

CIPL

Comité International Permanent des Linguistes
Permanent International Committee of Linguists

Annual Report 2018



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2018 CIPL General Assembly – July 6, 2018

Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, South Africa

Introduction

20th International Congress of Linguists

For the first time the International Congress of Linguists took place on the African continent. Due to the economic position of South Africa and the unlikelihood of the South African government and business supporting CIL20 financially, CIPL decided in 2015 to help the LOC by waiving the 20% rule (art. 11 Guidelines) and to grant a non-recoverable sum for one keynote speaker and for one workshop as well.

The congress was very successful and offered a forum for many different strands of linguistics with a variety of topics ranging from morphology and phonology to syntax and semantics, pragmatics, sign languages, multilingualism, language policies and much more. There was quite a large number of interesting keynotes and focus lectures.

New officers

During the General Assembly on July 6th, 2018, the elections for President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and Executive Committee were held. This election was very well prepared by the Nominating Committee.

Statutes/Bylaws

The Executive Committee has supplemented the Bylaws, especially articles 6 and 7 (<http://www.ciplnet.com/bylaws/>).

Linguistic Bibliography

The year 2018 was particularly active and successful for the Linguistic Bibliography. A record number of new records was added to the database, the largest ever print volume was published, and the largest number of downloads was recorded. Special activities included the production of a promotional video, the publication of two spin-offs, and participation of LB as part of the Brill exhibit at the ICL20 conference in Cape Town.

Endangered Languages Award

This prize for work on endangered languages is awarded every five years during the International Congress of Linguists. The Advisory Committee elected Associate Professor Dr Kemmonye C. Monaka as winner of the 2018 Endangered Languages Award.

Membership

In 2018 efforts have been made to increase the number of members and to reactivate the membership of old members.

Finances

The financial report for 2018 has been approved by the auditor and can be consulted on page 18.

Membership

Prof. Van Sterkenburg together with Prof. Camiel Hamans tried to reactivate some more members and to invite new members as well.

(1) With the help of Prof. Frieda Steurs and Prof. Bernhard Hurch, CIPL has been successful in reactivating the membership of the Brazilian Association of Linguistics (ABRALIN), the Societas Linguisticae Europaeae Sodalitium Israelense and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft.

(2) The following new members have been accepted by the Executive Committee:
The Latin American Association for Linguistics and Philology (ALFAL), the Accademia della Crusca, the Center for the Studies in Letters, the Portuguese Linguistic Association, the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Applied Linguistics Association of Serbia, the Royal Academy for the Basque Language and the International Congress of Celtic Studies.

(3) We are still in contact with organizations in other countries about a possible membership, such as Belarus, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Iceland, Mexico, Peru and Sweden.

Executive Committee until July 2018 and Elections

Executive Committee until July 2018

Prof. D. Bradley, **President**

Prof. Ik-Hwan Lee, **Vice-President**

Prof. P.G.J. van Sterkenburg, **Secretary-General**

Members Prof. M.S. Anwar, Prof. E. Banfi, Prof. Kai von Fintel, Prof. J. Moeschler and Prof. Yukinori Takubo

Elections 2018

During the 20th International Congress of Linguists in Cape Town, CIPL's General Assembly met. One of the important issues on the agenda was the election of President, Vice-President, Secretary-General and Executive Committee.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Prof. Manuel Leonetti (chair), Prof. Victoria Rau, Prof. Bernhard Hurch and Prof. Camiel Hamans, also Prof. Tinatin Bolkvadze and Prof. Timothy Coleman as substitute members. This Nominating Committee proposed the candidates for these different positions after they had been asked whether they would accept candidature according to article 7 of the new Statutes.

President, Vice-President and Secretary-General

Prof. David Bradley was elected as the new President and Prof. Ik-Hwan Lee was elected as Vice-President. Prof. Frieda Steurs was elected Secretary-General as the successor of Prof. Piet van Sterkenburg.

Executive Committee

According to the Statutes, the President of the Local Organizing Committee of ICL20, Prof. Rajend Mesthrie, will serve as a member of the EC. There were nine candidates for the remaining four seats in the committee.

The result of this election was: Prof. Victoria Rau, Prof. Frederick Newmeyer, Prof. Eno-Abasi Urua and Prof. Dermeval da Hora.

Nominating Committee

In accordance with the bylaws, a new Nominating Committee has been appointed: Prof. Anders Ahlqvist (chair), Prof. Bolkvadze, Prof. Timothy Coleman and Prof. Bernhard Hurch. Substitutes: Prof. Istvan Kenesei and Prof. Shigeki Kaji. Unfortunately, to our regret, Prof. Ahlqvist passed away in August 2018.

