11th International Pragmatics Conference: Diversity, context, and structure

University of Melbourne, July 12-17, 2009


Deadline for submission of panel proposals: September 1, 2008

The 11th International Pragmatics Conference of the The International Pragmatics Association (IPrA) will be organized collaboratively by four universities in the Melbourne area: Deakin University, LaTrobe University, Monash University, and the University of Melbourne. The conference venue is the University of Melbourne.

The conference is open to all pragmatics subjects, where pragmatics is conceived broadly as a cognitive, social, and cultural perspective on language and communication. The special topic is diversity, context, and structure: [...] richer, deeper, and more satisfying accounts of language phenomena will emerge through approaches to data and theory that focus on the interaction and mutual impact of diversity, context, and structure. The diversity of ways of construing the world, and interacting in it and with it, leads to a diversity of language structures that communicators use to establish, manipulate, and refer to common ground, and to constrain the context of interpretation that is needed for the communicative act to make sense.
A plethora of diverse approaches to language and culture has developed within theoretical and applied pragmatics, profiting from links to philosophy, semiotics, hermeneutics, cultural anthropology, and cultural studies. Diversity is manifest in pragmatic studies of:

- cross-cultural and intercultural communication in post-colonial and towards post-national societies as well as across world regions;
- the social dimensions of code-switching;
- mediated communications such as Internet Relay Chat, email, SMS messaging;
- politeness strategies, negotiation, conversational cooperation;
- questions of identity, queer and other minority talk, aspects of power and ideology;
- theories of grammaticalization and language change;
- approaches to classroom practice and other discourses;
- cognitive and cultural motivations in language use;
- speech act theories and implicature; gesture, metaphor, and language play; etc.

Conference organization

Conference chair: Keith ALLAN (Monash University). Local Site Committee: Marisa CORDELLA (Monash University), Nicholas EVANS (University of Melbourne/Australian National University, Canberra), Zosia GOLEBIOWSKI (Deakin University), Heinz Leo KRETZENBACHER (University of Melbourne), Randy LaPOLLA (LaTrobe University), Anna MARGETTS (Monash University), Howard NICHOLAS (LaTrobe University), Gillian WIGGLESWORTH (University of Melbourne), Lynda YATES (LaTrobe University).

International Conference Committee: Keiko ABE (Tokyo), Michael BAMBERG (Worcester, MA), Josie BERNICOT (Poitiers), Helmut GRUBER (Vienna), Sachiko IDE (Tokyo; ex officio as IPrA President), Alexandra JAFFE (Long Beach), Bonnie McELHINNY (Toronto), Michael MEEUWIS (Ghent), Jacob MEY (Odense), Jan-Ola ÖSTMAN (Helsinki), Marina SBISÀ (Trieste), Anna-Britta STENSTRÖM (Bergen), Jef VERSCHUEREN (Antwerp; ex officio as IPrA Secretary General), Yorick WILKS (Sheffield), John WILSON (Belfast).