

# **LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE**

**College of Arts, Society and Education — James Cook University**

PO Box 6811, Cairns, North Queensland, 4870, Australia

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## **Bulletin — February 2019**

The **Language and Culture Research Centre (LCRC)** is nested within the **College of Arts, Society and Education** (Dean, Professor Nola Alloway) and works in association with the **Cairns Institute** (Director, Distinguished Professor Stewart Lockie) at James Cook University.

### **Overview**

James Cook University is recognised as the leading regional university in Australia, and its research profile receives international acclaim. In keeping with this, the Language and Culture Research Centre has consolidated its role as a major player at the cutting edge of linguistic scholarship.

The year 2018 completed a decade of high-quality linguistic research at JCU. Members of the Research Centre have put out more than two dozen academic monographs with leading international publishers, in addition to more than 200 scholarly papers and book chapters. Over these ten years there has been a steady flow of grants, among them Distinguished Professor Aikhenvald's Australian Laureate Fellowship 'How gender shapes the world', in addition to six ARC Discovery and Linkage Projects.

Every member of the Centre is concerned with the analysis of previously undescribed (or scarcely described) languages from across tropical regions of the Americas, Africa, Asia, New Guinea, the Pacific, and northern Australia. Hand-in-hand with theoretically-informed descriptive investigations, we stand at the forefront of work on inductively based grammatical, semantic, and pragmatic generalisations concerning the ways in which languages work.

The regular cohort which includes three Post Doctoral Fellows and seven PhD students was augmented by a steady stream of distinguished Visiting Fellows, all taking part in a series of regular weekly seminars and a continuing fortnightly Workshop which, in 2019, will be on 'Adjective classes'. In addition, we hosted three International Workshops featuring scholars from Germany, Italy, Canada, Argentina, and from across Australia.

## **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE**

The Language and Culture Research Centre promotes interdisciplinary research involving immersion fieldwork, leading to comprehensive documentation of indigenous languages and cultures. This feeds into inductive generalisations concerning human language capacity, and the interaction between parameters of linguistic and cultural behaviour. Our core members are anthropologically-orientated linguists and we maintain a dialogue with anthropologists, sociologists, archeologists, educationalists and other scholars in the humanities, social sciences and relevant natural sciences. LCRC's primary focus is on the indigenous peoples of New Guinea, Australia, Amazonia, and East Asia.

We work in terms of basic linguistic theory, the cumulative framework which is employed in most linguistic description, providing anthropologically informed grammars and analyses of languages and language areas. Our work has a sound empirical basis but also shows a firm theoretical orientation, seeking for explanation hand-in-hand with description.

Building on reliable descriptive studies, the LCRC also puts forward inductive generalisations about human languages, cultural practices and cognition. We enquire how a language reflects the environment in which people live, their system of social organisation, food production techniques, and the ways in which a community views the world. For instance, groups living in mountainous terrain often have to specify, for any object, whether it is uphill, downhill or at the same level as the speaker. And if there is a chiefly system, a special term of address may be required for speaking to a high chief, and a different term for a minor chief. Why are languages the way they are? We seek scientific explanation and motivation, combining the expertise of linguists, anthropologists and social scientists from other domains.

Another focus of study concerns the ways in which languages influence each other. What kind of words, and meanings, are likely to be borrowed between two languages spoken next to each other, and under what social circumstances? Are some kinds of systems particularly open to diffusion, so that they are likely to spread over all the languages in a geographical area, and are other kinds of systems less likely to be diffused?

LCRC organises International Workshops, regular roundtable meetings, and various events through the year. We reach out to the community, through advising and assisting concerning language renewal and revitalisation.

## The People at LCRC in 2019

**Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald** is an Australian Laureate Fellow and Director of LCRC. She is working on a comprehensive grammar of Yalaku, a previously undescribed language from the East Sepik, Papua New Guinea, and finalising a general monograph on language, in addition to seeing through the press an edited volume on classifiers and genders (jointly with Elena Mihás) and a special issue of the journal *Mouth* (jointly with Anne Storch). She is also preparing for publication a volume emanating from our 2018 Special International Workshop 'Language contact and emergent languages' (jointly with Péter Maitz) and another volume based on the LCRC Special International Workshop 'Word: its manifestations and functions' (jointly with R.M.W. Dixon and Nathan White). She is undertaking further work on the dictionary of Yalaku, the comparative grammar of Arawak languages, and the production of community materials in several dialects of Tariana in Brazil. She is currently working on various facets of genders, commands, evidentials and knowledge, and the typology of multiple classifier systems.

**Professor R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon**, Deputy Director of LCRC, will have a book for the general reader, *Australia's original languages: an introduction*, published by Allen and Unwin in July. His major project at present is an in-depth investigation of the meanings and uses of the most important fifty prepositions in English. For each, its full semantic range and grammatical functions are investigated. There is focus on the contrastive meanings of prepositions which may occur in the same context but with a significantly different nuance. He continues with his life-long examination of the grammatical systems of Jarawara (Arawá family) from the state of Amazonas in Brazil, and of the Boumaa dialect of Fijian. He is also investigating the structure of Jalnguy, the 'avoidance' (or mother-in-law) style of Dyirbal and the way in which comparison with the everyday style reveals the underlying semantic organization of the language.

### Post-doctoral Research Fellows

Our intellectual profile is enhanced by the activities of three top-class scholars as Post-Doctoral Research Fellows. They are employed within Aikhenvald's Australian Laureate Fellowship Project 'How gender shapes the world: a linguistic perspective' and on Aikhenvald and Dixon's ARC Discovery Project 'The integration of language and society', and by CASE.

**Dr Luca Ciucci** received his PhD from Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, in 2013. He is an expert on Zamucoan languages and indigenous languages of Bolivia and Paraguay. His publications include *Inflectional morphology in the Zamucoan languages* (Asunción, CEADUC). He is working on a grammatical description of Chamacoco (Zamucoan), on Zamucoan languages, on language

contact in the Chaco area, and on Chiquitano, with special focus on the language spoken in the Jesuit Missions, its evolution and its contact with Zamucoan. He holds a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship at the LCRC within Distinguished Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald's Australian Laureate Fellowship 'How gender shapes the world: a linguistic perspective'.

**Dr Carola Emkow** received her PhD in 2007 from the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, La Trobe University, with a thesis on the grammar of Araona which she is preparing for publication in the Mouton Grammar Library series (De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin). Her research focuses on the audio-visual documentation (in collaboration with Dr Regina Knapp, anthropologist) and the linguistic description (full-length grammar) of the Bena Bena language, a Papuan language of the Gorokan language family spoken in the Eastern highlands of Papua New Guinea (DoBeS documentation project), in addition to the neighbouring languages (Alekan, Yaweyuha, some dialects of Siane, and Yagaria). Currently, she is the director of the Tropical Language and Culture Documentation Laboratory, LCRC JCU.

**Dr Alex Walker** (PhD University of California, Santa Barbara) is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at LCRC (CASE/CI). His areas of expertise include the Pomoan languages of Northern California, language documentation, historical linguistics, and writing systems. For his LCRC research project, he is working with the last speakers of Panim, a largely undocumented Papuan language of Madang Province, Papua New Guinea, in order to prepare a comprehensive grammatical description of the language.

### **Adjunct Staff of the Cairns Institute and LCRC**

**Dr Angeliki Alvanoudi** completed her PhD 'The social and cognitive dimensions of grammatical genders' at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki which was published in 2014 under the title *Grammatical Gender in Interaction: Cultural and Cognitive Aspects* in Brill's *Studies in Languages, Cognition and Culture*. She finished her term as Research Fellow and was appointed Adjunct Fellow at the LCRC and the Cairns Institute in 2015. She has conducted fieldwork with Greek immigrants in Cairns and surrounding regions of Queensland. Her monograph on Greek spoken in Australia and contact-induced change was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2018.

**Mario Arrien** is a sociocultural anthropologist. He is a Corporate Social Responsibility Officer for the timber company *Industria Maderera San Luis S. R. L.* in the framework of the Forest Stewardship Council certification. He is also associate researcher at *Centro de Investigaciones Históricas y Antropológicas (CIHA)* of *Museo de Historia de la Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno (UAGRM)* in Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia).

**Dr René van den Berg** is Linguistic Consultant, SIL International, PNG. He is a major expert in Austronesian languages, especially Oceanic languages spoken in Papua New Guinea, and also Indonesia and Sulawesi (with special focus on Muna). His further specific expertise includes languages of Indonesia and Sulawesi in particular, language description and documentation, historical-comparative linguistics, and lexicography, in addition to the issues of empowerment of indigenous communities in PNG through their mother-tongue education.

**Dr Juliane Böttger** completed her PhD at the LCRC in 2015. Her expertise lies in the field of Oceanic languages, with special focus on Lele and Nali languages of the Manus Island. She is currently preparing her thesis for publication.

**Dr Mateus Cruz Maciel de Carvalho** (MA, Universidade Estadual Paulista) completed his PhD dissertation 'A morphosyntactic study of the Deni language (Arawá) at the Universidade Estadual Paulista 'Júlio de Mesquita Filho', Faculdade de Ciências e Letras de Araraquara (Brasil). He is Professor at Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of São Paulo, Salto campus. He is currently working on aspects of the grammar of Deni, an Arawá language spoken in Southern Amazonia, Brazil and typological features of Arawá languages, especially noun, verb, and adjective classes.

**Dr Brigitta Flick** (PhD, JCU) is an expert in social psychology and sustainability and Publication Officer at the LCRC, appointed Adjunct Fellow of the College of Arts, Society and Education in 2017.

**Professor Dr Diana Forker** (PhD, Max Planck Instiut, Leipzig) is an expert in North-east Caucasian languages (especially Hinuq and Sanzhi Dargwa) and a former Feodor Lynen Fellow at the LCRC. She has been awarded the Chair in Caucasian languages at the University of Jena. She continues her work on North-east Caucasian languages and linguistic typology.

**Dr Valérie Guérin** obtained a PhD from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (2008) for her work on Maṽea, an endangered language of Vanuatu. She has published the monograph *A grammar of Maṽea: An Oceanic language of Vanuatu*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, in addition to a dictionary, papers dealing with Oceanic languages, problems of fieldwork and language documentation, and the typology of demonstrative verbs (*Linguistic Typology*). As she received her appointment as Adjunct Research Fellow at the LCRC in 2016, she started working part-time for a business software company. She continues her research on a grammar of Tayatuk, a Papuan language from the Morobe Province in PNG.

**Dr. Timothy Henry-Rodriguez** has studied the language of the Ventureño Chumash for 13 years, and he is a specialist in Chumash linguistics and the reconstruction of Proto-Chumash linguistics. In addition to these specializations,

he is also interested in the acoustic aspects of Mongol-Turkic vowels. His research is based on an understanding that the best linguistic description comes from a tradition of collecting naturally occurring speech, checked against elicited material when available, lexicography, and grammar writing. His research is currently primarily focused on the morphosyntax of Ventureño and its sister language Purisimeño. He is commencing intensive fieldwork on Wagi, a Papuan language from Madang province in Papua New Guinea. He is a Lecturer in Linguists at the University of California, Fullerton.

**Cassy Nancarrow** joined the LCRC in 2014 on an Adjunct Lecturer appointment. She is an expert in anthropological linguistics with a focus on the indigenous languages of Northern Australia, especially Mornington Island, bilingual education and Creole languages. Her expertise is a welcome addition to the LCRC's focus on Australian Aboriginal languages, languages of the tropics and bilingual education from a global perspective.

**Dr Simon E. Overall** received his PhD in 2008 from the Research Centre for Linguistic Typology, then at La Trobe University, with a thesis on the grammar of Aguaruna now published in the Mouton Grammar Library series (De Gruyter Mouton, Berlin). His research focuses on the diachrony of nominalisations and their involvement in discourse and switch-reference, as well as the linguistic situation in the eastern foothills of the Andes, and the grammar of Kandozi-Chapra. His major project involves working on a grammar of Kandozi, an isolate of Peru, and various issues in languages of the Andean Foothills of South America. He was appointed Adjunct Fellow of the LCRC in 2017, on taking up his appointment as Lecturer in linguistics at the University of Otago, New Zealand.

**Dr Hiroko Sato** received her PhD in linguistics from the University of Hawai'i, Mānoa, on 'Grammar of Kove: An Austronesian Language of the West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea'. She is Fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Science Foundation and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Hawai'i, Mānoa. She is currently conducting research on Bebeli, an Austronesian language spoken in the West New Britain region of Papua New Guinea, in addition to Akolet, Avau and Gelimi.

**Professor Craig Alan Volker** is a linguist with research interests in the indigenous and pidgin-creole languages of the New Guinea Islands region, where he lives. He received a MLitSt from the University of Queensland for his research into the previously undescribed Rabaul Creole German (Unserdeutsch) language of Papua New Guinea and a PhD in linguistics from the University of Hawai'i for his description of the grammar of the Nalik language of New Ireland, Papua New Guinea. Formerly Professor of Language at Gifu Shōtoku Gakuen University in Japan and Professor of Linguistic Research at Divine

Word University in Papua New Guinea, he has been an adjunct professor with The Cairns Institute since 2013. He is particularly interested in the use of Papua New Guinean languages in the modern media and is a strong supporter of traditional culture in New Ireland, where he is a Waangpaang (Assistant Talking Chief) of the Sea Eagle Clan of the Nalik people. In recent years he has taught Tok Pisin as a foreign language at several universities in Germany.

**Dr Katarzyna (Kasia) I. Wojtylak** received her PhD in October 2017 from the Language and Culture Research Centre at James Cook University, with a thesis on the grammar of Murui (Bue), a Witotoan language of Northwest Amazonia. Her thesis received a prestigious ‘Cum Laude’ distinction. She was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the LCRC within Distinguished Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald’s Australian Laureate Fellowship ‘How gender shapes the world: a linguistic perspective’. She has a strong background in linguistic description and analysis, language documentation, ethnographic research, and visual anthropology. In addition, she continues as co-ordinator of the Tropical Language and Culture Documentation Laboratory, LCRC JCU. She is currently Junior Professor at the University of Regensburg (Germany).

