

Societas Linguistica Europaea

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2025



SLE 2025 conference

[Registration is open](#)

The programme committee has selected 558 abstracts; fee waivers can be applied for. See p. 2

ROUND TABLE on the relation between linguistics and AI. See p. 3

New reduced rate membership

See p. 4

SLE Research grants 2025

[5 grants awarded](#). See p. 5

Budget cuts in Departments of Languages and Linguistics: action needed? See p. 8

SLE online Spring lecture

5 May 2025, 5pm CET, See p. 7

Folia Linguistica (Historica)

[New issue](#)

SLE is pleased to announce a new issue of *Folia Linguistica*. The Special Issue for 2026 has also been selected. See pp. 6-7

Honorary memberships

During the Winter Members' Meeting, SLE decided to award honorary memberships to Lachlan Mackenzie and Bert Cornillie for their outstanding service to the SLE. Congratulations!



Emeritus Professor of
Functional Linguistics at VU
Amsterdam
SLE Treasurer 2017–2023
plus more

Professor of Spanish
Linguistics at KU Leuven
SLE Conference manager
2008–2013
SLE Secretary
2018–2024
plus more



SLE 2025 Bordeaux

26 – 29 August

58th Annual SLE Meeting

<https://societaslinguistica.eu/sle2025/>



The programme committee, chaired by Karolina Grzech (Universitat Pompeu Fabra) for the workshops and by Olga Krasnoukhova (University of Liège) for the general session, conducted 2167 reviews and ended up accepting 558 abstracts, using a threshold of 3.4/5. Of all abstracts submitted, 58% were single-authored and only 17% were co-authored by more than two scholars. The top three topics were Semantics, Syntax, and Typology. The list of accepted papers is published [here](#).

Descriptions of the accepted workshops can be consulted [here](#).

The deadline for registration for presenters is 31 May 2025; early-bird rates apply until 30 April 2025. Co-authors can still register until 31 July 2025. To register for the conference, please go to the Members' area: <https://societaslinguistica.eu/membership/>.

We would also like to draw members' attention to the possibility of applying for **financial support** to attend the upcoming SLE conference. Specifically, the Executive Committee decided to use funds accumulated from member donations to support the participation of early-career scholars in the upcoming conference in Bordeaux in the form of a **waiver** for the conference fees & conference dinner. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

After receiving notification that your abstract has been accepted, you may apply for the scholarship if (a) you are a doctoral student without a stipend or fellowship or (b) an unemployed scholar holding a doctorate acquired within the past three years. Preference will be given to scholars who meet these requirements and are active in countries whose nominal GDP per capita is less than \$35,000 (please check [here](#) for the latest World Bank data). If you think you are eligible, please send an email to Anna Kisiel (sle.cm@kuleuven) by 15 June 2025 explaining your situation and providing supporting evidence. The EC committee will announce the results of the selection by early July.

Plenary speakers at the 58th Annual SLE Meeting:

- Livio Gaeta (Università di Torino) Presidential address
- Dagmar Divjak and Petar Milin (University of Birmingham)
- Carmelo Alessandro Basile (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle), winner of the Best Postdoc paper at SLE 2024
- Sandra Cronhamn and Anna Hjortdal (Lund University), winners of the Best PhD paper at SLE 2024

ROUND TABLE: “How to do linguistics with AI; how to do AI with linguistics”

A short description of the round table is now available [here](#). We encourage all SLE members to submit their questions, comments, points for discussion prior to the meeting by emailing the conference manager (sle.cm@kuleuven.be).

**Next venues:****SLE 2026:****Osnabrück University**

(26 – 29 August 2026; Chair: Alexander Bergs)

SLE 2027:**We received a bid from Pavol Jozef Šafárik University, Košice
(Slovakia)**

(Chair: Livia Körtvélyessy)

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New reduced rate membership

SLE has a reduced rate membership fee of €10 per annum. Until recently, members were eligible if they were active as linguists in countries whose nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita (according to [the latest Word Bank data](#)) lies below \$20,000. The World Bank data point to a general post-pandemic increase in GDP, but the gap between the rich and the poor has nonetheless remained significant across the globe. This is why we have now raised the threshold for reduced membership fees to the average GDP of **\$35,000**, which approximates 1/3 of the average GDP of the 10 richest countries. Each member is encouraged to determine their eligibility for the reduced rate by checking their country's average GDP using the link above.