Honorary SG

Prof. Piet van Sterkenburg, who served for 26 years as Secretary-General of CIPL, was given the status of honorary Secretary-General.

Piet van Sterkenburg took the floor to say a few words of farewell.

Prof. Piet van Sterkenburg thanks all the current and former delegates in CIPL for having had the honor to serve CIPL for 26 years. He had done his work with great dedication and sometimes with a lot of pleasure. He thanks CIPL for having provided him with good friends and better insights in linguistics.

He is satisfied that he had been able to initiate and organize five ICL conferences, to stabilize the work of CIPL by providing new statutes and bylaws, and to guarantee the Linguistic Bibliography a future by setting up a foundation. He is also grateful that the initiative taken by his predecessor to focus on endangered languages was continued through the organization of summer schools and conferences and through the creation of the Endangered Languages Award. Unfortunately, the initiative to establish a CIPL chair for the study of Endangered Languages at Leiden University did not materialize. Hopefully, this will be possible in the future.



Subsequently, Prof. van Sterkenburg expressed his great gratitude that the Nominating Committee and the General Assembly had found such a competent successor in Prof. Frieda Steurs, the second woman in this position after Christine Mohrman. He is sure that CIPL will be in good hands with her.

Finally, he thanked everybody with whom he had cooperated in the past, especially Prof. David Bradley with whom he had worked very intensively. He also thanked the GA for awarding him the first honorary title in the 90 years of CIPL's history. He wished CIPL and all the delegates all the best for the future.

Executive Committee from July 2018

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Linguistic Bibliography / Bibliographie Linguistique

In 2018, the online database saw an increase of 24,290 bibliographical records, more than in any previous year. It is very close to the LB's goal of reaching 25,000 records by 2020. The number of downloads fluctuated considerably throughout the year and averaged 1,785 downloads per month.

LB print 2017

The LB print volume 2017 was published on schedule in September 2018. The volume contains 22,122 entries, the largest number ever, exceeding the previous record by about 2,000 records.

Spin-offs

Two spin-off volumes were created: the *Bibliography of Sign Languages, 2008-2017* and the *Bibliography of South African Languages, 2008-2017*. The LB Foundation sponsorship of the spin-offs allowed for these mini-bibliographies to be freely distributed at ICL20 (Cape Town) and LSA (New York). The bibliographies were well-received, serving as popular promotional materials for LB. The bibliographies are available in open access and may be downloaded free of charge on Brill.com: Sign Languages (<https://brill.com/view/title/38873>) and South African Languages (<https://brill.com/view/title/38871>). Paperback versions may be ordered via the same links.

ICL20 participation

Thanks to the support from the LB Foundation and from CIPL, the editors of the LB were able to participate at the ICL20. The book exhibition was held in a central location on the ground floor of the venue. The LB had a spacious double booth, generously sponsored by CIPL. The main focus of the exhibit was the active promotion of LB and LBO. The booth had a large screen, with a new promotional video presentation about the Linguistic Bibliography. The latest print volume was displayed at the center of the exhibit and was actively shown to visitors. The booth was constantly visited by conference participants who had heard about the complimentary mini-bibliographies and wanted to get their own copies.

Retro-digitalization

In 2018 first steps were taken towards planning the digitization of back volumes 1939-1992 and converting bibliographical entries from the yearbooks to digital records to be published on LBO. Retro-digitalization of older volumes will result in more than doubling the number of records available on LBO and will exceed the one million mark.

Other LB business

Prof. Frieda Steurs succeeded Prof. van Sterkenburg as President of the LB Foundation.

CIPL wants to thank Prof. Jacques Moeschler who has maintained the quality of the French introduction of the LB for many years.



20th International Congress of Linguists (ICL20)

The main goal of ICL20 was to survey the state of research in linguistics, both of a theoretical as well as more 'applied' nature. The central theme of ICL 20 was the dynamics of language, a topic that allowed fruitful exploration of the ten sections/sessions of the conference.

ICL 20 was organized on the basis of the CIPL Guidelines, after two meetings with the executive and the local organisation committee in Cape Town in 2012 and 2014. Organization was delegated to the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa. More specifically, the core working group were based at UCT (University of Cape Town), while liaising with the LOC which drew on members of the Society and the three universities in Cape Town. The congress was held at the CTICC (Cape Town International Convention Centre), this being the only viable venue in winter for a big congress, in addition to providing modern, world-class facilities. The president of the congress was Rajend Mesthrie, who is a professor and research chair (in Migration, Language, & Social Change at the Department of Linguistics, and a past president who served two terms for the Linguistics Society of Southern Africa. Mention has to be made of his special assistant, Dr. Alida Chevalier, a junior research fellow in his research chair, member of the working committee, who was effectively the co-organiser. The conference organisers were the commercial company, Scatterlings.