**Dr Sihong Zhang** successfully completed his PhD at LCRC on a grammar of Ersu, a previously undescribed Tibeto-Burman language of China. He continues in his position of Vice Dean at the The School of International Education and Exchange at Anhui University of Chinese Medicine, combining administrative and teaching duties with a high research productivity.

## PhD students

**Junwei Bai (Abe)** (MA, Nanjing University, PR China) is working on a comprehensive grammar of Munya, a previously undescribed Tibeto-Burman language of China. He is the LCRC Equipment and Maintenance Officer, and is responsible for the library acquisitions in linguistics.

**Robert Bradshaw** (MA, University of Washington, Seattle) is working on a comprehensive grammar of Doromu-Koki, a Papuan language from Central Province of Papua New Guinea, for which he has already prepared a grammar sketch.

**Christoph Holz** (MA, University of Leipzig) is working on a comprehensive grammar and a dictionary of Tiang, an undescribed Oceanic language of New Ireland, Papua New Guinea.

**Nick Piper** (MA, Australian National University) is working on a comprehensive grammar of Meryam Mir, the language of the Eastern Torres Strait.

**Pema Wangdi** (MA, ANU) is working on a comprehensive grammar of Brokpa, an endangered Tibeto-Burman language of eastern Bhutan.

**Nathan White** (MA, Trinity Western University, Canada) is working on a comprehensive grammar of Hmong as spoken within the diasporic communities of North Queensland and beyond it.

**Firew Girma Worku** (MA, University of Addis-Abbaba, Ethiopia) is working on a comprehensive grammar of Mursi, a Nilo-Saharan language of Ethiopia.

**Tahnee Innes** (First-class Honours BA in Anthropology at JCU) is undertaking an anthropology PhD on the material culture of the Dyrirbal-speaking peoples.

### **Administrative Staff and Research assistants**

**David Ellis**, Executive Assistant and Administrative Officer of the LCRC, provides crucial administrative and other support to the linguistic scholars within the Centre, including maintenance of the LCRC website and databases.

**Dr Brigitta Flick** and **Jolene Overall** continue their invaluable work as Publication Officers for LCRC.

### **Other members of the Language and Culture Research Centre**

- **Dr Chia-jung Pan** successfully completed his PhD at LCRC on the grammar of Lha'alua (or Saaroa), a critically endangered Austronesian language of Taiwan. Chia-jung was appointed to a highly prestigious position of Young Academic Leader of Nankai University, China, within the School of Literature.
- **Dr Hannah Sarvasy** successfully completed her PhD at LCRC on a grammar of Nungon, a Papuan language spoken by about 500 people in a remote river valley in the Saruwaged Mountains of PNG (Morobe Province). She was awarded a prestigious ARC DECRA and has been appointed to a research fellowship at the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development at the University of Western Sydney.
- **Dr Dineke Schokkin** successfully completed her PhD at LCRC on the grammar of Paluai, an Oceanic language from Baluan (Manus Province, PNG). She is a Post-doctoral Research Fellow at the ANU.
- **Professor Ton Otto**, Research Leader, People and Societies of the Tropics, within the Cairns Institute, is working on design anthropology, social change, notions of temporality, and agency, with reference to Papua New Guinea and particularly the peoples of Manus Island.
- **Professor Rosita Henry**, anthropologist at the Townsville Campus, is also a Research Fellow of the Cairns Institute. Her research concerns the poetic politics

of relationships between people, places and the nation-state in Australia and the Pacific. She is author of numerous articles on the political anthropology of place and performance.

- **Dr Robin Rodd** is Lecturer in Anthropology at Townsville, and an expert on the ethnography of the Piaroa, a linguistic isolate of Venezuela. His further research interests include ethnopharmacology of psychoactive plants, psychological anthropology, shamanism, systems theory and philosophy of health, and the history and ethnography of Venezuela and Latin America in general. He is currently examining notions of health and healing among Australian ayahuasca drinkers.

- **Distinguished Professor Sean Ulm** is Deputy Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage and Convenor of the Cultural and Linguistic Transformations Theme in the Cairns Institute. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, an Honorary Research Fellow of the Queensland Museum, an Honorary Fellow of the School of Social Sciences at the University of Western Australia and a Research Fellow of the Cairns Institute. His research focuses on cultural and environmental change in coastal regions of the Pacific Basin over the last 10,000 years. He has conducted research in Australia, Honduras, Chile, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. His publications include more than 100 articles on the archaeology of Australia and five books.

- **Dr Daniela Vavrová** is Laboratory Director and a founding member of ALTAR (Anthropological Laboratory for Tropical Audiovisual Research) at The Cairns Institute. She is Adjunct Research Fellow in the College of Arts, Society and Education and leads The Audio Visual Lab of The Cairns Institute.

- **Dr Mike Wood**, a Senior Lecturer in Anthropology at the Cairns Campus of James Cook University, has worked with Kamula speakers in PNG. He is currently working on three PNG-based projects that concern HIV/AIDS-related issues. He also works with Rosita Henry on a project concerning the history of artefacts collected in the Wet Tropics that surround Cairns, and in the Nakanai Ranges of West New Britain. He is interested in issues to do with climate change and the recent development of carbon credit schemes in PNG.

- **Dr Maria Wronska-Friend** is Adjunct Senior Lecturer at CASE (Cairns Campus). Social interactions involving people and objects, especially in Indonesian and Papua New Guinean societies, are the main fields of her research. In particular, she is interested in the process of cross-cultural transfer and use of objects, such as colonial trade, artistic inspiration, knowledge and technology appropriation, and the process of globalisation.

## **Forthcoming Activities and Visiting Fellows in 2019**

### **MULTIDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM**

### **THE LANGUAGE OF WELL-BEING**

**LCRC, CASE (DTES) and CPHMVS (DTHM)**

**23-24 April 2019, Cairns, D3-150**

**Convenors: Prof Maxine Whittaker (Dean of CPHMVS, DTHM, JCU), Distinguished Prof Alexandra Aikhenvald, Professor R M W Dixon, Dr Luca Ciucci, Dr Kris McBain-Rigg, Dr Alex Walker**

**Invited participants** include Professor Lesley Stirling, Dr Hannah Sarvasy, Professor Richard Nile, Professor Alan Clough, Dr René van den Berg, and further experts

The hot-spots of infectious diseases largely overlap with the areas of unprecedented linguistic and cultural diversity — Amazonia, Aboriginal Australia, New Guinea and the Pacific, and tropical Africa. None of the areas are easy to reach; there is little access to modern health facilities, and little understanding of what Western medicine may bring. A dilemma arises: how can Western doctors treat people and their diseases if they do not understand each other's languages and the ways of looking at the human body and its interactions with the world. And how can we identify and respond to merging infectious diseases with epidemic and pandemic capacity if the communities who may notice or be expected to notice changes, and the health professionals cannot understand each other? The aim of the project is to remedy this. How are physical and mental states, disease, ailments, and well-being conceptualised across a wide range of societies of the tropics? How do speakers represent them through their languages and their discourse? What traditional techniques are, or have been, in use for treating disease? Can language be a barrier to health-care (both individual and more population based health)? Or can it help promote a suitable treatment? The project aims at bringing together experts in linguistics, anthropology, history, medicine and public health. Our ultimate aim is to create a framework for productive partnership between health professionals and patients/communities from various backgrounds, based on mutual respect and linguistic and cultural understanding. The symposium is run as part of the UNESCO 'International year of indigenous languages'.

**LCRC INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**  
**'THE INTEGRATION OF LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY'**

Cairns, 21-23 August 2019

**Convenors: Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald, Professor R. M. W. Dixon**

**Invited participants** include Nerida Jarkey (University of Sydney), Anne Storch (University of Cologne), Maarten Mous, Felix Ameka (both from Leiden University) Luca Ciucci, and Alex Walker (LCRC)

The Language and Culture Research Centre has a high international reputation, based in part on a series of international workshops conducted by the Director (Distinguished Professor A Y Aikhenvald) and Deputy Director (Professor R.M.W. Dixon, Honorary DLitt honoris causa JCU), over the past 20 years (six of these were conducted at JCU, since 2010). The topic of our International Workshop for 2019 is '**The Integration of Language and Society**', based on the ARC DP under the same title (CI Profs Aikhenvald and Dixon, and Dr Nerida Jarkey, U of Sydney). The Workshop will bring together linguists and anthropologists, including international Partner Investigators on the ARC DP, Prof Dr Maarten Mous (U of Leiden) and Prof Dr Anne Storch (U of Cologne), and other scholars).

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF LINGUISTICS AT JCU (CAIRNS)**

The year 2019 marks ten years since the establishment of the Language and Culture Research Group, transformed in 2011 into the Language and Culture Research Centre. Linguistics at JCU (CASE, Cairns) has acquired high international profile, marked with numerous acclaimed publications, competitive grants (including an Australian Laureate Fellowship), and graduate students' success. We envisage a celebratory panel for this event planned for July 2019 will feature

**A launch of Professor R. M. W. Dixon's new book**  
*Australia's original languages: an introduction (2019, Allen and Unwin)*, an accessible and informative description of the original languages of Australia, their major features, and functions, based on over 50 years' experience by the author, and written in an engaging style.

**INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**  
**THE CHALLENGES OF LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY: ITS**  
**SOCIAL, ANTHROPOLOGICAL, AND STRUCTURAL**  
**ASPECTS**

24-25 September, Bern

Supported by the Universities Australia/DAAD project 'Language emergence in multilingual contexts', CASE (JCU) and the University of Bern

**Convenors:** Prof. Dr. Péter Maitz (Institut für Germanistik, Universität Bern)  
Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (LCRC, JCU)

**Invited participants** include Professor Peter Trudgill, Professor Susan Gal, Dr Luca Ciucci, Dr Alex Walker, Nathan White, Dr Kasia Wojtylak

### **MASTERCLASS IN TOK PISIN**

Organised through the Cairns Institute, and taught by Professor Craig Volker, Adjunct Professor at the CI and the LCRC (to take place in the second half of 2019, supported by the CI), the Masterclass, of c. 30 hours, will involve approximately 30 students (fee-paying), and will attract a wide participation of the community across JCU and Cairns at large.

### **A LINGUISTIC DATABASE ON TROPICAL LANGUAGES**

Throughout the past three years, **Kasia Wojtylak** and **Grant Aiton** have been supervising the creation of the LCRC special language archive and the newly developed archival facility for tropical languages in the form of a well-developed database. The database allows LCRC researchers to create and manipulate multimedia files and serves as a virtual platform designed for collaboration between researchers and community members. In addition to various types of multimedia files (i.e. text, image, audio and video files among them ELAN, Flex and Toolbox files) included in the corpus, the site contains an up-to-date repository of publications of the team members (including those in press). All materials are interlinked in a way that allows the user to navigate quickly through the corpus and run simple search queries within the site. In future, the site will facilitate numerous types of complex search options to increase the efficiency of the collected materials in the corpus. The facility can be accessed at <https://osf.io/rcmv4/>. Feedback and collaboration are welcome!

### **THE TROPICAL LANGUAGES AND CULTURES DOCUMENTATION LABORATORY IS LOCATED WITHIN THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE (LCRC)**

The Tropical Languages and Cultures Documentation Laboratory offers recording facilities, and opportunities for creating orthographies, reading and other materials, and developing web-based resources, in endangered and poorly documented languages of the tropics. Services provided include research consultancy and online services. For further details please consult:

Carola Emkow, [Carola.Emkow@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Carola.Emkow@jcu.edu.au), Coordinator, 61-7-42321881, and Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald [Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au), Director of the LCRC, 61-7-42321117

## **VISITING FELLOWS AT THE LCRC IN 2019**

**Dr Chia-jung Pan**, Nankai University, China, 12 February to 12 April 2019. During his stay, Dr Pan will be working on a comprehensive monograph 'Evidentiality in the languages of China', jointly with Dist. Prof. Aikhenvald, which will offer a general perspective on the study of information source and the ways of coaching indigenous knowledge in a number of languages from Austronesian and Tibeto-Burman families. He will also be working on a shorter monograph with a provisional title 'An introduction to the languages of Taiwan' featuring a typological overview of Taiwanese languages which offer a unique perspective on linguistic diversity within Austronesian family (within the framework of *Basic Linguistic Theory*, by Prof. R. M.W. Dixon).

**Dr René van den Berg**, Linguistics Consultant of SIL at Ukarumpa, PNG, and member of the International Consultative Board of LCRC, will be visiting LCRC in April 2019. He will be working on various issues in grammatical structures of Oceanic languages and present a contribution at the Minisymposium 'The language of well-being'.

**Professor Silvia Luraghi**, University of Pavia, Pavia (Italy) is an expert in pragmatics, philology, and historical linguistics, with a special focus on Indo-European languages, including Hittite. She will be visiting LCRC in early July 2019.

**Professor Maarten Mous**, Leiden University, is one of the leading experts in African linguistics, and African studies in general, with a focus on Cushitic languages, Bantu languages, language and identity, and also derivation and valency-changing devices. In his capacity as a Partner Investigator of the ARC DP 'The integration of language and society' (CI Aikhenvald and Dixon), he will spend July-August at LCRC working within the framework of the project.

**Dr Timothy Henry-Rodriguez**, a major expert on Ventureño and other Chumashan languages, will be visiting LCRC in August, working on various grammatical topics.

**Dr Dineke Schokkin** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific. She is an expert on Paluai, an Oceanic language of Baluan (Manus Province, PNG) and also Idi, a language from the Pahoturi River Family spoken in the Morehead District of Southern New Guinea. She is planning to be at the LCRC in July-August 2019, working on various issues in these languages.

