

International Systemic Functional Linguistics Association
Annual General Meeting
Live plus ZOOM meeting 5 July 2024
minutes

Present: Derek Irwin, Meg Gebhard, Mick O'Donnell, Yaegan Doran, Joshua Han, Mira Kim, Pauline Jones (minutes), Wang Pin, Paul White, Daniel Fryer, Awni Etaywe, Souranil Paul, Sawsan Aljahdali, Alison Moore, Gail Forey, Edward McDonald, Hana Elghoul; Dongbing (Mus) Zhang, Long Li, Charlotte Hommerberg, Marina Manfredi, Miliane Vieira, Rachel Adlington, Shooshi Dreyfus, Sonya Molnar, Louise Ravelli, Akila Sellami, Phoebe Siu, Donna Miller, Adegboye Adeyanju

Apologies: Marta Filipe Alexandre, Helen Caple, Nick Moore, Teresa Oteiza, Makoto Sasaki

1 Minutes of the 2023 AGM – acceptance deferred for one week to give attendees time to read them. As no comments or corrections were received, minutes of previous AGM are taken as accepted.

2 Matters arising:

Action from Treasurer's Report: on North American account, executive committee to liaise with NASFLA.

We have been unable to confirm that the North American ISFLA account is still accessible, and so agreed that it is no longer active. The last update seems to be from 2007, so we would suggest either a new NA account, or the closing of this NA, depending on the outcome of discussions of ISFLA funding below. Meeting resolved that matter will be left with new executive.

3 Outgoing Chair's Report:

I am extremely grateful to be back at an ISFC in person, as well as very honored to have been able to serve as chair through the pandemic and into what feels like a new era. The message that Gillian Moss delivered in her plenary was precisely what several of us were speaking about the night before at the conference dinner: our community is a wonderful one, with a level of support and honest admiration for good scholarship that should be the envy of many other professional academic circles, and it is my sincere hope that the new executive is able to fulfil the objectives of ISFLA, which are addressed in the Constitution but essentially revolve around supporting SFL scholarship and scholars around the world, ensuring that SFL and this congress is made available to people in different regions.

There are many important endeavors which have taken place over the last year, which are reflected in our regional associations offering their important seminars via Zoom (and I have greatly enjoyed the ESFLA and ASFLA papers I was able to join) but also through the efforts of the online Systemic Functional Linguistics Interest Group (look them up on Facebook!) and the important and continuing work of the Halliday and Hasan Archive project which just shared the amazing news of its inclusion in the Australian National Library, but which can still use all of our support for the digitization part.

This does bring me to the matter I flagged at the last AGM, which is the funding model for ISFLA, an issue exacerbated by the increasing difficulty of being able to have surplus conference funds put back into the common accounts. We will raise this as a discussion item shortly, but I would encourage the new executive to think about this important matter, and how to use the funds that we do have most effectively. How ISFLA works with regional associations is also worth discussing, and I do believe there is an important place for our organization as a way of bringing together the fantastic SFL work taking place all over the world, and to continue to support its growth into new areas with different languages and linguistic concerns. It might also be a productive idea to look towards the concerns of

the regional associations, particularly as reflected in Special Interest Groups, to see if the international association might develop its own SIGs.

In sum, my very deep thanks for allowing me to serve as the ISFLA Chair, and I look forward to supporting the new executive as they take us forward!

- 4 ISFC UNSW Report** - Mira Kim reported a successful conference with 101 onsite and 25 online delegates. She acknowledged the work of the 12-member committee who reviewed over 200 abstracts with 186 being finalized for the program. She thanked the 26 student volunteers who worked very hard to ensure a smooth registration process, chairing, feeding us all, and sorting technology for parallel presentations. The 2024 congress tried some new processes, including:
- (a) Selection of plenaries based on their work relevant to the conference theme with a view to balancing experienced and less known scholars. One plenary was delivered by an early career scholar (Phoebe Siu, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University)
 - (b) The lunchtime Early Career Cafe provided opportunities for early career scholars to interact with experienced SFLers over topics such as networking in specific fields (multimodality and visual communication, health and medical settings, educational linguistics), for doctoral students to discuss candidature processes, to receive advice about publishing for journals and preparing book proposals.

Book raffles, ISFC mugs and a secondhand book shop raised over \$500 for the Halliday Hasan archive.

The chair expressed deep appreciation to ISFLA organizing committee for the excellent conference.

5 Report on the upcoming congresses:

2025. Glasgow, UK (convened by Tom Bartlett)

2026. North America (An expression of interest received from Dr Francis Troyan from Ohio State University).

2027. Asia (call for expressions of interest).

2028. Latin America.

2029. Australia.

2030. Europe.

6 Proposals or Discussion:

6.1 *ISFLA Finances discussion*: Should we consider collecting ISFLA membership fees as part of the conference registration fees? Two points were made in the discussion around this issue:

- ISFLA has no means of raising funds outside of the congress (profits are usually passed to the relevant regional account) yet has a commitment to supporting SFL activities around the world.
- Universities hosting the congress have different policies and in the case a university taking all the profits, this levy would be returned to ISFC.

These points were linked to a broader discussion about how ISFLA funds might be best distributed. New executive to consider this proposal further.

