



# Non-Past, Before

Newsletter for the Columbia School Linguistic Society  
Summer 2019



## Table of Contents

CS Travels   CS Publications   CS Scholars Recognized   CS Fellowship Program   CS Special Projects Program   50 Years of the Seminar

### CS Travels

#### Professor Joseph Davis

*City College and Graduate Center of the City University of New York*

Last summer Joseph was in Italy and gave a presentation titled Theme and Quantification in the Service of Linguistics at the conference Filling Gaps, Building Bridges: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches to the Study of Literature at the Università di Padova, Italy.

#### Professor Angelita Martínez

*Universidad de La Plata, Argentina.*

Angelita traveled to Berlin in March for XXII Congreso de la Sociedad Alemana de Hispanistas and gave a talk entitled Se dice de mí... ¿Teoría de la metodología? Variación y contacto lingüístico para testear la invariancia. She also went to the University of Freiburg for II Encuentro sobre Multimodalidad, where she co-presented with Gabriela Bravo de Laguna a paper entitled Mirar el pasado: señales no verbales en la interacción. And she expanded on her work on the interaction of stable meanings and culture at a presentation at the Asociación de Lingüística y America Latina, with a paper entitled Etnopragmática. La cultura como motivadora de sintaxis. El lenguaje inclusivo.

#### Professor Nancy Stern

*City College and Graduate Center of the City University of New York*

Last summer Nancy gave a presentation entitled *The English System of Degree of Control: A Columbia School Account of*

*Transitive and Ditransitive Constructions at the 10th International Conference on Construction Grammar, at Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris Cité University (USPC).*

During the month of December Nancy was also in Argentina. At the invitation of Professors Angelita Martínez and Roxana Risco, she taught at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata a one-week intensive graduate seminar on **Functional Semiotic Approaches to Linguistic Analysis: Columbia School and Cognitive Grammar** to 12 graduate students and faculty members. She also gave a talk at the Universidad de Buenos Aires called *Reflexivity Reconsidered: Signals, Meanings and English -Self Pronouns.*



#### Professor Roxana Risco

*Universidad de Buenos Aires.*

Last Spring Roxana traveled to New York on a Fulbright Scholarship and presented her work at the Columbia

University Seminar on Columbia School Linguistics. She used her time well, also attending Joseph Davis' class at City College on grammar and pedagogy as well as a course on second language acquisition at the Graduate Center. She returned for a second round of work and presentations this Spring. When back in Argentina she attended Nancy Stern's course on functional and semiotic approaches to linguistic analysis.

Roxana is doing Columbia School research on the thorny problem of what are usually known as prepositional-A and personal-A in Spanish. Roxana has been looking at A both in comparison to its absence and in contrast to other prepositions. Her Seminar presentations were very productive and professional and everyone is excited about a CS solution to this well-known analytical problem. Roxana also attended the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Seminar.

During the Spring Roxana also presented a paper entitled *Variación lingüística intra-hablante y prácticas comunicativas en la comunidad peruana de Buenos Aires* at the **9th International Workshop on Spanish sociolinguistics**, Queens College City University of New York. This past April Roxana presented a paper entitled *La funcionalidad fonético-fonológica en la variación lingüística* at the **Asociación de Lingüística y Filología de América Latina (ALFAL)** held at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata.

### Daan van Soeren

University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

Last Fall and Spring Dan traveled to New York for very successful and productive presentations at the Seminar. He also gave two lectures about his research at Groningen University. On tap are two conferences in the Netherlands in June 2019. The first one, RomTiN, is held in Leiden on 14 June 2019, the birthplace of Columbia School in The Netherlands. **RomTiN** is an annual symposium on Romance linguistics. The presentation *The Communicative Role of Lexical Stress in Spanish Phonology* will focus on the results of work on Dan's Spanish corpus. The week after that, on 20 and 21 June, the international congress TABU (taalbulletin, 'language bulletin') will be held in Groningen, at which Dan will be presenting on *The Communicative Role of Lexical Stress in Columbia School Phonology*.

### Dr. Lauren Whitty

Wellington, New Zealand,

She traveled to New York from New Zealand for her just-concluded and very successful year-long residence at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Lauren was at CUNY as the recipient of the Otheguy-Sackler Postdoctoral Fellowship, established for one year to mark Professor Otheguy's retirement, and funded through a generous gift from Joss Sackler and her husband David. As presented in Lauren's highly professional and productive University Seminar sessions, she is tackling the problem of the English modals, offering an innovative CS analysis of can, for which the evidence shows the need to see it in a different light than that offered in William Diver's original studies of the problem.

## CS Publications

Since our last newsletter the writings of Columbia School scholars have continued to appear. Here's a sample:

**Contini Morava, Ellen & Eve Danziger.** 2018. Non-Canonical gender in Mopan Maya. *Non-Canonical Gender Systems*, ed. by Sebastian Fedden & Jenny Audring. Oxford University Press, pp. 129-146.