Members whose location changes must let this be known to the secretary. Please note that someone from one of the countries concerned but currently active in a country whose per capita nominal GDP lies above \$35,000 is not entitled to this reduced rate.

Siewierska and Coseriu awards: under evaluation



Anna Siewierska Award 2025 (annual) for the best *FL* or *FoLH* paper.

This award does not require an application. All articles published in *FL* and *FoLH* in 2024 are eligible.

Award Committee: Livio Gaeta (chair), Viviana Masia, Maria Napoli, Gunther Kaltenböck, Nikolaus Ritt



Eugenio Coseriu Award 2025 (biannual) for an outstanding research monograph by a junior scholar.

Books must be first published in 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024.

Award Committee: Silvia Luraghi (chair), Karolina Grzech, Anetta Kopecka, Olga Krasnoukhova, Peter Arkadiev, Alina Tigau

(Source:
<https://coseriu.ch/>)

SLE Research grants

	<p>5 Grants were awarded, each worth €2000</p>
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We congratulate the following awardees of the SLE research grants 2025:

PhD students

- Edward Ntonda (Paris Nanterre University & Ghent University). Project title: Chikunda in time and space: sociolinguistic-historical analysis.

Early career researchers

- Bernat Bardagil (Ghent University). Project title: Argument marking and subjecthood in Kawaiwete-Kaiabi.
- Shirly Orr (Tel Aviv University). Project title: The linguistic and extra-linguistic factors shaping the evaluation of truth.
- Kurt Fassel Erbach (Goethe University Frankfurt). Project title: Plural individuals in gesture semantics.

Joint initiatives

- Pius Akumbu (CNRS-LLACAN Villejuif), Iraide Ibarretxe-Antuñano (University of Zaragoza) & Livia Körtvélyessy (Pavol Jozef Šafárik University). Project title: Methods of research into sound symbolism (workshop).

Publications

 <p>DE GRUYTER MOUTON</p>		<p>YOUR ACCESS TO <i>FOLIA LINGUISTICA (HISTORICA)</i></p> <p>As a member of the Societas Linguistica Europaea you are entitled to complimentary access to the journals <i>Folia Linguistica</i> and <i>Folia Linguistica Historica</i>. You can access them using the following link:</p> <p>https://www.degruyter.com/view/j/flin</p> <p>(institutional access passcode: FLIN22)</p>
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Special issue of *Folia Linguistica* 2026 has been selected:

Title: *Unlocking evaluative morphology: conceptual and methodological challenges*

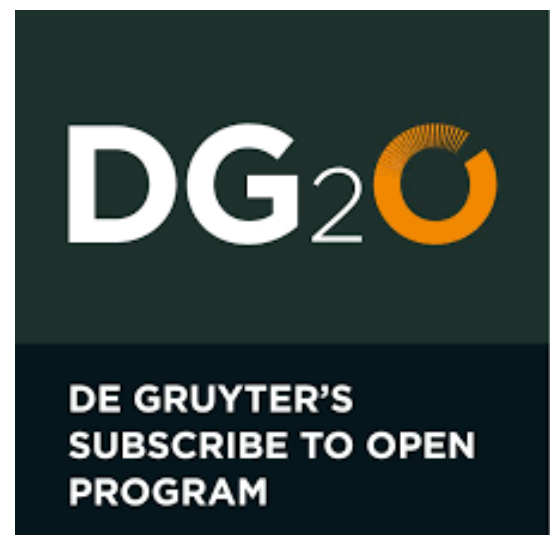
Guest Editors: Muriel Norde (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Francesca Masini (Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna), Kristel van Goethem (F.R.S. - FNRS & Université Catholique de Louvain) & Daniel Ebner (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Congratulations to the guest editors!

New contract with De Gruyter Mouton

Following a vote at the Annual Members' meeting in Helsinki, SLE President Livio Gaeta signed a new contract with De Gruyter Mouton to publish *Folia Linguistica* and *Folia Linguistica Historica*. The most notable change in the new contract is that the journals will be open access starting in 2026.

More information on De Gruyter's Subscribe to Open programme can be found [here](#).



