

Language Policy BAAL SIG AGM

Date: Thursday 1st September 2022, 12.30-1.30pm

Location: Queen's University Belfast

Chair: Florence Bonacina-Pugh (FBP)

Apologies received from: Elisabeth Barakos, Iker Erdocia, Stephen McNulty, Abhi Sharma, Diana Camps

Attendees: Florence Bonacina-Pugh, Katya Saville, Hao Zhang, Nicole Marinaro, Cecilia Gialdini, Michele Gazzola, Martina Deleino, Anna Stanisz-Lubowiecka.

Minutes taken by: Katya Saville

1. Session was declared quorate as there were more than 4 members present
2. Conveners' report (co-convened by Dr. Florence Bonacina-Pugh & Dr. Elisabeth Barakos)
 - a. FBP reminded attendees of the aims of the SIG
 - nurture **a community of practitioners and scholars** interested in the theory, methodology and practice of Language Policy processes
 - create **opportunities for dialogue** between the research community, practitioners, policy makers and the wider public
 - stimulate **critical and socially responsible enquiries** into national, European and international policy issues including but not limited to examining the linguistic aspects of the pursuit of social justice
 - foster **knowledge-sharing and collaboration** amongst language policy scholars working within different paradigms by organising various colloquia and events
 - further the **creation of research tools and resources** to enhance our analyses, understanding and critiques of policy texts, discourses and practices.
 - b. Then she reminded us of who is holding the different roles in the SIG and that the posts for Treasurer and Secretary are up for re-election. (more details to follow)
 - **Co-Founders and Co-Convenors:** Elisabeth Barakos (University of Hamburg) Florence Bonacina-Pugh (The University of Edinburgh)
 - **Secretary:** 2019 - Diana Camps (University of Glasgow)
 - **Treasurer:** 2019 - Iker Erdocia (Dublin City University)
 - **Events secretary:** 2020 - Stephen McNulty (The University of Edinburgh)
 - **Communications secretary:** 2020 - Abhi Sharma (Jawaharlal Nehru University)

- c. FBP reminded us of regular events. There is usually a language policy forum event held annually but this was cancelled this year (for reasons outside the committee's control). On May 27th & 28th 2021, this was successfully held online through Bishop Grosseteste University, with Professors Wendy Ayres Bennett and Jo Lo Bianco presenting keynotes.

There are also a number of SIG highlighted presentations at BAAL this year.

New members were encouraged to sign up to the ListServ and to encourage others and also to use the @langpolicy handle on twitter as this is also active.

3. Secretary's report sent in by Diana Camps

- a. This highlighted that membership continues to be free and this was clarified by FBP as being irrespective of BAAL membership.
- b. There are currently over 500 members from 46 countries (511 as of 15.8.22), a slight increase on 2021.

4. Treasurer's report: sent in by Iker Erdocia

- a. The financial situation of the Language Policy SIG is healthy. There had been an aim to build a £5000 reserve and this goal had been reached so the goal will now be to build our reputation further by funding new activities.
- b. Ideas for events include: postgraduate training, workshop, and forums, although the last option is costly.

5. Events secretary's report: Stephen McNulty

- a. We were reminded of the successful language policy forum (LPF) in 2021 and the sadly cancelled forum planned for this year.
- b. The focus now is for preparing the call for hosts for Language Policy Forum 2023, which will be announced in due course.

6. Communications secretary's report: Abhi Sharma

- a. Abhi has been keeping up with maintenance of the website: www.langpol.ac.uk; mailing list: <https://jiscmail.ac.uk/LANGPOL> and the committee mailing list.
- b. We were reminded to follow and use the handle @langpolicy on twitter, as this has 652 followers, a growth of over 100 in the last year.

7. Future events

- a. FBP informed us of upcoming elections due for the roles of Treasurer and Secretary and that these will be held online from now on as this was seen to be much fairer. Members are encouraged to apply and the request was made for further clarification

to be made on what the roles entailed. FBP responded that the membership secretary manages the costs of the LPF events and makes sure everything is up to date, deals with publishers at the LPF events. However it is also a very flat committee, so decision making is made generally by all committee members, facilitated by the committee mailing list.

- b. Further points regarding finances were clarified – that the main source of income is the LPF events which has led to the current surplus.
 - c. FBP shared the proposal of the committee to make LPF a biannual rather than annual event as it is time-consuming. Therefore the next LPF will be next year in 2023, then 2025 and in 2024 there will be a focus on other types of events e.g. seminars with guest speakers or workshop events.
LPF 2023 will be face to face and in September or October at the earliest, but the committee is open about the 2024 events at this point.
 - d. The LP SIG committee suggests having an online reading group, perhaps 5 or 6 times annually, where a paper is chosen by the organiser, perhaps inviting the author to join, and a discussion will be hosted on the topics or debates raised.
 - e. Another suggestion for LPF 2023 will be to sponsor a prize for best paper.
8. FBP made a final reminder that joining the SIG is free and doesn't depend on BAAL membership and that a member doesn't need to be affiliated to a university. BAAL members do enjoy discounts on events. Anybody interested in joining the SIG should go to : <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/langpol>. More info on how to use the mailing list can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/langpol/join?authuser=0>
 9. FBP reminded us that there will be a Call for hosts for LPF 2023 announced imminently via the mailing list. If any non-UK institutions are interested in hosting, they should clarify with the committee first (in response to a question from the floor). Hosting involves appointment of a local chair with 2 or 3 colleagues who are then supported by Stephen McNulty in his role as events secretary. In response to a further question, FBP highlighted that selection criteria used to look at applications include topics, accessibility and inclusion. Criteria for selection will be specified in the call for hosts.
 10. A suggestion from the floor was made to perhaps include a news section and a resource sharing section of the SIG website, where other useful websites could be listed. This could be based on the LP SIG. Traditionally this is done within the Language policy SIG via the Listserv but some wanted this to be available permanently on the website as well. FBP reminded us that papers, books and grants are often advertised through the email list as well as looking for partners for collaboration. There have also been some popular debates about language policy related issues through the list serv.
 11. A further idea from the floor was to perhaps offer a forum for people to share or exchange drafts of papers they are writing, perhaps in a workshop format. FBP extended the request that if someone could come forward to organise these, this would be very welcome.

End of Minutes.

