

Monday December 14th

Annual General Meeting of the Language Policy Special Interest Group (British Association of Applied Linguistics)

14:00 GMT

AGM

1. Minutes of the 2019 AGM
2. Matters arising
3. Amendment to the Constitution and Committee, changing 'Membership secretary' to 'Secretary'. This is due to requirements from the bank holding the SIG account.
Motion passed.
4. Report of the year from the committee
5. Election of officers: Communications Officer, Events Organiser. [Click here to access the secret ballot](#). Term of office is 3 calendar years. *Supporting statements are provided below.* (NOTE: only BAAL members are eligible to vote.)
votes for Merryn 7
#votes for Abhimanyu 11
votes for Stephen 13
votes for Josep 5
6. Any Other Business
7. Notification of next AGM

Supporting statements for election candidates

Candidates for Communications Secretary

1. Merryn Davies-Deacon

As an early-career researcher with a recent PhD that considers language policy in the context of language revitalisation, I would welcome the opportunity to connect with other researchers in the field and become more integrated into the wider community.

I'm experienced with the technologies required for this position, having used Google Drive, Docs and Forms extensively over the past few years including shared folders and documents.

Having held voluntary administrative positions in the past, including most recently as the librarian of a community orchestra, I'd love to take the opportunity to bring these skills to a more directly career-related context.

2. Abhimanyu Sharma

I graduated with a PhD in linguistics from the University of Cambridge in 2019, and am currently working as an Assistant Professor in German Linguistics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU). My doctoral thesis was on a comparative analysis of language policies of the EU and India.

In Cambridge, I was an active member of the Cambridge Bilingualism Network and assisted in co-organising various events related to bi- and multilingualism. Moreover, in order to promote sociolinguistics in Cambridge, I founded a sociolinguistics society last year. Besides organising talks, I designed the society's website and ran an academic blog on various sociolinguistics related topics.

If elected as the Communications Secretary of the Language Policy SIG, I will ensure a timely and efficient communication about the Group's events, and address any issues related to the website. Moreover, I plan to launch a monthly newsletter containing language policy news from around the world. Finally, I would also like to introduce a monthly email containing featured articles and/or books of the month on LP so that the works of our (LP) scholars get maximum visibility.

Thank you for considering my nomination.

Candidates for Events Secretary

1. Stephen Joseph McNulty

I wish to express my profound interest in standing for the position of Events Organiser.

I am a 3rd Year PhD Student at the University of Edinburgh and my research relates directly to the field of language policy: being an examination of language policing practices on social media, as well as wider language policy issues related to minority languages in France. Therefore, the research interests of the SIG deeply resonate with me, and I had the pleasure of presenting at its second conference, which I thoroughly enjoyed – not least of all, because I had the chance to meet your friendly committee!

Furthermore, during my time at Edinburgh, I have been fortunate to gain significant experience in running various successful events, including the 2019 Linguistics and English Language PG Conference, the 2nd Scots@Ed Seminar and the Language in Context (LinC) Seminar Series.

In the LEL PGC, I was responsible for choosing, inviting and catering to the needs of the conference's plenary speakers, reviewing submitted abstracts, and acting as contact person for all presenters and attendees.

For Scots@Ed, as part of a 4-person committee, I contributed to designing the format of this grassroots seminar, applying for funding, setting up online booking forms for catering, and facilitating seminar events.

Finally, I have jointly co-ordinated LinC for almost three years, having contributed to its revival in 2018. This has involved rebranding the series, establishing and managing mailing lists, designing and scheduling seminars and networking sessions, and inviting speakers – including successfully securing funding in order to invite external speakers.

Being involved in these events has been extremely enjoyable, and I believe the experiences I have had – as well as my enthusiasm for the field – will help me to effectively carry out the post of Event Organiser. It would be a true honour to be considered!

2. Josep Soler

I would like to stand for the position of Events Secretary of the BAAL LP SIG. First and foremost, I would like to offer myself as a candidate providing continuity to the excellent work that has already been conducted in terms of events organised by the SIG, but also bringing in my personal contribution with new ideas to enhance the work of the group. In the past, I have been intensely involved in large-scale transnational networks, such as the COST Action on ‘new speakers of minority languages in Europe’; my experience gained as part of that project should, indeed, be of help in my role as Events Secretary.

In terms of research interests, my work falls within the scope of language policy and language ideology. In recent years, I have examined in some detail questions pertaining to the language policy side of the internationalisation of higher education, looking at the tensions that arise (institutionally and individually) from the spread of English at universities worldwide. Even if less centrally, I have also been interested in the language ideological implications of family multilingualism. Finally, I keep an interest on the sociolinguistics of minority/minoritized languages, with Catalonia as a primary focal context.

In sum, I believe I can fulfil the role of Events Secretary in an excellent manner, and that I can thus contribute to the SIG more broadly in a positive way. I was fortunate enough to attend the first conference of the SIG in Sheffield (2018) and could witness first-hand the relaxed and optimistic atmosphere, and the socially-just commitment of this collective. I would be thrilled to become more integrally involved with the group.