

## SLA Section Program Editor Report

### AAA 2012, San Francisco

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- The 2012 SLA Program Committee consisted of: Colleen Cotter, Jennifer Dickinson, Mireille McLaughlin, Anna Marie Trester, Judy Pine, Cala Zubair, Steven Black, and Elizabeth Falconi. Their hard work in reading and evaluating hundreds of abstracts is what makes our program so strong. Thank you! *And if you are interested in joining the Program Committee for AAA 2013, please contact me at jahlers@csusm.edu!*
- The SLA received 9 submissions for invited session status (down from 17 last year), five of which were double panels. The SLA is only allotted 3 single panel slots (or one double and one single) for invited sessions. Furthermore, the AAA has changed its rules on roundtables, and now no longer allows them to count as additional invited sessions (in other words, to accept a roundtable as invited, it must use some of those three slots). On the program this year with invited status are:
  - Gumperz at 90 (Organizer: Marco Jacquemet)
  - Language commodification and circulation (Organizers: Jillian Cavanaugh and Shalini Shankar)
- For this year's meetings, the SLA received submissions for 39 volunteered panels (including 10 double panels) and 60 individually volunteered papers; this is up from last year (34 volunteered panels submitted, and 46 individually volunteered papers).
- The committee constructed 8 new panels (one a double) from the 60 individually volunteered papers. These were ranked together with the volunteered panel submissions.
- The committee found all of the volunteered panels to be of high quality and after ranking all of the panels, forwarded them to the AAA for possible inclusion in the program. Not all of our proposed panels were accepted onto the AAA program this year. Total number of panels accepted: 40 (down from 43 last year; I believe that some of the reason for this is that the space is tighter at the San Francisco venue) (2 invited sessions; 32 volunteered panels, 6 panels constructed from 44 of the individually volunteered papers).
- This year we have continued with the graduate student essay contest roundtable, after its success last year. Many thanks to Jillian Cavanaugh for taking the lead on this important event. The program committee would also like to thank Susan Philips and Niko Besnier for all of their hard work and commitment in evaluating the paper submissions and serving as discussants at the roundtable, as well as the judges for the undergraduate paper competition: Christopher Ball, Keith Murphy, Shana Walton, and Nancy Lutz. Neither of the paper competitions could have happened without them.
- We are trying something new this year – thanks to the dedicated SLA web team, we were able to create a space on the SLA website for presenters to post pdfs of their handouts before the conference, available for download and viewing during the AAA. (<http://linguisticanthropology.org/about/meetings/handouts/>)
- The schedule: As we do every year, we forward suggested days and times for panel schedules to the AAA, doing our best to avoid conflicts, but all final decisions are up to the AAA.
- AAA 2012 will be held in Chicago, IL, November 20-24, 2012.
  - Calls for both general and invited sessions will go out through the SLA website and listserv.
  - A note: We are not able to forward individually-submitted papers for consideration to the AAA; they must first be formed into panels when that is possible. Given the difficulty of finding 5 to 7 individual papers that work together coherently as a panel, we have had to reject excellent individually volunteered papers because we couldn't find a fit with other submissions. If submitters can arrange their papers into panels for submission that greatly increases the chances of acceptance onto the program; the SLA encourages submitters to use the SLA website and listserv to do that.
  - We received only two poster submissions this year, up slightly from last year's zero. Please remind colleagues and students about this option.
  - Please feel free to contact me (jahlers@csusm.edu) with any questions or concerns with regard to the work of the SLA Program Committee.
- Last, but not least, **2013 will be the final year of my term as Program Chair**. I would be delighted to work with the next Program Chair closely as I build this final program, should the next chair be interested in shadowing me for a year before beginning their term. In any case, we will need a new chair after this coming year. Please contact me or any of the board members if you are at all interested in the position, or if you have any questions about it.