



Society for **Linguistic Anthropology**

Greetings linguistic anthropologists!

Welcome to the second issue of the new SLA Newsletter. In this issue, you will find important updates on our 3rd Biennial SLA Conference; information about opportunities to re-invest in SLA membership; and introductions to the members who have filled our three newly appointed positions, as well as our newly elected Member-at-Large. These developments underscore and help ensure our collective commitment to fostering an inclusive, supportive, and dynamic environment for all our members.

Your engagement and contributions as SLA members are vital to our collective success. Whether you are a student, faculty member, or sustaining member, your participation strengthens our association and ensures that we can continue to provide valuable resources and opportunities for everyone. I encourage you to read through the newsletter, stay informed, and get involved in the initiatives we have planned.

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1. Save the Date for our 3rd Biennial SLA Conference

We are excited to announce that planning is well underway for the 3rd Biennial Society of Linguistic Anthropology Conference, which will be held from **May 29-31, 2025, at the University of Chicago/Hyde Park**. Watch out for a CFP in the coming weeks and read upcoming newsletters for more details.

The conference steering committee is hard at work planning an engaging and enriching event for all attendees. To date, the members of the conference steering committee are as follows:

Conference convenor

E. Summerson Carr

esc@uchicago.edu

Conference chair

Dominika Baran

dominika.baran@duke.edu

Program chair

Josh Babcock

joshua_babcock@brown.edu

Local chair

Thea Strand

tstrand@luc.edu

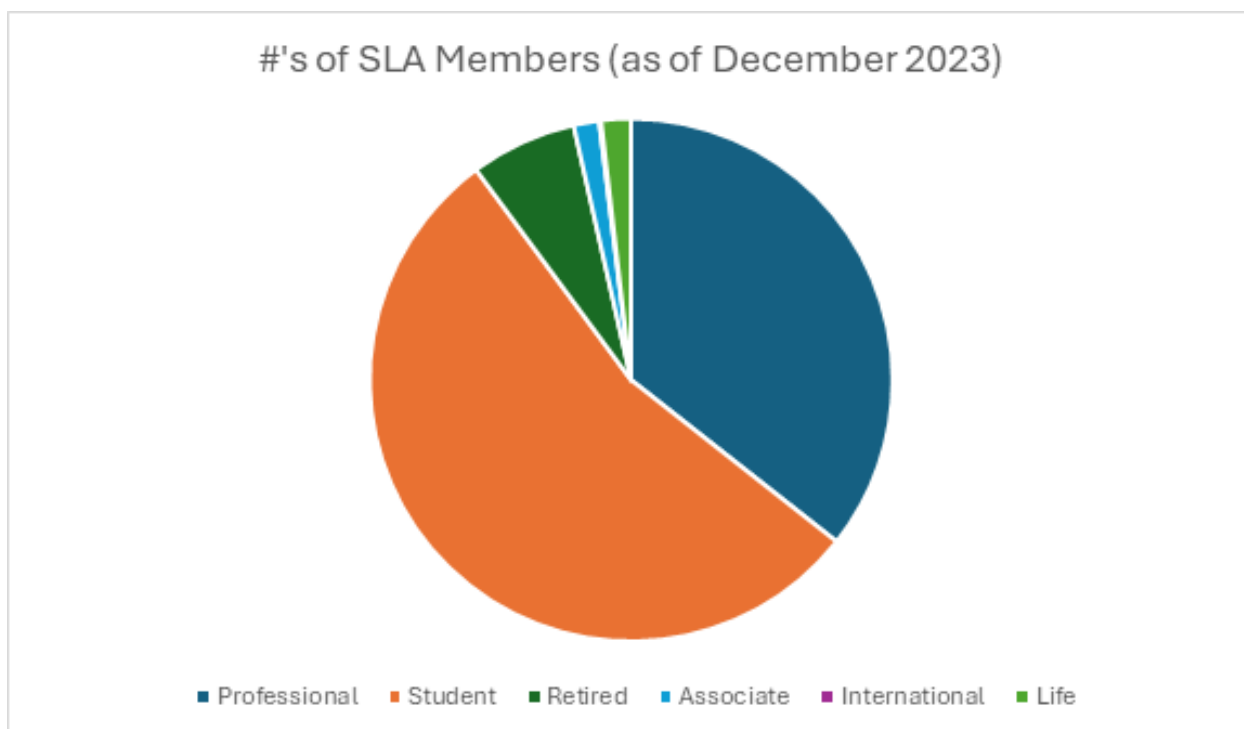
As we plan, we will continue working with staff at the AAA; Steven Black, our new accessibility coordinator; and Netta Avineri, SLA Treasurer. We are also in the process of convening a labor/volunteer committee, a housing committee, and a technology committee, as well as the program committee. Each of our committees includes linguistic anthropologists at various career stages—from graduate students to senior scholars—and working across academic and other institutions within and outside North America.