**Davis, Joseph.** 2019. Lui and egli in Il Gattopardo. *L'analisi linguistica e letteraria* (<http://www.analisilinguisticaeletteraria.eu/fascicolo-1-2019/>).

**Davis, Joseph.** 2018. Spooky Grammatical Effect. *Questioning Theoretical Primitives in Linguistic Inquiry (Papers in Honor of Ricardo Otheguy)*, ed. by Naomi Shin & Daniel Erker. Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins, pp. 133-156.

**Kirsner, Robert.** 2015. Columbia School linguistics and cognitive grammar: A functionalist struggle. *Nederlandse Taalkunde* 20.224-227.

**Martínez, Angelita.** 2018. Variación sintáctica en español. ¿Un reto a la teoría del número verbal? En *Homenaje a Elvira Arnoux. Estudios de Análisis del Discurso, Glotopolítica y Pedagogía de la lectura y la escritura*. Tomo IV: Lectura y Escritura. Editorial de la Facultad de Filosofía y Letras. Colección Saberes. Buenos Aires: 17-32.

**Martínez, Angelita.** 2018. El proyecto etnopragmático en el estudio del contacto de lenguas. Ponencia plenaria en IV Encuentro de Lenguas Indígenas Americanas (ELIA) *Libro de Actas*, compilaoras: Alejandra Regúnaga/Silvia Spinelli/María Emilia Orden. 465-484 ISBN 978-950-863-335-4

**Martínez, Angelita.** 2019. El lenguaje inclusivo. La mirada de una lingüista. *1er Congreso de Lenguaje Inclusivo, Desde la @ interviniendo la escritura de todes como forma de organizarnos*. 11 y 12 de abril de 2019. La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. En: [http://www.memoria.fahce.unlp.edu.ar/trab\\_eventos/ev.11015/ev.11015.pdf](http://www.memoria.fahce.unlp.edu.ar/trab_eventos/ev.11015/ev.11015.pdf)

**Martínez, Angelita.** 2017. Cómo afecta la cultura a la gramática? El caso de los clíticos en el español americano. *Revista CLAC*. [https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/CLAC/article/...](https://revistas.ucm.es/index.php/CLAC/article/)

**Martínez, Angeliata.** 2017. Un antes y un después en la teoría del número verbal: El aporte del español de los Andes. En Palacios, A. (coord.) *Variación y cambio lingüístico en situaciones de contacto. Iberoamericana* 37. 97-112.

**Reid, Wallis.** 2018. The justification of grammatical categories. *Questioning Theoretical Primitives in Linguistic Inquiry (Papers in Honor of Ricardo Otheguy)*, ed. by Naomi Shin & Daniel Erker. Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins, pp. 91-132.

**Risco, Roxana,** ed. 2018. *Estudios de variación y contacto lingüístico en el español peruano*. La Plata: Universidad Nacional de La Plata. Facultad de Humanidades y Ciencias de la Educación. (Discutir el lenguaje, 3). <https://www.libros.fahce.unlp.edu.ar/index.php/libros/catalog/book/108>

**Risco, Roxana.** Variedades del español en la Argentina. Accepted for publication and soon to appear in *Studi Italiani de Linguistics Teorica e Applicata*

**Stern, Nancy.** 2018. Ditransitives and the English system of Degree of Control: A Columbia School analysis. *Questioning Theoretical Primitives in Linguistic Inquiry (Papers in Honor of Ricardo Otheguy)*, ed. by Naomi Shin & Daniel Erker. Amsterdam / Philadelphia: John Benjamins, pp. 157-188.

**Stern, Nancy.** 2019. *Ourself and themself*: Grammar as expressive choice. *Lingua*. Published on line, soon to appear in print. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lingua.2019.05.005>

#### AND COMING SOON...

A new Columbia School **collection of papers** is coming soon (very soon, we've already seen second proofs). The book will be published by Benjamins Publishers of Amsterdam and Philadelphia and is edited by **Nancy Stern**, Ricardo Otheguy, Wallis Reid, and Jaseleen Sackler. The title will be *Columbia School Linguistics in the 21st century*.

Already accepted for publication is a paper by **Lauren Whitty** entitled *A reanalysis of the uses of CAN and COULD: A corpus-based approach*. It will appear in the journal *Corpus Pragmatics*.

#### CS Scholars recognized

##### **Professor Joseph Davis**

*City College and Graduate Center of the City University of New York*

Last summer Joseph was promoted to the rank of **full professor** and admitted to the doctoral faculty at the Graduate Center of CUNY. Congratulations Joseph!

##### **Professor Robert Kirsner**

*University of California, Los Angeles*

A recent issue of the journal *Nederlandse Taalkunde* (volume 20) contained a discussion by Ronny Boogaart and Ad Foolen of Bob's 2014 book entitled *Qualitative-quantitative analysis of Dutch and Afrikaans grammar and lexicon*. Very good Bob!

