

European Systemic Functional Linguistics Association Report 2006

There has been a regular European meeting since the 1980s, stemming from the annual meeting in Nottingham, organized by Margaret Berry as an opportunity to discuss in greater depth issues raised at the main Congress. In 1993 the meeting went regional, with a meeting in Madrid, followed by Antwerp, and after that in many European countries. In 2002 the informal organisation behind the conference was made slightly more formal, with Geoff Thompson elected as founding Chair, Robin Fawcett as Treasurer, and a number of committee members appointed.

During the 2004 meeting, the association decided to name the association as the "European Systemic Functional Linguistics Association" (ESFLA). At the same time, the meeting was renamed the "European Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference and Workshop".

1. Officers and their email addresses.

Chair: Geoff Thompson, Liverpool (geoff9@liv.ac.uk)

Treasurer: Robin Fawcett, Cardiff (rp.fawcett@virgin.net)

Members of the committee:

David Banks, Brest (David.Banks@univ-brest.fr)

Erich Steiner, Saarbrücken (e.steiner@mx.uni-saarland.de)

Eija Ventola, Helsinki (ventola@mappi.helsinki.fi)

Ex officio:

Carys Jones, London (carys.jones@kcl.ac.uk)

Chris Taylor, Trieste (ctaylor@univ.trieste.it)

2. Reports of past meetings and upcoming meetings.

July 2004:

16th Euro-International Systemic Functional Workshop:
"Language and Literacy", Miraflores.

August 2005:

17th Euro-International Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference and Workshop: “Exploring meaning-making: field and the ideational”, Kings College London.

July 2006:

18th Euro-International Systemic Functional Linguistics Conference and Workshop: “Systemic-functional Linguistics at the Frontier: thresholds and potentialities of SFL as a descriptive theory”, Gorizia.

3. Any publications such as journals.

Two volumes of collected papers from the Miraflores conference are in preparation, the first will be released late 2006: “Language and Literacy: a functional perspective”, with papers from Halliday&Hasan, Christie, Martin, Coffin, Polias/Dare, etc.

A collection of papers from the London conference is currently being prepared.

Geoff Thompson at Liverpool took over the distribution of the Nottingham Systemic Publications, with the existing stock kindly donated free by Margaret Berry. As part of the re-launching of the series, the possibility of restarting the Occasional Papers in Systemic Linguistics is being investigated.

4. Other group activities.

In 2003, a workshop sponsored by BAAL/CUP and designed as a follow-up to the Systemics Congress on System and Corpus held in Liverpool in 2002 was organised in Liverpool.

5. How many members do you have

Any person who attends the Conference/Workshop is entitled to membership of the Association, so estimates of

membership must be notional at best; but roughly 200 scholars around Europe appear to have at least a fairly central interest in SFL and attend SFL conferences and/or congresses on a reasonably regular basis.