

International Systemic Congress Annual General Meeting

Minutes
July 17 and 18, 1992
Macquarie University
Sydney, Australia

Michael Cummings chair (in Eija Ventola's absence)

AGENDA

Thanks

Upcoming Systemic Congresses

North America: Canada 93

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Other Countries: China 95

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Secretary - Treasurer Report

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New Network Editors

Announcements (meetings of interest)

Old Business

Other Business

I. Thanks

Sincere appreciation and thanks were extended to R. Hasan and her devoted staff and colleagues for the time and effort they devoted to putting on this year's Congress.

II. Upcoming Systemic Functional Congresses and other meetings:

- 1992 July 31 - August 3: Fourteenth Nottingham International Systemic Workshop. Contact: Parsons
- 1993 Jan 10-14: Australian Systemic Functional Lx Summer School, Adelaide. Contact: Poynton. Visa required for international participants.
- Jan 15-17: Australian Systemic Functional Lx Conference, Adelaide. Contact: Poynton. Visa required for international participants.
- June 17-20: TENTATIVE DATES. Third Biennial Chinese Systemic Conference, Hangzhou, China. Visa required for international participants. Contact: Ren
- July 5-16: Pre conference Course for ISFC:20, Vancouver, BC Canada Contact Mohan. Visa may be required for international participants..
- July 19-23: Twentieth ISFC, Victoria, BC Canada Contact Mohan (program) and Fulton.(local arrangements) Visa may be required for some international participants.
- July late?: Fifth Nottingham International Systemic Workshop, Madrid. Contact: Downing
- 1994 Aug 1-5: Twenty-first ISFC, Ghent, Belgium Contact: Anne Marie Simon Vandenberg
- 1995 July ? Twenty-second ISFC, Beijing, China and Chinese (Biennial) Systemic Conference. Visa required for international participants. Contact: Hu
- 1996 July 15-19: Twenty-third ISFC, Sydney Contact: Slade. Visa required for international participants.

Bernard Mohan, from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, called for papers and registration for the 1993 ISFC. He suggested that future communications could best be done by E-mail or Fax as more cost efficient than mailings. Please see that he gets your

E-mail address and/or Fax number. His numbers are: HOME FAX 604-224-5494 (good for short, urgent jobs) and WORK FAX 604-822-3154 (good for anything long or not urgent) and E-mail: BERNARD_MOHAN@MTSG.UBC.CA.

Kristin Davidse reported on ISFC in Ghent in 1994. They have begun organizing and plan to have a summer school prior to the congress as funds would be available from the government in Belgium, and the congress would emphasize functionalism.

Fang Yan, from Beijing, reported on the ISFC in China in 1995. Although it was too early to report on specific plans, photos of the conference site were displayed and all were welcomed to come to Beijing. Fang Yan reported that the local committee would do their best to make the congress a success and our stay a pleasant one.

Secretary Treasurer's Report

Hillary Hillier reported that the ISCC has 1,348 pounds in Great Britain and \$700 in the U.S. (which has been forwarded to Mohan for use in the 1993 Congress). Nan Fries reported that there are 700 names on the mailing list at present.

Ballot / Nominations

Nominations would be held open until the end of the meeting, volunteers were also permissible. Officers serve for a three year cycle. Runners-up must be prepared to serve as alternates and attend meetings at congresses, especially if the elected officer cannot attend.

Nan Fries reported the following nominations for positions on the ISFC

Chair:	Frances Christie
Membership Secretary:	James Benson
Treasurer	Hillary Hillier
Africa:	Akindele
Australia:	David Butt, Louise Ravelli
United Kingdom:	Martin Davies, Erian Davies, Margaret Berry
Canada:	Gordon Fulton, Bernard Mohan
China:	Hu Zhuanglin, Fang Yan
Europe:	Erich Steiner, Eija Ventola
USA:	Peter Ragan, Carolyn Hartnett
Other areas of the world:	Johnathan Fine, Amy Tsui

There was some question of the need to purge the mailing list due to the high cost of mailings by Ruqaiya Hasan. No motion.

A motion was made by Christie (seconded by Fawcett) to thank the retiring chairman, Eija Ventola, who would, of course, stay on the committee as past chair and the two retiring committee members, Michael Cummings and Nan Fries.

