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Editorial

The story so far

Ampersand was launched in summer 2014 to provide a 'sound science' open-access platform for publications which serves the breadth of the formal, empirical and applied linguistics community, and is supported by a reputable publisher. At the time of writing (May 2015), we have received around 100 submissions covering a wide range of topics in all areas of linguistics; nine articles have been published and are accessible free of charge at: http://www.journals.elsevier.com/ampersand/recent-articles/.

Covering the breadth of linguistics

Ampersand invites submissions from across the discipline and of various types, including, for example: research articles, short communications, case study reports, critical commentaries, reports of negative results, book reviews. In particular, *Ampersand* aims to promote the publication of research that does not find a natural home elsewhere (e.g. because it does not fit the scope or publication format of other linguistics journals). We therefore strongly encourage the submission of papers relating to any of the following:

- **Community-focus papers** which describe the phonological, morpho-syntactic and/or discourse-pragmatic characteristics of local and/or regional varieties of any language, with the aim of providing state-of-the art descriptions of the targeted varieties, preferably including downloadable audio files. (Please contact Editor Kevin Watson to discuss your ideas for such publications.)
- **Impact-/application-oriented research** which demonstrates the societal, economic or other values of linguistic research for both linguistic and non-linguistic as well as academic and non-academic audiences, with the aim of showcasing the non-academic value of linguistic research and fostering outreach activities. (Please contact Editor Heike Pichler to discuss your ideas for such publications.)
- **Software demonstrations** (e.g. transcription or concordance software) which describe the utility of an application, illustrate its benefits, provide step-by-step and illustrated instructions for its use and implementation, and, crucially, critically assess how the software has been used in the field, with the aim of facilitating their use and application across the linguistics community. (Please contact Editor Heike Pichler to discuss your ideas for such publications.)
- **Reports on inter-disciplinary research on language issues** which communicates findings pertinent to both linguists and non-linguists, and does not naturally fit in single-discipline journals, with the aim of fostering collaboration and dialog across disciplines. (Please contact the Editor responsible for submissions in your field of linguistics to discuss your ideas for such publications.)
- **Special issues** on any topic in linguistics, consisting usually of an introduction by the guest editor(s) and four to six individual research articles related to the issue topic. (Please contact the Editor responsible for submissions in your field of linguistics to discuss your ideas or work-in-progress for such publications.)

We are particularly keen to receive publications which exploit the on-line, **multi-media publishing format** of *Ampersand*. This format makes it possible to publish alongside the written text e.g. audio- and video-clips, corpus data or large datasets, thus greatly benefiting the field by making the research process and analysis more accessible, more transparent and more easily replicable.

Open access

One of the key distinguishing features of *Ampersand* is that all articles published in the journal are open-access, i.e., they are free for everyone to read, download and distribute without any access charge. The journal's open-access feature has the potential to considerably increase the impact of the research described, benefiting not just authors (potential increase in citations) but also fellow scholars (easy access to relevant articles) and the general public (access to state-of-the-art research findings).

(Please note that on acceptance of their paper, authors are asked to pay a one-off open-access publication fee currently discounted to US $600. For details on license agreements and more information about *Ampersand*'s open-access format, please see: http://www.elsevier.com/journals/ampersand/2215-0390/open-access-journal.)

Serving our authors

A key aim of *Ampersand* is an efficient turn-around for authors. We strive to communicate decisions to authors within 6 weeks of receipt of submissions; where delays are unavoidable in the reviewing process, we will always keep authors informed of potential delays and their estimated duration. At the moment, the average time to first decision is under 30 days and we continually evaluate our workflows and processes to ensure our authors get the best possible experience. Beginning in June this year, *Ampersand* authors will benefit from a new faster-proofing workflow. Authors will have their proofs generated within 24–72 hours of acceptance, thus accelerating the speed to publication and

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Thank you

We would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have already submitted their papers to *Ampersand*, and hope that many more will follow their lead. A special thank you also goes to our reviewers and members of the Editorial Board who have provided valuable feedback and helped us achieve an efficient handling process for authors.

Editorial team

H. Pichler — sociolinguistics, pragmatics.

R. Truswell — syntax, semantics.

K. Van de Poel — applied linguistics.

D. Van Olmen — historical and cognitive linguistics.

K. Watson — phonetics, phonology.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the editorial office or visit the journal's website at: www.elsevier.com/locate/amper.

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