

**Minutes of UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum's AGM  
King's College London, 12 October 2006.**

Present: Celia Roberts, Jeff Bezemer, Adam Lefstein, Theresa Lillis, Manuel Palomares-Valera, Janet Maybin, Angela Creese, Ben Rampton (chair), Vally Lytra (minutes).

1. Apologies: Karin Tusting, Richard Barwell, Kate Pahl.
2. Minutes: accepted as correct record.
3. Matters arising from the minutes: JM asked a clarification regarding item 5 in the minutes. BR explained that BAAL allows SIGs a choice between either a colloquium or a track of individual papers. For BAAL 2006 it was agreed to have a track of individual papers (see items 4c and 5a below for further discussion).
4. Officers' reports: All reports were circulated previously.
  - a. Convenor's report: BR thanked Karin Tusting for her major all-round contribution to setting up LEF, and for the marvellous work she had done establishing the web site and e-list. He also thanked Richard Barwell for his excellent work as treasurer of LEF.
  - b. Treasurer's report: It was agreed that the same financial strategy regarding seminar costs will be followed in order to keep participants' fees low but ensure that there is a small surplus to cover any losses and to build modest reserves.
  - c. Meetings coordinator's report: AC briefly reported on the events organised last year.
    - i. JM & AC raised the issue of which events were to be labelled as LEF events, with LEF taking credit in organising them, and which weren't. AC gave the example of the seminar she co-organised with Tim MacNamara on the Linguistic Ethnography Forum discussion paper at the U of Melbourne. It was agreed that this seminar constituted an LEF event but it would be necessary to establish a new category for "LE related events". It was agreed that the seminar JM attended and presented at in Gent could fall under this new category.
    - ii. AC also raised the issue of what the LEF's line will be vis-à-vis BAAL. AL reported that this year's LE track included a series of interesting papers, but that it somewhat lacked the kind of SIG-specific imprint that other SIG tracks had. AC mentioned that the only input LEF had on this year's LE track was that members of the LEF steering group reviewed the abstracts. It was agreed that at least one member of the LEF steering group should be present at BAAL but it was acknowledged that this year it was difficult due to the fact that BAAL took place in Ireland, soon after SS16 which had also taken place in Ireland.
    - iii. CR raised the issue of whether it would be worth considering writing up the papers presented at the LE colloquium at SS16 for publication in order to raise the profile of LE further. BR who co-organised the colloquium with VL suggested that the papers be placed on the LEF's website. VL said that if the participants were interesting in pursuing this further she would be willing to support them. It was agreed that as a rule panel convenors should ask participants at the end of the colloquium whether they would like to put together their papers for a publication, though of course the roles and responsibilities involved in doing so would be open for discussion. The option of posting the papers on the LEF's web-site remained.
  - d. Communications secretary's report: There was a short discussion about how membership was broken down and that it would be useful to review this information regularly.
5. Plans for 2006-07:
  - a. Academic meetings:
    - i. David Poveda's proposal for a seminar on "Linguistic Ethnographies of children and youth" to be held at the U of Madrid in the spring was discussed. MP explained that the purpose of this seminar would be to raise the profile of LE in Spain where a lot of the research on children and youth has a developmental psychology orientation. The proposal was very well received. Questions were raised as to the organisational role of UK LEF in this seminar. It was agreed that JM will liaise with DP and MP to help with the planning of the seminar and that this would be marked as a joint UKLEF and U of Madrid seminar. Also, it was agreed that if deemed useful, UK LEF should have the option

- of providing a returnable £200 float for the seminar. Lastly it was suggested that the seminar could have some events in English and some bilingual (English and Spanish) events.
- ii. BR described a proposal by Rob Moore (U of Chicago and currently in Ireland) for an event on the topic of “From endangered minority languages to the dangerous languages of the new minorities”, to take place in Ireland some time this coming academic year. The event had so far been discussed between Rob Moore, Michael Silverstein, Jan Blommaert and Ben Rampton. The proposal was received well although participants felt there was a need for more information: What would the ethnographic perspective of the event be, what format would it take, and what would UK LEF’s role be?
  - iii. Since both proposals were about events outside the UK it was agreed that AC puts out a call for seminar proposals though the e-list for UK-based seminars.
  - iv. BR circulated a proposal for a BAAL seminar on the intersection of ethnography and multimodality by Rosie Flewitt, Lesley Lancaster and Kate Pahl. It was agreed that if they didn’t get BAAL funding for it, LEF would be happy to support it.
  - v. For BAAL 2007 it was agreed that a call for suggestions for a LEF colloquium should be put out via the LEF e-list. If no viable suggestions were forthcoming, then LEF would go again for a track of individual papers. It was agreed that it would be useful if the call for papers for the track included a short description of the purpose of the track in order to achieve better coherence. The call for track of individual papers would go via the LEF e-list as usual.
- b. Publications:
- i. BR reported on the Special Issue of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics* that he is co-editing with Janet Maybin and Karin Tusting, based on the 2005 BAAL colloquium.
  - ii. AC reported that the paper she had written on LE and circulated among the LEF steering group members for the Encyclopaedia of Language and Education (Kluwer) had been accepted.
- c. ESRC Research Development Initiative
- BR described the ESRC-funded training scheme in “Ethnography, language and communication” (£100,000, 2007-09), and thanked LEF members for a number of contributions to the development of the successful bid (e.g. responding to the questionnaire circulated prior to drafting the proposal). JM asked what the relationship between LEF and the training scheme would be. BR suggested that the training scheme might use LEF’s website to post the training materials, that there was to be a one-day event for teaching LE and that he envisioned an increase in membership and participation in LEF as a result of the training scheme. There was some discussion about checking procedures that will need to be established if there is a link between LEF and the training scheme (and what kind of link that would be) or whether this endeavour will remain a primarily KCL/IoE activity only. AF suggested that this and other issues raised regarding the training scheme be reviewed in 6 months time as the training scheme will start in January 07.
6. Elections: All candidates were elected unanimously, so that the Coordinating Committee will comprise:
- Convener (2005-07): Ben Rampton
  - Treasurer (2006-08): Theresa Lillis
  - Communications Secretary (2006-08): Jeff Bezemer
  - Meetings Coordinator (2006-08): Angela Creese
  - Ordinary Member (2005-07): Vally Lytra
  - Ordinary Member (2006-08): Janet Maybin
7. AOB: There was no other business.

VL  
13/10/06