 October 2014. During this conference, Prof David Bradley presented the keynote 'Sociolinguistics of Language Endangerment: Issues and Solutions in Yunnan', and many other talks on topics related to language endangerment were also presented.



The SoLE-3 workshop was jointly convened by Prof David Bradley and Prof Liu Jinrong of Yunnan Nationalities University and held at Yunnan Nationalities University on 23-24 October 2014, with over a hundred registered participants as well as many students and staff of the university from a variety of local language backgrounds, and 26 papers, half in English and half in Chinese. Papers discussed

language endangerment issues in China, South Korea, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, several countries in Africa and more generally. Registration was free, thanks to generous CIPL funding. There were nearly thirty non-Chinese participants from eight countries: Australia, Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, South Korea and the US.

CIPL sponsorship was very fully and gratefully acknowledged in signage, conference materials and welcoming speeches by local leaders. There were two keynote presentations in English: 'Language endangerment, documentation and maintenance on the African continent' by Prof Matthias Brenzinger of the University of Cape Town and 'Language reclamation strategies: some Asian examples' by Prof David Bradley, and a concluding discussion session with presentations by expert members of four national minorities of China (Lahu, Achang, Zhuang and Yi) as well as the two keynote speakers. During the event, Yunnan Nationalities University made Prof David Bradley an Honorary Professor of the university. It is planned to produce a refereed journal issue of proceedings of SoLE-3.

## Series on Endangered Languages

In Geneva 2013 the EC has decided that the idea of an electronic monograph series is very interesting for CIPL. The SG was invited to further explore this idea together with SOAS. Possibly this could be on the basis that CIPL pays € 1,000 for editorial costs per monograph produced after each monograph goes online. This would require a solid international editorial board including substantial CIPL representation, with a rigorous and strong refereeing process to be carried out by the board and with very clear format guidelines for authors. The basis for hosting and branding would need to be spelled out clearly. There should also be an agreement to provide prominent links from the HRELP website to the CIPL website and vice versa.

The SG has talked many times with Prof. Peter Austin, member of the staff of SOAS. After starting elpublishing ([www.elpublishing.org/](http://www.elpublishing.org/)) some uncertainty arose about who would be CIPL's contract partner. That question is still being discussed by the SG with Prof. Anne Pauwels of SOAS, Director of HRELP. Prof. Bradley will be a Consulting Editor, provided that we can reach a satisfactory arrangement with SOAS.

## UNESCO Atlas of Endangered Languages

There are financial problems within UNESCO, and as a consequence no more funding is provided for the 4th edition of the *Atlas of Languages of Intercultural Communication in the Pacific, Asia and the America* (edited by Prof. Stephen Wurm, former president of CIPL).

On the 28th-29th of October 2014, an International Expert meeting took place at UNESCO Paris on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace, where the problem of the future of the Atlas was supposed to be discussed. CIPL was not invited to this meeting, although the SG had clearly indicated that endangered languages is one of the main topics in CIPL's policy and that CIPL wished to be represented.

The most important topics in the Paris' discussion were:

1. The future of the Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger should be considered as one activity within the broader context of linguistic policies that are much needed. They form a sensitive issue in the existing conceptual framework where levels of endangerment are defined from a particular perspective. For this purpose, various organisations are involved in the development of monitoring tools and it will be important to bring all existing initiatives together.
2. We need to take stock of languages in the world, not only from the perspective of endangerment, but also from the perspective of the use of multiple languages at the same time. There is an interest in a World Atlas of Languages as a monitoring tool, where a different approach to languages is adopted, not the perspective of endangerment but instead of this the spread of multilingualism, how this is happening, the way "linguistic consciousness differs from the monolingual one", etc. This new Atlas needs to look at linguistic diversity and multilingualism and its change over time.
3. In order to further co-ordinate activities and to describe the status of linguistic diversity in cyberspace, UNESCO should create an international consortium of specialists to develop a mechanism for monitoring the vitality and possible endangerment of the world's languages and for promoting multilingualism. Key partners in this consortium should represent the important language regions in the world.
4. The consortium should promote and support the creation and free dissemination of language resources and related technical means, ensuring equal digital opportunities for all language users, in particular for the literacy component of indigenous and minor languages in cyberspace. There are different levels of information that need to be brought together through a dynamic display for which at present a lot of data and several IC technologies are available. It should prepare a tool such as a "multi-layered Atlas" to show linguistic diversity, multilingualism and language change.

5. Showing the capacity of language users for multilingualism is important. The present use of dots indicating the position of a language on the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger should be replaced by a visualisation where language diversity and multilingualism are illustrated. For the development of this monitoring tool an interdisciplinary approach is necessary.

6. There is a need for accurate and reliable data, to be provided by people working in the field of language education and research. As an example for other regions in the world the Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning can be mentioned with its Regional Dossiers and Network of Schools ([www.mercator-research.eu](http://www.mercator-research.eu)). As a legal background the European Charter of Regional and Minority Language can be proposed as a model.