New Network Editors

With the good news of a new set of editors (Christian Matthiessen and James Martin, Linguistics Department, University of Sydney, 2006, NSW, Australia) was the not so good news that the cost of postage from Australia would necessitate an increase in price to \$ 20 Australian for surface mail.

Members were encouraged to keep up their subscriptions, their expiration date can be found on their mailing label.

MAK Halliday moved to thank the old editors and especially Managing Editor, Nancy Fries.

Announcements

Kristin Davidse (for herself, Dirk Noel and Anne Marie Simon-Vandenberg) reported on the possibility of financial backing by Benjamin's of an International Journal of Systemics or possibly a yearbook.

The following issues were discussed:

- 1) a journal would be more prestigious and dynamic and circulate more quickly and with greater impact.
- 2) what theoretical profile should the journal have: more functional, commercial or clearly systemic. Should it appeal to other functional schools of linguistics.
- 3) what's in a name? the journal by any other ... Suggestions included *Network: A Journal of Functional Linguistics*
- 4) It was suggested that the editor be located in Belgium, close to the publisher, but the importance of an editorial board and a large advisory board was stressed.
- 5) If Benjamin's follows through, the first issue would be timed with the Belgium conference.
- 6) a call for articles would go out in *Network*, the theme to be broadly systemic.

MAK Halliday and F. Peng reported on the progress of the publication of the papers from the Tokyo ISC. These would make an excellent set of ready to publish papers for the new journal. The problem is the long lead time, i.e. not till '94. Alternately a book brought out sooner would be good publicity for the journal. Other backup plans are available and they will be contacting the authors of the Tokyo proceedings.

R. Fawcett plans to discuss strategies on publishing in the Oct/Nov *Network*. Although publishers like Benjamin's are not so interested in publishing conference papers, both publishers and libraries are interested in books with unified themes. However, would publishing only theme oriented volumes be unfair to those whose presented papers are only published in what would then be the less prestigious conference proceedings. He proposes to form a small committee to further discuss this and other ideas as something separate from the journal.

R. Hasan spoke to the issue of this congress producing several thematic volumes such as educational linguistics, social semiotics, discourse analysis, and companion volumes on grammatical description and theory. She asked authors to use the style sheet for *Occasional Papers in Systemic Linguistics*. Authors who wish to submit papers for consideration in these volumes should get a copy of their papers to her by August 30. Hasan pointed out that she and her editorial committee reserved the right to review all papers which were submitted for publication.

J. Lemke, as associate editor of *Linguistics and Education*, also solicited papers for that journal.

Lemke also announced the book from the 1990 congress *Advances in Systemic Linguistics, Recent Theory and Practices*.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Hasan reported that 205 people had registered at ISFC:19. (29 Student registrations, 30 daily registrants, and 146 registered for the full time)

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

MAK Halliday offered to start a fund and suggested that some part of conference fees could be earmarked to provide funds for those otherwise unable to attend. Should such funds be banked as capital for some years so that the interest only would be usable. Who would be responsible for receiving such funds and their dispersal? Perhaps organized by the committee of each congress? This idea was moved and seconded.

Other issues.

Should we declare ourselves an association with membership fees?

Should this money be used to buy advertisements in other journals?

Who should be asked to vote on the above suggestion, all the names on the mailing list? or just those who register for the next conference.

Should this be an optional item on the registration form, e.g. \$1.00 or \$5.00 to go toward grants for others to attend.

*****meeting was adjourned until 4:50 tomorrow *****

Minutes of continuation of AGM 7/18/1992

Halliday motion withdrawn.

Hasan (seconded by Lemke) moved that the newly elected International Systemic Congress Committee appoint an ad-hoc committee to explore the desirability and the ways and means of constituting ourselves into an association. Should the ad hoc committee find that such an association is desirable, it should present such a recommendation together with its recommendations for a constitution to the AGM of the next ISFC.

Discussion followed in which various areas of concern were voiced. These areas of concern included

- a. the relation of the association to the journal which is being proposed,
- b. the relation of the association to *Network*
- c. Where would the association be located? and what would its international status be?
- d. How could people who live in countries with currency problems pay for membership and become members?
- e. Can computer networks such as BITNET and INTERNET etc. be used to make it easier to communicate internationally?

Motion carried unanimously

