

ACAL in SoCAL

Selected papers from the 53rd
Annual Conference on African
Linguistics

Edited by

Yaqian Huang

Nina Hagen Kaldhol

Jun Jie Lim

Sharon Rose

Anthony Struthers-Young

Contemporary African Linguistics 11



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Preface

The 21 papers in this volume were presented at the 53rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics, hosted by the University of California San Diego from April 7–9, 2022. The conference was held online due to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In recognition of UC San Diego’s location in Southern California, colloquially known as ‘SoCal’, we chose to title the volume *ACAL in SoCAL*. We regret that our conference participants were not able to visit SoCal in person and appreciate all it has to offer.

ACAL53 featured 85 talks, and four invited talks by plenary speakers. The invited speakers were:

- Pius Akumbu (LLACAN - INALCO)
- James Essegbey (University of Florida)
- Fridah Kanana Erastus (University of Nairobi)
- Gertrud Schneider-Blum (Cologne University)

We take this opportunity to thank them once again for their contributions, which showcased the varied facets of research on African languages and linguistics, and stimulated lively discussion. Pius Akumbu’s thoughtful and reflective article challenging current community-based language documentation practices is featured in this volume.

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We gratefully acknowledge funding support from the UC San Diego Linguistics Department, the UC San Diego International Institute, the UC San Diego School of Social Sciences, and the Association of Contemporary African Linguistics. This funding enabled us to run the conference and prepare the proceedings volume.

Numerous members of the University of California San Diego Linguistics Department helped with running the conference, including website design, poster creation, Zoom and Discord setup, abstract review, monitoring the online sessions for technical difficulties, and organizing volunteers. The core team consisted of Yuan Chai, Emily Clem, Yaqian Huang, Nina Hagen Kaldhol, JJ Lim, Sharon Rose and Anthony Struthers-Young. Special thanks to Yuan Chai and Anthony Struthers-Young for designing, creating and maintaining the website (acal53.ucsd.edu) and to Helen Tadesse for designing the ACAL53 logo.

Other members of the department who provided key assistance were:

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Of the 28 papers submitted for inclusion in the volume, 21 were accepted for publication, three were rejected and four were withdrawn by the authors following review. Publication of the *Selected Papers from the Annual Conference on African Linguistics* relies on the expertise and willingness of reviewers to assess submitted papers and ensure high quality. We are extremely grateful to fifty-three reviewers who submitted thoughtful and helpful reviews. They are listed below.

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