

UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum
Minutes of the AGM, Birmingham,
10 September 2009

17:00 – 18.00

Present: Ben Rampton (Chair); Janet Maybin (Minutes); Sabrina Billings, Mahtab Janfada, Tony Deyes, Julia Snell, Fiona Copland, Sara Shaw, Jude Fransman, Paolo Sorzio, Annalisa Mastroviti, Carey Jewitt, Sam Kirkham, Sophiaan Subhan, Ian Siebörger, Miranda Nomand, Yvonne Fowler, Cathie Lacey, Ian Nakamora, Ann Maria Relano, Lavro Mijares, Ursula Nolan, Lian Malai Madsen, Martha Sif Karrebiele, Laura Espelt Hernandez, Federica Caruso, Celia Roberts, Mayu Konakahara, Angela Creese, Joke Dewilde, Peter Brannick, Adam Lefstein, Frances Giampapa.

1. Apologies

Max Spotti, Tom Van Hout, Vally Lytra.

2. Minutes of 2008 AGM

Accepted without amendments.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

4. Officers' reports

a. Convenor

Ben Rampton briefly reviewed the UKLEF aims, its continued growth and its activities over the last year. These have been closely linked with the ongoing ESRC-funded *Ethnography Language & Communication* research training programme, which focuses on advanced research methods for social scientists integrating ethnography with language and communication research. There have been 21 day events organised under the ESRC-funded programme 2008-09. Past graduates from the programme Summer School organised the Aston University conference 2008 *Advances in Ethnography, Language and Communication*, and a second conference *Explorations in Ethnography, Language and Communication* at Aston University, 10th-11th September 2009.

UKLEF contributed a Colloquium at BAAL 2009 2nd-5th September.

BR also reported on the consultation process with BAAL over the drawing up of a SIG handbook; the UKLEF committee has scrutinised and discussed the draft received from BAAL, and submitted comments.

b. Treasurer

Credits and debits were briefly discussed. The report has been sent to BAAL for auditing. It was noted that BAAL is encouraging SIGs to build up reserve funds, to pay for speakers and cover any unforeseen contingencies.

c. Meetings Secretary

A number of seminar proposals were received from members, in response to the call sent out 11th December 2008. For various reasons, none of these have been held this year. One day seminars in preparation for 2010 include 'Ethnographies of Academic Writing in a global context' (Theresa Lillis, Open University) and 'Multilingual literacies' (Marilyn Martin Jones, University of Birmingham).

It was agreed to follow up the other suggestions for seminars received, to see if any support could be offered to bring these to fruition.

Discussion about LEF's contribution to BAAL 2010 should also be initiated soon. LEF contributed a colloquium in 2009, and so will be providing a track for 2010.

d. Communication Secretary

The website has been redesigned and the membership list and members' records and contact details have been brought up to date. There are currently 250 members from over 100 different institutions across the world, including 11 members from the United States, 7 from Australia and members from various European countries, Turkey, New Zealand and Israel.

Jeff Bezemer was congratulated on the new website.

5. Plans for 2009-10

a. Academic meetings

It was agreed that suggestions for future meetings should be invited on the Website and by email.

Meetings funded within the ESRC ELC-programme and advertised at www.rdi-elc.org.uk include:

- Friday 18th Sept 2009, 10.00-16.00. London Knowledge Lab. 'New Media: analyzing representation and communication in digital environments'.

Other events being planned include:

- Friday 27th November, 14.00-17.00 King's College London 'Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology: a Trans-Atlantic dialogue.'
- a seminar at the University of Birmingham on teaching and learning linguistic ethnography

Ideas for other kinds of events included a seminar on the challenges for monolingual researchers working with multilingual data, and data sessions. It was suggested that institutions which already run data sessions regularly might consider opening them up to wider participation.

b. Projects

BR reported that the ELC project (which is closely linked to LEF) will continue to run their five day Summer School *Key Concepts and Methods* when ESRC-funding comes to end in March 2010. The next Summer School will be held in London, 19-23 July 2010.

6. Elections

Ben Rampton was thanked for acting as convenor since UKLEF was formally constituted in 2003, and for providing such strong leadership for the SIG over the last 6 years. Jeff Bezemer and Janet Maybin were also thanked for their contributions to LEF as they stepped down from their posts.

The following members were elected for 2 years 2009-2011:

- Convenor: Jeff Bezemer
- Communications Secretary: Tom Van Hout
- Ordinary members: Sara Shaw

7. AOB

None.