6.2 *Nomination and Election of the new ISFLA Committee*:

A call for nominations was circulated via the listserv one month prior to the AGM and none were received in advance from outside of the committee. The following initial proposal was put forward by the executive:

Executive Committee

Chair: Meg Gebhard

Deputy Chair: Yaegan Doran

Membership Secretary: Marta Filipe Alexandre

Recording Secretary: Pauline Jones

Treasurers: Nick Moore (Europe)

N. America likely suspended

Nominations from the floor? (Australia)

International Committee

Australia: Shooshi Dreyfus

China: Pin Wang

Europe: Carlos Gouveia

Japan: Makoto Sasaki

Latin America: José David Herazo

North America: Andres Ramirez

Ex-Officio Members

Past Chair: Derek Irwin

Upcoming Conference Convenor: Tom Barlett

Past Conference Convenor: Mira Kim

Moderator of Syfling: Marta Filipe Alexandre

ISFLA Web manager: Mick O'Donnell

The Chair then asked for any nominations from the floor as alternatives to these roles.

- Akila Sellami commented that she had been asked by the search committee to nominate for the role of Deputy Chair. Yeagan happily withdrew his nomination. Akila was placed on the slate.
- Sonia Molnar was nominated for Australian secretary, which she accepted.

The modified slate was voted on, and unanimously accepted.

After this vote, Akila Sellami raised the issue as to whether the committee could be expanded with a representative for Africa (see report below), and as a result, Hana Elghoul was nominated as the African representative, a vote was held, and Hana was appointed unanimously.

The newly elected committee is thus:

Executive Committee

Chair: Meg Gebhard (North America)

Deputy Chair: Akila Sellami (Africa)

Membership Secretary: Marta Filipe Alexandre (Europe)

Recording Secretary: Pauline Jones (Australia)

Treasurers: Nick Moore (Europe)

N. America (tba)

Sonia Molnar (Australia)

International Committee

Australia: Shooshi Dreyfus

China: Pin Wang

Europe: Carlos Gouveia

Japan: Makoto Sasaki

Latin America: Rodrigo Esteves de Lima-Lopes

North America: Andres Ramirez
Africa/North Africa: Hana Elghoul

Ex-Officio Members

Past Chair: Derek Irwin
Upcoming Conference Convenor: Tom Barlett
Past Conference Convenor: Mira Kim, Peter White
Moderator of Syfling: Marta Filipe Alexandre
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7 ISFLA Treasurers' reports

7.1 Nick Moore (Europe): 9,588.60 GBP carried forward from last report.
7.2 Yaegan Doran (Australia): AUD \$12,277.44
7.3 North America (as above)

8 Regional news and welcomes:

General: Some discussion re regional representation took place. According to the constitution, the association can have up to 9 representatives from various regions.

- Souranil Paul raised the matter of reinstating representation from the Indian association and will investigate this with executive members of the previous SFL Association of India.
- Sawsan Aljahdali reported that there is a lively Saudi Arabian movement and are planning to form an SFL association soon.

NASFLA: The next Graduate North American SFL Association meet will be in March 2025 in conjunction with AAAL, which will be held in Denver Colorado with support from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

ASFLA: The Halliday-Hasan Archive has been accepted by the National Library of Australia, an amazing achievement due to Helen Caple and her team. ASFLA is still looking for funds for digitalization of the materials before they are passed over to the institution.

Also, next year, the M.A.K Halliday prize program will be running so please look out for information about how to nominate books for the program and spread the word.

ESFLA: Gail Forey reported that the association has recently held three online seminars which will be available shortly on the YouTube channel set up by Mick O'Donnell. The ESFLA conference is taking place in Romania next week (10-12 July 2024).

Africa/North African news: Akila announced that the chapters have been collected for the Proceedings of the 2023 ISFLA conference for publication as an open access volume in late 2024/early 2025

9 Other business:

9.1 *Should we strengthen the ties of the regional reps with the regional associations?* This agenda item was not addressed as such; instead, continuing matters raised in agenda item 8, discussion focused on how ISFLA might provide support to regional associations. The new chair, Meg Gebhard, from NASFLA, volunteered to support others in developing a community of SFL scholars and practitioners in their regions. For example, see the NASFLA website:

<https://www.nasfla.org/>. This page has developed steadily over the years by each president with the support of their students. Highlights include:

- An annual meeting at AAAL (the American Association of Applied Linguistics)
- An easy donation tab
- A link to minutes for the annual NASFLA meeting
- An easy way of registering online to become a member
- Contact information for current members
- A Promising Scholar Award Certificate given each year at AAAL
- Announcements
- A Facebook group
- A Newsletter called Meaning Potential, which comes out right before AAAL and the Annual Meeting of NASFLA.
- A map of where SFL courses/research are taking hold in the US and Canada.
- A link to the Graduate NASFLA Conference, a student run conference that moves around the region.
- A resource page:
 - o Calls for papers, jobs, videos, webinars, SFL related links
 - o A bibliograph of scholarship produced by NASFLA scholars
 - o A list of quotations
- If anyone wants more information, please contact Meg Gebhard, gebhard@educ.umass.edu