Alida Chevalier and Rajend Mesthrie

The structure of the congress consisted of 10 sections, 27 workshops, 10 freestanding plenary lectures and 10 focus lectures which were a kind of 'internal specialised plenary' that preceded each section. Details of all of these may be viewed on the Congress website:

<http://www.icl20capetown.com>

The number of papers presented was approximately equal between the 10 sessions and the 27 workshops. The acceptance rate of abstracts was relatively high, at approximately 75% for the paper sessions. With one exception, there were no poster sessions, as we were able to fit in all presentations as papers. We were thus able to achieve a relatively democratic mode of presentation for all delegates. The exception was the Sign Language workshop which attracted a large number of presentations and required a poster session at the request of the convenor.

One of the features of ICL20 was the very important role played by workshops (roughly half the presentations). This allowed for delegates to participate actively in the organization, but also in the scientific content, by proposing innovative and even provocative topics. The paper sessions

addressed more mainstream concerns, while the 10 plenaries gave a balanced overview of advances in these mainstream fields.

As the first time that ICL met in Africa, there was a strong presence of papers, plenaries and workshops centred around the continent. This was enabled by active fund raising for academics and students. That ICL20 successfully promoted linguistics and linguistic research on the continent can be seen from the many positive statements official and personal at the Congress, and from numerous emails after the event. Here as an example that particularly pleased us was the evaluation by one of the plenary speakers: *"Let me start by congratulating you for organizing one of the most successful international conferences I have attended. It was a resounding success with an African/ South African touch, which made me feel so proud of your team, under the excellent leadership of Raj Mesthrie, and of our continent. The technology for the presentations was the most impressive, the state of the art! And you had all the logistics so well under control! I hope you are all recovering well from all the stress and pressure that the organization of the event entailed. I'm grateful to have been part of it, as a beneficiary of your labour"*.

Perhaps the most tangible product of ICL20 was the book of keynote and focus lectures which was produced by Rajend Mesthrie & David Bradley in time for the opening of the Congress. This book was - as part of CIPL policy - presented gratis to each delegate at registration. The details are: *The Dynamics of Language - Plenary & Focus lectures from the 20th International Congress of Linguists* - ed. R. Mesthrie & D. Bradley, UCT Press 2018, xi + 297 pp. Copies of the book are also being shipped to prominent libraries world-wide. Many spinoffs are anticipated as journal articles and special collected issues from the themes and workshops of ICL20.

A total of 711 persons were registered, including all categories (e.g. persons exempt from fees, as scholarship holders, people working at the University of Cape Town, organizers, volunteers and editors). The sessions, plenary and focus lectures and workshops were well attended till the very end. All in all 250 universities and organisations were represented at the Congress, from 50 different countries.



UNESCO Atlas of Endangered Languages

Developments since 2014

2014 was an important year for UNESCO's *Atlas of Languages in Danger*. The threat of an end to UNESCO's involvement and support was overcome at a two-day International Expert Meeting in October 2014 at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, where an Action Plan was agreed with a range of recommendations on the future of the Atlas, aligning it with UNESCO's Program on Improving Access to Multilingual Cyberspace. Following on from this, a three-pronged way was found to move things forward.

Firstly, a practical impulse was given, enhancing the existing Atlas in cooperation, from 2014 till the present, between the Foundation of Endangered Languages (FEL), the World Languages Institute of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the Atlas team headed by chief editor Chris Moseley. Originally published in 1996 and covering some 600 languages, by 2010 the third edition of the *UNESCO Atlas of Endangered Languages* had expanded to 2500 languages, covered in some 60 maps. A new language submission form is now available in an interactive format, at www.unesco.org/languages-atlas.

Secondly, over the past few years plans have been prepared for innovation and further development of the Atlas, resulting in 2017 in proposals for a new UNESCO *World Atlas of Languages*. The challenges here are many, such as: the expansion in the number of languages, roughly from 2500 to over 7000; the need to develop the *Atlas* as an interactive, user-friendly tool using innovative mapping systems; and the expansion of its online search options [e.g. on language names, ISO standards, numbers of speakers, degree of endangerment and vitality, typological information and affiliation, literacy status, educational usage, the presence or absence of languages in the media and cyberspace world, etcetera].

Thirdly, efforts are under way to strengthen the collaborative involvement of linguists and other interested partners with relevant skills and expertise from all over the world. The aim here is to set up a Consortium on Multilingualism as a global task force for the UNESCO Atlas, developing a realistic workplan with clear priorities and timeline, identifying the necessary funding requirements, and involving a global array of potential partners, including CIPL and Brill's *Bibliographie Linguistique*, as suggested in the Draft List of International Experts established at the Paris meeting of October 2014.

