

Linguistics

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

28 April 2015

Prof. Cheryl Regehr, Vice President and Provost

Dear Dr. Regehr,

As you know, New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV44), the premiere conference in the study of language variation and change, will be jointly hosted by the University of Toronto and York University in October 2015.

Our theme is *Intersections*, a motif that focuses on major threads of research in language variation and change over the past half-century and also encourages fresh insights by integrating this research with linguistic theory, language acquisition, historical linguistics, language documentation, and other disciplines. The invited speakers, who have enthusiastically agreed to participate, are listed below.

NWAV embraces many strands of research, with projects in many languages and on topics spanning language contact, linguistic theory, bilingualism, identity and society. It engages with contemporary and historical data and draws on methods from speech sciences, computer science, sociology and anthropology. NWAV44 will build on this interdisciplinarity, providing a venue for enhanced communication across many research areas and institutional units.

For the past several years, NWAV has attracted 250–360 scholars, including leaders in the field of language variation and change, and sociolinguistics more generally. We anticipate upwards of 350 attendees in 2015, providing an important venue for student researchers from both York and UofT to showcase their work and receive feedback from international leaders in these fields. NWAV44 is not only a great opportunity to promote UofT and York and their world-class departments, but also to promote Toronto as a linguistically diverse city. We would very much like to encourage those students and faculty at UofT and York who are interested in these topics to participate in the conference.

We have offers of support from some 30 schools and units but are still short of the necessary amount. Your office's support and publicity will be a major contributing factor in bringing about NWAV44: *Intersections*. Will you consider a contribution to support this conference? Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi Nagy, On behalf of the NWAV44 Organizing Committee

Philip Angermeyer, Michol Hoffman and James Walker, Department of Literatures, Languages and Linguistics, York University

Naomi Nagy and Sali A. Tagliamonte, Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto

Anne-José Villeneuve, Department of French, University of Toronto

NWAV 44 *Intersections* – Invited Speakers

Plenary Speakers

Miriam Meyerhoff, Victoria University Wellington

Shana Poplack, Université d'Ottawa

Jack Chambers, University of Toronto

Intersection Speakers

David Adger, Queen Mary University London - syntactic theory

Elizabeth Johnson, U of T - child language acquisition

Benedict Szmrecsanyi, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven - corpus linguistics

Susan Pintzuk, University of York - historical linguistics and information structure

Discussant: **William Labov**, University of Pennsylvania



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