



## **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Friday 04 September 2020, 3:40-4:40**

**Zoom webinar**

### **1. Introduction and apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM and introduced members of the EC. Zhu Hua and Khawla Badwan were confirmed as minute takers.

Present:

Committee: Dawn Knight (Chair, DK), Caroline Tagg (CT), Steve Morris (SM), Glenn Hadikin, Rachel Wicaksono, Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (AHCL), Bettina Beinhoff, Owen Minns, Helen Sauntson (HS), Sal Consoli (SC), Zhu Hua, Gee Macrory, Kristina Hultgren (KH), Ruth Page (RP), Vander Viana (VV), Bernie O'Rourke, Khawla Badwan, Jess Briggs Baffoe-Djan.

Apologies: Nathaniel Owen

Members: there were 61 attendees, as well as the above committee members

### **2. Confirmation of minutes from the 2019 AGM**

No revisions to the minutes of the 2019 AGM were proposed. The minutes were approved.

### **3. Chair's report**

The Chair (DK) reported that the BAAL EC's priority has been to support colleagues and members through the uncertainty and disruption caused by the Covid-19 outbreak. The BAAL 2020 annual meeting at Northumbria University had been postponed to 2021. An alternative online event was organised and held on the same day as the AGM, with the book prize and elections going ahead as normal.

The revised version of the BAAL ethical guidelines is currently underway. DK reported that the revised guidelines can be used extensively, not only in the UK. They are being adapted to respond to recent developments including GDPR and online research.

DK expressed thanks to Tess Fitzpatrick and Li Wei for representing BAAL in ABRALIN's (Brazilian Linguistics Association) online series of lectures and panel discussions (featuring distinguished linguists from around the world). Details of their

papers are as follows (with recordings available on the Abralin ao vivo website, <https://aovivo.abralin.org/en/>):

- **Tess Fitzpatrick:** Learning, sharing and losing words: Applying vocabulary research findings to real world challenges
- **Li Wei:** Trans-ling Language and Cognition: Debates and Directions of Translanguaging Research

BAAL is working closely with affiliated societies to discuss the impact of Covid-19, to ensure support for its members, and to ensure that applied linguistics is represented at a national level. These associations include:

- AcSS (Academy of Social Sciences): sharing best practices.
- AILA (International Association of Applied Linguistics): relaunch of the website and begin to roll out AILA app.
- British Academy: engaging with the issue of Open access and diversity and inclusion. BAAL has a diversity working group and the group will be rolling out some guidance.
- UCML (University Council of Modern Languages)

BAAL responded to the national REF consultation and is listed in the report as a contributor. BAAL is also responding to the call for REF panel member nominations.

DK reported that RiPL (Research in Primary Languages), a white paper on languages at primary school level had been endorsed by BAAL. This was a project funded by the Applying Linguistics fund 2017/2018. It is available here: <https://ripl.uk/policy/>.

DK gave an update on the journal Applied Linguistics, a journal affiliated to BAAL and AILA (current Editors: Anna Mauranen and Christina Higgins, Reviews and Forum Editor: Zhu Hua; BAAL representative on the Editorial board: former BAAL chair Tess Fitzpatrick). DK reported an increase in the journal's impact and its rank order in linguistics journals. The journal continues to have an acceptance rate of 20 per cent. The average time to first decision has been shortened to 29 days.

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

Income and expenditure on the BAAL account, from 1 June 2019 to end May 2020, was presented by the Treasurer (SM). The accounts were approved by the members present.

The overall income is roughly the same (£68,238) as last year (£70,104). The basic trajectory in the past five years have been upwards, suggesting that the association is in a healthy position financially.

A member asked why the membership fee income has gone down. The treasurer explained that differences are due to the change in the reporting period of the administrator from Dovetail to Mosaic and the figure in 2019 was one-off. The 2020 figure is the average.

It was noted that the Chris Brumfit scholarship donation has dropped significantly.

**Action: Discuss how to maintain Chris Brumfit scholarship donation at the next EC meeting.**

SM explained that expenditure has gone down and this resulted in a surplus greater than last year. £10,000 has been earmarked for the Applying linguistics Fund 2019-2020 round. This is an example of how some of the surplus money is being used.

A member asked about the minimal prudent balance and if it is too large. SM explained that the association has a contingency account and that we have been advised by our accountant to put some of the surplus in the account to increase the contingency, as it is important to have a reserve during this time of uncertainty. However, there are plans to spend some of the money to reinvest back to the community.

The chair thanked SM for his 6-year service as the BAAL treasurer.