Folia Linguistica. Volume 59 Issue 1, April 2025**Editorial**

Viviana Masia & Roland Hinterhölzl. The pragmatics of evidentiality: markers, strategies and implications for linguistic theory

Articles

Colin Brown. Conjectural questions in Sm'algyax.

Agnès Celle. The epistemic conditional in polar questions as an argumentative strategy.

Elsi Kaiser. Evidentials and dubitatives in Finnish: perspective shift in questions and embedded contexts.

Elizabeth M. Riddle. Evidential strategies in English: not just lexical.

Cecilia Mihaela Popescu. Romanian presumptive in interaction: evidentiality and beyond.

Roland Hinterhölzl. Some notes on the role of modal particles in weil+V2-clauses in German.

Viviana Masia. The evidential meaning of presupposition and implicature between retractability and deniability of information.

Martina Faller. The interrogative flip with illocutionary evidentials.

Marco Biasio & Dario Del Fante. Once known, always known. Turn-final SAI in North-East regional Italian.

Online Spring lecture

This year's Spring lecture will take place on **5 May 2025, at 5pm CET**. Its topic has been defined in close connection with the Round Table at the 2025 annual meeting in Bordeaux, so as to spark questions and comments that will be addressed during that event. Indeed, as indicated above, attendees are invited to send questions, comments, and points for discussion to the conference manager by email prior to the meeting (sle.cm@kuleuven.be).

To attend the lecture, please click the following link on 5 May at 5pm CET: <https://umu.zoom.us/j/68449643594>.

Distributional Semantics: The Linguistic Roots of Generative AI

Alessandro Lenci
University of Pisa

Large Language Models (LLMs) are revolutionizing Artificial Intelligence by introducing a new generation of systems that have achieved unprecedented performance in linguistic tasks. LLMs represent the most advanced development in research on distributional semantics, a computational model of meaning rooted in the linguistic tradition established by Zellig Harris. In this talk, I will explore the journey from distributional semantics to LLMs, highlighting how, despite their significant advancements, LLMs still inherit many of the limitations inherent in distributional models of meaning.

Call for proposals

The organization of online lectures is a community-driven activity of the SLE. Members take the initiative to promote research (lines) close to them. Specifically, a group of five SLE members can propose a speaker and topic to the Executive Committee via [this form](#). Proposals can be submitted at any time of the year.

Budget cuts in language programmes – call for action

The Executive Committee was contacted by colleagues from Cardiff University to help make a statement against the budget cuts of language and linguistics studies they are confronted with. At the same time, we are aware of budget cuts in several Dutch universities, which will force departments specializing in minority languages to close down. We are of course worried about these developments, and we would like to prepare a general statement, which could take the form of a press release, which you, our members, could help spread. But we would first need your help to assess the seriousness of the situation and the extent of the problem across Europe and beyond – we might consider contacting the LSA to join forces.

So, if your department is facing budget cuts, please get in touch with the SLE Secretary, Maria Rosenberg (sle.secretary@g.unibuc.ro), with a first-hand description of the situation **by 10 May 2025**. Please include also information on how political or university authorities motivate these cuts. Do they, for instance, refer to the advent of generative AI and Large Language Models technology? The Executive Committee will then discuss your reactions during the next EC meeting in mid-May, and decide on further action.

In relation to this topic, we would like to encourage members based in Europe and facing these challenges to take part in the **research project** “Closing and Opening Doors” carried out by Leena Kolehmainen (University of Helsinki), Philipp Krämer (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and Ulrike Vogl (Ghent University). They prepared an [electronic questionnaire](#) to study recent or planned closures of university language training or research programmes or severe downsizing and cuts of their resources at European universities, which they kindly reopened until 31 May 2025. The data provided by participants cannot be shared with the SLE directly (see the [privacy notice](#)), but the results of the project will undoubtedly benefit the SLE.

News from CIPL

SLE is a member of CIPL, *Comité International permanent des Linguistes*. Their March newsletter, with interesting travel grant opportunities for participation in a linguistics conference (for PhD students only), can be found on CIPL’s website via this [link](#). The organisation is preparing for its centenary anniversary in 2028.

Editor of this issue: An Van linden	Contact: an.vanlinden@uliege.be
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