



January-February 2011

Welcome Message

With a collection of stories, links and event postings, the objective of this publication is to keep everyone in the SLaLS community up to date with the goings-on within the School.

Do you have a SLaLS related event, information about your research, or a topical commentary that you would like to share? Click on the link below to submit it.

Not a SLaLS member, but interested all the same? You can subscribe to the SLaLS enewsletter by clicking the subscribe button in the top right corner. If you choose to unsubscribe, please email your request to slalsenews@carleton.ca.

Message from the Director

January, in addition to being the coldest month yet, has also been the busiest with preparation of budgets and teaching assignments for next year and meetings.

But despite all of that SLaLS continues to be a very interesting and vibrant place with films organized by Modern Language Instructors, vibrant teaching going on throughout the School as well as Mako's Brain Lab receiving more and more attention as more people become aware of her research, to mention only a few of the happenings in the School.

There will be more to report in February.

Lynne Young



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Upcoming & Ongoing Events

■ Modern Language Film Festival - Winter 2011



Italian Film (title to be announced)

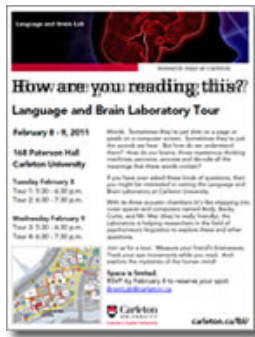


100 St Patrick's Building
Thursday, March 3
7:00 p.m.

■ Tours of the Language and Brain Laboratory

Join Mako Hirotsu for tours of the Language and Brain Laboratory, February 8-9, 2011.

Space is limited. RSVP to reserve your spot: BrainLab@carleton.ca



Tuesday February 8

Tour 1: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tour 2: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday February 9

Tour 3: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Tour 4: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

[Click here](#) to visit the Language and Brain Laboratory website.

This event is part of the [Research Days at Carleton](#) initiative.

■ Linguistics Colloquium: "Investigating a cross-linguistically rare contrast - the case of palatalized post-alveolars"

Laura Spinu (Concordia University)

February 11, 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

2203 Dunton Tower, Carleton University

This talk focuses on a rare cross-linguistic contrast, that between plain and secondarily palatalized post-alveolar fricatives. The absence of this contrast from phonological inventories has been attributed to its low salience, which may be related to gestural timing (Zsiga 2000). Interestingly, this typologically rare contrast is present in Romanian.

This contrast is not perceptually salient, as demonstrated by the results of two experiments with native speakers, who were unable to distinguish between the two forms (Spinu 2007, 2010). Furthermore, an acoustic study of the stimuli employed in the perception experiments showed that the distinction between plain and palatalized consonants is much less robust in post-alveolars as compared to other places of articulation (Spinu 2010). These findings are in conformity with previous typological descriptions reporting the rarity of the plain-palatalized contrast at this place of articulation.

Hayes and Steriade (2004) propose that cross-linguistically, perceptually fragile contrasts tend to undergo one of two changes: they are either enhanced, or neutralized. Related to this, the results of a 1961 questionnaire (Suteu 1961) regarding the pronunciation of Romanian words reveal that 94.4% of 309 speakers reported making a distinction between the pronunciation of words ending in a plain or palatalized post-alveolar fricative. Almost 50 years later, only 4 out of 31 subjects examined failed to produce any significant difference in the acoustic measures investigated between plain and palatalized post-alveolars. Despite the relatively low salience of the contrast at this place of articulation, it would appear that it continues to be 'alive' in speakers' production.

In light of these facts, the question arises as to what factors might be able to explain the persistence of the plain-palatalized contrast with post-alveolars. Contrary to expectations, this contrast does not appear to have either been neutralized or enhanced for the past 50 years. To account for this, I will discuss the notion of grammatical restructuring. Thus, a particular contrast might be maintained in a less favorable environment if the pressure from additional factors is sufficiently strong, especially with regard to productivity (Pierrehumbert 2001), and morpho-phonological transparency (Kochetov 2002). Specifically, in the case of Romanian, the functional load carried by the plain-palatalized distinction, combined with its lack of salience at this place of articulation, might conspire to cancel more general neutralization/enhancement effects.

