

Foreword

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The Minimalist Parameter: Selected papers from the Open Linguistics Forum, Ottawa, 21–23 March 1997

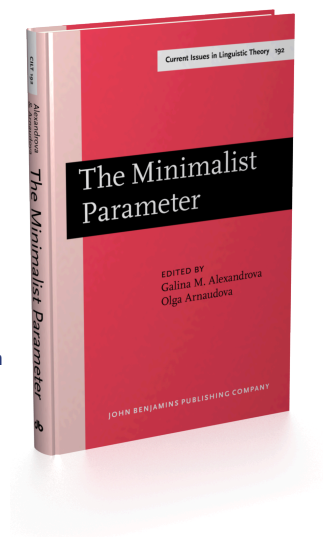
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FOREWORD

Minimalism, justifiably thought of as a generative framework 'in the making', thus, in a sense, as a parameter of linguistic theory, originates with work by Noam Chomsky in the late 1980s, which spans the 1990s (cf. *The Minimalist Program—Minimalist Inquiries—Derivation by Phase*), and has triggered in response numerous proposals consistent with or alternative to tendencies it follows or anticipates. The wide variety of 'parallel' proposals is illustrated in the present volume of articles deriving from papers read at the "Challenges of Minimalism" session of the Open Linguistic Forum (OLF), held in Ottawa, 21–23 March 1997. The Ottawa meeting of OLF (which started out as a graduate student initiative) attracted a wide audience, with international participation. The program included keynote addresses by Mark Baker, Denis Bouchard and Howard Lasnik, as well as twenty regular papers and six poster presentations.

For assistance with an optimal selection of conference abstracts and/or for reviews of submitted articles thanks should go to Željko Bošković (University of Connecticut), Denis Bouchard (Université du Québec à Montréal), Réjean Canac Marquis (Simon Fraser University), Andrew Carnie (University of Arizona), Marcel den Dikken (City University of New York), Nigel Duffield (McGill University), Eithne Guilfoyle (University of Calgary), Hisatsugu Kitahara (Keio University), Virginia Motapanyane (University of New Brunswick, St. John), Kumiko Murasugi (Carleton University), Robert Orr (University of Ottawa), Anna Maria di Sciullo (Université du Québec à Montréal), John B. Whitman (Cornell University), Ewa Willim (Jagiellonian University, Kraków), C. Jan-Wouter Zwart (University of Groningen).

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In conclusion, the support of two other people should be acknowledged: Anke de Looper, who enlisted the project on behalf of the Publisher, and E.F.K. Koerner, CILT Series Editor of long standing, who stayed with it from day-one.

The present volume is the product of a variety of contributions over a length of time, and it is to be hoped that the effort invested is proportionate to the result.

Ottawa, May 2001
The Editors