

Introduction to the thematical section: Articles from SSK 2015

*Karen Trier Clausen & Bente Kristensen
University of Copenhagen*

karentrierclausen@gmail.com, b.kristensen.privat@gmail.com

Student Conference of Language Sciences

The Student Conference of Language Sciences (Den Sprogvidenskabelige Studenterkonference, SSK) is a conference for and by students. Since its inception in 2013, the goal has been to create a space for students to cultivate their common interest in linguistics outside formal university education.

Working academically can become a quite isolated affair. Therefore, it is important to meet across course groups, institutes and universities to share our knowledge, our ponderings and our enthusiasm. And to see how wide a field linguistics is. Even though our studies have a common denominator, language, we have very different approaches and interests. Perhaps a student from a different discipline or tradition asks you precisely the question that throws new light on a project you are working with. And perhaps a presentation can inspire you to venture into new areas.

SSK is the only conference of its kind at Danish universities. We welcome BA and MA students with an interest in linguistics or language(s) who want to communicate their knowledge on a scientific level. Perhaps you have an essay or a project that deserves more than being archived in your desk drawer? We arrangers of SSK can promise that the conference will give you more than a grade or a pass/fail. As a presenter, you get the opportunity to present a linguistics project to a room full of language-interested students, teachers and researchers. And after each presentation, there is time for questions and discussions. During the conference day there are ample opportunities for discussing, chatting and meeting new people. As is the case also for other serious conferences, all submitted abstracts for this conference are assessed and selected according to criteria concerning relevance and quality. As arrangers we also emphasize and try to ensure that the conference reflects as many facets of linguistics as possible.

The conference is run by a group of volunteer students who share an enthusiasm for language research. By being part of the arrangement committee, we obtain experience with all aspects of arranging a big scientific event. SSK contributes to creating an active linguistic environment for organizers and presenters as well as participants.

The next conference will be held in the autumn of 2016, for the fourth time in a row. At last year's SSK (2015) we had eight presenters with very diverse backgrounds. The topics of the presentations ranged from sociolinguistic differences in pronunciation to language philosophical questions; and from the spread of the Indo-European proto-language to new language technology. We also heard

about Greek graffiti during the crisis in Greece, the Danish-Argentinian language, pronunciation differences of /s/ and /t/ among young girls in Copenhagen, the different meanings of the verb *averci*, the language of deconstruction, the Danish demonstrative *der* and challenges to machine translation posed by African American Vernacular English.

Articles in *Language Works* from SSK 2015

This issue of *Language Works* contains two of the presentations from SSK 2015 in the form of finished articles: Georgios Stampoulidis' *Rethinking Athens As Text: The Linguistic Context of Athenian Graffiti During The Crisis* and Rasmus Petersen's *Derrida og dekonstruktionens sprog* [Derrida and the language of deconstruction].

Georgios Stampoulidis investigates the political graffiti in Athens. The study is based on fieldwork, during which Stampoulidis over six months documented the ever-changing graffiti in Athens. His fieldwork involved participant observation among a group of graffiti artists and qualitative interviews with them. Through qualitative analyses of five graffiti pieces, Stampoulidis shows how the interplay between text and images expresses political messages. This demonstrates how linguistic and visual factors together can act as a means of communication for subcultures with a political agenda. Thus, this investigation belongs to the sociolinguistic area of linguistics.

Linguistics and philosophy have an age-old connection, and it is in this cross-field that Rasmus Petersen's article moves. Petersen takes the reader on a journey through language, consciousness, time and semiotics by discussing thoroughly the thoughts on language and meaning of two of philosophy's giants, Husserl and Derrida. The article discusses how Derrida reads Husserl's analysis of signs, and how Derrida attempts to show that Husserl is influenced by traditional metaphysics.

SSK 2016

The next Student Conference of Language Sciences, "Den Sprogvidenskabelige Studenterkonference 2016" will be held on Friday, November 4th, 2016 at the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at Copenhagen University. If you already have ideas or plans for a presentation, or if you want to participate in arranging the conference, please write the arrangers at ssk@hum.ku.dk. We look forward to welcoming you to SSK 2016!