**5. Update on this year's activities**

**5.1 Applying Linguistics Fund 2019-2020**

KH reported that we received 22 applications which were rigorously reviewed by a committee of EC members. The following projects were awarded funding:

- Setting Research Priorities for English as an Additional Language  
Victoria Murphy, Hamish Chalmers and Faidra Faitaki
- Modelling plurilithic orientations to English with trainee teachers: A comparative international study  
Christopher J Hall, Alice Gruber and Yuan Qian
- 'This is Margate': Community engagement & collaboration on discourses of regional identity and gentrification project.  
Christopher Anderson, Clare Hollister and Eli Thompson

**5.2 BAAL Short-Term Mentoring Programme 2020**

RP gave an update on the mentoring programme. A survey was carried out about mentoring needs among BAAL members in December 2019. Received 113 responses, of which 56% were very or extremely interested in mentoring in a variety of areas. In response to Covid-19, we introduced a short-term mentoring programme in May-July 2020. Seven participants took part. RP ran a webinar for all mentors and mentees (July 2020). Feedback suggested the programme was helpful for goal setting, finding solutions and information and 'out of the box thinking'. RP plans to collaborate with the SIG coordinator (HS) to develop SIG-specific mentoring schemes to take this forward. RP thanked those who took part in the survey and the mentoring scheme.

**5.3 Postgraduate and Early Career Twitter Event 2020**

SC reported three successful Twitter events with Professors Zhu Hua, Li Wei and Victoria Murphy. The impetus is to bring together a PG/ECR community on Twitter.

There was very positive feedback from ECR. SC encouraged members to join Twitter if they have not done so.

## **6 BAAL's offer to the membership 2020-2021**

### **6.1 Plans for the year ahead**

The chair invited members to submit and discuss ideas on supporting members on-line.

Examples are working with SIG to bring SIG online, following successful examples of the Language Learning and Teaching SIG, Language and New Media SIG and PAWBL. Suggestions were put forward among members about a) developing advice on which package/combinations work best, b) reading groups, c) online workshops and d) longer events stretching over a month. LEF is holding a large online conference in September, and will feed back afterwards.

**Action: Discuss these suggestions at the next EC meeting.**

VV introduced the BAAL Research Development Workshop which will be launched this year targeting junior academic members in response to the needs of EC and doctoral students as outlined in the mentoring survey. Two grants of a maximum of £1,000 will be made available to support the workshops and the workshops will be free-of-charge for attendees.

### **6.2 Northumbria 2021**

AHCL gave an update on BAAL 2021 to be organised by Northumbria University, Newcastle, 9-11 September, 2021. He confirmed that it will be going ahead in one format or another. The local organising committee (LOC) is currently exploring three delivery options: face-to-face, blended model or going entirely online.

Plenary speakers remain the same. Abstracts will be rolled over with an opportunity for authors to update them. Call for papers coming soon. The theme of the LOC invited colloquium is confirmed as Linguistic integration of Adult migrations: Policy and Practice.

A member asked when the association will take the decision re the options for BAAL 2021. The chair explained that a decision is likely to be made around November.

A member asked what packages the association is considering if BAAL2021 is going to be delivered online. Alex explained that flexibility is key when considering the package.

## **7 Book prize**

SC reported that the following books have been shortlisted for the BAAL book prize.

- Tim McNamara, Ute Knoch, and Jason Fan, *Fairness, Justice and Language Assessment*, Oxford University Press
- Tim Marr, and Fiona English, *Rethinking TESOL in diverse global settings*, Bloomsbury

- Gabrielle Hogan-Brun and Bernadette O'Rourke, *Palgrave Handbook of Minority Languages and Communities*, Palgrave
- Paula Kalaja and Sílvia Melo-Pfeifer, *Visualising Multilingual Lives*, Multilingual Matters

The authors or editors of the shortlisted books are invited to give a brief summary about their volumes, followed by reviewers' comments read by SC.

The winner is *Palgrave Handbook of Minority Languages and Communities*, Palgrave by Gabrielle Hogan-Brun and Bernadette O'Rourke.

CT thanked SC for coordinating the final stages of the reviewing process and presenting the award in order to resolve the conflict of interest created by Bernie O'Rourke's book being shortlisted.

## **8 Elections to the Executive Committee**

CT and DK thanked the following outgoing Executive Committee members for their hard work and commitment to BAAL during their time on the Executive Committee: Steve Morris, Bernie O'Rourke, Sal Consoli, Rachel Wicaksono, and Zhu Hua.

As a result of the nominations received after the call for nominations in July, the new committee members were confirmed, as follows:

- Treasurer: Bettina Beinhoff
- Publications Secretary: Zhu Hua
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator: Chloe Mills
- Ordinary Member: Gavin Brooks, Taehee Choi
- Newsletter editor (appointed): Sal Consoli
- Co-opted Member: Steve Morris

## **9 AOB**

No other business is reported.

## **10 Closing remarks**

The Chair thanked members present for their participation and reminded them that the following written reports from officers of the BAAL Executive Committee are available online:

### **(Written) Reports from officers (available online)**

- Chair (Dawn Knight)
- Treasurer (Steve Morris)
- Secretary (Caroline Tagg)
- Media Coordinator (Owen Minns)
- Meetings Secretary (Glenn Hadikin)
- Membership Secretary (Jessica Briggs-Baffoe-Djan)
- Postgraduate Liaison and Development Coordinator (Sal Consoli)
- Publications Secretary (Bernadette O'Rourke)

- Newsletter Editor (Bettina Beinhoff)
- Web Editor (Nathaniel Owen)
- SIG Coordinator (Helen Sauntson)
- Seminars Coordinator (Vander Viana)
- CLIE Representative (Gee Macrory)

The AGM was followed by a quiz organised by Kristina Hultgren and Sal Consoli.