Whether you are interested in presenting your research, organizing a session, or volunteering your time and skills, we welcome your participation. We look forward to creating a welcoming, lively, and impactful conference together. Stay tuned for further updates! Please reach out to [Dominika Baran](mailto:dominika.baran@duke.edu) with questions about how you can participate.

2. Membership Drive: Invest in Our SLA Community

We're committed to building a stronger, more international, and more inclusive SLA. Participants in the SLA Futures event emphasized mentoring and accessibility, especially by making more of our publishing and programming easier to access for graduate students and international scholars—all of which has been at the forefront of the work outlined in this newsletter.

But this work requires financial support. A little-known fact about the SLA is that a large majority of members are students. Yes, you read that right: most members of the SLA are student members who pay a flat \$10 annual fee. We treasure our student members, and the low student fee is by design. The value they bring through their enthusiasm, contributions to student paper prizes, and active participation in mentoring is immense. It's a testament to the health and vibrancy of our discipline that students show up in this way.



Pie chart courtesy of Netta Avineri.

That said, to sustain and grow our organization as well as to continue to grow new initiatives, we need more non-student members to support these initiatives. Faculty membership is \$55. If you fall into this category, please make sure to renew your membership.

DID YOU KNOW? You can also donate to the SLA quickly and easily by choosing the “Sustaining Member” option when you renew!

Indeed, for those who are able, we hope you will consider becoming a Sustaining Member for \$100. This support is crucial not only for maintaining the financial health of the association but also for ensuring we can continue to provide valuable resources and opportunities for our younger members.

We are one of the biggest sections of the AAA, and we want to keep it that way. How can you take care of graduate students, develop mentoring, support virtual programming, and improve accessibility? Invest in your community and keep your AAA membership up to date by adding a section membership to the SLA!

Let’s support the membership and our younger members to maintain the financial health of the association and continue growing our vibrant community.

3. Announcing SLA’s New Member-at-Large

The results of the most recent AAA/SLA election are in, and our new Member-at-Large will be Karl Swinehart. In learning of the news, Karl writes:

I am honored to serve my colleagues in the SLA in the role of member-at-large. I am an associate professor of social semiotics and the Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Comparative Humanities at the University of Louisville, in Louisville, Kentucky and a long-time SLA member. The SLA is among AAA’s largest sections and has a diverse, engaged, and growing membership. I am committed to the SLA’s support of undergraduate and graduate education and see the member-at-large’s role in the promotion and running of our annual student paper prizes as central to this mission. I look forward to working closely with the SLA President and the Executive Board to advance our organization and to support our membership at all career stages. Thank you for your support and trust in electing me to this role.

Karl will be rotating into his position in late November, replacing Lynnette Arnold, whose three-year term will then come to an end. Please join me in thanking Lynnette for her stellar service to the SLA and in wishing Karl a great tenure in this position.

4. Three New SLA Positions Filled

Three positions, which grew out of members' suggestions over the last year, have been filled!