**Dr Felix K. Ameka** lectures in African Languages and Cultures and the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics and is an Associate Researcher, Language and Cognition Group at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen. He is interested in language documentation and description, typology, cross-

cultural semantics, pragmatics, the socio-cultural, and cognitive motivations of grammar, anthropological and contact linguistics. His empirical specialisation is West African languages, mainly Kwa languages and other languages of wider communication, namely, Hausa and Fulfulde. His focus is on Gbe, i.e. Ewe, Gen Aja and Fon; Ghana-Togo-Mountain languages, especially Likpe; Guang and Akanic languages. He will be visiting the LCRC in August 2019.

**Professor Anne Storch** is among the half-a-dozen top experts in African Linguistics, and African Studies in general, spanning the study of languages and contexts within which they are spoken, the anthropology and history of the African continent within an ethnographic and sociological perspective. She is recipient of the prestigious Leibnitz award. Her expertise and achievements encompass in-depth studies of numerous languages and societies in East and West Africa (with a special focus on Benue-Congo, Nilotic and Atlantic language areas), in addition to her recent engagement with the language of tourism and the African and German diaspora communities in Jamaica. In her capacity as a Partner Investigator of the ARC DP 'The integration of language and society' (CI Aikhenvald and Dixon), she will be at the LCRC in August 2019 working within the framework of the project.

**Dr Knut Olawsky** has been conducting linguistic research in the tropics for more than two decades (Ghana, 1993-1999; Peru, 2000-2005; Australia, 2005 ongoing) and has written grammars of the Dagbani and Urarina languages. Since 2005 he manages the Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre in Kununurra (East Kimberley), where he works with the Miriwoong people to document and revitalise their language. He will be a Visiting Fellow at LCRC from 13 September to 13 December 2019, working on discourse organization of Mirriwoong.

**Dr. Fangzhe Lu**, of School of Chinese Language and Literature, Central China Normal University, will be at LCRC from 19 August 2019 until 19 August 2020. He will be working closely together with Professor Aikhenvald, conducting research on mirativity.

**The fortnightly Workshop of the LCRC, Adjective classes, will commence on 20 February 2019. R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Aikhenvald will present an Initial Orientation.**

## **Highlights of 2018**

### **Grants, Honours and Awards**

The James Cook University resolved to award **Professor R. M. W. Dixon** the prestigious title of Honorary Doctor of Letters *Honoris causa* in recognition of his lengthy scholarly history and demonstrated exceptional achievement and

academic eminence in the field of linguistics. The award ceremony took place on 17 December 2018.

**Citation for the Award of Honorary Doctor honoris causa of the University, Professor R. M. W. Dixon, as read by Professor Sandra Harding, Vice-Chancellor and President of JCU, 17.12.2018**

Chancellor,

I present to you, for the award of Honorary Doctor of Letters honoris causa of James Cook University, Professor Robert Malcolm Ward Dixon, or Bob Dixon, as he is universally known.

James Cook University wishes to recognise Professor Dixon's exceptional scholarly achievements and his academic eminence in the field of Linguistics. Bob Dixon's research has led to significant advances of knowledge in Linguistics, where he has been a major figure in the documentation, revitalisation and maintenance of languages spoken by Indigenous Australians.

His book for the general public, *Australia's original languages: An Introduction*, will be published by Allen and Unwin next July. Furthermore, his high-profile and cutting-edge research has been instrumental in improving JCU's research reputation within the area of humanities and social sciences.

Professor Dixon is an internationally renowned scholar of the languages spoken by Indigenous Australians, with a special focus on the languages of northern Queensland. He began his pioneering work on the Indigenous languages of the Cairns and Townsville area more than fifty years ago and continues this important work today as an Adjunct Professor and Deputy Director of the Language and Culture Research Centre within the College of Arts, Society and Education and the Cairns Institute.

Commencing in 1963, Bob Dixon worked with the last fluent speakers of five languages from north-east Queensland. His published orthographies, grammars and dictionaries are a permanent documentation of these ancient tongues. Working with elderly speakers, in cooperation with botanists and zoologists, he provided a full classification of 560 plants together with 480 animals and other living beings. These materials have helped contribute to successful land rights outcomes for traditional guardians. They are also the basis for programs to enhance ethnic pride, and to re-invigorate traditional culture and language.

His monograph, co-authored with musicologist Grace Koch, *Dyirbal Song Poetry, The Oral Literature of an Australian Rainforest People*, received the Stanner Award from the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Studies, having been judged as the best contribution to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies published during 1996 and 1997.

Bob Dixon's popular book, *Searching for Aboriginal Languages: Memoirs of a Field Worker* was published by the University of Queensland Press in 1984, reprinted by the University of Chicago Press in 1989, and then by Cambridge University Press in 2011. His 2002 monograph, *Australian Languages: Their*

*Nature and Development*, integrates knowledge on the 250 original languages of the continent.

He has also undertaken immersion fieldwork on the island of Taveuni in Fiji, and in the Brazilian jungle. His magisterial grammar, *The Jarawara Language of Southern Amazonia* received the Leonard Bloomfield Award by the Linguistic Society of America for the best monograph published across all fields of linguistics between March 2003 and February 2005.

In addition, Bob Dixon has published three acclaimed volumes on the grammar of his native language, English. And he has made manifold contributions to linguistic theory, dealing with the overarching nature of human language; in particular on ergativity, gender systems, adjective classes, and demonstratives. His three volume work *Basic Linguistic Theory* (2010-12) has been hailed as 'a modern classic'.

The leading international journal *Language* listed Professor Dixon's 1979 paper 'Ergativity' as one of the journal's five most cited in the first 75 years since its founding. Bob is one of only four living linguists (and the youngest by seven years) accorded a biographical entry in *The Oxford Concise Dictionary of Linguistics*.

He has been welcomed to membership of highly selective learned societies and holds a variety of prestigious positions and fellowships including Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities; Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy; Honorary Member (by specific invitation) of the Linguistic Society of America; Member of the Philological Society; and Member and past president of the Australian Linguistic Society.

Bob Dixon's interests and work have ranged widely. But his greatest commitment has always been to the languages and cultures of the Cairns rainforest region and the needs of the original inhabitants in their quest to nurture and maintain their traditional heritage. This he is able to pursue in his continuing role as Adjunct Professor at JCU.

Chancellor, in recognition of his exceptional scholarly achievements and his academic eminence in the field of Linguistics, I present Professor Bob Dixon for admission to the award of Honorary Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*.



Professor R. M. W. Dixon with Professor Sandra Harding, Vice-Chancellor and President of James Cook University, on the occasion of his being awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*.

## **Katarzyna I. Wojtylak was awarded her PhD with a rare Cum Laude distinction and a University Medal,**

for her thesis, a typologically informed description of the endangered ‘Witoto’ Murui language spoken in Northwest Amazonia. Quoting from an anonymous examiner’s report:



‘From the point of view of quality this is certainly one of the top dissertations in linguistics so far. It contains hundreds of pages of unique thoroughly analysed language material which is all perfectly new. Hardly any aspects of the Murui language are left untreated, and each rule or fact is illustrated with an adequate choice of first-hand examples. The author’s approach is that of a dynamic system in which both the essential building stones of the language and their connecting relations are exposed and analysed in a straightforward and comprehensible manner. The thesis is written

following the latest theoretical requirements of modern descriptive linguistics and uses the appropriate methodological techniques in the best tradition of descriptive linguistic work. It deals with complex issues as,

for instance, the Witotoan system of nominal classification in a masterly way. The treatment of existing literature is exemplary. Considering that not all present-day language descriptions attain the same top level of adequacy, this thesis certainly figures among the best and earns a fully deserved place within the top 5% dissertations of its kind.’

**A dictionary of San Javierito Chiquitano, *Diccionario básico del chiquitano del Municipio de San Ignacio de Velasco*, by Luca Ciucci and José Macoñó (published in 2018)**

was officially presented to the community of San Javierito, Bolivia, on December 15, 2018, by Mario Arrien, Adjunct Fellow at LCRC, who delivered a number of copies to the local school and to the local authorities. The dictionary is the first step in the partnership with the community of San Javierito, designed for use by the community members (especially school children), within long-term commitment towards the community.



**Mario Arrien presents the dictionary to the representative of the Chiquitano community in San Javierito, Bolivia**

## COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

**Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Professor Dr Péter Maitz** continue working on a competitive grant 'Language emergence in multilingual contexts' within the Australia-Germany joint Research co-operation scheme. The collaborators with the project include Junwei Bai, Dr Luca Ciucci, Nathan White, Dr Kasia Wojtylak, Firew Girma Worku (JCU) and Siegwalt Lindenfelser, Salome Lipfert, Katharina Neumeier, Lena-Marie Schmidtkunz (University of Augsburg).

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald** continues working within the framework of her Australian Laureate Fellowship 'How gender shapes the world: a linguistic perspective'.

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Professor R. M. W. Dixon, and Dr Nerida Jarkey** continue their work on the ARC Discovery Project 'The integration of language and society' (2017-2020). The work involves Prof Dr Anne Storch (University of Cologne) and Professor Maarten Mous (Leiden University).

**Professor Rosita Henry and Dr Michael Wood's ARC Discovery Project** 'Planning for later life: An ethnographic analysis of ageing among Transnational Papua New Guineans' (2014-16) is continuing. This involves Professor Karen Sykes, of the University of Manchester, as a Partner Investigator.

**Distinguished Professor Sean Ulm** and colleagues continue working within the ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage started in 2017, and an ARC Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) Grant to create 'A National Facility for the Analysis of Pyrogenic Carbon'.

**Dr Katarzyna I. Wojtylak** received a prestigious US-based Jacobs Research Funds grant for collection of oral discursive genres in Murui in May 2018.

**Dr Michael Wood**, together with Dr Jennifer Gabriel and Associate Professor Simon Foale secured an AUD200,000 one year UNDP Micro Capital Grant for work on Sustainable Livelihoods and Protected Area Planning in the Nakanai region in July 2018.

**Dr Sihong Zhang** was awarded, as principal investigator, a grant 'Typological analysis of Ersu morpho-syntaxes, a sub-project of the national key project 'Morpho-syntaxes of Sino-Burman languages spoken in China, from a typological perspective.' (funded by National Foundation Commission of Social Sciences of China; RMB 20,000) 2018-2023, and another grant 'Field investigation of Chinese dialect: Tongcheng dialect of Jianghuai Mandarin, Anhui (funded by the Ministry of Education, China; RMB 80,000), 2018-2019.

## AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS TO DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR SEAN ULM

Professor Sean Ulm was awarded the title of Distinguished Professor by James Cook University. From time to time, James Cook University confers the title of Distinguished Professor upon professors of exceptional distinction. To be eligible for appointment as a Distinguished Professor, an individual must have an international reputation for exceptional research and scholarship and enjoy professional peer recognition for their significant achievements at a state, national and international level. Sean is the second professor outside hard sciences to be awarded the honour.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR HANNAH SARVASY

on her appointment as Research Fellow at the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development, University of Western Sydney

### CONGRATULATIONS TO DR KATARZYNA WOJTYLAK

on her appointment as a Research and Teaching Fellows in Linguistics at the University of Regensburg (Germany)

**FURTHER CONGRATULATIONS TO DR KATARZYNA WOJTYLAK** whose video on the linguistic work among the Murui won the People's Choice Award in the Visualise Your Research competition at JCU in September 2018.

## EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES: HIGHLIGHTS

**Alexandra Aikhenvald** presented a plenary talk 'Ethics in linguistic research' at *Asia Pacific Ethics Association*, Townsville, 26-28 September 2018. She recorded an opening address at 'The First Forum on Evidentiality Research', Sun YatSen University, China, 25-26 November 2018, organised by Dr Chia-jung Pan and Professor Sihong Zhang. The presentation, recorded by Junwei Bai, is available at <https://www.facebook.com/alexandra.aikhenvald>.

**Angeliki Alvanoudi** presented the following talks:

- Responding to polar questions in Greek conversation: the case of modified repeats. 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Department of Linguistics, School of Philology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 19-21 April.
- Formats for responding to polar questions and epistemic stance in Greek conversation. 16<sup>th</sup> International Pragmatics Conference, Hong Kong, 9-14 June.
- English discourse markers in Australian Greek talk-in-interaction. 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Language Contact in the Balkans and Asia Minor, Thessaloniki, 8-9 November.
- Constructing heteronormativity: Referential indexing of gender and habits of thinking in talk-in-interaction. Laboratory for Ethnographic Approaches to

the Study of Language, Department of Social Anthropology and History, University of the Aegean, 26 March.

- 2019. 'Modern Greek and the Greek dialects in the Diaspora', to be presented at 2nd International Conference on Language Contact in the Balkans and Asia Minor.

She also coorganised a Workshop with DIANA FORKER 'Discourse particles and epistemic stance'. 52<sup>nd</sup> Societas Linguistica Europaea, Leipzig, 21-24 August.

**Mario Arrien** presented a talk at the conference *III Jornadas de Historia, Antropología y Arqueología de las Tierras Bajas de Bolivia y Áreas Adyacentes*, hosted at the Museo de Historia de la Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno (UAGRM) in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. The title of the talk was 'La alegría del fin del mundo. Apuntes sobre el carnaval chiquitano' ('Happiness and the end of the world: Notes on the Chiquitano Carnival').