■ ISSO Language Exchange Program

The [Language Exchange Program](#) is a free language-swap between Carleton students. Students will have the opportunity to further their communication skills, enhance their leadership skills, improve their language proficiency, and develop social connections in a casual, peer-to-peer setting.



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News

■ SLaLS student wins SSHRC Institutional Undergraduate Student Research Award

4th year ALDS student Chloe Grace Fogarty-Bourget has been selected to receive a SSHRC Institutional Undergraduate Student Research Award for the summer of 2011. She will be working with Natasha Artemeva on her SSHRC-funded study.

■ What can I do with an MA in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies?



Amanda Juby, MA/06
English Curriculum Development
Counselor
Kativik School Board



Christen Rachul, MA/08
Research Associate
Health Law Institute



John Haggerty, MA/11
EAP Teacher
Sogang University, South Korea

What do these three people have in common? They are all graduates of the SLaLS MA program in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies and they are all putting their degrees to work in exciting and interesting ways.

Visit the "[What can I do with an MA in ALDS?](#)", a new page on the SLaLS website, to learn more.

■ Japan Festival

By Elizabeth Sowka

On a quiet Saturday evening, January 29th, almost 120 people interested in "things Japanese" gathered in Fenn Lounge for the 14th Japan Festival: students of the Japanese language, Japanese history, their friends, faculty, and guests came to experience Japanese culture.

The event was organized by the instructors of Japanese, Professor Kovalio from History Department, and students volunteers. This year, [Carleton University Japanese Association](#) very actively participated in planning and organization of the Festival. Their members prepared the artistic program of the night and demonstration/hands-on tables of calligraphy, origami, Japanese game cards, and martial art.

Participants were treated to music on a traditional string instrument from Okinawa, called sanshin, and more familiar violin. Both instruments were played by [CUJA](#) members. Another student of Japanese language introduced us to joodo and *iaido*, types of martial arts.

The program included a culinary part: an obento - a Japanese-style boxed lunch, and wonderfully prepared by CUJA volunteers: yakisoba- fried noodles, chirashizushi - sushi rice topped with vegetables, mushrooms, eggs etc., and takoyaki - 'octopus dumplings', a food originated in Osaka, but now eaten during various festivals all over Japan. There were also Okinawan 'donuts', saataandagi.

The highlight of the night was Haiku Contest with a theme 'Love'. Approximately twenty poems were submitted and the authors of the best one received a cake from organizers and haiku books from the Japanese Embassy.



The event was attended by Ulrike Tallowitz, Assistant Director, Modern Languages at SLaLS, Mr. Sadamoto and Ms. Kaneko - First Secretary and Cultural Attaché from the Embassy of Japan. The guests stayed to the end and mingled with students and organizers.

This year, the Festival was sponsored by SLaLS, Sprott School of Business, Carleton International, the Dean of FASS, and Boko Bakery. We also received books and journals from the Embassy of Japan. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all participants: sponsors, organizers, attendees, and guests for contributing to an enjoyable experience of Japanese culture.