Jennifer Delfino (jdelfino@illinois.edu) will serve as our Mentoring Coordinator.

Recall that this position aims to help junior scholars become more familiar with the SLA and offer mentoring opportunities for junior scholars and mid-career professionals at both academic institutions and related industries. Jennifer will work to expand the mentor-mentee network, which involves managing check-ins for mentors-mentees when necessary and pairing new mentors and mentees. Coordination work will also include maintaining and updating the database (i.e. spreadsheet) of current mentor-mentee pairings. The coordinator will also plan at least one in-person mentoring event and one virtual event annually. Finally, the coordinator will conduct an annual SLA mentorship survey. The mentoring coordinator will serve a two-year term. Please join me in thanking Jennifer.

Steven Black (sblack@gsu.edu) will serve as SLA's Accessibility Coordinator.

In this role, Steve will take the lead in planning, promoting, and— in collaboration with members of the extended SLA Board—implementing measures to increase access to all SLA events and publications (including but not limited to the journal, newsletter columns, and digital communications). Accessibility is broadly conceived to facilitate greater participation and opportunities at every level for historically marginalized groups, with particular emphasis on disability, region of residence, language backgrounds, and inequalities based on socio-economic class, race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and sexuality. In addition to working closely with the SLA executive board to increase and expand access, the SLA accessibility officer will liaise with the AAA Coordinator for Accessibility, Meetings and Conferences, and other AAA sections where appropriate. The Accessibility Coordinator will serve a two-year term. Many thanks to Steve for leading this important work.

Andy Graan and Rafadi Hakim are SLA's new Virtual Programming Coordinators.

Consistent with the SLA's interest in sharing and extending the reach of linguistic anthropological scholarship and doing so in accessible ways, the SLA encourages and supports virtual programming. This is particularly important to expand the reach for those who are not able to attend in-person events, such as the AAA conference and the SLA conference. While virtual programming will not replace a biennial conference, it can and will supplement it in impactful ways. Many thanks to Andy and Fadi, who share some of their plans below!

5. Note from the New SLA Virtual Program Coordinators



Left: Rafadi "Fadi" Hakim, Right: Andy Graan

Hello from new our new SLA Virtual Program Coordinators, ANDREW "ANDY" GRAAN and RAFADI "FADI" HAKIM:

Dear Colleagues,

We are thrilled to join the SLA as its **virtual program coordinators** and look forward to bringing meaningful and engaging online events and activities to the SLA community.

Just a few short words about ourselves:

Andy is a Core Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies at the University of Helsinki. His research in North Macedonia has focused on the politics of public spheres. Currently, he is writing about project making and the past, present, and future of the project form. Over the past few years, he has been active in the European Association of Social Anthropologists' Linguistic Anthropology Network, or ELAN, working with colleagues to foster community among linguistic anthropologists living, studying, working, and researching in Europe.

Fadi is a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow at the University of Chicago. His ethnographic research in eastern Indonesia has focused on how gender, kinship, and religion emerge as relational categories through uses of language. He has coordinated interdisciplinary workshops and virtual data sessions to cultivate a sense of community among researchers in semiotics and linguistic anthropology at the University of Chicago.

Over the next academic year, we will be producing online content that responds to the broad interests and needs of the SLA's membership. Our planning is still in progress but, in general, we imagine this online forum as a space for: professionalization and mentoring workshops, writing workshops, workshops on methodology, and public discussions of social justice issues and contemporary political problems.

We have our own ideas brewing, of course. But we also love to collaborate. So, if you have an idea for an online program that you would like to be involved in, please let us know! You can reach us by email at: andrew.graan@helsinki.fi and hakimf@uchicago.edu

We will announce a schedule of our 2024-25 events in autumn 2024. We hope to see you online!

Best wishes,
Andy and Fadi

Follow us on our social media channels and visit our website to stay up-to-date with all things SLA.



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