

## **CALL FOR PAPERS...**

Special Issue of **Corpus Linguistics & Linguistic Theory**

Titled: **Corpus Linguistics & Sociolinguistic Inquiry**

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### **Overview**

There are many methodological overlaps between corpus-based approaches to linguistics and the central pursuits of sociolinguistic inquiry, especially in the variationist paradigm of sociolinguistics pioneered by William Labov (e.g., 1963, 1966), with its interest in the systematic, quantitative analysis of real-world language use. Despite these overlaps – representative samples of language use, a focus on frequencies of use and probabilities in distribution – there is less interaction between the fields at the theoretical level than might be expected.

Sociolinguists have rarely considered their work as falling within corpus linguistics, and most sociolinguistic work falls short of the large-sized data requirements and quantitative rigor maintained by corpus linguists. At the same time, sociolinguists often describe their data collections as “corpora”, but with a few exceptions (e.g., Poplack 1989; cf. Kendall 2008) these sociolinguistic corpora tend to fall short of the definition maintained by corpus linguists (true balancedness, representivity, machine-readability; cf. McEnery and Wilson 2001, McEnery, Xiao, and Tono 2006). Meanwhile, much research undertaken in a sociolinguistic vein by corpus linguists tends not to be embedded enough in social practice to have traction among many sociolinguists. Despite a handful of attempts to draw sociolinguists to existing corpus linguistic work (e.g., Bauer 2002, Anderson 2008), few corpora have been developed by corpus linguists that fully meet the needs of sociolinguists, or are robustly adequate for examining a wide range of sociolinguistic questions (cf. Kretzschmar et al. 2006, Beal, Corrigan, and Moisl 2007a, b).

This special issue of *Corpus Linguistics & Linguistic Theory* explores the nexus of these two fields and highlights some of the best current work that aligns sociolinguistic inquiry with robust corpus-based analytic techniques. As a part of this exploration, it seeks to chart a way forward for better collaboration and communication between the two fields.

### **Call for Submissions**

Submissions are solicited for this special issue of the journal *Corpus Linguistics & Linguistic Theory* (cf. <http://www.degruyter.de/journals/cllt/>), which publishes original corpus-based research on a range of theoretically relevant topics in linguistics. Preferred submissions for the issue will address corpus linguistic principles and methods (e.g., McEnery and Wilson 2001, Gries 2009) *as well as* central questions in sociolinguistic theory (e.g., Labov 1994, 2001; Chambers 2003) and/or substantive sociolinguistic research.

Please send a 300-500 word abstract to the guest editors at [t-kendall@northwestern.edu](mailto:t-kendall@northwestern.edu) with the subject “CLLT issue” by no later than October 1<sup>st</sup> 2009. Invitations to submit full papers will be sent one to two weeks after the abstract deadline.

Projected timeline:

October 1, 2009: abstracts due

October 14, 2009: decisions on abstracts, invitations to submit full papers

February 1, 2010: papers due

May 3, 2010: final revisions due

November-ish 2010: publication

## References

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