■ JBTC most cited articles as of January 1, 2011

Once again, SLaLS is well represented in the list of 50 most cited articles published since the inception of the Journal of Business and Technical Communication (JBTC). Articles are ranked according to citations to online articles from HighWire-hosted articles and updated monthly. As of January 1, 2011 (<http://jbt.sagepub.com/reports/most-cited>), #1 is AVIVA FREEDMAN and CHRISTINE ADAM "Learning to Write Professionally: 'Situated Learning' and the Transition from University to Professional Discourse" JBTC October 1996 10: 395-427, doi:10.1177/1050651996010004001 ; #26 is Natasha Artemeva "Toward a Unified Social Theory of Genre Learning" JBTC April 2008 22: 160-185, doi:10.1177/1050651907311925; #32 is Natasha Artemeva "A Time to Speak, a Time to Act: A Rhetorical Genre Analysis of a Novice Engineer's Calculated Risk Taking" JBTC October 2005 19: 389-421, doi:10.1177/105065190527830, and #37 is Graham Smart "Storytelling in a Central Bank: The Role of Narrative in the Creation and Use of Specialized Economic Knowledge" JBTC July 1999 13: 249-273, doi:10.1177/105065199901300302.

Inside SLaLS: what are people working on?

Do you want to know more about what's going on in the School? Take a moment to read the following posts from faculty (and students) about their recent (and ongoing) work. As well, please feel free to [send us your contributions](#) for inclusion in the next issue.

■ Students Helping to Green Ottawa's Workplaces While Developing Their Communication Skills

By Kim Davis

Students in one of Kim Davis' Communication Skills for Engineering Students courses have paired up with [Ecology Ottawa](#) and the [Enviro Centre's Green Buildings and Workplaces Challenge](#) in order to help community members participating in the challenge to reduce the environmental impacts of their shared workplaces. In teams of 2 or 3, students are working on research projects that will provide information to help community workplaces, such as CBC Ottawa, the Centretown Community Health Centre, Credible Edibles Café and Catering, and Response Security, to reach their goals of becoming more sustainable. Example topics include the feasibility of creating green roofs, ideas for workplace water filtration to eliminate bottled water, ways of reducing heat loss through windows, and energy efficient options for workplace lighting. Students will present their findings in informative reports and in poster presentations that will be held at City Hall on Friday, March 25th.

■ CKCU Literary News

By Hans-George Ruprecht

Launched in October last year, [CKCU Literary News](#) is an internet-based broadcasting service of [CKCU-FM 93.1](#), the community radio station of Carleton University which proudly celebrated in 2010 its 35th anniversary. It is currently offering two programs that are of interest to students and faculty of SLaLS:

(1) "[Literatures in Europe Today](#)" is bringing reports, features and interviews about literary events in European countries. The show is produced and hosted by Dr. Hans G. Ruprecht, Adjunct Research Professor (SLaLS), in collaboration with Carleton's multicultural community and numerous European correspondents. It airs Tuesdays at 9:05 a.m. on FM-93.1 (alternating with 'Das literarische Echo') and on stream [LISTEN LIVE](#). All episodes are available for [free download](#), including a RSS Subscription link.

(2) "[Das literarische Echo](#)" is about contemporary literature in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The show is broadcast in German. It is produced and co-hosted by Dr. Hans G. Ruprecht and Dr. Helmut Zobl, Professor emeritus (SLaLS). It can be heard live, Tuesdays at 9:05 on FM-93.1 (alternating with 'Literatures in Europe Today'), and on stream [LISTEN LIVE](#). There are currently over seventy episodes available for easy download in the [program archive](#).

Students and faculty are cordially invited to contribute to these two programs. Please contact hans_ruprecht@carleton.ca for more information.

■ Natasha Artemeva

Publications:

"Developing and Sustaining an Integrated Mathematics Research Community: The Vertical Integration of Research and Education (VIGRE) at William Marsh Rice University"

Natasha Artemeva (SLaLS, Carleton University) and Steven Cox (Computational and Applied Mathematics, Rice University)

The decrease in numbers of students graduating from United States mathematics departments and a growing "proportion of advanced mathematics degrees awarded to non-United States citizens" (Driskill & Watts, 2011, p. 296) had motivated the Division of Mathematics Sciences of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to create the "Enhancing the Mathematical Sciences Workforce in the 21st Century - Vertical Integration of Research and Education (VIGRE)" funding program.

