

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to this special edition of the *Salford Working Papers in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics*. The *Working Papers* are an open access, peer-reviewed online journal which showcases the research of both academic staff and postgraduate researchers at the Centre for Research in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics at the University of Salford. On this occasion the *Working Papers* are kindly hosting the proceedings of the *19th International Postgraduate Linguistics Conference* organised by The University of Manchester & the University of Salford on the 16th and 17th September 2010.

In March 1992, the Department of Linguistics at the University of Manchester hosted its first Postgraduate Conference. Since then this annual event has grown, and for the first time representatives from both The University of Manchester and the University of Salford have co-organised the event. The aim of the Conference is to bring together postgraduate research students from local, national, and international institutions working within the various areas of Linguistics and to allow them to present papers to their peers.

The theme of the conference was language variation and change, which is represented in numerous research areas and emphasises the value of both synchronic and diachronic studies. We invited papers on language contact, historical linguistics, language variation, and general language change. The authors represented in this volume are all junior researchers who presented a paper at the *19th International Postgraduate Linguistics Conference*.

Contributions to this volume deal with a range of issues raised by previous research on language variation and change. Two of these are cross-linguistic in orientation, for instance, Suzie Holdsworth's contribution, which considers notions of subtle linguistic variance or non-equivalence in translational phenomena. She analyses the conceptualization of citizen(ship) in parallel extracts in English, French, German and Dutch from a key 2009 European Commission communication. Another cross-linguistic contribution is that of Rachel Nye, which looks at apparent instances of variation between two closely-related languages, English and Dutch, concerning the distribution and categorial status of declarative clauses introduced by a complementiser-like use of *how*. A more diachronic focus is found in the contribution by Thomas Hoelbeek, who brings to attention a marginal case of the French expression *au travers de* 'way through', 'across' found in the sixteenth century only. The paper examines whether the use of *au travers de* with a curved surface is an anomaly or an instance of peripheral membership. A synchronic approach to the structural position of *lá* 'there' in Brazilian Portuguese is offered by Bruna Karla Pereira. In her paper she argues that *lá* is not an expletive in Spec, IP as previously assumed, but rather an adverbial merged directly in Spec, TopP, Spec, FocusP or Spec, ForceP depending on the function of *lá* within the sentence.

We would like to thank the authors for their contributions and the reviewers for their time and valuable comments. We would also like to thank the LAGB, the University of Manchester, and the University of Salford for their support.

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