Endangered Languages Award 2018

The topic of endangered languages is one of CIPL's key focus areas. CIPL supports summer schools and workshops in this field, make it a focus of attention in our Linguistic Bibliography and established an *Endangered Language Award*. This prize for work on endangered languages is awarded every five years during the International Congress of Linguists.

An Advisory Committee, consisting of Prof. David Bradley, President CIPL (Australian Linguistic Society), Prof. Edrinnie Kayambazinthu (Chancellor College, Malawi), Dr. Nicholas Ostler (Foundation for Endangered Languages), Dr. Tseard de Graaf (Frisian Academy) and Dr. Matthias Brenzinger (University of Cape Town), has elected Associate Professor Dr Kemmonyne C. Monaka as winner of the **2018 Endangered Languages Award**.



Kemmonyne C. Monaka and David Bradley

Kemmonyne C. Monaka is co-author of the Shekgalagari grammar published in 2008. She also published a very wide variety of phonetic and other studies of this language, which is her mother tongue. She has been involved in extensive community efforts within the Shekgalagari community of Botswana to strengthen their language; she has documented the Shekgalagari orthography and been involved in the preparation of dictionaries and other practical and research materials. She has also researched multilingualism, education and the process of language endangerment in Botswana, and done extensive work on a range of other Bantu languages and particularly on a number of endangered San languages such as !Xóö.

After awarding the prize during the meeting of CIPL's General Assembly on July 6th, which in addition to the honor includes an amount of \$2,500 to spend on future work in the area of endangered languages, Professor Kemmonyne C. Monaka thanked the committee and CIPL for this honor. The award is not only important to herself, but even more so to her university and to the work on endangered languages in Botswana.

Future priorities

New members

Over the past years, CIPL has grown and attracted a number of new members. However, a lot of activities have to be continued and developed to strengthen the external relations of CIPL and to make CIPL known better in the large international community. This means we need to work on acquisition of new members, preferably in these parts of the world that have not yet been contacted.

Endangered Languages

The topic of Endangered Languages will continue to be high on our priority list, but we believe the topic needs expanding into "Endangered Languages / Language Policy". This broadens the possible range of interested linguists and allows for more workshops and activities.

We need to restimulate the creation of a chair in endangered languages. A possibility has occurred now through our membership in CIPSH (The International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences). A call is out now to create new UNESCO chairs under the umbrella of CIPSH. We will work on this to create a chair on Endangered Languages and Language Policy.

Linguistic bibliography

We need to consolidate and enlarge the cooperation with Brill; we need to investigate together with Brill how a cooperation with the US Modern Language Association (MLA) is possible. The bibliography has to be enlarged and kept up to date in consultation with the EC and the GA. We can also try to make the bibliography more attractive by creating a Quality Label for important studies (based on written reviews). The royalties of the LB have to be kept on the same level. Other products relating to the LB can be designed such as the LB of Slavic languages; other derivatives can be thought of (such as specialized collections of phonology, morphology, etc.).

More recent topics of interest in linguistics need to get more attention and these can be the subject of new work with Brill: sign languages, multilingualism, endangered languages.

Newsletter

An interesting newsletter has to be the external window for CIPL, so that more and more scholars and also young researchers are informed about our activities. The newsletter will appear 2 times per year.

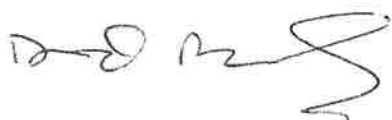
Indigenous Languages 2019

2019 had been announced by the United Nations as *The Year of Indigenous Languages*. In this context, the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow) is organizing an international conference "Linguistic Forum 2019: Indigenous languages of Russia and beyond", to be held April 4-6, 2019, in Moscow, Russia. The conference is organized in partnership with CIPL. Also in this context, there will be a conference at Purdue University Fort Wayne, Indiana from October 31 to November 2, 2019, called: The International Year of Indigenous Languages 2019: Perspectives. Read more about this on CIPL's website: www.ciplnet.com.

Finances

Please see enclosed Financial Statements. The 2018 Annual Report was approved.

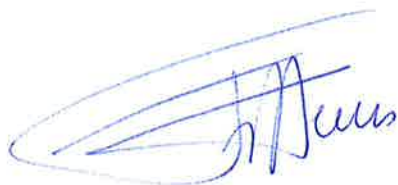
Leiden, December 31st, 2018



Prof. D. Bradley, President CIPL



Prof. P. van Sterkenburg
Secretary-General until July 6th, 2018



Prof. F. Steurs
Secretary-General since July 6th, 2018