



## Language and Culture Research Centre

Director: Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

Deputy Director: Professor R. M. W. Dixon

Cairns Institute Building, JCU, PO Box 6811,  
Cairns Qld 4870 Australia

[Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au)

## Language and Culture Research Centre

James Cook University

**LCRC MEMBERS NEWS**

### **FIELDWORK**

**Christoph Holz** is currently undertaking fieldwork on Tjang, an Oceanic language of New Ireland, PNG, until October 2019.

### **VISITING FELLOWS AT THE LCRC IN THE SECOND HALF OF 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.

**Felix K. Ameka** lectures in African Languages and Cultures at 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, with a 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.

**Dr Nerida Jarkey** is Senior Lecturer at The University of Sydney (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, School of Languages and Cultures, Japanese Studies). She is a major expert in Japanese and also in Hmong and Hmongic languages, with special focus on language gender, politeness, noun categorization, serial verb constructions, and the interaction between language and culture. In her capacity as a Chief Investigator on the ARC DP Project 'The integration of language and society', alongside Distinguished Professor A. Y. Aikhenvald and Professor R. M. W. Dixon, she will be working on the project, and will present a paper at the International Workshop, "The Integration of Language in Society".

**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 the 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 Steve Watters** (PhD 2018, Rice University), a lecturer at Baylor University, is an expert on Dzongha, a Tibeto-Burman language of Bhutan, and numerous other languages of the family. He will be a Visiting Fellow at the LCRC from 15 August to 20 December 2019, preparing his grammar of Dzongkha for publication.

**Iwona Kraska-Szlenk** (PhD University of Warsaw), of the University of Warsaw, is a major expert in African languages (including Swahili) and various issue in general linguistics, with a focus on cognitive aspects, and language and

cognition. During her stay between 11 and 18 November at the LCRC, she will be working on issues related to studying body part terms, with a focus on cognitive linguistics approach (embodiment as key to “universal” conceptualizations, metaphor, metonymic chains, cultural conceptualizations, etc.) and will offer a talk within the LCRC seminar series.

**Professor Heronides Moura** (PhD 1996, Unicamp, Brazil), Professor of linguistics at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, an expert on Portuguese and Romance linguistics will be visiting the LCRC from 1 December to 22 December 2019, working on various issues in the grammatical structure of Romance languages in typological perspective.

### NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald.** *I saw the dog. What language is and why it matters.* London: Profile Books. Forthcoming 2020.

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Elena Mihás (eds).** *Genders and classifiers. A cross-linguistic typology.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. August 2019.

**Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald and Anne Storch (eds).** *Mouth 4: 1. Taboo in language and discourse.* Special issue, 2019.

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

**R. M. W. Dixon.** *Australia's original languages: an introduction.* Sydney: Allen and Unwin. 2019.

**Carola Emkow.** *A grammar of Araona.* Munich: Lincom Europa. Forthcoming.

**Alexander Walker.** *A grammar of southern Pomo.* Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press (scheduled for 2020).

**Katarzyna I. Woitylak.** *A grammar of Murui.* Leiden: Brill. Forthcoming.

## LCRC EVENTS IN 2019

### LCRC INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

### 'THE INTEGRATION OF LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY'

CASE/Cairns Institute — James Cook University

Cairns, 21-23 August

Convenors: Alexandra Aikhenvald, R. M. W. Dixon, and Nerida Jarkey

Wednesday 21 August D3-003

13.30 Professor Andrew Krockenberger, Dean of Research, JCU

Opening of the Workshop and launch of the following new publications

*Australia's Original languages*, by R. M. W. Dixon, Allen and Unwin 2019.

*Genders and classifiers*, edited by Alexandra Aikhenvald and Elena Mihas. Oxford University Press 2019.

*Mouth 4: 1. Taboo in language and discourse*. Special issue, edited by Anne Storch and Alexandra Aikhenvald.

13.45 Alexandra Aikhenvald, Introduction to the Workshop

R. M. W. Dixon and Nerida Jarkey

14.00 Alexandra Aikhenvald                      The ways of speaking and the means of knowing: the Tariana of north-west Amazonia

16.00 Maarten Mous                                Iraqw society (Tanzania) reflected in their language

#### **Thursday 22 August D3-003**

9.30 R. M. W. Dixon                              The semantics of the Dyirbal avoidance language: adjectives

11.30 Anne Storch                                Waiting: language and encounters, and alternative ways of thinking about linguistic landscapes

14.00 Nerida Jarkey                              The grammatical expression of speaker perspective in Japanese: relational, epistemic, empathetic, and evaluative

16.00 Alex Walker                                The Effects of Culture and Landscape in Pomoan languages

#### **Friday 23 August D3-003**

9.30 Luca Ciucci                                 Language and Culture in Zamucoan

11.30 Felix Ameka                                Lexico-grammatical expression of societal values in the languages of the Volta Basin (West Africa)

14.00 Discussion, with participation of Dineke Schokkin, Katarzyna Wojtylak and Steve Watters

**Everyone is welcome**

The Initial Orientation paper for the workshop can be obtained from  
 Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au

*International Workshop*  
*The challenges of linguistic diversity: its social,  
 anthropological, and structural aspects*

24-25 September, Bern

Convenors:

Professor Péter Maitz

*(Institute of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Bern)*

Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald

*(Language and Culture Research Centre, James Cook University Australia)*

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

**Tuesday 24 September**

- 9.00 Welcome
- 9.15 keynote address  
 Susan Gal (Chicago): *Language ideology and social scale in the  
 construction of linguistic diversity*
- 10.15 Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald (Cairns): *The legacy of youth:  
 transgenerational perspectives on linguistic diversity*
- 11.30 Luca Ciucci (Cairns): *The origins of linguistic diversity: morphological  
 and lexical change in Chamacoco*
- 12.15 Katarzyna Wojtylak (Regensburg): *Studying linguistic diversity in  
 context of limited linguistic descriptions: the case of the "Witoto"  
 language from the Colombian Amazon*
- 14.30 David Britain (Bern) / Kazuko Matsumoto (Tokyo): *Substrate influence  
 versus SLA: the case of -t/d deletion in Palauan English*
- 15.15 Pema Wangdi (Cairns): *Preservation versus innovation in Brokpa: is  
 innovation contact-induced or is it a natural drift?*
- 16.30 Alex Walker (Cairns): *Linguistic diversity and language shift among the  
 Mes languages of Madang province (Papua New Guinea)*

19.00 conference dinner

### **Wednesday 25 September**

9.00 keynote address

Peter Trudgill (Norwich): *Linguistic diversity and the uniformitarian hypothesis: a reconciliation*

10.00 Péter Maitz (Bern) / Siegwalt Lindenfelser (Bern): *Creole diversity: insights from Unserdeutsch*

11.15 1 Jürg Fleischer (Marburg): *Areality and contact in a multilingual dialect continuum*

12.00 Nathan White (Cairns): *Navigating languages: 'multilateral mixing' in the Hmong diaspora*

14.15 Guido Seiler (Zürich): *Filling the gap in a typology of mixed languages*

15.00 discussion, closing remarks

### **MASTERCLASS IN TOK PISIN**

organized 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.

**The fortnightly Workshop of the LCRC, 'Adjective classes', commenced on 20 February 2019.**

**The materials for the Workshop will be available at**  
<https://www.jcu.edu.au/lcrc/news-and-events/workshops>

### **ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS AND WORKSHOP**

**All roundtable meetings at 4 p.m. on Wednesdays  
 in room D3-150 of the Cairns Institute building**

Workshop on Adjective Classes, Wednesday 31 July

**8 Rob Bradshaw**

**The adjective class in Doromu Koki**

Seminar. Wednesday 7 August

**Pema Wangdi**

**The word classes in Brokpa**

Seminar. Wednesday 14 August

**Dineke Schokkin**

**The multifaceted expression of  
number in the Idi verb**

**PhD Completion Seminar, Junwei Bai, 'The grammar of Munya', 14  
August, 10.30, D3-063**

**everyone is most 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, and Distinguished Professor Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald [Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au), Director of the LCRC, 61-7-42321117

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PHD SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE RESEARCH CENTRE**

*Come and work in an exotic location, investigating a  
language which has never previously been described!*

Applications are invited, from suitably qualified students, to enter the PhD program of the Language and Culture Research Centre at James Cook University Australia. Supervision will be provided by Professors Alexandra Y. Aikhenvald, R. M. W. Dixon, Dr Luca Ciucci, Dr Alexander Walker, Professor Rosita Henry, and Dr Michael Wood,

Our PhD candidates generally undertake extensive fieldwork on a previously undescribed (or scarcely described) language and write a comprehensive grammar of it for their dissertation. They are expected to work on a language which is still actively spoken, and to establish a field situation within a community in which it is the first language. Their first fieldtrip lasts for six to nine months. After completing a first draft of the grammar, back in Cairns, they undertake a second fieldtrip of two to three months. Fieldwork methodology centres on the collection, transcription and analysis of texts, together with participant observation, and — at a later stage — judicious grammatical elicitation in the language under description (not through the lingua franca of the country). Our main priority areas are the Papuan and Austronesian

languages of New Guinea and surrounding areas and the languages of tropical Amazonia. However, we do not exclude applicants who have an established interest in languages from other areas (which need not necessarily lie within the tropics).

PhDs in Australian universities generally involve limited advanced coursework, just a substantial dissertation. Candidates must thus have had thorough coursework training before embarking on this PhD program. This should have included courses on morphology, syntax, semantics, and phonology/phonetics, taught from a non-formalist perspective. We place emphasis on work that has a sound empirical basis but also shows a firm theoretical orientation (in terms of general typological theory, or what has recently come to be called basic linguistic theory).

Distinguished Professor Alexandra (Sasha) Aikhenvald is Australian Laureate Fellow and Research Leader for People and Societies of the Tropics. Together with Professor R. M. W. (Bob) Dixon, she heads the Language and Culture Research Centre, which includes Research Fellows and a growing number of doctoral students. In addition, senior scholars from across the world opt to spend their sabbatical at the Language and Culture Research Centre.

The LCRC has strong links with anthropologists, archaeologists and educationalists, with scholars working on environmental issues, all within James Cook University. Further information is available at <http://www.jcu.edu.au/lcrc/>

The scholarship is currently estimated to be at the standard James Cook University rate, Australian \$26,682 pa. Students coming from overseas are liable for a tuition fee; but this may be waived in the case of a student of high merit. A small relocation allowance may be provided on taking up the scholarship. In addition, an adequate allowance will be made to cover fieldwork expenses and conference attendance.

The scholarship is for three and a half years. The deadline for application by international students (starting in 2020) is 31 August 2019; the deadline for students with Australian and New Zealand passports is 31 October 2019.

Successful applicants would take up their PhD scholarships between January and June 2019. (The academic year in Australia runs from February to November.)

Application form and procedures for international students can be found at: <https://www.jcu.edu.au/graduate-research-school/hdr-candidates>. Applications will be open in early July.

Prospective applicants are invited, in the first place, to get in touch with Professor Aikhenvald at [Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au](mailto:Alexandra.Aikhenvald@jcu.edu.au), providing details of their background, qualifications and interests (including a curriculum vitae). Applicants are advised to send samples of their written work in linguistics (at least some of this should be in English).

The LCRC 2019 Bulletin is now available at <https://www.jcu.edu.au/lcrc/news-and-events>