**Luca Ciucci** gave the following external talks:

- Bertinetto, Pier Marco & Luca **Ciucci**. 'Non-prototypical Derivation in Zamucoan'. *Workshop on Derivational Morphology*. Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften. Vienna, May 17-18, 2018.
- 'Lexicography in the Eighteenth-century Gran Chaco: the Old Zamuco Dictionary by Ignace Chomé'. *18th Euralex International Congress. Lexicography in global contexts*. Ljubljana, Slovenia, July 17-21, 2018.
- 'Competition in a rare grammatical system: the case of Old Zamuco'. *51st Annual Meeting of the Societas Linguistica Europaea*. Tallinn University, Estonia. August 29-September 1, 2018.
- Ross, Daniel, Jesús Olguín Martínez & Luca **Ciucci**. 'Para-hypotaxis in the world's languages: A cross-linguistic survey'. *VIII Syntax of the World's Languages*. Inalco, Paris. September 3-5, 2018.
- 'On the secret register of the Ebitoso dialect of Chamacoco (Zamucoan)'. *2nd International Conference on Sociolinguistics*. Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. 6-8 September 2018.
- 'Language endangerment and revitalization in the Ignaciano dialect of Chiquitano'. *Annual conference of the Australian Anthropological Society*. Cairns, James Cook University. December 4-7, 2018.
- Bertinetto, Pier Marco & Luca **Ciucci**. 'Derivational morphology in Zamucoan'. *Australian Society of Linguistics*. Adelaide, University of South Australia. 10-12 December 2018.
- 'Morphological borrowing in the Chaco'. *Australian Society of Linguistics*. Adelaide, University of South Australia. 10-12 December 2018.
- 'Old Zamuco: The rediscovery of an extinct Zamucoan language'. Faculty of Arts and Humanities. Department of Linguistics. University of Cologne. September 28, 2018.
- 'Typological rarities in Old Zamuco (Zamucoan)'. School of Languages and Culture. The University of Queensland. Brisbane. October 17, 2018.

### Dissemination initiatives and community service

- *Documenting Chiquitano (Bésiro), an endangered language of Bolivia*. Talk at *The adventure of linguistic fieldwork: meeting series*. Cairns, The Cairns Institute. May 11, 2018.
- Three workshops on: *Italian language* (2 hours), *Introduction on Critical Thinking* (1,5 hours) and *Italian culture* (2 hours) held at the Summer University 'Under the Tuscan Sun', organised by AEGEE-Firenze. Firenze. August 6 and 9, 2018.

### Valérie Guérin will present the following talks:

- 2019. *Optional subject marking in an Accusative language*. APLL 11, Leiden Universiteit.
- Kilu von Prince, Ana Krajinovic Rodrigues, Manfred Krifka, Valérie Guérin and Michael Franjeh. 2019. *It would not be good...: Canonical apprehensive structures in Vanuatu languages*. APLL 11, Leiden Universiteit.

### Kasia Wojtylak presented the following talks:

- 'Linguistic treasures of Northwest Amazonia: evidentiality and epistemic modality in contact'. A talk presented at *LiFO*. 12 Dec, University of Regensburg, Germany.
- 'Language contact in Caquetá and Putumayo river basins in Northwest Amazonia'. SSILA (LSA) Annual Meeting 2018, 5 Jan, Salt Lake City, USA.

### Nathan White presented the following external talks

- 'Affixation in an isolating language? Wordhood and the case of Hmong' SEALS 28
- 'Quantifier float in Hmong' at Academia Sinica, May 2018.

### Firew Girma Worku presented a talk

*Valency Changing Operations in Mursi*, Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (CALL 2018), August 30-September 1, 2018, Leiden University, the Netherlands

## New Books — Monographs

with publishers' descriptions

### **SERIAL VERBS**

Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. xvi, 304pp.

In many languages of the world, a sequence of several verbs act together as one unit. These sequences – known as serial verbs - form one predicate and contain no overt marker of coordination, subordination, or syntactic dependency of any sort. Serial verbs describe what can be conceptualised as one single event. They

are often pronounced as if they were one word, and tend to share subjects and objects. The whole serial verb will have one value for tense, aspect, mood, modality, and evidentiality. Their components cannot be negated or questioned separately without negating or questioning the whole construction.

Asymmetrical serial verbs consist of a 'minor' verb from a closed class and a 'major' verb from an open class. The minor component tends to grammaticalise giving rise to markers of aspect, directionality, valency increase, prepositions, and coordinators. Symmetrical serial verbs consist of several components each from an open class. They may undergo lexicalisation and become non-compositional idioms. Various grammatical categories — including person, tense, aspect, and negation — can be marked on each component, or just once per construction. Serial verb constructions are a powerful means for a detailed portrayal of various facets of one event. They have numerous grammatical and discourse functions. Serial verbs have to be distinguished from verb sequences of other kinds, including constructions with converbs and auxiliaries, and from verbal compounds. The book sets out cross-linguistic parameters of variation for serial verbs based on an inductive approach and discusses their synchronic and diachronic properties, functions, and histories.

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### **DICCIONARIO BÁSICO DEL CHIQUITANO**

#### **DEL MUNICIPIO DE SAN IGNACIO DE VELASCO**

Luca Ciucci and José Macoñó

**Industria Maderera San Luis S. R. L., Museo de Historia. UAGRM/Santa Cruz de la Sierra / 63 p. ISBN: 978-99974-366-0-3**

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## **THE UNMASKING OF ENGLISH DICTIONARIES**

**R. M. W. Dixon**

**Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018, xiv, 258pp.**

When we look up a word in a dictionary, we want to know not just its meaning, but also its function and the circumstances under which it should be used in preference to words of similar meaning.

Standard dictionaries do not address such matters, treating each word in isolation. R. M. W. Dixon puts forward a new approach to lexicography that involves grouping words into 'semantic sets', to describe what can and cannot be said, and providing explanations for this. He provides a critical survey of the evolution of English lexicography from the earliest times, showing how Samuel Johnson's classic treatment has been amended in only minor ways. Written in an easy and accessible style, the book focuses on the rampant plagiarism between lexicographers, on ways of comparing meanings of words, and on the need to link lexicon with grammar. Dixon tells an engrossing story that puts forward a vision for the future.

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### **'WE USED TO EAT PEOPLE'**

#### **REVELATIONS OF A FIJI ISLANDS TRADITIONAL VILLAGE**

R. M. W. Dixon

Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Company, Inc. 2018, vii, 210 pp, incl. 4 maps and 39 illustrations

Living in a reed hut on Taveuni — the 'garden isle' of Fiji — the author studied the native language and carefully observed their traditions until he was accepted as a (somewhat unusual) member of the village.

Despite five cyclones during the summer of 1985, daily life was idyllic. Cannibalism had been abandoned, reluctantly, at the behest of the new Christian God. But the old religion survived beneath the facade and priests danced naked on the beach beneath the full moon. The village pulsed with factions and feuds, resolved by the stern but benevolent chief, whose word was law. Legends told of a princess born as a bird, who was killed and thus became a comely maiden — but the murderer had to be cooked and eaten.

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**A TRUE CHILD OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA**  
**MEMOIR OF A LIFE IN TWO WORLDS. MAGGIE WILSON.**

Rosita Henry

Jefferson, NC.: MacFarland, 2019

<https://mcfarlandbooks.com/product/a-true-child-of-papua-new-guinea/>

Maggie Wilson was born in the highlands of Papua New Guinea to Melka Amp Jara, a woman of the highlands, and Patrick Leahy, brother of Australian explorers Michael and Daniel Leahy. Wilson's life serves as a window into the complex social and cultural transformations experienced during the early years of the Australian administration in Papua New Guinea and the first three decades after independence. This ethnography—started as an autobiography and completed by Rosita Henry after Wilson's death in 2009—tells Wilson's story and the stories of those whose lives she touched. Their recollections of Wilson offer insights into life in Papua New Guinea today.

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- Chapter 3: Entwined: Law, Life and Land
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- Chapter 11: Motherhood: Bernadine
- Chapter 12: Working Woman
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- Chapter 16: The Gift of Nadia
- Chapter 17: Weaving Threads: Women and Politics
- Chapter 18: Making Pictures
- Chapter 19: Friendship Bonds: Haus Poroman, by Rosita Henry
- Chapter 20: Mending Breaks: Haus Krai, by Rosita Henry
- Chapter 21: Tying up Loose Ends, by Rosita Henry

## **AUSTRALIA'S ORIGINAL LANGUAGES: AN INTRODUCTION**

**R.M.W. Dixon**

**Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 2019**

This book provides a portrait of the original languages of Australia, describing and exemplifying their sounds and structures, and the role of language in social life. The book tells a story, building up a full picture of the sound structure, techniques of word building, and wide-ranging vocabulary of the original languages. Attention is paid to the way in which language interrelates with culture. The intricate kinship system determines social roles; there is often a special language style which must be used in the presence of certain classes of relation. Conventions for naming are associated with stages in initiation rituals. Some languages have a gender system whose membership is determined by the role of creatures in dreamtime legends.

There is discussion of and exemplification from three dozen Australian languages, most particularly Dyirbal (spoken around Tully, North Queensland), which the author has been studying for more than fifty years. Tabular displays show the names across a number of languages for dingo, boomerang, and koala. The text is enlivened by anecdotes illustrating language use and attitudes (including a number from the author's own fieldwork).

The story is told in an accessible and engaging style, with each linguistic point explained in a lucid manner. Unfamiliar technical terms are eschewed in order for the book to be understandable by any intelligent layman.

### **CONTENTS**

- 1 Many distinct languages
  - 2 Each language has several dialects
  - 3 Language doing its job
  - 4 Nothing primitive here
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  - 6 Who are you talking to?
  - 7 Getting your tongue around it
  - 8 Putting the bits together
  - 9 Remarkable genders
  - 10 Oodles of words
  - 11 Are there any language links?
  - 12 In recent times
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## **A GRAMMAR OF SOUTHERN POMO**

Alexander Walker

Lincoln: Nebraska University Press 2020.

*A Grammar of Southern Pomo* is the first comprehensive published description of the Southern Pomo language, which lost its last fluent speaker in 2014. Southern Pomo is one of seven Pomoan languages once spoken in the vicinity of Clear Lake and the Russian River drainage of California. Prior to European contact, a third of all Pomoan peoples spoke Southern Pomo, and descendants of these speakers are scattered across several present-day reservations. There have been recent efforts by these descendants to revitalize the language. This book presents the language clearly in a framework that is accessible to all linguists, linguistically-informed anthropologists, and interested scholars in adjoining fields. It is divided into three parts. The first begins with a detailed introduction to the natural environment and culture of Southern Pomo speakers and a history of prior work on the language. The second and third examine the interestingly complex phonology and morphosyntax of the language. *A Grammar of Southern Pomo* sheds new light on a relatively unknown Indigenous California speech community. In many instances, the phenomena discussed in the book are rare or entirely unattested outside of the language and should help to challenge longstanding ideas about what human speech communities can create and pass on to children and the degree to which culture and place are inextricably woven into language.

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Part I: The cultural, ecological, and sociolinguistic context of the language

Part II: Structural overview

Part III: Sentence structure

Appendix I: 2012 visit with Olive Fulwider and photographs

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## **MODERN GREEK IN DIASPORA: AN AUSTRALIAN PERSPECTIVE**

Angeliki Alvanoudi

London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2018, xi, 165 pp

This book presents an in-depth fieldwork-based study of the Greek language spoken by immigrants in Cairns, Far North Queensland, Australia. The study analyzes language contact-induced changes and code switching patterns, by integrating perspectives from contact linguistics and interactional approaches to language use and code switching. Lexical and pragmatic borrowing, code mixing, discourse-related and participant-related code switching, and factors

promoting language maintenance are among the topics covered in the book. The study brings to light original data from a speech community that has received no attention in the literature and sheds light on the variation of Greek spoken in diaspora. It will appeal across disciplines to scholars and students in linguistics, anthropology, sociology, and migration studies.

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## Edited Volumes

### **THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF EVIDENTIALITY**

edited by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018, xxxiii, 882pp

This volume offers a thorough, systematic, and cross-linguistic account of evidentiality, the linguistic encoding of the source of information on which a statement is based. In some languages, the speaker always has to specify this source—for example whether they saw the event, heard it, inferred it based on visual evidence or common sense, or was told about it by someone else. While not all languages have obligatory marking of this type, every language has ways of referring to information source and associated epistemological meanings. The continuum of epistemological expressions covers a range of devices from the lexical means in familiar European languages and in many languages of Aboriginal Australia to the highly grammaticalized systems in Amazonia or North America. In this handbook, experts from a variety of fields explore topics such as the relationship between evidentials and epistemic modality, contact-induced changes in evidential systems, the acquisition of evidentials, and formal semantic theories of evidentiality. The book also contains detailed case studies of evidentiality in language families across the world, including Algonquian, Korean, Nakh-Dagestanian, Nambikwara, Turkic, Uralic, and Uto-Aztecan.

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### **NOMINALIZATION: A VIEW FROM NORTHWEST AMAZONIA**

Special Issue of *Language Typology and Universals* (STUF) 71:1, edited by  
Simon E. Overall and Katarzyna I. Wojtylak. 2018, 168 pp.

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### **WORD HUNTERS. FIELD LINGUISTS ON FIELDWORK**

Edited by Hannah Sarvasy and Diana Forker  
Amsterdam, John Benjamins, 2018 vi+177 pp.

In *Word Hunters*, eleven distinguished linguists reflect on their career-spanning linguistic fieldwork. Over decades, each has repeatedly stood up to physical, intellectual, interpersonal, intercultural, and sometimes political challenges in the pursuit of scientific knowledge. These scholar-explorers have enlightened the world to the inner workings of languages in remote communities of Africa (West, East, and South), Amazonia, the Arctic, Australia, the Caucasus, Oceania, Siberia, and East Asia. They report some linguistic eureka moments, but also discuss cultural missteps, illness, and the other challenges of pursuing linguistic data in extreme circumstances. They write passionately about language death and their responsibilities to speech communities. The stories included here—the stuff of departmental and family legends—are published publicly for the first time.

