

# Introduction

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from the Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages  
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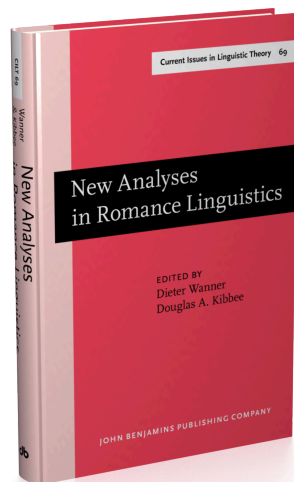
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## Introduction

The eighteenth edition of the *Linguistic Symposium on Romance Languages* brings together a set of interesting, important and challenging papers on very diverse aspects of the Romance languages and Romance linguistics. They are a true reflection of the current state of Romance studies in North America and of the particular outlook among the international group of contributors and participants to LSRL on what constitutes a thriving research front. The many problems addressed here find a unity of goal in the central importance accorded to formal questions. The actual spread of positions on a given formal issue will again be considerable, as derives from the realities of current linguistic discourse. These concerns radiate from a number of conceptual centers along vectors of innovative exploration, capitalizing on the rich range of data and previous analyses characteristic of the Romance tradition.

This eighteenth volume in the series of annual conference proceedings reunites papers written by scholars active in North America, Europe and Oceania, fitting them into one intellectual quilt of analytic endeavors in Romance languages. The predominant dynamic perspective is synchronic, but the group of seven historical and typological papers amounts to a strong presence. Several papers demonstrate a rather pronounced tendency to treat the group of Romance languages not only as a well-defined, almost exclusive research province, but to move from Romance phenomena outward to other language types, even to genuinely universal dimensions. Other contributions maintain a more circumscribed outlook which allows them to exploit the properties of the typological closeness of some or all of the Romance idioms documented in many diachronic, diatopic and diastatal instantiations.

The unconstrained fertility of multiple approaches, subjects and linguistic materials renders any detailed content oriented ordering scheme for these twenty-one articles arbitrary. With not too much controversy the two broadly conceived groupings of Phonology and Morphology on the one