

Linguistic Ethnography Forum

CONVENOR'S REPORT
to
BAAL Executive Committee
July 2008- July 2009

1. Aims

The UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum (LEF) was set up in March 2001, and we aim

- * to bring together researchers conducting linguistic ethnography here and abroad, and
- * to explore a range of past and current work, to identify key issues, and to engage in methodologically and theoretically well-tuned debate.

2. Organisation

During 2008-09, the committee has been:

Convenor:	Prof Ben Rampton (ben.rampton@kcl.ac.uk) 2007-09
Treasurer:	Dr Fiona Copland (f.m.copland@aston.ac.uk) 2008-10
Communications Secretary:	Dr Jeff Bezemer (j.bezemer@ioe.ac.uk) 2008-10
Meetings Coordinator:	Dr Frances Giampapa (frances.giampapa@bristol.ac.uk) 2008-10
Ordinary Members:	Dr Vally Lytra (vally.lytra@pobox.com) 2007-09
	Dr Max Spotti (m.spotti@uvt.nl) 2008-10
	Dr Janet Maybin (j.maybin@open.ac.uk) 2008-09 (co-opted)

3. Email list and membership

Our email list (ling-ethnog@jiscmail.ac.uk) is counted as our membership. In March 2009 we have updated our membership records, correcting the details of more than 60 members. We deleted the details of 20 members as their email accounts are no longer in use and alternative contact details could not be found via search engines. Membership now stands at 252, with 130 UK based members, 66 US based members and 20 more countries represented, mainly from mainland Europe. (There were 231 members in July 2008, 202 members in July 2007, 173 in July 2006, 160 in July 2005, 146 in July 2004, and 129 in July 2003.) All members have given their consent for their contact details and research interests to be published on our website, www.ling-ethnog.org.uk, and we hope that making this information publicly available will help bring LE researchers together and facilitate debate.

4. Web-site

This year, our Communications Secretary, Jeff Bezemer, reconfigured our website (and in the process re-ordered the UKLEF archive), giving it a more contemporary design, with readily accessible the details of meetings, events, administration, presentations and papers, and members interests. See <http://www.ling-ethnog.org.uk>.

5. Finance

As of 4 July 2009, our balance stands at £1,240.42.

6. Activity during 2008-09

6.1 Publications

There are at least two methodological papers coming out that foreground linguistic ethnography

- Janet Maybin and Karin Tusting have written a chapter on 'Linguistic Ethnography' for the forthcoming *Routledge Handbook of Applied Linguistics*, edited by James Simpson.
- Ben Rampton has written a chapter on 'Linguistic ethnography, interactional sociolinguistics & the study of identities', to appear in *Investigating Language in Action: Tools for Analysis*, edited by C. Coffin, T. Lillis and K. O'Halloran.

6.2 Meetings

During 2008-09, LEF was involved in six academic meetings, five with support and funding from the ESRC-RDI *Ethnography Language & Communication* Programme (see 6.3 below). These were:

6.2.1 *Linguistic Ethnography Track* at the 2008 BAAL Annual Meeting in Swansea on 13 Sept 2008, with contributions from Angeles Clemente, Michael Higgins, Meredith Izon, Mukul Saxena, Peter Sercombe and James Simpson.

6.2.2 *Advances in Ethnography, Language and Communication*, an interdisciplinary conference with 15 presentations in 3 tracks and two keynotes (by Celia Roberts and Janet Maybin). Aston University, 20 September 2008 (organizers: by Fiona Copland, Sara Shaw and Julia Snell) (RDI-ELC)

6.2.3 *Asylum and the Analysis of Language*, with Jan Blommaert and Katryn Maryns. King's College London, 15 November 2008 (c. 40 participants) (RDI-ELC)

6.2.4 *Health Communication: New Methods for Old Problems*, with contributions from Sarah Collins, Trish Greenhalgh, Srikant Sarangi, Angus Clarke, Celia Roberts, Sara Shaw, Deborah Swinglehurst, Julia Bailey, Jamie Murdock. King's College London, 23 January 2009. (40-50 participants) (RDI-ELC)

6.2.5 *Interaction, Culture and Inequality* – a masterclass with Ray McDermott (Stanford). Institute of Education, University of London, 14 March 2009. (c. 40 participants) (RDI-ELC)

6.2.6 *The Everyday Life of Families: A View from Linguistic Anthropology*, a master-class with Elinor Ochs (UCLA), with Pia Christensen (Warwick) as discussant. King's College London, Friday 26 June 2009. (c. 40 participants) (RDI-ELC)

6.2.7 *Upcoming and future meetings:*

- *Linguistic Ethnography Track* at the 2009 BAAL Annual Meeting in Newcastle, 3-5 September, with contributions from Constadina Charalambous, Zane Goebel, Deirdre Martin & Jane Stokes, and Zoe Nikolaidou.
- *Explorations in Ethnography, Language & Communication: Focus on Data*, with keynotes from Jan Blommaert & Martyn Hammersley. Aston University, 11 September 2009. (Organisers: Fiona Copland, Sara Shaw, Julia Snell) (RDI-ELC)
- *Analysing Representation and Communication in Digital Environments*, with Caroline Pelletier, Diane Carr, Jannis Androutsopoulos & Carey Jewitt. London Knowledge Lab, 18 September 2009. (RDI-ELC)
- *Teaching & Learning Linguistic Ethnography*. March 2010. (RDI-ELC)

6.3 *ESRC-RDI 'Ethnography, Language & Communication'* (www.rdi-etc.org.uk)

'Ethnography Language & Communication' is a 3 year advanced methods training course for doctoral and post-doctoral social science researchers UK-wide, funded with £100,000 from the ESRC's Research Development Initiative from January 2007 to March 2010. The programme team consists of Ben Rampton, Celia Roberts (KCL), Adam Lefstein, Jeff Bezemer, Carey Jewitt (IoE), and Jan Blommaert (Tilburg). The advisory board consists of Julia Bailey, Mike Baynham, Gunther Kress, Marilyn Martin-Jones, Janet Maybin, Andrew Pollard, Brian Street, Karin Tusting, Margie Wetherell and Helen Wood.

7. Thanks

As ever, our identity as a BAAL Special Interest Group continues to be of considerable value, and we would like to thank the BAAL Executive for its ongoing support.

It is also my last year as Convenor, and I'd like to record my thanks both to colleagues who have served on Coordinating Committees past and present, and to LEF members much more widely, for making involvement in this forum such a stimulating and enjoyable experience.

Ben Rampton (Convenor)
6 July 2009