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**ON THE EXPRESSION OF COMPARISON: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
TYPOLOGY OF COMPARATIVE CONSTRUCTIONS FROM LESSER-KNOWN  
LANGUAGES**

Special issue of *Linguistic Discovery* 16:1, edited by K. I. Wojtylak and Yvonne Treis. 2018

- Yvonne Treis - Comparative constructions: an introduction  
 Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald - Comparison, contrast and similarity in Yalaku  
 Alain Fabre - Some peculiarities of comparative constructions in Nivacle  
 (Mataguayo family, Paraguayan Chaco)  
 Guillaume Jacques - Similitive and Equative constructions in Japhug  
 A. Sumru Özsoy & Hüner Kaşıkara - Comparatives in Turkish Sign Language  
 (TİD)  
 Yvonne Treis - Comparison in Kambaata: Superiority, Equality and Similarity  
 Siri G. Tuttle - Comparative and Superlative Constructions in Alaskan  
 Athabascan Languages

- René van den Berg - More than most: comparative constructions in Muna  
(Sulawesi, Indonesia)
- Marine Vuillermet - Comparative, similitive and simulative expressions in Ese  
Ejja
- Katarzyna I Wojtylak - Comparative Constructions in Murui (Witotoan,  
Northwest Amazonia)
- Bettina Zeisler - Contrast instead of comparison: Evidence from West Tibetan  
differentiating property ascriptions

***INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE***

Special issue 6:1, 2019

**CREATIVITY IN LANGUAGE**

Edited by Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, Andrea Hollington, Nico Nassenstein and  
Anne Storch (James Cook University / University of Cologne /Johannes  
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## **GENDERS AND CLASSIFIERS:**

### **A CROSS-LINGUISTIC TYPOLOGY**

edited by **Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Elena Mihas**

Oxford: Oxford University Press, Explorations in Linguistic Typology, volume 9, forthcoming 2019

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- 2 Genders and classifiers in Kampa (Arawak) languages of Peru  
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## Monograph Series

### **BRILL'S STUDIES IN LANGUAGE, COGNITION AND CULTURE**

Editors: Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, R. M. W. Dixon and N. J. Enfield

This peer-reviewed book series offers an international forum for high-quality original studies in languages and cultures. It focuses on the interaction between linguistic categories (and their conceptualization), cultural values, and human cognition. Publications in this series will include interdisciplinary studies on language, its meanings and forms, and possible interactions with cognitive and communicational patterns. The series spans cultural and social anthropology, cognitive science and linguistics. The emphasis is on inductively based cross-linguistic and crosscultural studies, with special attention to poorly known areas, such as Lowland Amazonia and the Pacific.

**The following volumes** were published in 2018 or are in press:

**Lozińska, Joanna.** 2018. *Path and Manner Saliency in Polish in Contrast with Russian*. BSLC 15.

This book presents a contrastive analysis of the lexicalization of motion events in Polish in comparison with Russian. The study, set in the framework of Cognitive Linguistics, adopts a usage-based approach to language analysis.

**Forker, Diana and Timur Maisak.** 2018. *The semantics of verbal categories in Nakh-Daghestanian languages*. BSLC 16.

This book explores the semantics of tense, aspect, modality and evidentiality in the North-East Caucasian (Nakh-Daghestanian) language family. It offers an overview of the most challenging features and provides in-depth studies of selected TAME systems in a number of languages.

**Knörr, Jacqueline and Wilson Trajano Filho.** 2018. *Creolization and Pidginization in Contexts of Postcolonial Diversity*. BSLC 17.

Creolization and pidginization are conceptualized and investigated as specific social processes in the course of which new common languages, socio-cultural practices and identifications are developed in contexts of postcolonial diversity shaped by distinct social, historical and local conditions.

**Sabino, Robin.** 2018. *Languaging Without Languages. Beyond metro-, multi-, poly-, pluri- and translanguaging*. BSLC 18.

Drawing on usage-based theory, neurocognition, and complex systems, *Languaging Beyond Languages* elaborates an elegant model accommodating accumulated insights into human language even as it frees linguistics from its two-thousand-year-old, ideological attachment to reified grammatical systems. Idiolects are redefined as continually emergent collections of context specific, probabilistic memories entrenched as a result of domain-general cognitive processes that create and consolidate linguistic experience. Also continually

emergent, conventionalization and vernacularization operate across individuals producing the illusion of shared grammatical systems.

**Tirvassen, Rada.** 2018. *Sociolinguistics and the Narrative Turn, Researching language and society in contexts of change and transition*. BSLC 19.

*Sociolinguistics and the Narrative Turn* presents a fresh approach to sociolinguistics. Located within a qualitative paradigm, it proposes an alternative method for generating knowledge in the field. To start with, there is an argued critique of some of the guiding principles of traditional sociolinguistics which is driven by a trend of scholarship that draws on the meta-narrative of the researcher. In this traditional approach to sociolinguistics, the interpretation of the language phenomenon is not only decontextualised but also stripped of human experience. To illustrate his argument that a qualitative narrative approach to knowledge generation can offer different perspectives and can renew the theorisation of the relationship between language and society, the author has conducted a small-scale study consisting of seven participants.

**Kraska-Szlenk, Iwona.** 2019 (February). Embodiment in Cross-Linguistic Studies. The 'head'. BSLC 20.

*Embodiment in Cross-Linguistic Studies: The 'Head'* edited by Iwona Kraska-Szlenk adds to linguistic studies on embodied cognition and conceptualization while focusing on one body part term from a comparative perspective. The 'head' is investigated as a source domain for extending multiple concepts in various target domains accessed via metaphor or metonymy. The contributions in the volume provide comparative and case studies based on analyses of the first-hand data from languages representing all continents and diversified linguistic groups, including endangered languages of Africa, Australia and Americas. The book offers new reflections on the relationship between embodiment, cultural situatedness and universal tendencies of semantic change. The findings contribute to general research on metaphor, metonymy, and polysemy within a paradigm of cognitive linguistics.

**Rankin, Robert L.** Forthcoming. 2019. *Siouan Studies: Selected Papers by Robert L. Rankin*. Selected and annotated by John P. Boyle and David S. Rood, with the assistance of Willem de Reuse, Johannes Helmbrecht, David Kaufman, and Kathleen Shea.

Further information is available on <http://www.brill.com/publications/brills-studies-language-cognition-and-culture>.

**NEW BOOKS IN LINCOM EUROPA SERIES 'OUTSTANDING GRAMMARS FROM AUSTRALIA',**  
edited by R. M. W. Dixon. Munich: Lincom Europa.

**Pennington, Ryan.** 2018. *A grammar of Ma Manda*. Munich: Lincom Europa, 2018, 635 pp.

## **RECOGNITION FOR OUR BOOKS**

The February 2017 issue of *Library Journal* included Alexandra Aikhenvald's *How gender shapes the world* (OUP, 2016) and R. M. W. Dixon's *Are some languages better than others* (OUP, 2016) among 15 fifteen best-selling books in 'Language and Arts'.

### **Endorsement for Angeliki Alvanoudi's *Modern Greek in Diaspora – an Australian perspective*, Palgrave MacMillan 2018**

'This is the first investigation ever of Greek spoken by the immigrant community in the Australian state of Queensland. Based on participant observation and over twenty hours of audio- and video-recordings, Angeliki Alvanoudi addresses borrowings from English and code-switching of various kinds by first- and second-generation Greek migrants, and also the social factors which facilitate the maintenance of Greek in diaspora. Clearly written and well-argued, this book is a major contribution to linguistic knowledge.' (**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald**, Distinguished Professor, James Cook University, Australia)

'With this book, Angeliki Alvanoudi has rightfully earned a place in the growing field of Modern Greek diaspora studies. Her detailed account of a wide array of (socio)linguistic phenomena emerging from the contact between Greek and English in the lesser-known Greek community of Cairns will serve as a valuable reference point for scholars working on Greek diasporic communities across the world for years to come.' (**Petros Karatsareas**, Lecturer, University of Westminster, UK)

### **Endorsement for R. M. W. Dixon's *The unmasking of English dictionaries*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018**

'An engaging, provocative and at times amusing explanation of English dictionaries and their history. Lexicographers will not agree with points in Professor Dixon's program for a new sort of dictionary, but they would go amiss if they ignore him completely.' (**James Rader**, Senior Editor, Merriam-Webster, Inc.)

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## **Announcement**

Most members of the Language and Culture Research Centre have written (or are writing) a grammar of a language, and many of us are working on typological universals, by inductive generalisations from a well-chosen sample of grammars. We welcome enquiries from similarly oriented scholars (from Australia or from overseas) who would like to consider spending a sabbatical with us. We can provide basic facilities, plus an intellectual ambience of the highest order.

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## What happened at LCRC during 2018

### Visiting Fellows

**Professor Dr Péter Maitz**, the Chair of German at the University of Augsburg, is a major expert in German linguistics and Creole studies, with special focus on Unserdeutsch, a recently discovered German-based Creole of the Bismark Archipelago in PNG. He was a Visiting Professor at the LCRC in January-March 2018. His Visiting Fellowship is supported by a successful DFG application, to work on Unserdeutsch. Prof Dr Maitz and his team from the University of Augsburg including **Siegwalt Lindenfelser, Salome Lipfert, Katharina Neumeier, and Lena-Marie Schmidtkunz**, visited the LCRC between 8-20 July 2018.

**Professor Kate Burridge**, an expert on Pennsylvania German, and on numerous issues in English linguistics and history, was at the LCRC in February 2018.

**David Felipe Guerrero**, an MA student of Linguistics at the National University of Colombia (UNAL), an expert on a number of aspects in Karijona, a Carib language from Colombia, at the LCRC between January and June 2018, working on semantics and morphosyntax of spatial expression in Karijona, Murui and Kubeo, endangered languages from Northwest Amazonia, in cooperation with Dr Kasia Wojtylak, with a special focus on spatial orientation and number systems in Karijona, and his fieldwork experience.

**Professor Pier Marco Bertinetto** (SNS, Pisa), an expert in a number of fields within linguistics, including experimental phonology and morphology, the theory of tense and aspect, linguistic typology and the languages of South America, with special focus on the Zamucoan family. During his stay at the LCRC in the period between 22 October and 20 December 2018, he focused, jointly with Dr Luca Ciucci, on the typological rarities of Zamucoan languages, and a reconstruction of the Zamucoan nominal suffixes, expressing gender, number and 'form', in addition to further work on Ayoreo. He presented a paper at the International Workshop 'From fieldwork to reconstruction: language documentation and historical linguistics'.

**Dr Timothy Henry-Rodriguez**, of the State University of California (Fullerton), spent two weeks in July at the LCRC, working on various issues in Ventureño and contributing to the LCRC Workshop 'Number systems in grammar' with a talk on number in Ventureño.

#### ANTHROPOLOGICAL LINGUISTICS COURSE AND TEACHING

The second undergraduate course AN2009 Anthropological Linguistics, will be taught at the Cairns Campus during the second semester 2019 by **Cassy Nancarrow**.

## EVENTS

### LINGUISTIC SKILLS FOR ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD RESEARCH MASTERCLASS

Convenor Dr Kasia Wojtylak  
Cairns, 5-6 April 2018

You are faced with people at your field site who speak a language different from your own: how to proceed?

The Language and Culture Research Centre (LCRC) run a Linguistic Skills for Ethnographic Research Masterclass, scheduled for April 5-6, 2018 at JCU campus in Cairns. It was a two-day workshop, free of cost, creditable towards electives in RD7003, and included in JCU Professional Development Program. It is organised by Dr Kasia Wojtylak. Invited speakers included Dr. Alex Walker, Dr. Luca Ciucci, and the PhD students in linguistics, Abe Bai Junwei and Nathan White.

The course was designed for anthropologists and other researchers who conduct fieldwork in areas where non-written and lesser-known languages are spoken. The course introduces students to reasons why competency in the local language could be important to their research, and gives them introductory concrete, practical methods for language learning and linguistic documentation.



