

Foreword

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Hospitable Linguistics: Alternative, Indigenous and Critical Approaches to Language Research and Language Encounters, edited by Nicholas Faraclas, Anne Storch and Viveka Velupillai, is the fourth volume in our series Global Forum on Southern Epistemologies. The first volume is *Decolonial Voices, Language and Race* (Makoni *et al.*, 2022); the second, *Shades of Decolonial Voices in Linguistics* (Makoni *et al.*, 2023); and the third, *Foundational Concepts of Decolonial and Southern Epistemologies* (Makoni *et al.*, 2024). The objective of this series is captured well in our volume *Black Linguistics* when we state that, in *Black Linguistics*, ‘we are seeking to celebrate and create room for insurgent knowledge’ (Makoni *et al.*, 2003: 1).

This volume can be read as part of a serious effort to decolonize linguistics and the humanities. As seen in this volume, like other volumes in the Global Forum in Southern Epistemologies, we are acutely aware that the decolonization of Western academe is complicated by the mutability of coloniality and that decolonization of disciplines may be made more difficult because disciplines cannot be successfully decolonized unless the societies in which the disciplines are situated are decolonized as well.

In this volume, the editors and contributors grapple with what Mary Louise Pratt (2024) refers to as the ‘crisis of futurity’, in which we, as knowledge makers, when looking forward to the future, are cognizant that the past is not a reliable guide. Thus, we need to dispense with certainty, predictability and generalizability; instead, we need a new form of intellectual imaginary that embraces the ‘certainty of uncertainty’, giving way to a search for the ‘laws of nature’ and being audacious when facing ‘lawless nature’.

The ‘crisis of futurity’ creates both disturbing possibilities and exhilarating opportunities. This is a moment of urgency and passion, encouraging exuberant and reckless experimentation that involves ‘taking risks, taking chances, trying new things, and thinking outlandishly and ambitiously’ (Pratt, 2024), as reflected in this volume and the series of which it is a part. The ‘crisis of futurity’ also creates ideas about scholarship, some of which are captured in this volume, and encourages us to develop other ‘waves of knowing’ (Ingersoll, 2016) as we grapple with the coloniality of linguistics and language research.

The concepts that form the basis of this volume are predicated on efforts to think with and through radical and plural heterogeneity. The objective of the volume and the *Global Virtual Forum*, of which it is a part, is to create a diverse

epistemological planetary commons in effect and design, perhaps captured through the notion of ‘pluriverse’ and not ‘universality’.

Implicit in the decolonization of scholarship is an argument that needs to be foregrounded – that everyone on the planet is affected by coloniality. The difference is the degree, nature and type of that colonization. We argue that decolonization is beneficial not only to scholarship or communities that are subject to settler or extractive coloniality but also to scholars in the Global North.

References

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