History

The inaugural SALTED committee consisted of Jessica Rett (Inaugural Chair), Ezra Keshet (Interim Chair), Lucas Champollion, Mitcho Erlewine, Valentine Hacquard, and Mary Moroney. Its committee membership consists of its chair (the SALT Diversity Coordinator, an elected position) and several committee members, chosen by the chair and ideally including at least one student, serving staggered two-year terms.

Mission Statement of the SALTED Committee

The SALT Equity & Diversity committee is charged with helping make semantics and pragmatics more equitable and diverse.

Organizational Structure of the SALTED Committee

The SALTED committee is chaired by the SALT Diversity Coordinator, an elected position on the SALT Steering Committee as of 2022. The committee should ideally consist of 4-8 members, selected by the SALT Diversity Coordinator in consultation with the current committee. An effort should be made to achieve inclusive representation of social identities that have been traditionally underrepresented in academia or semantics.

At least one member of the SALTED committee will ideally be a student, although nonstudent members on the committee can and should work with student members to minimize unnecessary administrative work on the part of the student when it does not interfere with that student's representation on the committee.

Committee membership is two years, with staggered terms spanning the calendar year. The Diversity Coordinator is a one-year position, unless changed by the SALT steering committee. Committee members are especially encouraged to run for the Coordinator position.

Vision for SALT-adjacent Workshops

SALTED Workshops are venues for semanticists to learn about and discuss methods of advancing equity and diversity in the fields of semantics and pragmatics. This goal could take many forms: broadening the subject matter taught in classrooms and textbooks; bringing more object languages into current research; considering different points of view, different cultural, ethnic, and religious heritages, and differences that often emerge from socially constructed characteristics and group memberships of individual researchers; or making the field more accessibility generally. Each SALTED Workshop will by necessity focus on only one aspect of this larger goal, and will be conducted in a way that is accessible to scholars both within and adjacent to the field of semantics.

As an example, in 2020 the SALTED committee organized a SALT-adjacent workshop dedicated to inclusive teaching. This term refers to the ways in which pedagogy, curricula and assessment are designed to engage students in learning that is meaningful, relevant and accessible to all. This can involve practices like creating an equitable welcoming classroom climate, empowering students across a wide range of personal and social backgrounds to learn collaboratively and across differences and connecting concepts taught to students' personal background and experience. This workshop was an opportunity to hear from some colleagues who have relevant experience applying inclusive teaching concepts to linguistics, and to have structured and respectful conversations about the topic and learn from each other's views and experience.

SALTED is committed to supporting these Workshops as an annual event, and will work with the local organizers to facilitate this as much as possible. And while local SALT organizers are free to organize special events as they see fit, we ask that local organizers who wish to organize and advertise events under the SALTED label meet with the SALTED committee early on in the organizational phase to coordinate the topic and logistics.

Practical / organizational details for SALT-adjacent Workshops

We recommend that all SALTED organizers consult with the [REIL Guidebook](#) for organizing inclusive conferences. Special notice should be taken of the resources needed for [language and audio accessibility](#), as they can sometimes require substantial cost on the part of the organizers.