**Linguistic Skills for Ethnographic Field Research Masterclass  
JCU Professional Development Program RD7003 (Dr Katarzyna Wojtylak  
recording the Murui language)**

#### Program

##### Day 1 — 5 April 2018

09:00-10:30 *Introduction to language, linguistics, and fieldwork research* -  
Kasia Wojtylak

10:30-11:00 (break)

11:00-12:30 *Language sounds and the IPA* - Luca Ciucci

12:30-13:30 (break)

13:30-14:00 *Monolingual demonstration with speaker of non-European language* - Kasia Wojtylak

14:00-15:30 *Introduction to morphological analysis* - Kasia Wojtylak

15:30-16:00 (break)

16:00-17:00 *Further discussion of practical field techniques related to the day's topics* - Kasia Wojtylak

## **Day 2 — 6 April 2018**

09:00-10:30 *How phonology relates to phonetics* - Alex Walker

10:30-11:00 (break)

11:00-12:30 *Understanding syntax* - Nathan White

12:30-13:30 (break)

13:30-14:30 *Interesting topics in linguistics: genders and noun class markers, evidentiality, case marking* - Kasia Wojtylak and Abe Bai Junwei

14:30-15:00 *Analysis of undescribed language morphology* - Kasia Wojtylak

15:00-15:30 (break)

15:30-16:00 *Ethics of linguistic fieldwork* - Kasia Wojtylak

16:00-17:00 *Existing software for dictionary-building and language-analysis* - Bai Junwei

17:00-17:30 *Summary, addressing individual questions, and wrap up* - Kasia Wojtylak

## **SPECIAL WORKSHOP**

of the LCRC and the University of Augsburg (Augsburg)  
**LANGUAGE CONTACT AND THE EMERGENCE OF HYBRID  
 GRAMMARS**

**Cairns, 11-12 July 2018**

**Coordinators: Alexandra Aikhenvald, Péter Maitz**

**Special Workshop in D3-063**

**Wednesday 11 July 2018**

13.45	Official Opening	
14.00	Péter Maitz	Boarding school creoles and the mixed language debate
14.45	Lena Schmidtkunz	The effects of language contact on the aspect system of Unserdeutsch: a contrastive analysis
16.00	Alexandra Aikhenvald	Blended grammars: Kumandene Tariana of northwest Amazonia
16.45	Luca Ciucci	Chamacoco: the hispanization of a Zamucoan language

**Thursday 12 July 2018**

9.30	Péter Maitz and Siegwalt Lindenfelser	Simplification in language contact: evidence from Unserdeutsch
10.15	Salome Lipfert	The prepositional system of Unserdeutsch in typological perspective
11.30	Katharina Neumeier	The emergence of creole syntax: Evidence from Unserdeutsch
12.15	Firew Girma Worku	Lexical borrowing strategies in Mursi
14.00	Katarzyna Wojtylak	Language contact and change: the case of Murui from Northwest Amazonia
14.45	Nathan White	Language and variety mixing in diasporic Hmong
16.00	Alex Walker	The effects of language contact on Northeastern Pomo phonology
16.45	Péter Maitz, Alexandra Aikhenvald (moderators)	Discussion

## **LCRC SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP**

### **'Word': its manifestations and functions**

**Cairns, 3-4 October 2018**

**Convenors: Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, R. M. W. Dixon, and Nathan White**

**Wednesday 3 October D3-150**

9.30	Opening and Introduction	
9.45	N. J. Enfield	Word in Lao
11.30	R. M. W. Dixon	Words within words: examples from Yidiñ, Jarawara, and Fijian
14.00	Nathan White	Word in Hmong
15.00	Katarzyna Wojtylak	<i>Murui uai</i> – the phonological and grammatical status of 'word' in Murui (Witotoan, Northwest Amazonia)
16.30	Firew Girma Worku	Nominal versus verbal clitics in Mursi

**Thursday 4 October D3-150**

9.30	Nerida Jarkey	Word in <i>Nihongo</i> (Japanese language) and <i>Gyarugo</i> (Girl language)
11.15	Sean Allison	The notion of 'word' in Makary Kotoko
14.00	Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald	Word in Yalaku (Ndu, ESP, PNG)
15.00	Luca Ciucci	Wordhood in Chamacoco (Zamucoan)
16.30	Discussion: moderators	Alexandra Aikhenvald, R. M. W. Dixon, Nathan White

**LCRC SPECIAL WORKSHOP**  
**From fieldwork to reconstruction:**  
**language documentation and historical linguistics**

**Cairns, 7-8 November 2018**

**Convenor: Luca Ciucci**

**Wednesday 7 November D3-150**

1.30 Opening and launch of *Serial verbs* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) by Alexandra Aikhenvald

1.45 Luca Ciucci Introduction to the Workshop

14.00 Alexandra Aikhenvald Removing the owner: non-specified possessor marking in Arawak languages

15.00 Luca Ciucci How historical data complement fieldwork: new diachronic perspectives on Zamucoan verb inflection

16.30 Alex Walker Reconstructing the pertensive suffixes of inalienably possessed nouns in Panim

**Thursday 8 November D3-150**

9.30 Pier Marco Bertinetto Zamucoan person marking as a perturbed system

11.15 Alejandra Vidal From language documentation to historical and areal linguistics in the Argentine Chaco

14.00 Bai Junwei Northern and Southern Munya dialects

14.45 Nathan White Prehistory of verbal modification in Hmong: what can we say?

16.15 Discussion Moderator; Luca Ciucci

*Exhibition 'The South American Heritage of Walter E. Roth' in the foyer of the Cairns Institute building (D-3), The Cairns Campus, JCU, February 2018-January 2019s*

**Organisedrs: Dr Maria Wronska-Friend, Prof Alexandra Aikhenvald, Prof Rosita Henry**

**Walter Edmund Roth** (1861-1933) was born in London and came to Australia in 1887. From 1894 he was Surgeon to the Boulia, Cloncurry, and Normanton Hospitals in north-west Queensland. In 1898 he was appointed the first Northern Protector of Aborigines. Based in Cooktown he travelled extensively through

the north. Part of his responsibilities was to record Aboriginal cultures. His main brief was to curb the exploitation of Aborigines, and especially Aboriginal women, by white settlers. Possessed of a strong personality and administrative drive, Roth was effective as a protector, but inevitably came in conflict with politicians, settlers and the press in North Queensland. In 1904-6 he was Chief Protector (based in Brisbane). In 1904 he headed the Royal Commission into the conditions of the Aborigines in the North-West. Having come under political attack, he resigned in 1906 and left Australia for British Guyana where he was employed by the Imperial Government as stipendiary magistrate, medical magistrate, and district commissioner. He continued his anthropological work with the indigenous peoples of British Guyana, especially the Wai Wai. On his retirement in 1928 he became curator of the Georgetown museum and died on 5 April 1933. The museum is now named after him.

His distinguished monograph of 1897, *Ethnological studies among North-West Central Queensland Aborigines*, established his international reputation. He then published eighteen Bulletins of North Queensland Ethnography. It is impossible to overestimate how important they are. They constitute a major source on the Aboriginal cultures and rituals of this region (many of them forgotten and no longer practiced). In 1924 his valuable *An Introductory Study of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs of the Guiana Indians* was published at the government printing office at Washington, U.S.A. Another volume, *Additional Studies of the Arts, Crafts, and Customs of the Guiana Indians* was published as Bureau of American Ethnology *Bulletin No. 91* (1929). His contribution to our knowledge of the indigenous peoples of Guyana — speakers of Carib and Arawak languages — is exemplary.

The exhibition is centered on the culture of the **Wai Wai** people who live in several villages scattered across northern Brazil, Guyana and southern Suriname. They number no more than about 1000 people. The Wai Wai are an amalgamation of a number of groups who came to live together in the early twentieth century, under pressure from European invaders. Their language belongs to the Carib family (where the English word *cannibal* came from). The name *Wai Wai*, meaning 'the tapioca people', originated with their northern neighbours, the Arawak-speaking Wapishana. It was given to them since quite a few of the people are quite light-skinned. The Wai Wai are proficient hunters and also agriculturalists. Their traditional method of farming has always been the 'slash and burn' method. The Wai Wai are known for their weaving, pottery, woven combs, bone flutes, feather adornments, and other crafts.

The artefacts on display come from the material collection at the College of Arts, Society, and Education at JCU organised in 1988 by the Walter Roth museum in Georgetown (Guyana), and from Alexandra Aikhenvald's personal collection.

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### SPECIAL SEMINARS OF LCRC

#### **Seminar, Wednesday 21 February**

Péter Maitz

Unserdeutsch: A borderline creole(?)

#### **Seminar, Thursday 22 February**

Kate Burridge

'Linguistic cleanliness is next to godliness – but not for conservative Anabaptists

#### **Seminar, Wednesday 8 August**

René van den Berg

Same, similar, identical Idematives in languages of New Guinea

### SEMINARS AND ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS OF LCRC

Meetings of the LCRC, held throughout the year, are open to anyone interested in linguistic topics. Presentations in 2018 were:

14 February	Firew Girma Worku	Reflexive and reciprocal constructions in Mursi
28 February	Alex Walker	Switch-reference in Southern Pomo
14 March	Bai Junwei (Abe)	Copula verbs in Munya
28 March	David Guerrero	An overview of spatial location in Karijona (Carib): the morphosyntax of the postpositional and demonstrative systems
18 April	Luca Ciucci	Reconstructing the possessive inflection of Proto-Zamucoan
16 May	Firew Girma Worku	Possession in Mursi
27 June	Bob Dixon	English prepositions: their meanings and uses: introduction
24 October	Sean Ulm and Ian McNiven	An update on the Lizard Island archaeology project: Investigating Dingaal Seascapes on the Great Barrier Reef in Far North Queensland
14 November	Stephen Torre	Illness, medicine, and writing
21 November	Pier Marco Bertinetto, Clementine Talaato Pacmogda, and Alessandro Lenci	The acquisition of tense and aspect in Moore (Gur)

5 December Nick Osbaldiston

Migration in the middle: Lifestyles in transition, accents, power, and languages

### LCRC Workshop

We jointly pick a topic of general appeal, with a number of contributors making presentations with respect to a language of which they have first-hand knowledge. The Workshop 'Number systems in grammar' commenced on 7 March 2018. The Initial Orientation was presented by Alexandra Aikhenvald.

21 March	Bob Dixon	Jarawara
11 April	Kasia Wojtylak	Murui
2 May	Alex Walker	Southern Pomo
9 May	David Felipe Guerrero	Karijona
23 May	Carola Emkow	Bena Bena
30 May	Nathan White	Hmong
13 June	Bai Junwei (Abe)	Munya
20 June	Alexandra Aikhenvald	Tariana
4 July	Firew Girma Worku	Mursi
18 July	Tim Henry-Rodriguez	Ventureño Chumash
10 October	Luca Ciucci	Chamacoco
17 October	Bob Dixon	Dyirbal
31 October	Alexandra Aikhenvald	Manambu

A summary, 'Number systems: what can we conclude?' was presented by Alexandra Aikhenvald on 28 November.

#### **Pilot project 'The grammar of disease'**

was launched with a discussion paper by Alexandra Aikhenvald, 'The language of disease' (available from [alexandra.aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au](mailto:alexandra.aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au)). This is the precursor of our multidisciplinary project 'The language of well-being'

6 June Roundtable discussion on 'The grammar of disease'  
Part one, led off by Alexandra Aikhenvald and Bob Dixon

- 27 June Roundtable discussion on 'The grammar of disease'  
Part two, Bob Dixon 'The grammar of disease in Dyirbal'
- 25 September Kasia Wojtylak 'How did this grow in you? About the expression  
of disease in Murui (Witotoan)'

### SPECIAL SEMINAR SERIES



Friday 9 March 2018

- 4:30 Péter Maitz on fieldwork in PNG  
5:00 Kasia Wojtylak on fieldwork in Colombia

Friday 13 April 2018

- 4:30 Junwei Bai on fieldwork in China  
5:00 Alex Walker on fieldwork in North America

Friday 11 May 2018

- 4:30 RMW Dixon on fieldwork in southern Amazonia  
5:00 Luca Ciucci on fieldwork in Bolivia

Friday June 15, 2018

- 4:30 Alexandra Aikhenvald on fieldwork in Northwest Amazonia (Brazil)  
5:00 Nathan White on fieldwork in Queensland, Australia

Friday July 6, 2018

- 4:30 Michael Wood on the ethnography of volcanic fieldwork  
5:00 David Felipe Guerrero on fieldwork in Northwest Amazonia (Colombia)

Friday August 3, 2018

- 4:30 Firew Girma Worku on fieldwork in Ethiopia  
5:00 Nelissa Neundorf on fieldwork in PNG

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**Endorsements and a review for R. M. W. Dixon's *Are some languages better than others?*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pb 2018**

'The (in)equality of languages is certainly one of the most vexing issues in modern linguistics. This book effectively challenges some common views on language, ranging from those pertaining to feelings of western cultural superiority to the 'politically correct' convictions prevalent among traditional academic circles. The author offers a balanced and well-informed discussion of the issue and draws from a lifelong research experience with languages of all types, spoken in situations that can differ dramatically. A very refreshing approach that will keep the reader fascinated.' **Willem F. H. Adelaar, Leiden University.**

'Too many linguists are afraid to pose the question that makes up the title of this book. Like people, languages are different, and each has its own strengths and weaknesses; some are harder to figure out, and some are relatively easy. Dixon illustrates these facts in a very clear and engaging manner, using examples from a wide variety of languages from around the world, and through delightful anecdotes taken from his fifty years of experience in the field. This is a book based in linguistic reality, not linguistic theory.' **Aaron D. Rubin, Pennsylvania State University.**

'Above all, 'Are some languages better than others?' highlights that each of the several thousand languages spoken across the globe serves many social purposes. The author offers a handy book that summarizes key linguistic components in a brief and dynamic fashion. As announced already in the preface, the simple ("although not simplified") style will reach a general audience interested in linguistic matters. In addition, Dixon's vast knowledge of Dyirbal, Yidiñ and Jarawara helps to strengthen the exposition of general topics and the particular argument that spoken languages involve highly intricate grammar and sophisticated lexicon. Moreover, the book manages to tap into an extended list of current issues in linguistics, from difficulties in cultural translations to the comparison of the linguistics discipline to other natural sciences, and from the understanding of monolingual and bilingual speakers to the presence of diglossic societies.'

Laura Dubcovsky, review of R. M. W. Dixon's *Are some languages better than others?* (Oxford University Press 2016), Linguist List 14 January 2019.

## Activities of LCRC members in 2018

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald** saw through the press her state-of-the art monograph *Serial verbs* (October 2018, by Oxford University Press) and continued her editing work for the volume *Genders and Classifiers: a cross-linguistic typology* (jointly with Elena Mihas) (to be published by Oxford University Press in 2019) and for a special issue of *The International Journal of Language and Culture* on 'Creativity in language' (jointly with Anne Storch, Nico Nassenstein, and Andrea Hollington, published in February 2019). She finalised and published a comprehensive bibliography on Serial Verbs (OUP, New York).