76 universities and colleges, including William Marsh Rice University (Rice University) in Houston, Texas, received funding under this program. Rice University developed its own vertically integrated program in three mathematics sciences departments: Mathematics, Computational and Applied Mathematics, and Statistics. In October-November 2010, I was invited to observe the program and report on my observations in anticipation of the NSF site visit.

■ Randall Gess

I presented a paper, Observations préliminaires sur le français de Maillardville (Coquitlam), Colombie-Britannique, at the colloquium, Phonologie du français contemporain: des normes à la périphérie, in Paris in December.

■ Robert Gould

Publications:

Eds. Robert Gould and Maria Golubeva, *Shrinking Citizenship: Discursive Practices that Limit Democratic Participation in Latvian Politics*. Rodopi: Amsterdam and New York, 2010.

[«La 'mort' du multiculturalisme allemand : ce que cache les propos chocs d'Angela Merkel» / "The 'Death' of Multiculturalism : What Angela Merkel's shock talk is hiding"](#), *L'Actualité fédérale*, décembre 2010, vol. 1 no. 2.

"Words and Pictures can Hurt: Dealing with Anti-Minority Images and Language", Bratislava: Open Society Foundation 2011 (forthcoming) .

■ Jaffer Sheyholislami

Jaffer Sheyholislami has been busy publishing and presenting.

Publications:

He has published in the most recent issues of two refereed journals:

1. With Rachelle Freak (one of our MA graduates) and Guillaume Gentil (Associate Professor from SLaLS). (2011). [A bilingual corpus-assisted discourse study of the construction of nationhood and belonging in Quebec.](#) *Discourse & Society*, 22, 1-27.
2. 2010. [Identity, language, and new media: The Kurdish case.](#) *Language Policy*, 9(4), 289-312.

Presentations:

Jaffer Sheyholislami was a keynote speaker at the First North American Conference on the Kurdish Language: The Kurdish Language, Research, Trends, and Directions, held at the UCLA on Nov 5, 2010. Other presenters came from various universities in Britain, Canada, France, Iraq, Turkey, and the United States. Jaffer's keynote reported on his latest research project on the situation of the Kurdish language in Iran. Informed by theories of language policy and planning, and language rights, Jaffer reported that although in recent years many regional, national and international developments have changed the linguistic landscape in the region (e.g. since 2005 Kurdish has been an official language in Iraq, and in recent years Turkey has relaxed its strict policy on minority languages) the situation in Iran remains the same: language policy continues to be informed by the one nation=one language myth.



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News from the Library

■ Updates

1. **EdITLib: Education and Information Technology Library** We now have access to this online collection (formerly called the AACE digital library) of "peer-reviewed and published international journal articles and proceedings papers on the latest research, developments, and applications related to all aspects of educational technology and e-learning." You can search all content or browse by subject area (Topics & Tags). As well, EdITLib supports direct exporting of citations to RefWorks.

To link to EdITLib see: <http://catalogue.library.carleton.ca/record=b2953864~S9>

2. **Reminder of changes to copyright**
There have been many recent e-mails about the changes to copyright here at Carleton. The main point affecting those teaching is that posting your own .pdf copies of articles, book chapters etc on WebCT is not allowed. Contact Joanne Rumig (joanne_rumig@carleton.ca) for any questions about what can be put on Reserve in the Library and Pat Moore (pat_moore@carleton.ca) about any other questions related to these changes.
3. **NVivo 9 new features**
For those of you who may have been using NVivo 8, there are some nifty new features with NVivo 9 that you might like to know about. For one, you can now import references directly from RefWorks (and also export into RefWorks). As well, NVivo now allows you to import information from databases and statistical software like SPSS and allows you to extract data from your NVivo project that can then be further analyzed in software like SPSS. Anyone wanting to find out more about NVivo (software that helps to manage, organize, analyze qualitative data) can contact nvivo@library.carleton.ca

Please send any questions/comments about these library items to judy_senecal@carleton.ca



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