

Foreword and Acknowledgments

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Variation within and across Romance Languages: Selected papers from the 41st Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL), Ottawa, 5–7 May 2011

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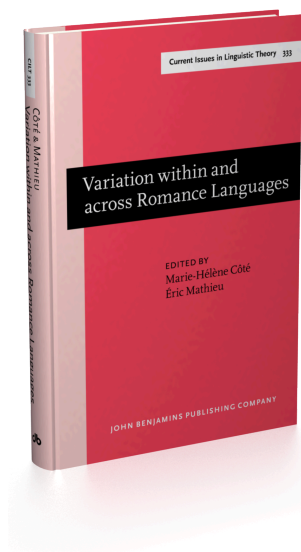
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Foreword and Acknowledgments

The Department of Linguistics at the University of Ottawa was proud to host, for the first time in 21 years, the 41st annual meeting of the Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages (LSRL), May 5–7, 2011. No presentation of LSRL is necessary: it is by now a well-known annual conference of international standing, widely acknowledged to be the most prestigious and selective forum worldwide in the field of Romance linguistics, whose contribution to the discussion and dissemination of research in all areas of linguistics as they apply to the Romance languages has been widely influential over the years.

In addition to standard conference presentations in the major domains of linguistics (e.g., phonology, syntax, semantics, sociolinguistics), LSRL 41 in Ottawa featured a special parasession on “the acquisition of Romance languages: theoretical and experimental issues”, targeting the interaction between formal and experimental approaches to the analysis of Romance languages. Keynote speakers included Yves Roberge (University of Toronto), Tobias Scheer (Université de Nice), Rena Torres Cacoullos (Pennsylvania State University) and William Snyder (University of Connecticut), as well as Bethany MacLeod, an outstanding graduate student from the University of Toronto, who was chosen as invited student speaker (a new feature of LSRL 41). We thank them for their contribution to the success of the conference.

The successful organization of LSRL 41 owes much to the dedication of numerous people. We would like to express our gratitude to the following sponsors for their generous support of LSRL 41 and without whom the conference could not have been held at the University of Ottawa: the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Research Management Services and the Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa, with special thanks to Antoni Lewkowicz, Dean and Lucie Hotte, Vice-Dean Research. The help of Jeanne D'Arc Turpin, Administrative Assistant, Department of Linguistics, was invaluable in all matters organizational. LSRL 41 would not have been possible without the energy and hard work of the student members of the LSRL Organizing Committee: Lorenzo Patino, Méliissa Chiasson and Yukiko Yoshizumi. We are also grateful to the many student volunteers who graciously gave their time to ensure the success of the conference: Isabelle Benoît, Christie Brien, Stephanie Cherry, Karine Cyr, Karine Groulx, Laura Kastronic, Julien Léger, Richard Léger, Martine Leroux, Claire Leroux, Claire O'Brien, Joe Roy, Ariane Séguin, Keren Tonciulescu and Lia Walsh. We would like to thank our colleagues Shana Poplack for her special contribution to the organization of the conference and Laura Sabourin and Tania Zamuner for

the organization of the parasession. Finally, thanks to all speakers, invited and regular, for making LSRL 41 such an enjoyable intellectual experience.

LSRL has a long tradition of bringing out selections of the best papers in the “Current Issues in Linguistic Theory” series, created and since its inception edited by E.F.K. Koerner and published by John Benjamins of Amsterdam & Philadelphia. This publication, which disseminates the latest theoretical and experimental developments in Romance linguistics, is highly influential and enjoys worldwide distribution. The present volume provides a collection of the best papers presented at the conference and showcases the latest developments in linguistic theory and their application to the Romance family, focusing on variation. Variation is a very current topic. It has been in the limelight in recent years because any linguistic theory that aspires to explanatory adequacy must offer a satisfactory answer to the question of why and how languages vary. The 20 papers included in this volume were rigorously refereed. We thank all the reviewers as well as Professor Koerner, his advisers, and the support team at John Benjamins for their work. Finally, we thank Gita Zareikar for compiling the index.

Québec
Ottawa, July 2014

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