Throughout the year, she published and prepared for publication papers on bridging linkage in Tariana and in other languages of the Vaupés, on multilingualism and the creation of new languages in Amazonia, on the expression of possession in Arawak languages (and generally), on body parts and grammatical profile of Arawak languages, on the typology of classifiers with special focus on North Arawak languages, on serial verbs in Amazonian languages, and on various aspects of the grammar of Yalaku and the languages of the Sepik. She has continued working on a joint project with Prof Dr Péter Maitz 'Language emergence in multilingual contexts' (DAAD/Universities Australia) and a number of ARC projects, and is currently first-named supervisor for seven PhD students. She continued as Associate Editor for the *Journal of Language Contact*, as editor for monograph series Brill's Studies in *Language, Cognition and Culture*, as member of various editorial boards, and as Consultant on South American etymologies for the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

**Grant Aiton** is preparing his thesis for publication as a complete reference grammar of the Eibela language while continuing to work on the description and documentation of Eibela. He anticipates the publication of the edited volume 'Bridging Constructions' in Language Science Press in early 2019, for which he has authored an analysis of bridging constructions in Eibela, and co-authored a typological investigation of bridging constructions as a comparative concept. He also continues to teach with the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI), developing legacy materials on the Dene language Hän into materials for community use in language revitalization.

**Angeliki Alvanoudi** continued her work on conceptualization of gender, focusing on the interface between its linguistic and cultural conceptualisation, and also on language contact, borrowing and code-switching with special focus on Australian Greek. She is preparing an edited book on indexing gender, culture, and cognition. Her monograph, with *Language contact, borrowing and code switching: Greek in Australia*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan. The monograph is an in-depth investigation of the Greek language spoken by immigrants in Far North Queensland, Australia. The monograph examines the

structure and use of Greek in diaspora, with particular attention to language contact induced changes, such as borrowing of lexemes and discourse patterns, shedding light into the nature and extent of variation in Greek in diaspora. The study explores code switching in naturally occurring conversations with first-generation and second-generation Greeks, employing a conversation analytic framework. She continues teaching linguistics courses at Aristotle University in Thessaloniki.

**Mario Arrien** wrote the texts for the permanent ethnographical exhibition *Pueblos Indígenas y Afroboliviano Ayer y Hoy* ('Indigenous and Afro-Bolivian people yesterday and today'), whose opening is scheduled for 2019 at the History Museum of *Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno* (UAGRM) in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The exhibition concerns the indigenous ethnic groups of the Santa Cruz department (Ayoreo, Chiquitano, Guaraní, Guarasug'wé, Gwarayú, Mojeño and Yuracaré), along with Afro-Bolivians. The exhibition aims at promoting knowledge and reconciliation with these ethnicities. Mario Arrien did several ethnographic investigations to document the traditional festivities of the Chiquitano community of San Javierito (Velasco province, Santa Cruz department, Bolivia). This community still maintains the cultural heritage of the 18th century Jesuit missions. He is also collecting myths and traditional Chiquitano stories from San Javierito. In 2019, he will continue his ethnographic investigations on the traditional festivities in the indigenous Chiquitano community of San Javierito. He will focus on the festivities of the Carnival, the Holy Week and of Saint Michael the Archangel. He will continue the collection of Chiquitano myths and traditional stories.

**Bai Junwei (Abe)** focused on writing his PhD thesis and has now finished about two thirds. He undertook his second period of fieldwork on Munya from July to October. After coming back from the field, he presented a talk titled *Northern and Southern Munya Dialects* in an international conference on language documentation and historical linguistics in LCRC. His chapter on numeral classifier in Munya which will be published in *Genders and classifiers: a cross-linguistic typology*, edited by Alexandra Aikhenvald and Elena Mihás (OUP). In 2019 he is planning to finalise his thesis by July and revise a paper on copula verbs in Munya for publication.

**Juliane Böttger** continued working on a book-length publication resulting from her thesis. She hopes to return to her field site, Manus Island, soon, to present the Lele language community with copies of language materials, such as a collection of stories and a list of vocabulary items, and is preparing her thesis for publication.

**Mateus Cruz Maciel de Carvalho** (PhD, UNESP – Brazil) is a permanent (EBTT) Professor at Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of São Paulo, Salto campus. He is currently working on aspects of the grammar of Deni, an Arawá language spoken in Southern Amazonia, Brazil. He is also

studying typological features of Arawá languages, especially noun, verb, and adjective classes.

**Luca Ciucci** is working on the description of Zamucoan (Old Zamuco, Ayoreo and Chamacoco) and Chiquitano (aka Bésiro), as well at the study of the contact among these languages and their neighbours. Along with Professor Pier Marco Bertinetto he is working at the reconstruction of Proto-Zamucoan. A large part of his activity was devoted to the publication of the *Vocabulario de la lengua zamuca*, for which he is preparing a critical edition. He also took part in the research project *Il popolamento umano dell'Oriente Boliviano: recupero di biodiversità e culture* ('The human population of East Bolivia: recovery of biodiversity and cultures'), directed by Professor Gabriella Erica Pia. Within this project he is the editor for the Ayoreo materials of Gabriella Erica Pia's *Diccionario antropológico ayoreo*. He continues working on the analysis of Zamucoan languages and Chiquitano (Bésiro), so as to help in the efforts to revitalize the language, to study its evolution from the 18<sup>th</sup> century until now and its contact with the other surrounding languages. In 2018, along with Katarzyna Wojtylak and Alex Walker, he obtained Research Support grant from the JCU Division of Tropical Environment for the project *Linguistic and biological diversity: a tropical perspective*, of which he is the principal investigator. In November 2018 he organised the LCRC special international workshop 'From fieldwork to reconstruction: language documentation and historical linguistics' (Cairns, 7-8 November 2018).

**R. M. W. Dixon** oversaw the publication of his controversial monograph *The unmasking of English dictionaries* (Cambridge University Press, January 2018) which contains a critical examination of lexicographical practices, and suggestions for reform. He also had published, by McFarland in North Carolina, 'We used to eat people', *Revelations of a Fiji Islands traditional village*. This is an account of six months fieldwork, in 1985, in a monolingual Fijian village. His major research project during the year was an intensive study of the meanings and functions of the fifty most common prepositions in English. He worked intensively on critical categories in the grammar of Dyirbal, based on the texts and lexical information gathered over forty years of fieldwork; this is expanding the treatment provided in his 1972 grammar of the language. Categories dealt with so far include the applicative/causative derivational suffix, the 'purposive' inflection in verbs, relative clause constructions, and aversive case on nouns.

A translation into Japanese by Tamio Yanagisawa of his 1994 monograph *Ergativity* was published by Kenkyusha in Tokyo. And a translation by Hamza Al Mozainy into Arabic of his 2016 monograph *Are some languages better than others?* was published by Dar Konoj in Jordan. He continued as co-editor of Brill's Studies in Language, Cognition and Culture and as a member of the editorial board for Anthropological Linguistics. In December 2018, Bob Dixon was a proud recipient of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters *honoris*

*causa* from James Cook University, in recognition of his lifetime achievements in linguistics and in particular his continuing work on the original languages of north-east Queensland.

**Valérie Guérin** spent 2018 preparing a volume on bridging constructions of which she is editing (*Language Science Press*). She continues her research on Tayatuk, an undocumented language from the Morobe Province of PNG.

**Rosita Henry** completed her work on ‘Maggie’s Memoir’ in 2018. This ethnographic biography concerns the life of Maggie Wilson, born in Papua New Guinea to Melka Amp Jara, a woman of the Western Highlands, and Patrick Leahy, brother of Australian explorers Michael and Daniel Leahy. The book intertwines Maggie’s autobiography, begun before her death in 2009, with Rosita’s account of Maggie’s life based on ethnographic research with her Tembuka speaking clanspeople of Kunguma Village, near Mount Hagen. The book provides a window into changing gender relations, and political, economic, social and cultural transformations in Papua New Guinea from the time of ‘first contact’ during the 1930s, through Independence and into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. McFarland Books is publishing the work under the title *A True Child of Papua New Guinea: Memoir of a Life in Two Worlds*. The book has been advertised for pre-publication sale and is due for release in Spring 2019. Rosita continues to conduct research for the ARC project ‘Planning for later life: An ethnographic analysis of ageing among transnational Papua New Guineans’. Rosita also finalised work with Daniela Vávrová on their ethnographic film *An Extraordinary Wedding: Marriage and Modernity in Western Highlands, PNG*. They have submitted the film for selection at a number of International Film Festivals. Rosita successfully ran her third Ethnographic Field School in PNG for 8 JCU students in September/October 2018, supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) under the New Colombo Plan. In April 2019, Rosita will be transferring from the Townsville to the Cairns campus of JCU, with an office in the Cairns Institute building. Rosita plans to work with colleagues to develop an ARC Discovery project focusing on a significant archive and collection of PNG artefacts donated to JCU by former patrol officer (*kia*) Mr Laurie Bragge.

**Christoph Holz** is working on a comprehensive grammar of Tiang, an undescribed Oceanic language of New Ireland, Papua New Guinea. Not much material is available on Tiang, save a few articles on phonological matters and some unpublished grammatical notes. He conducted a preliminary field trip to the Tiang community in July/August 2018 and is planning his second field trip for 2019. Currently he is working on the phonology chapter of his thesis and a trilingual Tiang–Tok Pisin–English dictionary.

**Tahnee Innes** is completing her PhD Thesis ‘Curating Country’. Currently she is developing a chapter ‘The Burden of Keeping’, about the Grant collection of artefacts, for journal publication. Later this year she will work with a highly experienced Indigenous curator working out of JCU to further develop practical

skills required to work on independently curated artefact collections for small keeping places and museums.

**Cassy Nancarrow** continued her work in 2018 with the Queensland Department of Education and Training supporting the teaching of Indigenous languages in schools and the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander teachers. Cassy has also been co-developing a Wik Mungkan school language curriculum in Aurukun, and will lecture in Anthropological Linguistics and Education at JCU in 2019.

**Simon Overall** continued his work as a lecturer in linguistics at the University of Otago. He presented at the NZ Linguistics Society conference in Wellington, in December 2018, and he was on the committee of the Amazonicas 7 conference, held in Baños, Ecuador, May 2018. He continues publishing on the grammar of Amazonian languages from a typological perspective, and cultural influences on linguistic structures.

**Chia-jung Pan** is a Young Academic Leader of Nankai University within the School of Literature. Currently, he is continuing his research into the Saaroa language and investigating its genetic and areal relations with neighbouring Tsou and Kanakanavu languages. He published a chapter on evidentiality in Formosan languages in *The Oxford Handbook of Evidentiality*. He is currently working on Manchu, a Tungis-Manchurian language, and on West Yugur, a Turkic language, both from China.

**Nick Piper** continues to work on the grammar of Meriam, a language spoken in the Eastern Torres Strait.

**Robin Rodd** developed, with Miguel Vatter (Flinders university) and Sofia Näsström (Uppsala University), a grant for the Gerda Henkel Stiftung Democracy Programme entitled 'What is the people's home in the age of global migration? Democratic openness as threat and utopia'. Jointly with Jennifer Deger, he convened the 2018 Australian Anthropological Society Annual Conference on the Cairns campus of JCU entitled 'Life in an Age of Death'. Over 250 delegates attended. In 2019, he will lead a New Colombo Plan study tour to Mongolia in July. In SP2, he will have a research sabbatical to follow the Uruguayan election and complete pieces of writing on the banality of evil. He is working on a collaborative, comparative grant on memory museums and democratic citizenship, and curating an exhibit around the theme of post-traumatic stress disorder at the Umbrella Studio in November.

**Mikko Salminen** is currently preparing his PhD thesis 'A grammar of Umbejats' for publication. He has been undertaking further studies in the field of psychology, and doing original research in the areas of epistemic discourse and the Theory of Mind.

**Sean Ulm** continued work on a range of ARC-funded research projects. Collaborative research projects funded by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage (CABAH) continued with Kaiadilt people

on Bentinck Island and Dingaal people on Lizard Island. Sean also continued work on a separate ARC Discovery Project to explore the deep history of sea country by developing and applying techniques to the investigation of submerged cultural landscapes on Australia's continental shelf.

**Craig Alan Volker** continued his work on the documentation of Unserdeutsch documentation. This is a collaborative effort with the University of Augsburg, Germany to document the nearly extinct Rabaul Creole German (Unserdeutsch) language and community history, sponsored by DFG (German Research Foundation). His current projects include revising the *Oxford Papua New Guinea Dictionary of Tok Pisin*, Oxford University Press, Melbourne; (with Péter Maitz, University of Bern), working on a description of Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German), and on a grammar of Tok Pisin, in collaboration with Friedel Frowein. He continues contributing a special column, Language Toktok to the *National Weekender*, a monthly Papua New Guinea newspaper column.

**Alex Walker** is working on description of Panim, a Papuan language of Madang Province, Papua New Guinea. In 2018, he made two trips to Madang Province to work with Panim speakers. His book, *A Grammar of Southern Pomo*, was formally accepted by the University of Nebraska Press in 2018 and is expected to appear in print in 2019. It is the first published comprehensive grammar of the now extinct Southern Pomo language of California. Alex has also continued working with Northeastern Pomo language (a.k.a. Salt Pomo), an extinct Pomoan language related to Southern Pomo. In 2017, he traveled to the Northeastern Pomo homeland in California's inland mountains and obtained a previously unknown (to academia) wordlist, which he is preparing for publication. His proposal for a special course, 'The phonology and grammar of Southern Pomo narratives', was accepted for the 2019 Linguistic Society of America Institute, which is being held near the Northeastern Pomo heritage speakers' homes. While there, Alex will consult and meet with Northeastern Pomo elders in order to confirm place names mentioned in the newly discovered wordlist for which current maps cannot be consulted. He will be returning to Papua New Guinea for additional fieldwork on Panim prior to the LSA Institute.

**Pema Wangdi** is working on a comprehensive grammar of Brokpa, a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in eastern Bhutan. Pema conducted his first immersion fieldwork from May 2018 through December 2018. From the beginning of 2019, Pema will be carrying out analysis of Brokpa language and will be writing the descriptions of its various grammatical topics.