7. The consortium should develop a comprehensive and sustainable set of indicators, based on the existing proposals, such as used in the present UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger in combination with other concepts and extensions to the broader field of application. Other indicators have to be introduced which describe the aspects of language diversity and multilingualism in certain regions of the world.

8. For the time being the existing version of the UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger should continue its work, for which quite modest financial support is required. The consortium should develop a comprehensive and sustainable set of new indicators, based on the existing proposals and advantages of ICT. Depending on the possible future financial resources, these should be implemented and added to the Atlas in combination with initiatives elsewhere. This could lead to a UNESCO World Atlas of Language as a new monitoring tool, which not only determines the vitality and possible state of endangerment of the world's languages, but also measures language diversity and multilingualism in specific regions of the world. Both the existing and the planned Atlas should be free of copyright restrictions, specifically including UNESCO's claiming any rights to the work. Rather, an appropriate Open Source license such as Creative Commons with Attribution should be placed on the whole work.

9. For the development of the new monitoring tools there is a need for regional networks of experts, specialized in different new functions of the Atlas. The consortium should co-ordinate the tasks of the participants in such networks, define their functions and roles in the preparation of the new monitoring tools.

In the month following the Paris meeting the SG kept himself updated on the discussions of experts in the field of EL. There are considerable differences in opinion on the identity the Atlas is supposed to take, about the ownership of the Atlas and about the composition of a consortium.

In November an International Symposium was held in Leeuwarden (The Netherlands) on Social Media and Minority Languages. During this conference, the SG talked with Dr Mandana Sjeffinipour and Anne Pauwels (SOAS), Tjeerd de Graaf (Foundation for Endangered Languages) and Reinier Salverda (Fryske Akademy, Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning). He pleaded for a brainstorm with mainly linguists who had already contributed to the Atlas or who are considered major scholars in the field of EL. The SG demanded to include in the debate Prof. Lyle Campbell (ELCat) and our President, Prof. David Bradley, who is an expert in the field just mentioned. This initiative received overall support and SOAS is going to take the initiative for such a meeting in London in 2015.



## Future priorities

### Linguistic Bibliography

We may need to look at the more radical step of changing the existing format and finding a way to utilize bibliographic information in a completely changing way that will actually support research in a much more in-depth manner than a bibliographical listing only. This might be achieved by using – or even developing – technologies along the lines of innovative search methods as used in digital humanities; mapping all the materials relating to specific (understudied) languages in order to become a one-stop-shop for all research and primary materials, etc. A possible cooperation with MPI (Glottolog) or a department of Digital Humanities would be an ideal scenario so as to have an arrangement in which part of content is available in Open Access (simplified bibliographical records) and more advanced features are available behind a pay-wall. This obviously would require serious research and consultation with external experts.

LB now distinguishes itself mostly by indexing publications in a larger range of languages, but is this really what the market wants? Perhaps LB should expand its subject areas and reduce its coverage of research in languages that nobody can read. Just one example: 10% of content in LB is on Polish (mostly due to very active external contributors; compare French 6% and Spanish 2.5%). MLA has a strong focus on foreign language teaching but both MLA and LB are relatively weak in other areas of Applied Linguistics which is fast growing field where the focus of publication is in journals. A shift of focus in coverage should be accompanied by adding value for users such as DOI/ CrossRef links to original sources, data on search behavior of other users, and other possible links to related work, as mentioned above.

It may be a good idea to organize a workshop at Brill in which we take a good look at the LB with the help of members of the Advisory Board and a small users group (librarians, scholars, students) to see what would be the best way forward.

### LinguistList

LINGUIST List moved to Indiana University, and the staff is establishing accounts and ways to work with the University financial system and regulations. They will set up a WordPress site for the CIPL blog and the posting arrangements.

### Workshop on Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages

The Linguistics Association of Turkey and the Department of Linguistics of Bogazici University will be organizing a three-day workshop on Linguistic Approaches to Endangered Languages: Theory and Description, July 28-30, 2015.

The workshop will be partially supported by CIPL. The workshop is aimed at bringing together linguists working on linguistic analyses of endangered languages mainly, but not exclusively, of Eurasia. Prof. David Bradley will be keynote speaker. More information can be found on

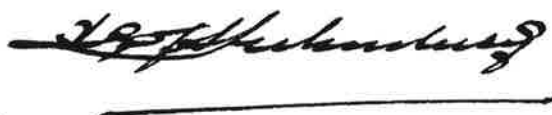
[www.lael.boun.edu.tr](http://www.lael.boun.edu.tr)

## Finances

Please see enclosed Financial Statements. The 2014 Annual Report was approved.  
Leiden, 31 December 2014



Prof. D. Bradley, President CIPL



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Prof. P. van Sterkenburg, Secretary-General CIPL