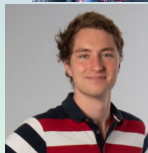
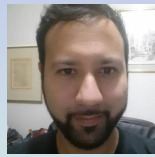
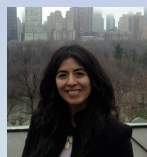
##### **Professor Emeritus Ricardo Otheguy**

*Graduate Center of the City University of New York*

Two former students of Ricardo's (Naomi Shin and Daniel Erker) published in 2018 a collection of essays in his honor with papers by scholars in variationist sociolinguistics, anthropological linguistics and generative grammar (Shana Poplack, Gregory Guy, Ana Celia Zentella, Rachel Varra, Carmen Silva-Corvalán, Marcel den Dikken) and by Columbia School scholars Joseph Davis, Wallis Reid, and Nancy Stern. The book is from Benjamins and is entitled *Questioning Theoretical Primitives in Linguistic Inquiry*. Nice!

#### CS Fellowship program

During the past year the Columbia School Linguistic Society funded several graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. 2017-18 fellows are (clockwise from left) Andrew McCormick, Berenice Darwich, Eduardo Ho-Fernández, Roxana Risco, Kelli Hesseltine, and Daan van Soeren.



The program will continue during the 2019-2020 academic year, thanks to timely donations from several sources, including gifts from an anonymous donor as well as from the Society's President Jaseleen Sackler and her husband David, and from long-time Society supporters Maria and Philip Yang.

Next year the Society will support graduate and dissertation work by Eduardo Ho-Fernández and Andrew McCormick (both from New York), and Daniel van Soeren (Groningen, The Netherlands). The Society is also supporting postdoctoral work by Dr. Roxana Risco (La Plata, Argentina), Dr. Nadav Sabar (Jerusalem, Israel) and Dr. Lauren Whitty (Wellington, New Zealand).

#### CS Special projects program

The Society is sponsoring a workshop in Argentina that will bring together scholars from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata and scholars from the Universidad Nacional de San Juan. They will read and discuss papers that they're especially interested in by Diver, Huffman, Otheguy, Reid, and others. No date has been set yet. This is the first of the Society's Special Projects program.



#### 50 Years of Seminar

So it's now long enough that it counts as history, which is not our field. So instead we'll do rumor, which has it that the late Flora Klein-Andreu asked William Diver a long time ago to hold a seminar to explain the new ideas that he kept bringing up in class. Diver did, and the Seminar was born. That was 50 years ago! And it's been going without interruption, to the great benefit of young and old scholars alike, as well as to the benefit of visitors and all manner of drop-in's. Less than 10 years ago it acquired official status as a University Seminar, Seminar, thanks to the efforts of Society past-president **Radmila Gorup**. The Columbia School Linguistic Society and University Seminar teamed up October 18, 2018 to hold a one-day celebration on the campus of Columbia University. There were talks from older and younger members, a lot of conviviality, and a plethora of anecdote and reminiscence. Some of the already retired, or then retiring, came from afar (Ellen Contini-Morava, David Zubin), or participated via speakerphone (Robert Kirsner). Alan Huffman had a picture show. Many gave papers on German, Spanish, Swahili, Serbo-Croatian and others.

Greetings were offered by Radmila Gorup and Joss Sackler in their respective roles as co-chair of the University Seminars and president of the Columbia School Linguistic Society.

For the morning session Nancy Stern and Wallis Reid organized a three-part panel on the years of the Seminar, which more or less had something to do with time stages (don't hold us to the time details!). The early stage featured names like Contini-Morava, Kirsner, Leonard, Otheguy, Reid, Zubin. (And it included remembrances of those no longer with us: Takashi Aoyama, Abdul Azim, Erica García, Flora Klein-Andreu, Elsa Lattey. A middle stage included de Jonge, Gorup, Gildin, Huffman, Davis. And the third stage had names like Rodríguez-Bachiller and Stern, as well as the newer members of Seminar, including Berenice Darwich, Eduardo Ho-Fernández, Kelli Hesseltine, Andrew McCormick, Roxana Risco, Daan van Soeren.



In the afternoon there were academic papers by several of the scholars in attendance, followed by discussion of the Society's fellowship program. The proceedings ended with personal testimony of how much the Seminar has meant to people (a lot!) and a reception. It was a wonderful day. And if Ideas had feelings, Diver's big idea would've felt happy, honored, fulfilled.

## Contact Information:

Columbia School Linguistic Society

PO Box 250548

New York, NY 10025

email: [contact@csling.org](mailto:contact@csling.org)

web: [www.csling.org](http://www.csling.org)

To subscribe, please send an email to [contact@csling.org](mailto:contact@csling.org)

Newsletter Editor, Ricardo Otheguy.

Society members are invited to send their news to [rotheguy@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:rotheguy@gc.cuny.edu) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