**Nathan White** continued his work on his PhD thesis on the grammar of Hmong and received a competitive grant through the Higher Degree Research Competitive Funding scheme, GRS, JCU to conduct fieldwork with the Hmong community in California, USA from December 2018 to January 2019. He gave two external talks in 2018, on 'Affixation in an isolating language? Wordhood and the case of Hmong' at SEALS 28 and 'Quantifier float in Hmong' at

Academia Sinica, in addition to several talks at workshops at the LCRC. Nathan also co-convened the *Word: Its manifestations and functions* workshop at the LCRC in October 2018, which will lead to an edited volume to be submitted for publication in 2019. He also has two publications in press, ‘Classifiers in Hmong’ in *Classifiers and Genders* and ‘Attitudes, policy, and education: Social dynamics affecting literacy programs in endangered language contexts’ in *LACUS Forum*. In addition to the above, he will progress further on his PhD thesis, conduct additional fieldwork, and submit several manuscripts for publication in 2019.

**Kasia Wojtylak** received her PhD in October 2017 from the Language and Culture Research Centre at James Cook University, with a thesis on the grammar of Murui (Bue), a Witotoan language of Northwest Amazonia. Her thesis received a prestigious ‘Cum Laude’ distinction and a James Cook University Medal for Excellence in March 2018. She started her postdoctoral research fellow at LCRC within Distinguished Professor Alexandra Aikhenvald’s Australian Laureate Fellowship ‘How gender shapes the world: a linguistic perspective’ in November 2017. Between February and April 2018, she prepared and submitted her PhD thesis for publication in the Brill’s Studies in the Indigenous Languages of the Americas series. She collaborated on an ALS funded project on the expression of language of space in a number of languages of Northwest Amazonia, and organised a special masterclass ‘Linguistic Skills for Ethnographic Field Research’ at the LCRC in 2018. Throughout 2018, Kasia organised six special seminar series ‘The adventures of linguistic fieldwork’ (among the invited speakers were Dist Prof Alexandra Aikhenvald and Prof RMW Dixon). In September 2018, her video on the linguistic work among the Murui won the People’s Choice Award in the Visualise Your Research competition at JCU. In October 2018, she accepted a one-year position at the University of Regensburg (Germany) as a research and teaching fellow in Linguistics, and currently remains an Adjunct Research Fellow at the LCRC.

**Michael Wood** started 2018 researching PNG’s recent volcanology. This involved working at the Fischer Geoscience Library in Canberra. The research was part of on-going work on the cultural values of the Nakanai Ranges in New Britain. In July 2018 Jennifer Gabriel, Simon Foale and Michael secured an AUD200,000 one year UNDP Micro Capital Grant for work on Sustainable Livelihoods and Protected Area Planning in the Nakanai region. The 2018 research has involved surveys of households, gardens and food consumption. In 2019 this research will involve participatory land use mapping and the analysis of markets and supply chains. He has also continued working an ARC funded project concerning how people living in PNG and North Queensland look after the elderly and prepare for old age.

**Firew Girma Worku** is working on a comprehensive grammar of Mursi, a Nilo-Saharan language of Ethiopia. He presented a talk on Lexical Borrowing Strategies in Mursi at Language contact and the emergence of hybrid grammars,

11-12 July 2018, LCRC, James Cook University; presented a talk on Valency Changing Operations in Mursi at Colloquium on African Languages and Linguistics (CALL 2018), August 30-September 1, 2018, Leiden University, the Netherlands; and presented a talk on Phonological word and grammatical word in Mursi at LCRC Special International workshop ‘Word’: Its manifestations and functions, James Cook University, Australia. He spent three months (October 2018- January 2019) in the field (Ethiopia) collecting data on Mursi. He also gave the following presentations at the LCRC weekly seminar: Reflexive and Reciprocal constructions in Mursi, Possessive construction in Mursi, Number systems in Mursi.

**Maria Wronska-Friend** continued her research on the global impact of Javanese batik textiles by conducting fieldwork in West Africa (Ghana) as well as research in Canton Glarus Archives, Switzerland, and the Royal Archives in Den Haag, The Netherlands. Her research was supported by grants from the International Council of Museums (ICOM) and University of Warwick. She gave seven lectures and conference presentations addressing various aspects of Indonesian textiles in cross-cultural perspective, among others at the Textile Society of America 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium in Vancouver; Textile Museum at the George Washington University in Washington DC; History and Design Roundtable at the University of Leuven in Belgium; and ICOM Costume Symposium at Utrecht, The Netherlands. In 2019 she will focus on the connections between Indonesia and Japan in the field of textile trade and exchange, and plans to conduct research in Kyoto and Tokyo museum collections.

**Sihong Zhang** continued his work on Ersu and other Tibeto-Burman languages, and expanded his research area to dialectology in 2018. He was working as professor in linguistics and also the Chairman of the School/Centre Council, The School of Humanities, International Education and Exchange (also Centre for International Exchange & Cooperation), Anhui University of Chinese Medicine. He is planning to quit his administrative position and focus all his energy on the area of linguistic research from 2019 on. He was awarded a grant on Typological analysis of Ersu morpho-syntaxes, a sub-project of the national key project 'Morpho-syntaxes of Sino-Burman languages spoken in China, from a typological perspective', funded by National Foundation Commission of Social Sciences of China; RMB 20,000), 2018-2023, and a grant to work on a field investigation of Chinese dialect: Tongcheng dialect of Jianghuai Mandarin, Anhui (funded by the Ministry of Education, China; RMB 80,000), 2018-2019.

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**Publications by past and present members of LCRC  
2018 and forthcoming**

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald**

2018. *Serial verbs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2018. *How gender shapes the world*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
Paperback edition.
2018. 'Disentangling a versatile prefix: the nature and development of a polysemous marker in Arawak languages'. *International Journal of American Linguistics* 84: 1-49.
2018. 'The magic of names: a fieldworker's perspective', pp. 9-27 of *Word hunters: Field Linguistics on Fieldwork*, edited by Hannah Sarvasy and Diana Forker. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.
2018. (ed). *The Oxford Handbook of evidentiality*. Oxford: OUP.
2018. 'Evidentiality: the framework', pp. 1-46 of *The Oxford Handbook of evidentiality*, edited by A. Y. Aikhenvald. Oxford: OUP.
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### **Maria Wronska-Friend**

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### **Sihong Zhang**

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## **A SELECTION OF REVIEWS OF OUR BOOKS**

'The volume is generally well-argued and well-organised, which makes it enjoyable to read. *How gender shapes the world* is a valuable resource for language typologists and anthropological linguists, and it can also be recommended to scholars working on anthropology, sociology and gender studies'

Erica Sandman, review of Alexandra Aikhenvald's *How gender shapes the world*, (Oxford University Press 2016), *Sociolinguistic studies* 11, 2017, 483-5.

'The art of grammar' is an important handbook for typological analyses. It introduces a broad variety of concepts, including concepts that have not been much discussed in the Chinese literature before. It is written in a very comprehensible manner with many examples. Proof is provided by examples of many languages. Every chapter has a summary, making 'The art of grammar' a real practical handbook. It can help students before and during their fieldwork.'

Chia-jung Pan & Chenlei Zhou. 2018. Review of 'The Art of Grammar: A Practical Guide, by Alexandra Aikhenvald (Oxford University Press 2015). *Journal of Qiannan Normal University for Nationalities* Vol. 3: 45-48. (translation from Chinese by Junwei Bai and Christoph Holz).

'This grammar is a strikingly comprehensive reference grammar of the Papuan language Nungon, belonging to the Finisterre-Huon family and spoken by just around 1,000 people in the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea. The book has thirteen chapters covering not only the traditional topics of a reference grammar (phonology, morphology, syntax of phrases and clauses, clause combining) but also aspects of discourse, cultural pragmatics of communication, greeting practices, and nonverbal communication. The book is based on the PhD thesis that the author defended at James Cook University, in Cairns, Australia, in 2015. In its approach to language description and linguistic theory, the book follows the tenets of Basic Linguistic Theory (Dixon 2010). In that respect, but also in the thorough approach to field work and in the deep interest in cultural and social aspects of languages and speech communities, the book clearly and fruitfully reflects the perspectives of her supervisors R. M. W. Dixon and Alexandra Aikhenvald.

Lourens de Vries, Review of *A grammar of Nungon: A Papuan language of northeast New Guinea*, by Hannah Sarvasy (Brill, 2017), *Oceanic Linguistics* 57: 2

'This volume offers a first collection of straightforward and personal accounts from long-term fieldworkers who have dedicated many decades of their careers to studying under-documented minority languages on five continents. With 177 pages, the volume comprises biographies of eleven renowned “word hunters”. Few constraints were imposed by the editors – the contributors were asked to provide an overview of their fieldwork career and to expand on specific linguistic and extralinguistic aspects they considered important. The result is a beautiful mosaic of stories by authors from different continents, with different academic backgrounds and research interests but with a shared love of discovery, adventure, puzzle solving, eureka moments and the joint experience of the demands and rewards that come with exposing yourself to a new culture and language.

Josephina Safar, review of Diana Forker and Hannah Sarvasy (eds.), *Word hunters*, *Linguistic Typology* 2018; 22(3): 505–516

'This edited volume, *Word Hunters* (2018), provides a diverse array of experiences, tips, and lessons learned from long-term field linguists. Edited by Hannah Sarvasy and Diana Forker, the book is certainly helpful for linguists both in the field and out. It is also a great resource when exploring and evaluating the merits of various methodologies to fieldwork, as showcasing a diversity of approaches was clearly an objective to the editors. The contributors to the book provide their own first-hand accounts of what is realistically entailed in language documentation in the field and their experiences of living in the different language communities. The book is devoted to all fieldworkers, the “unsung heroes of linguistics”.[...]. When discussing “immersion fieldwork”, Aikhenvald considered the observation of quotidian use of language to be vital,

especially in spontaneous contexts. For her, text corpora were not enough, and participant-observation was essential for increasing the quality of the language grammar. Only through immersion fieldwork could some forms emerge. [...] The book's coherence comes from its sheer diversity, which is metaphoric of fieldwork itself. No two chapters are alike, and this is a strength from a book which provides a panorama of experiences, locations, methodologies, disciplines, and approaches to fieldwork [...] The fieldworkers and their experiences are as diverse as the languages, places, and peoples with whom they work, and the book provides important insight into the multidisciplinary nature of the work itself.'

John W. W. Powell, review of Diana Forker and Hannah Sarvasy (eds.), *Word hunters*, *Linguist List* 8 February 2019

### **Endorsements for *Word Hunters*, edited by Hannah Sarvasy and Diana Forker**

'Fieldwork is among the most fundamental kinds of linguistic research: it creates the empirical basis for an unbiased, non-Eurocentric theory of language. This book provides a nice selection of fieldworkers' personal accounts of their experiences, covering many language areas of the world.'

**Andrej Kibrik**, *Russian Academy of Sciences*

The essays in *Word Hunters* reflect on fieldwork by highly experienced fieldworkers working around the world, reviewing what they learned, details about the peoples they worked with, insights into the languages that they worked on, and the challenges, rewards, and responsibilities of life as a fieldworker. Each author brings their own story and their own interests, and the reader has much to learn. Thanks to all of those who contributed to giving the reader rich perspectives on fieldwork. Let's hope that someday we see a companion volume, reporting on the experiences of fieldwork from the perspective of the speakers that the linguists were so fortunate to work with!'

**Keren Rice**, *University of Toronto*

'A paean to linguistic fieldwork, with all its trials and tribulations, but equally with all the triumphs and joys of giving a voice to speakers of endangered and other little-described languages, often from severely disadvantaged communities. The outsider will read with awe and envy.'

**Bernard Comrie**, *University of California, Santa Barbara*

### ***Endorsement for Angeliki Alvanoudi's Modern Greek in diaspora***

'This book brings to light the Greek language as spoken in an immigrant community in Australia. It makes an important contribution by describing how code switching is used in this community and by providing readers with original and rich data concerning language contact-induced changes. Methodologically, it efficiently integrates perspectives from contact linguistics with interactional approaches to language use.'

**Argiris Archakis**, Professor, University of Patras, Greece



Participants of the LCRC Special International Workshop ‘Word: its manifestations and functions’, Cairns, October 3-4 2018



Luca Ciucci, the convenor of the LCRC Special Workshop ‘From fieldwork to reconstruction: language documentation and historical linguistics’ with Alejandra Vidal and Pier Marco Bertinetto, major participants of the Workshop, 9 November 2018

## **NEW AND FORTHCOMING BOOKS BY MEMBERS OF LCRC**

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald**

*Serial verbs*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2018.

*How gender shapes the world*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 2018. pb edition.

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**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Elena Mihás**

*Genders and classifiers: a cross-linguistic typology*. 2019. Oxford University Press.

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and R. M. W. Dixon**

*Language at large: essays in syntax and semantics*. Leiden: Brill, pb. edition. 2018.

**Angeliki Alvanoudi**

*Modern Greek in Diaspora: An Australian perspective*. Palgrave Macmillan. 2018.

**Luca Ciucci**

*Ignace Chomé: Vocabulario de la lengua zamuca - Edición crítica y comentario lingüístico*. Iberoamericana Verfuert Verlag. Forthcoming.

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**Diana Forker and Hannah Sarvasy (eds)**

*Word hunters: Fieldlinguists on fieldwork*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins. 2018.

**Simon Overall and K. I. Wojtylak (eds.)**

*Nominalization: A view from Northwest Amazonia*. Special issue of STUF - *Language typology and universals*. 71, issue 1. 2018.

**Anne Storch, Andrea Hollington, Nico Nassenstein and Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald**

(eds). 2019. *Creativity in language: secret codes and special styles*. A special issue of the *International Journal of Language and Culture* 6: 1.

**Alex Walker**

*A grammar of Southern Pomo*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. Forthcoming.

**K. I. Wojtylak and Yvonne Treis (eds)**

*On the expression of Comparison: Contributions to the typology of comparative constructions from lesser-known languages*. Special issue of *Linguistic Discovery* 16, 1. 2018.